



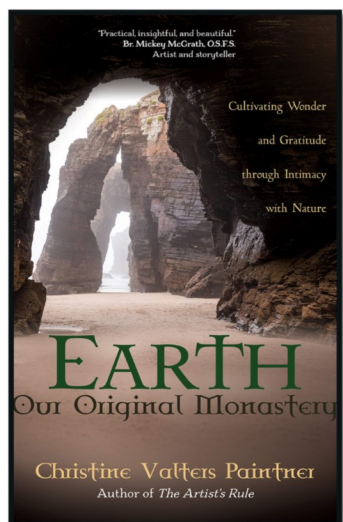
A United Church of Christ/  
United Methodist Church  
& a LGBTQIA  
Welcoming Congregation

UCUP

# May Newsletter 2020

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.

## SERMON SERIES



Our virtual worship and sermon series for May will be based on Christine Valters Paintner's newest book entitled: *Earth our Original Monastery: Cultivating Wonder and Gratitude through intimacy with Nature*.

In the Celtic tradition it is said that there were two great books of revelation, the first being Nature and the other the scriptures. When we pay attention to the rhythm of the seasons we learn a great deal about the rise and fall of life, about emptiness and fullness.

Art Therapist Peter London says that landscapes have spiritual significance. They represent the inner contours of the landscape of our souls. He calls these geobiographies. What is your geobiography?

**I would like for you to consider doing one of two things:**

**A) Writing or recording a reflection (3 minutes or less) about stories of your encounters with creation - a time in your childhood of how you interacted with the natural world and if you experienced God in creation, where you became aware of a deeper connection of the divine with nature. OR B) Where are your current sacred places that you go to physically or in your mind? What makes them sacred?**

**AND - if you can - start sending me photos of creation that are significant to you.** Perhaps an important place, photos of animals, photos of YOU in creation. While we cannot travel together or even walk each other home, we can share in the deeply important spiritual geographies that represent our lives and our connection with the divine.

## PENTECOST SPIRIT IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

We most likely will celebrate Pentecost in a different way than we have before - like in this photo from 2018. And yet, the Spirit is still hovering, moving, enlivening our lives through God's grace. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus. Traditionally, people would wear fire colors that Sunday, symbolizing the "tongues of fire" descending on the people. We use a few symbols for Pentecost - fire, breath (ruach or pneuma), and a dove representing "peace" or "shalom" and descending on Jesus during his baptism.

Celtic Christians chose the Wild Goose as a way to talk about the Spirit. For them, the untamed, uncontrollable, erratic nature of the Wild Goose more closely characterized the movement of the Spirit than did a peaceful, tranquil Dove. A Wild Goose is always on the move, doing unexpected things; it is loud, passionate, sometimes frightening, and certainly unsettling. This is one way to imagine God's spirit in the midst of these sometimes frightening and certainly unsettling pandemic times.

How might you celebrate God's Holy Spirit dwelling and indwelling in your life this year? One way to help enliven our worship is to **email a photo of you dressed in "fire" colors for what will most likely be our virtual worship on May 31st. AND/OR...take a photo of how God's Holy Spirit is moving in your life.**





# From Our Pastor



From April 26-May 3, Angie and I were planning to attend the last week of the Academy for Spiritual Formation - the last of eight weeks spread out over two years. Along with many other things in all of our lives, it was cancelled due to the pandemic. Instead of immersing ourselves in a contemplative rhythm at San Damiano, a Franciscan Retreat Center in CA, we made the difficult decision to release our beloved dog Denali over what some might call “the Rainbow Bridge”. We were blessed to have such a faithful companion in our pack for 13 of her 15 years, and I give thanks to God for the joy she brought us, and for the loving prayers you have offered. And, as hard as it may seem, I am grateful for the grief and emptiness engulfing our hearts right now, for it reminds us how blessed we were to have Denali in our lives. If it weren’t for the pandemic, it might be easy enough to distract myself from the grief I feel, but sheltering at home, there are constant reminders of Denali’s absence. The day after she died, we decided we needed to leave the house, to escape the

memories. After a few hours, we returned to face the emptiness and grief. It reminded me of a story from the Desert Fathers of the second century:

*A brother came to Scetis to visit Abba Moses and asked him for a word.*

*The old man said to him, 'Go, sit in your cell, and your cell will teach you everything.'*

This simple directive holds profound wisdom. We are encouraged not to abandon our thoughts and feelings through distraction or mindless numbing. The monastic cell is a symbol of the deep soul work we are called to do. It is the place where we meet our authentic selves, with all of our thoughts, emotions, and challenges. It is also the place where we can begin to encounter God’s love and compassion. To sit in one’s cell with one’s interior life, and begin to notice when you feel uncomfortable or want to go do something else, is a great act of faith. It is a way to frame our sheltering at home.

