



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

UCUP

May Newsletter

2021

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR JENNY HUNTSMAN

SPR has interviewed and offered the office administrator job to Jenny Huntsman. Jenny applied for the job after hearing about it from Rev. Julie Johnson of Fircrest Presbyterian Church after Pastor Cathy sent the job description to her Preaching Peace clergy colleagues in the area. Jenny has accepted the offer and will start on May 6th. Kelly will provide some training to Jenny. Her normal work hours will be 9 am to 1 pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays (Jenny works in a similar position at Fircrest Presbyterian on Tuesdays and Wednesdays). She comes highly recommended and the interview committee of SPR believes she will be a good fit for UCUP. We are excited to have Jenny on board.

Joe Becker, Chair, SPR



I am honored to be the new Office Administrator for your church. In my life I have been a daughter, sister, aunt, wife, mom and a grandmother. My husband and I have enjoyed living in the University Place/Fircrest area for 35+ years. My work background includes financial analyst and notary, customer service and sales. Outside of work, I enjoy family and friends while continuing to learn, innovate and explore. An avid supporter of the arts, an entrepreneur, and a community volunteer, I am always on the hunt for beach glass and treasures.



The Annual Meeting for the UCC is being held virtually this weekend. Many thanks to our Lay Delegates Robert Brown, Amara Oden, and Judy Thierry for representing UCUP. Also attending in clergy status will be Rev. Cathi Cline, and Pastor Cathy.

Normandy Park UCC will be hosting worship for the entire Conference on Sunday, May 2nd at 10am. They will livestream their worship service to PNC Facebook page. Here is the link to join: <https://www.facebook.com/pncucc>. You don't need to have a Facebook account to participate. That means that **we will not be gathering on zoom for worship this Sunday, May 2nd.**



Book Study - "So You Want to Talk About Race", Ijeoma Oluo Wednesday nights, starting May 5th - 6:30pm - on zoom

Join our next book study on dismantling racism. We will be reading Ijeoma Oluo's New York Times non-fiction bestseller, "So You Want to Talk About Race". Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life. Our goals as a church community is to become more aware of the privilege we carry, become more empathetic about matters of race, and engage in more productive anti-racist action to actively dismantle racism in ourselves and our community. Are you interested in learning how to explain white privilege to your white, privileged friends? Do you want to continue this difficult journey to becoming more anti-racist? Oluo offers language to engage in constructive and confident dialogue with each other about how to deal with racial prejudices and biases.

Join Nora de Sandoval & Angie Wolle as your co-facilitators for this engaging study.

FROM OUR PASTOR

Acts 2:42-43 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

When I was in Jr. High, I became familiar with a singing group called "The 2nd Chapter of Acts", featuring Annie Herring, and her teenage siblings, Nelly and Matthew Ward. They developed tight and intricate harmonies, and became a contemporary Christian Band in the 1970's. The trio released their debut album in 1974 featuring "Easter Song", which would become a signature piece for the group and has been recorded by many other artists including our own choir at UCUP, and most recently was featured for our virtual Easter service.

I always liked the name of their group, 2nd Chapter of Acts, and I believe that it is appropriate for our church, any church, trying to figure out who we are as a church in the midst of the pandemic, and how we will emerge from the pandemic into the future God has for us individually, and as the Body of Christ known as UCUP.

Starting with Ascension Sunday on May 16th, followed by Pentecost on May 23rd, our summer worship (June 13th - end of August), we will begin to unpack the Book of Acts and the missional account of how Jesus continued his ministry through the work of Holy Spirit in the Apostles and the growing numbers of Followers of The Way. Disciples of Jesus were not yet called Christians. Early disciples who followed the way of Jesus were called Followers of the Way. In the 21st Century we might call ourselves Followers of the Way as the 2nd Chapter of Acts, because just like the early followers, we are in process of developing a new style of worship, (virtual, in-person, hybrid) and discerning who we will be as a church body post-pandemic.

Where did the early church meet? In Acts, we hear over and over that they met from "house to house". In a sense, that is what we are doing on zoom. We are going from house to house on our screens.

| <u>Where did the church meet?</u> | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Acts 2: 46 | "House to house" |
| Acts 5: 42 | "House to house" |
| Acts 8: 3 | "House after house" |
| Acts 10: 20 | Cornelius' house |
| Acts 12: 12 | Mary's house |
| Acts 16: 32 | Jailer's house |
| Acts 16: 40 | Lydia's house |
| Acts 18: 7 | Titius Justus' house |
| Acts 20: 20 | "House to house" |
| Romans 16: 5 | Prisca + Aquila's house |
| 1 Corinthians 16: 19 | Prisca + Aquila's house |
| Colossians 4: 15 | Nympha's house |
| Philemon 1: 2 | Philemon's house |

So as we prepare for this Summer Worship Series I invite you to start reading the Book of Acts. And...if there are enough people interested, we can form a Summer Bible Study outside of virtual worship to study the Book of Acts more in depth.

