



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

UCUP

2020

November Newsletter

STEWARDSHIP

Time • Talent • Treasure

The stewardship committee has been having some fun with the stewardship theme this year, and I hope you are enjoying our UCUP Stewardship Weekend Updates inspired by Saturday Night Live. The stewardship campaign will wrap up on Thankful Sunday, November 22nd.

In “normal” years, the congregation offers their pledges during the service on Thankful Sunday and we all celebrate afterwards downstairs with a Thankful Dinner. Needless to say, that will not be happening this year!

Instead, on the 22nd after our virtual church service, the stewardship committee will set up and operate a booth at the physical church to receive your pledge sheets for 2021. In the spirit of the Thankful Dinner, the Stewardship Committee will be operating a food drive for My Sister’s Pantry at the pledge booth. So, as a first act of stewardship, in addition to your pledge sheet, bring by one or more items for the food drive. Rather than providing a meal to offer our thanks for your stewardship commitment to the church and our wider community, when you drop off your pledge, you will receive a small token of our thanks in return.

The pledge sheets will be mailed out in the first part of November and will also be available for download on the church’s website. Please give thoughtful prayer to your pledge of time, talent, and treasure when filling out your pledge sheet this year. In this pandemic time, the needs of the United Church, and our wider community, are even greater than normal, both in terms of monetary needs and volunteering!

So again, **to make your pledge this year, please drive by the church from noon to 5 pm on November 22nd to drop off your pledge sheet and food drive items.** Pledge sheets can also be sent to the church by mail. The mailing address is: 3912 Grandview Drive West, University Place, WA 98466. While the stewardship campaign wraps up in November, remember stewardship lasts all year long!

Joe, Stewardship Committee Chair



All Saint's Worship

We celebrate All Souls and all Saints during our worship service on zoom on November 1st. This is the first Sunday we have filmed portions of our worship service in the sanctuary since the beginning of March. Many thanks to Nancy, our paramentarian, who helped change out the paraments and altar cloth - the sacred cloth filled with the names of beloved ones of the church and beloved ones of your hearts; to Don who assisted with sound and getting out the candle rack; Chuck who created holding candles that will be lighted on All Hallows’ Eve by members of the congregation who have lost a beloved one this past year; to Don for recording parts of our worship in the sanctuary; and to Jeff Andersen, who came to play the organ.

You are invited to create a memory altar in your homes as we gather for worship this Sunday - bring to your worship area photos of your loved ones, people who have made a difference in your life, as we remember and honor those who now reside in the nearer presence of God. Bring a candle or a few candles to your worship space as we will light a candle as our worship begins and also in honor and memory of our loved ones. Bring to your worship space elements for Holy Communion as our hearts connect in solidarity over the blessing and receiving of the bread and cup.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It's Stewardship Time!

November promises to be a month of high drama, mounting challenges with the coronavirus, and a lot of BREAKING NEWS. I appreciate the hopeful levity of this year's stewardship theme, based on Saturday Night Live ... it's STEWARDSHIP TIME!! It counters the worries of this season with opportunities and good news.

I think we're all feeling a fair amount of stress and anxiety right now. It affects each of us differently. For me, one of my best coping mechanisms (besides hiking in the mountains) is to get busy. When I was still working, I'd lose myself in a big project. At home, I turn to reading, cooking, sewing, cleaning (well, just a little bit of cleaning), and lots of walks with Don and our dog, Gus. I also look for ways to connect with friends and family, and for ways to share my time.

The annual Stewardship campaign at United Church in U.P. is a good time to think about how we can channel some of our nervous energy, reach out in meaningful ways, and find new avenues to connect with our church community.

For all of its challenges, the pandemic has presented new opportunities to connect and serve, and it's leveled the playing field for those who are challenged by distance or mobility. Much of our committee work can be done from home, with your computer and phone. Our worship team has expanded to include audio engineers, visual effect artists, candle lighting technicians, and virtual liturgists.

Our Faith and Spiritual Growth team maintains an active virtual Sunday School program for our kids. Our teachers come from near and far, with Ellen Davis pitching in from Virginia! The work of Peace and Justice, the Faith Action Network, Earth Ministries, and other valued programs continues with virtual forums, fundraising events, and a steady stream of online information. Our finance and facilities teams have continued their work to maintain our building, track church finances, and pay the bills.