Earlier this month, there was an intriguing article in *The Christian Century*, by Lucila Crena, with the headline:

## **“The pandemic has made us unintentional monastics”**

*Solitude, said Henri Nouwen, is the “furnace of transformation.” Nouwen advises us that the place of retreat is the place of struggle, where we fight demons or use our compulsions to escape. The monastic cell is, ultimately, a place of freedom. But it is, initially, a place of terror.*

It is to this place that we have been called during this pandemic season of Sheltering at Home. We are usually distracted and pulled by various responsibilities. But we are being implored to go home and stay there. As unintentional monastics, we are urged into the desert of retreat. We have no established communal rule to form us. We have no communities who have experienced this desert to instruct us. What do we do now, then in our various forms of isolation? I am a lightweight when it comes to solitude. I have done silent retreats that lasted less than a day when I had the freedom to leave. Our current retreat is not self-imposed. Love compels us to stay in our cells in the time of pandemic. But we are not alone. God is where we are, not in the ideal where we aren’t.

The basic rhythms of the monastic life - prayer, work, and hospitality - take many forms. These rules are not production lines of holiness. They tend the garden of the soul, not pave it. What worries me deeply is that we will try to enact our compulsions for order. Our striving for order becomes a striving for control. Stay still as the anguish whirls. Lament. Ask for the grace that you seek. Listen. You cannot muster your own consolation. But God stoops to pick up the child who calls for Mommy and holds her and won’t let go. Reach out your arms. Your creating, redeeming God has already said over you, “It is very good.” Lean on that. And see what God does next.

I love what this article invites from us during this time. We are called to a life of unintentional monasticism in the midst of this pandemic. “Go to your cell and it will teach you everything.” It is a profound act of faith to sit in one’s cell, listening to the interior of your life begin to speak. What are you learning about yourself and about God? You are not alone. We are not alone. God is with us.



# FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Since no one is able to travel far right now, I invite you to join me on an imaginary journey to ... Hawaii! In Hawaii, the Pacific Ocean is considerably warmer than the toe-numbing waters we experience on Pacific Northwest beaches. On a calm day, one can swim a short distance from the shore and float in the buoyant salt water, lulled by the gentle motion of the water. Time is measured in the rhythm of the swells as they move under you, lift you gently, and slowly, gradually nudge you toward the shore.

Five weeks into sheltering at home, this liminal space of the coronavirus pandemic reminds me of that sensation of floating in an unfamiliar time, with uplifting swells that spark hope, and the dropping tug of the receding wave, pulling back and casting doubt and uncertainty.

Lots of hopes are expressed in this floating, liminal space ... I hope they can develop a vaccine soon! I hope we don't get sick. I hope we'll be able to visit family and friends soon. I hope our church/job/business/retirement plan survives this. I hope we can go hiking and camping this summer. And on a higher level ... I hope the world remembers what it's like to have less traffic and cleaner air. I hope in places where fighting has ceased because of the virus, warring nations will find a path to peace. I hope families will remember the rediscovered fun of spending time together, playing games and sharing meals. I hope that kids will remember the simple joys of playing outside and flying kites. I hope our country and the world can come together to care for all of the people who are hungry, homeless, and struggling to find work. I hope we can come through all of this better, stronger, and wiser.

So many hopes .. and while we're floating and drifting, the shore is always in sight. The waves are carrying us back to the firm sand and a sure path. I'm also reminded that if I start adding a few strokes, and add a little kick as that swell lifts me up and moves me forward, I swim toward the shore with more purpose. Perhaps that's what our hopes need now -- a little kick and purpose. How can we help move our hopes to reality? In many cases, it may seem like the realization of our hopes is beyond our control. I believe, however, that our actions matter. Our prayers, voices, votes, gifts of money and time, support of food banks, and contributions to programs like One Great Hour of Sharing are all investments in our hopes. They are our opportunities for resurrection and renewal.

We are so fortunate to have the love and support of a vibrant faith community as we identify our hopes, start kicking our way to shore, and defining what "new normal" means for each of us, and for our church. Thank you, members and friends of United Church in University Place, for loving and supporting each other as we ride the waves and swim toward a hopeful future.