The Congregational Care team, together with Pastor Cathy, has been working hard to stay in touch with all of our church members. The Communications Committee is looking at new possibilities to expand our reach and message with social media, our website, virtual services, and our reader board.

Last, but certainly not least, members of our Stewardship Committee have outdone themselves with recorded presentations, informative interviews, and updates from our own Janna Hosannah Anna Danna!



**Janna Hosannah Anna Danna,
the Prospector and Joyful Joy**

As you consider your pledges of time and money for the coming year, I encourage you to embrace the opportunity to pitch in, from wherever you are, and be part of the transformations that are taking place at United Church in University Place. We are learning new ways to be VIRTUAL and VITAL, and we're having a lot of fun along the way. Let's get busy, UCUPers, and together we'll get through this challenging time!

Marilyn, President

FROM OUR PASTOR

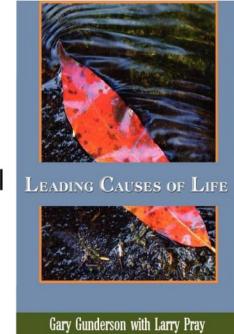
Excerpt from first sermon of Sermon Series LEADING CAUSES OF LIFE - October 18th

We are in the 8th month of a global pandemic that continues to wreak havoc throughout the world and in our personal lives. There have been times when I have been hopeful as the curve flattened, only to have those hopes dashed with a new uptick in cases. Worldwide there are 40 million cases with over a million deaths. Our grieving hearts and minds cannot comprehend these numbers. We've learned a lot about co-morbidities and underlying health conditions, and the potential long-lasting health risks if we contract this virus. COVID is now the 3rd leading cause of death in the U.S. behind heart disease and cancer. It has surpassed injuries, lung disease & diabetes. The impacts of the pandemic are enough to make non-anxious people anxious, and is wreaking havoc with people's mental health. It reminds me of the line in the 1662 version of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer that Composer John Rutter used in writing "*Agnus Dei*". "*In the midst of life we are in death*". The Rutter Requiem is filled with darkness and light, despair and hope, with minor and major keys, with jarring dissonance and sweet melody, with death and with life. For some the more discordant parts of the Requiem speak with greater resonance for these dark days. Yet the opposite is true as well - In the midst of death, we are in life. These words from Scripture speak to the way we are invited to live our lives.

Deuteronomy 30:19 - *I have set before you life and death, blessings and cursings;*

therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.

Gospel of John 10:10 - *I have come to give you Life and give it abundantly.*



Gary Gunderson with Larry Pray

These verses are the premise of the book for our sermon series for the next 6 weeks, "*The Leading Causes of Life*" written by UMC pastor Gary Gunderson & UCC pastor Larry Pray. In the book they encourage us to focus energy and attention on what affirms life rather than what threatens or destroys it. What ingredients make for a meaningful life? Those things that bubble up from within us and through us that give us a sense of richness, fullness, and satisfaction that make for what we call *abundant life*.

A hymn from the New Century Hymnal is based on an adaptation by Hindu Upanishads author Satish Kumar.

*Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth; from despair to hope, from fear to trust;
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.*

These are great aspirations, but how do we live that out? Gunderson and Pray believe that there are 5 leading causes of life: Connection, Coherence, Generativity, Agency and Hope. You might come up with a slightly different list, but this is a good place to start - so throughout November, we will be focusing on these five Leading Causes of Life starting with Connection.

Hebrews 10:22: "*Let us keep encouraging each other, and let us not, as some have done, forsake gathering together.*" Well, we may not be gathering physically together, but we have not stopped meeting and worshiping together. I have to say I am encouraged, even a bit surprised, by the consistent number of about 50 boxes that show up on zoom every Sunday morning. But we aren't just boxes that look like the Brady Bunch or the Hollywood squares. Each box contains a precious life or two or three, named and claimed as a beloved child of God, and connected to one another and to God like the vine is connected to the tree.

The root of the word "religion" - is relegate - or ligament - meaning "to bind, to connect together". Churches can be places of connection. They can be places of wounding, but they can also be places of healing. Physical healing happens when two sides of a wound reach toward each other and bind together. Healing can happen for us when we connect to the Source of All Being, to the Healer Jesus, who always guides us toward each other. And so we are connected to one another.