Marilyn Thompson  
President





## FROM UCC CONFERENCE MINISTER REV. MIKE DENTON – April 16, 2020

One of the questions I have been hearing a lot lately, **“When will be it OK for us to gather, again?”**

The time after the resurrection was a fraught one. The disciples were hiding unsure if the murder of Jesus was the end of something or the start of something. They didn’t know if the target for the religious leaders’ rage was only Jesus or if they were going to be targeted, too. Anything resembling certainty was in short supply. There was no going back and the way forward was unclear.

We’re physically distancing in our homes and we’re hearing mixed and changing messages about our level of risk. We worry about our own health and the health of those we care for and love. We’re still sorting through the barrage of information coming at us and trying to figure out how to weigh this piece of information or that. We’re still struggling with those who seem in denial or rebellion against what seems like the best possible practices for health and safety. Anything resembling certainty seems to be in short supply. There is no going back and the way forward is unclear.

**When I sent the first email about COVID-19 to all of you on Ash Wednesday, it was with information that was immediately at hand.** A virus that had ravaged China was, now, here and starting to kill people. At that point, it was clear that those most at risk were those with pre-existing conditions and those who were 60 and older. It was also clear that the transmission of this disease could sometimes happen particularly quickly where people were gathered. Most insidiously, those transmitting it might not have any signs of illness for 14-28 days as they spread it to those they loved, worked with, rode the bus with, worshipped with... The story of the case of the South Korean church from which, eventually, came thousands of COVID-19 cases hit home for me.

**51 days later, the basic information we started with about COVID-19 hasn’t changed that much.** The stories and the horrifying numbers are the proof. This disease is far too easy to transmit. It can be most deadly for those over 60 and with some pre-existing conditions. The best way to prevent its spread is to severely limit points of human contact and wash our hands.

There have been some new learnings along the way. Those who are under 60 are not invincible. There have been hundreds of deaths of those under 60 in the US and children may also be at a higher risk. Emerging information is making it clear that this virus lives longer in the air than we thought. There is evidence that the six feet of distancing may not be enough and that droplets from an infected person might actually be transmitted 13 feet. And although face masks are not a full-proof method to prevent transmission, they probably are more helpful than not.

**One of the questions I’m hearing from folks pretty regularly these days is “How long will this go on?” or “When will be able to worship together again?”** I get it. The ways people have adapted to this moment are truly amazing. I’m in awe of what you all have pulled off. Yet, I miss being able to be in physical spaces with you for prayer, worship, fellowship... even meetings. I get it.

**However, the basic information hasn’t changed and so neither can the practices we’ve adopted over the last several weeks.**

- Our congregations still have a significant number of people in the groups at the highest risks of death from contracting COVID-19.
- Although there are advances every day in treatment and vaccine options, there is still no cure and no vaccine. My hope is that a breakthrough could come soon, but it hasn’t happened, yet. It normally takes one or two years to develop a vaccine and to develop new treatments.



- The information about transmission methods has, basically, remained the same. Although there are ongoing debates about how various surfaces might help transmit COVID-19, there is very little debate about it being airborne and six-feet is no longer believed to be far enough. In most of the places we gather for worship, a 13 feet distance between attendees would be impossible to maintain. On top of that, we sing together. When we sing, we expel air at a faster rate than when we're talking or just sitting together. As we've learned from the unfortunate experience of several choral groups that met in the early days of the pandemic, gatherings for singing can too easily become disease transmission events.
- Although there has been a lot of helpful advances in using tracking to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, tracking is not a cure. Tracking shows where physical distancing broke down and can help encourage changes in behavior that makes further transmission less likely.

**Until there is a significant change in all these realities, it's not going to be safe for us to gather at church again for quite a while.** I know there is a lot of talk about getting to work again and setting up a series of social and governmental switches that can turn parts of society on and off based on the spread of COVID-19 and societal needs. Generally, that makes sense. However, the number of people in our congregations who are at high risk, the way the spaces in which we gather for worship are set up, and what we do when we are together make it unlikely that it will be safe for us to gather in the same place for some time.

Unless there is some miraculous change, I think we have to begin planning on our current practices continuing, at least, into the fall of this year, but possibly for a year or more. I recognize the challenges planning like this could present to all of us and that it will lead to many hard decisions.

**I also have faith in all of us to, with God's help, pull this off. I am convinced that on the other side of this when we're all vaccinated and able to gather again, we're going to be amazed at what we pulled off.** Right now, we're all taking a crash course in online worship and video production but, at the end of this, we'll do as well at this as we once did worship. Maybe better. Most churches doing online worship are reporting that attendance is actually up. Some are attending your church from different parts of the world and have found a spiritual home among you. The tools we have developed will change the way we look at ministry with those who are homebound for generations as our churches become better at integrating those who cannot be physically present. We will become better at not just preventing the spread of COVID-19 but the flu, colds, and other diseases. We will become better at asking for people's financial support of our congregations and do a better job of sharing, generally. We will learn that, although our buildings are important, it is not our mission to serve them but make sure they are in service to our communities. We will go through some very hard times ahead but, in the end, I really am convinced we'll be better.

**In the meantime, do what you can to protect the mental, physical, and spiritual health of lay and clergy leaders in your congregation.** This is not a sprint but a marathon. The pace might not be as fast as it once was but they are all still running. Insist that they take time off and rest. Pay attention to those who might have children at home. They are learning to be teachers now, too. If you have skills that you might be able to offer that you haven't yet, offer them. If there are things you would be willing to learn to help, offer that, too. If you have the capacity to share more, financially, than you currently are please do since many are suddenly able to share nothing.

We will make it through this and we will be different. Maybe better. There will be much to grieve along the way but time to laugh, pray, and get to know each other better, too.

After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, disciples hid in a room afraid and alone when, surprise! Jesus showed up. Pay attention dear siblings in Christ. Today is a hard one but I think we are going to be surprised in the coming days again, and again, and again...

With hope,  
Mike





## FROM UMC BISHOP ELAINE STANOVSKY

### EXTENSION OF WORSHIP SUSPENSION AND BUILDING CLOSURES

As bishop of the Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church, I am extending the suspension of in-person worship in United Methodist Churches and other ministries and the closure of church facilities to all but essential services throughout the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences through May 30, 2020, despite the loosening of restrictions in some or all of the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. This date may be reconsidered as circumstances change.

How did I come to this decision, and what does it mean?

### **MARCH 24: Suspension of In-Person Worship and Closure of Buildings.**

On March 24 I directed that in-person worship and other gatherings be postponed in United Methodist Churches through April 30, 2020. At the same time, I directed that all Church facilities were to be closed except for essential services. These actions were taken to protect the health of vulnerable people, to slow the spread of the disease, and to prevent health care systems from becoming overwhelmed by a sudden surge of cases needing hospital beds and equipment.

### **You helped keep people HEALTHY!**

You did it! You made adjustments and found ways to be church without gathering for worship. Your actions, and the general populations' compliance with the orders of the governors appear to have slowed the spread, flattened the curve of the crisis, and averted a crisis in our health care systems. I thank God for the incredible ways you have contributed to these outcomes. At the same time, we grieve over people who have contracted COVID-19, some of whom have been hospitalized and even died. And we continue to hold in our hearts and prayers all who are at risk for this disease because they render essential services, or have compromising health conditions, or who, because of systemic inequities in our society live with little or no social safety net.

### **EASTER: You celebrated Resurrection in the Shadow of Death. Alleluia!**

You found ways to overcome obstacles to celebrating Easter. Your clergy and lay leaders have demonstrated an adventuresome spirit, as you learned how to care for one another, conduct worship and support vulnerable people in your neighborhoods, while maintaining physical distancing and suspending all gatherings. Christ the Lord was Risen again this Easter, with shouts of Hosannah!, prayers for strength and healing, and acts of generosity. Well done, good and faithful servants.

### **MAY 1**

We are approaching the end of the directives I gave on March 24. I am closely monitoring the guidance and criteria for loosening restrictions in each of our four Greater Northwest states, as well as the daily reports of new cases, deaths and health system capacity. As you know, the disease has unfolded at different rates across the area. And the cultural and political climates across our region are varied, leading to different assessments of the risks involved. I find myself leading in the midst of continued uncertainty and significant controversy about the best course of action. Three value-based priorities inform my leadership as your bishop.

1. Do No Harm: Protect the public health
2. Do Good: Share the financial burden with persons most vulnerable to economic impacts
3. Stay in Love with God: Promote the life-giving ministries of the Church



## **DO GOOD. Protect Public Health**

Following the leadership of four very different governors, our four states are all weathering the pandemic better than expected. I am pre-disposed to trust the governors of each state to listen to their health care advisors, to know their region and its people and to give prudent guidance. While all four governors have laid out their criteria for incremental loosening restrictions within their states, at present none of these governors has taken specific action to lift restrictions that would affect our Churches. When they do, Churches will need to be especially cautious about re-opening and gathering, taking into account that among our members and friends are many participants who are at risk for severe illness from COVID-19, due to age or compromising health conditions.