50 years ago, the people who made up the congregations of Mayflower UCC and Aldersgate UMC, looked at each other as friends who already knew each other, and also as strangers, who took a risk, trusting that joining and connecting together as one church community would make them spiritually stronger. And so, United Church in University Place came to be in January 1970, 50 years ago!!!

What has kept UCUP going these 50 years in being part of two different denominations whose organizational structures are quite different? I would say it arises out of people who have a deep faith in God, and a genuine and authentic community who share a deep connection with one another.

Let us heed the words of scripture to not give up meeting together and to remember the words from Ephesians 2:22 - "*In Christ you are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God*". Having a faith community where people love, look out for and care for each other, and pray for each other is one of the things that makes for a long, rich, and satisfying life. Connection is a Leading cause of Life.

JOYS & CONCERNS

with us for about 4 years and working for at least 3 1/2 of those years...reading, greeting...the list goes on and on. Welcome, we're glad you're here...and we want to thank Jim and Nancy for bringing you to us!

Please keep Ardie in your prayers as her house is put back together after being flooded.....Kris & Rosemary as they make the move to their new home.....Angie's sister, Starr who broke her pelvis.....Robert and Kathy's daughter Alina, son-in-law Pat, and 2 young granddaughters as their travel in Australia to visit Pat's family.....former member Janet who has been hospitalized for an un-known lung condition (not COVID).....all teachers, students and parents as they deal with school in it present form(s).

Pray for and give thanks for those that are working to keep United Church going and hold us today – hopefully for another 50 years! That list starts with Pastor Cathy, Pres. Marilyn, Jeff – it's a really long list, but we want to name one group that is working very hard right now and that's the Stewardship Committee...Pamela, Janet, Joe, and Don... we want to thank Rev. Leslie Ann, for reminding us of how the UCC & UMC came into being. The prospector, that spoke to us on Sunday, the 18th, is looking in the right place...there are many 'jewels' to be found at United Church. Please keep us in your prayers.....and wear your mask.



From Susan:

I would like to thank Pastor Cathy and the people that were able to stop by and say, "Happy Birthday" to Sophia this past Saturday and Sunday. Her heart swelled with happiness, gratitude and peace. She felt so loved.



Happy Anniversary

THERE IS ONLY ONE HAPPINESS IN LIFE,
TO LOVE AND BE LOVED.



two
hearts
one life



Bob and Pat celebrated their **57th** wedding anniversary on October 19th. Congratulations!!

Greetings to EVERYONE, that's from Fletcher's mom, Christine, Fletcher is 6 weeks old already!.....what fun to be part of the parade of cars that helped Sophia (and her mom Susan, celebrate her 10th birthday AND enjoy the cup cakes they handed out...we give thanks for all our young ones and their families.

WELCOME new members Bill and Vicki! They joined, via ZOOM, on October 11th. Bill and Vicki have been

The inside of our church may not be busy during the pandemic, but the outside is receiving some love

We have a few church mice finding their way across the church grounds. Thank you to Dave and Don for repairing a piece of siding on the back side of the building. They even had to rig up their own scaffolding which appeared in one of the Stewardship Time skits. Apparently Dave received a perfect 10 for his creative dismount.

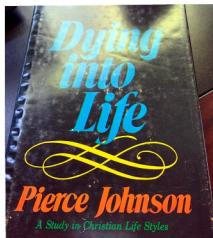


Meanwhile, Sheila and Judy were beautifying our grounds by planting pansies in various locations and trimming back a few bushes so people could read our readerboard a little easier.



Celebrating UCUP during Fellowship hour on Zoom November 8th & 15th

We aren't able to celebrate UCUP's 50th anniversary in the way we initially envisioned because of the pandemic. But one way we can celebrate is to watch the video created for UCUP's 40th anniversary and share photos of our past history. Stay after worship on November 8th & 15th to learn a little bit more about UCUP or for some of you, to relive memories of the past.



ALSO: Some of you may remember Dorothy Burkhart who died in 2019. She left a bequest to UCUP, for which we are very grateful, AND her daughter Kit brought bags and bags of her mother's books for our church library. When going through the books this treasure emerged - a book written by Rev. Pierce Johnson - a pastor who served UCUP from 1976-1982. Neither Joyce nor Ruth realized that he had written a book. It is fascinating that this book was found during our current worship series of the Leading Causes of Life. If you are interested in reading the book, let Pastor Cathy know so it can be delivered your way.

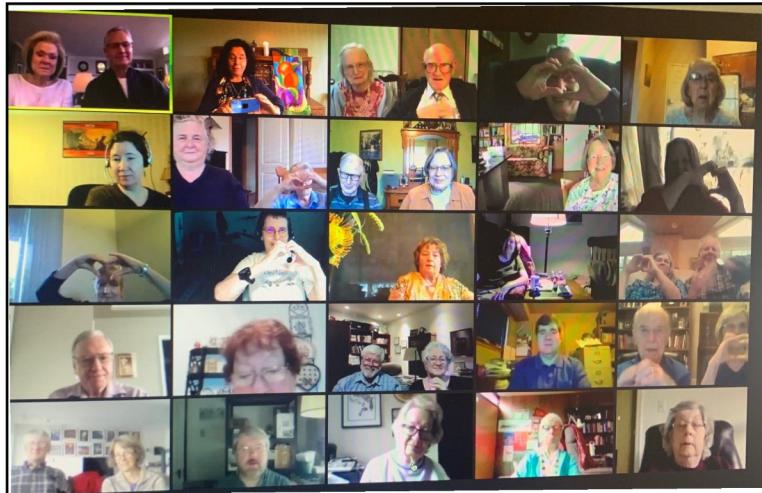


Sunday, November 1st -
You get an extra hour of sleep!!



Welcome new members - Bill & Vicki

We welcome Bill & Vicki in Christian love as our newest members at UCUP. Welcoming new members during worship on zoom is a first for us at UCUP, and we had a heartfelt, meaningful worship as Jim & Nancy shared about their friendship with the couple and as Bill & Vicki shared part of their spiritual journey of what led them to start worshiping at UCUP four years ago.



**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**



To our UCUP Family, thank you so much for all the warm and welcoming messages that you all sent out on the “official day” of joining you in our spiritual journey.

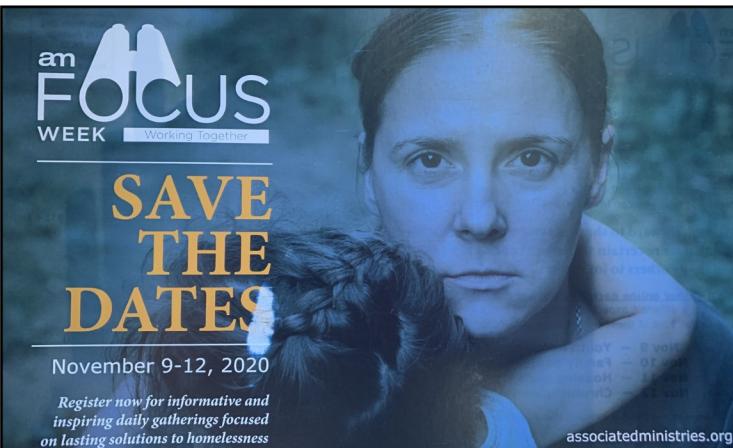
We have been married for 16 and together we have been blessed with 3 children. Marissa, who lives in Houston, Christian and his wife Katie reside in Richland and Brent in Tacoma. They are fun and loving children and we feel have they have succeeded in dealing with life, at least most of the time. Once in a while life throws them a curve ball, but that happens to all of us.

Prior to us attending services at UCUP, we were members at Normandy Park Congregational Church. Bill joined when Marissa and Christian were young, about 30 years ago and Vicki joined in 2003. They are a loving and supportive congregation, which we enjoyed for many years. We were involved in various committees and events for many of those years, which gave us an opportunity to grow spiritually.

Jim and Nancy, our best and dearest friends, invited us to attend UCUP for Sunday worship and Christmas Eve services for several years prior to us deciding that it might be time for us to gather in prayer with the UCUP congregation. It has been grand being able to enjoy our time with our fantastic friends and meeting new ones.

It took some time for us to make the official move, but that was not due to the lack of the welcoming hearts, bodies and minds of UCUP. The time that was needed to be taken was to kind of grieve for a major loss of connection with the Normandy Park family. In the patient understanding of Pastor Cathy, we obviously reached the time that we needed to make it official, as our spiritual family had changed and now we belong with you all.