## **DO GOOD. Share the Burdens of Most Vulnerable Persons**

During this season of closed buildings and postponed in-person worship, I hope that every congregation will re-engage its neighbors, by partnering with community organizations that are directly involved with people who are most vulnerable to the economic impacts of the pandemic. How this neighborhood engagement looks will be specific to your congregation, its context, and the partnerships you are able to form to serve people most at risk during this crisis. I heard the other day of a church in a small town that set up a "tab" with the local grocer so that people who needed food could "shop" for what they needed and charge it to a tab that the Church paid. In this win-win-win arrangement, people get food, the church serves people in need, whom they may not even know, and the grocer's business is supported in the process. There is no recipe for this kind of innovative response. It's all based on local relationships that can become networks of care.

## **STAYIN LOVE WITH GOD. Promote the Life-Giving Ministries of the Church.**

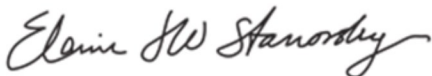
While I know that the effectiveness of ministry and health of congregational life suffer when people are not able to gather for worship, this hardship does not justify taking the risk of spreading the disease through church gatherings, or exposing older and health-compromised people to infection and possible death by re-opening our church gatherings too soon. I trust and know that the leaders and people in each church are finding creative ways to continue to serve God's promise of abundant life for all people and the whole of creation despite these extreme circumstances. When the time is right, we will gather again and re-build and renew our ministries.

## **MAY 31 - PENTECOST**

As we enter another month of some level of physical separation, let's hope that we will be able to gather in our churches on Pentecost, May 31. Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church, when people from many nations gathered in Jerusalem to hear Peter preach. The book of Acts describes how the people understood what he said, even though they spoke many different languages. I hope that we will be able to gather in worship that day - maybe sooner. Let's hold it as a date to hope for, to pray for, to work for. And if it can't be May 31 - if it comes sooner, or later - then, we'll adjust, just as we have been adjusting for these many weeks.

I don't need to remind you that God is with us and at work. I don't need to remind you that miracles happen every day, even in the midst of disease and death, as people of generous hearts pour their life out in love and service where there is need. We are blessed to be a blessing. Thanks be to God, who opens the way of life before us.

May God bless you and keep you today and through the days ahead.



Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky



# Peace and JUSTICE



In the last two newsletters, and in worship the last 2 weeks, you have read and heard about our ask for donations to One Great Hour of Sharing and United Methodist Committee on Relief. The Peace and Justice Committee thought you would like to know more about how your donations are being used, especially in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Keeping You Posted newsletter from the United Church of Christ reports that One Great Hour of Sharing made it possible for \$15,000 worth of masks and gowns to be sent to China in February to be distributed as needed by our global partner, Amity Foundation. The Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches, another Global Ministries partner, “has adjusted its work with Syrians displaced by war. There are 6.2 million of them inside the country and another 5.5 million scattered throughout the Middle East. Many lack proper shelter.” Peter Makari, the Area Executive for Europe and the Middle East, said “the Fellowship’s workers, already busy ‘with an appeal for winter items, such as blankets and stoves,’ now “have shifted to the provision of hygiene kits, which include soap, shampoo, hand sanitizer, dish and laundry detergent, for people who are the most vulnerable.”

The UMCOR web page tells us that “Since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, UMCOR has been working with health boards, medical professionals, disaster management coordinators and faith leaders to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus. Partners in China, Africa and the Philippines have already received solidarity grants. Training materials have been developed and disseminated in four languages to facilitate online trainings focused on preparedness and prevention.” And that “Through the COVID-19 Response Fund, UMCOR plans to release grants to equip partners who assist vulnerable populations around the world impacted by COVID-19, including racial/ethnic and indigenous communities in the United States. Grants of up to \$20,000 will be awarded and disbursed quickly and efficiently to address pressing needs in the areas of health, food insecurity, water, sanitation and hygiene and economic instability.”

If you have already contributed to UCUP’s special offering for OGHS and UMCOR, thank you very much. If you have not had the opportunity to give yet, it is not too late. You can give electronically at UCUP.org, donate through your bank’s or credit union’s bill pay option or send a check to the church, noting OGHS/UMCOR in the memo line. As you can see, your donations will be put to very good use for the people and areas of the world where the need is the greatest. Thank you.

Cathi Cline  
for the Peace and Justice Committee

While this event that benefits the Pierce County Aids Foundation has been rescheduled for August 4th, you can still help support local restaurants.



- Order take-out or delivery. It gives the restaurant business and keeps you well fed. Many restaurants that don’t usually offer these options are making exceptions.
- Consider purchasing restaurant gift cards if they’re offered, or book for a future date—it will give everyone something to look forward to.
- Tip generously if you can afford it. Tipped workers are some of the first to suffer in times of economic distress.

**SUPPORT OUR**  
DINING OUT FOR LIFE  
**SOUTH SOUND**  
RESTAURANT PARTNERS

Please visit this website for participating restaurants: <https://www.diningoutforlife.com/city/southsound/>





## Free Vegetable Starter Plants

**DATE** ..... Every Wednesday from April 29th through June 17th.

**WHO** ..... *Share the Harvest* and *Emergency Food Network* are providing free vegetable starts to anyone first come-first serve.

**WHERE** ..... University Place Community Garden (UPCG) - entrance off of 67th Ave, just south of 40th street (back entrance to the Evergreen primary school). Can't miss it.

**DETAILS** ..... UPCG will provide gardening information and Tagro potting soil to facilitate gardening success. Beans and squash starts will be followed by other starts over the weeks to come!

**CONTACT** ..... Judy Thierry for questions (240) 994-8572 or email [infoUPCG@gmail.org](mailto:infoUPCG@gmail.org)

## Support Team UCUP in the Pierce County Hunger Walk!

Undaunted by the pandemic, Team UCUP prevails and will participate in the **VIRTUAL Hunger Walk on May 2**. The Hunger Walk is sponsored by the Emergency Food Network and Associated Ministries.

Join or support our team by selecting the link:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/WA/Lakewood/HungerWalk5KRun>

You can sign up to walk with Team United Church in University Place, or support our team with a donation. From the Hunger Walk home page, select "Sign Up" to participate as a virtual walker, or "Donate" to make a contribution in support of our team. From the "Donate" page, select "Team Fundraiser", scroll down, and click on "Load More Team Fundraisers" to find UCUP. We need more sponsors to move up to the main page!!



Emergency Food Network (EFN) is Pierce County's emergency food distributor, providing more than 80 food pantries, meal sites, and shelters with more than one million pounds of food each month, at no cost to them. In Pierce County, one in seven people is food insecure, meaning they lack consistent access to affordable and nutritious food. Donations for the Hunger Walk & 5K will provide healthy and diverse food for families experiencing food insecurity in Pierce County. EFN distributes 5 meals for just \$1, meaning every donation will have a significant impact in the community.

## Need a Face Mask?

A few UCUP sewists are sewing masks for family and friends and are willing to make one for anyone in the congregation needing a mask. These are fabric masks and not medical grade by any means, but they are good for grocery store trips where you might end up closer than 6 feet to someone. If everyone is wearing a mask, **"I PROTECT YOU FROM ME AND YOU PROTECT ME FROM YOU!"**

If you or your family members need a mask (or if you are willing to sew masks) contact Dorothy McCuistion:

Email: [dorothymcc@nventure.com](mailto:dorothymcc@nventure.com) Phone: (253)678-8587







Something to be joyous about is that 'social distancing' seems to be working. I pray that that's true for you and yours. Please continue to keep in your prayers those that have or are recovering from the COVID-19.

We continue to thank Pastor Cathy for her leadership at this time...and for those that are 'hosts' for the Sunday services

and team Zoom meetings. I personally want to thank Dennis and Ben Small for being so patient while teaching me how to connect with Zoom.

If you've been able to see the Sunday services you know how great it is to see the pictures of those that are 'attending' via Zoom, those that are readers...and how great it was this last Sunday to hear (via email to Pastor Cathy) from Kathleen Kenna...and once again hear Neva and son, Wes Berry sing.

Normally we end by asking you to keep our shut-ins in your prayers, this time that includes all of the members and friends of United Church...and we add the prayer that we will be able to gather again at 3912 Grandview sometime in the near future.



Thank you to all those who have donated and dropped off items in the bin outside the church. The Pantry is serving roughly the same number of people as it has traditionally, so please keep your donations coming. The pantry is also in need of peanut butter this month. Thank you!

~Kay Shaben



A United Church of Christ/  
United Methodist Church &  
a **LGBTQIA**  
Welcoming Congregation

No matter who you are,  
Or where you are on life's journey, **you're Welcome here.**