Blessing and Grace,
Bill and Vicki



Associated Ministries

Join your community during (4) 1-hour virtual gatherings on aspects of homelessness.

November 9th thru 12th @ 5 pm to 6 pm.

Register at:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/FocusWeekReg>

Register for FAN's Annual Dinner

On **Sunday, November 15, 2020**, Faith Action Network will hold its annual dinner virtually. The event is **FREE** to all this year. We have a chance to book a table in our name for nothing. Therefore, I invite you all to this "feast." My understanding is that when you sign up to attend, you request to be at the table of United Church in University Place. My preliminary understanding is that we will gather in our church group at 5:00 P.M. and have a discussion about FAN, and perhaps share some of the goals of FAN during the next legislative session or how we want to partner with FAN during the next year.

In any case, at 5:30 we will disband our get-together to join the larger group. Unlike in the past, when there has been a separate meeting in Spokane, we will all share one meeting. I don't know who is headline speaker this year, but I do guess that Rick Steves will be asked to share his wisdom. This guess is based on the fact that Rick has been at every previous annual dinner I have attended.

After the formal program, we will be asked to donate to the cause. In past years, more than \$100,000 has been raised in addition to the money earned from the dinner. It may be hard to top that in a pandemic year, but I am sure they will push us to try.

I know the date has been chosen for the Interfaith Action Day, but I have forgotten it. It will certainly be shared at the dinner along with the legislative agenda, so perhaps that is another reason to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert

Please RSVP by Friday, November 13 to let us know you will be there and to get the link to participate in the program: bit.ly/FANDinner2020





UCUP is a member of **Earth Ministries**. We hosted them at a Forum in 2019. You can watch "Salmon, Justice, and Community: A perspective from Northwest faith leaders" by Rev. John Rosenberg and LeeAnne Beres, Executive Director of EM. They present the current picture during this critical period at this youtube link: <https://youtu.be/bKN9wa5QmCY>

"Salmon and orcas are species of great cultural, ecological, and spiritual significance to the Northwest, and our farming and fishing communities are vital to the economic and social fabric of the region." After you watch the video you may want to sign the Earth Ministry's statewide faith community letter. The link can be found on this earth ministry web page:

<https://earthministry.org/snake-river-salmon/>

One of our benevolences is **Catholic Community Services' Family Housing Network (FHN)**. Their strategic programming outlined below includes center-based programming for families and children, while also conducting it safely and effectively during a pandemic. *Can you imagine being homeless and having the opportunity for a no-appointment-necessary-drop-in time for showers, laundry, cooking, computers and of course homework study time for your children?*

CCS/FHN programming and partnerships...

Partners in Pierce County's Coordinated Entry System, the entry point for homeless services in the county. Coordinated Entry hotline (253.682.3401)

Rapid Re-housing... affordable community housing as quickly as possible ... short-term supportive services and connections to community resources at an individualized level.

Permanent Supportive Housing...partners with 69 apartment units in Tacoma, Lakewood, and Fife to serve homeless families with complex needs and disabilities who need long term case management services to work on goals toward stability and independence.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

This year is different, of course. For the 2020 Giving Holiday season, instead of wrapped gifts this year, FHN is requesting **Gift Cards of \$25 to \$50**.

FHN will coordinate with UCUP's Peace and Justice committee on the specific requests of each family. If you are wanting to participate please call/text Judy this month (240-994-8572). This will give us an idea of how many families we could support. Dorothy and Judy will help with assigning and pick-up and delivery of the cards to FHN.

Season of Giving

UCUP also has a labeled box outside our door for household donations for the Day Center. *Items needed include: Shampoo (large bottles) - Body wash (large bottles) - Diapers - Travel-size toothpaste - Feminine hygiene - Toothbrushes - Towels - Razors/shave cream - Washcloths - Non-perishable snacks - boxed meals - Deodorant - Children's coloring/activity books*



ANNUAL PUMPKIN CARVING tradition continues at home.

The pandemic hasn't stopped our families from continuing this annual tradition by carving pumpkins at home. Check out Wes' skill in wielding a carving instrument!

Carving OUT Memories



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