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not giving up meeting together, but let us encourage one another as we see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:25). And may the Holy Spirit continue to dwell richly among you.



JOIN US!

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM FOR OUR LIVE ZOOM WORSHIP SERVICE!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

UPDATE ON THE PLAN FOR REOPENING

Greetings, members and friends of United Church in University Place. It has been a full year since we retreated into the seclusion of our homes, and more than a year since we last gathered in community in our beloved sanctuary.

I know that we all miss worship in our sanctuary and various points of in-person connection. It has been a long year, hasn't it?! As more of us receive the vaccine, we are all asking the question: "When can we return to church?"

The Reopen Ad Hoc committee recently met to review our Plan for Reopening and Transforming during the COVID-19 Crisis, and to consider that all-important question. We acknowledged that:

- 1) Many individuals under the age of 65 have just become eligible for the vaccine in the last couple of weeks.
- 2) Pierce County recently moved back to Phase 2 due to another wave of COVID cases.
- 3) The United Methodist conference is still advising group gatherings of no more than 25 individuals.

Our church is currently in a modified Stage 2 of our plan, which allows the following:

In Stage 2, the suspension of in-person worship continues. A group of 10 or fewer may gather in the building to record or produce components of the online worship services, while practicing physical distancing, wearing face masks, and observing other hygiene practices. Each person may remove their face mask while they are speaking during active recording. High-touch surfaces must be sanitized after each use. Access to the church building is limited to designated staff, volunteers, meetings, and essential services. The church will continue to meet, serve, and worship together remotely, striving to include vulnerable persons and making healthy choices to participate in virtual ways.

As part of our modified Stage 2, we are allowing the Narrows Co-op Preschool to meet in-person, with the understanding that they are following protocols approved by both Bates Technical College and the UCUP board.

Meetings of 10 or fewer participants are allowed under our current stage, and the Reopen committee feels that several of our committees may be ready to meet in-person, as long as our stated protocols are followed (wearing masks, social distancing, and other cleaning/hygiene practices). The scheduling of in-person meetings will be the responsibility of the committee chairs. Initially, these meetings should be hybrid in that they include both in-person participants and individuals who participate via Zoom. This presents some technology challenges that the Facilities Committee will be evaluating, to ensure that we have the equipment necessary to host a Zoom meeting from the Orchard View room.

As for worship, we are hoping that we will be able to return to the sanctuary sometime in the Fall. Here, too, our hope is to return in a hybrid format that offers both an in-person option and a virtual, or online option. This is new ground for our staff, worship committee, musicians, and other worship participants. It will definitely be a journey of discovery, but also an opportunity to learn new skills and new approaches to the worship experience. We are also reviewing the feasibility of holding special outdoor events during the summer months.

Our congregation has been remarkably resilient throughout the pandemic, and for that we are grateful. Thank you for continuing to be open to new ideas and for your patience as we navigate the inevitable bumps and technology glitches that come with this "new normal." Recovering and reopening after this long trial with COVID-19 is, indeed, a time of transformation. We'll keep you posted as we forge ahead on this transformational journey.

With gratitude,
Marilyn Thompson,
President

WALK

HIKE

Saunter

Are you a walker, hiker or saunterer? Would you like to explore a trail in the great outdoors but don't want to venture out alone? Are there folks who would like to suggest a trail they love and organize a short hike over the summer? A few of us are planning on walking for the Hunger Walk on May 16th. Perhaps a small outdoor group could gather for weekly or bi-weekly walks over the summer. If you are interested in leading or joining or suggesting places to take a hike, talk to Pastor Cathy.

JOIN UCUP IN THE 2021 HUNGER WALK!

RUN, WALK, OR
GIVE...SO THAT NO
PERSON GOES
HUNGRY

The Month of May, 2021, is dedicated to the Emergency Food Network's (Virtual) Hunger Walk. Join the UCUP team by going to this link: <https://efoodnet.org/event/hunger-walk-5k-run-3/> and clicking on "Register Today". At the top of the the next page you have the choice to "Sign-up" or "Donate". If you want to "Sign-up", be sure to join the "United Church in UP" team when that option comes up. OR, you can either donate directly to EFN or write a check to UCUP and write "Hunger Walk" in the memo line and your donation will be sent to EFN through the church.

Peace and Justice is holding a **UCUP socially distanced walk on Sunday, May 16 at 2:00 PM** at the park next to the Pierce County Environmental Building, located at the south end of Grandview at 9850 64th St W, University Place, WA 98467. Meet in the parking lot and spend some time with friends in person for a change. We will walk the paved trails around the play fields and maybe slow down to contemplate the labyrinth. For those with more energy, you might want to walk the Chambers Bay Golf Course trail. Wear your Hunger Walk T-shirt from 2021 or from a previous year's Hunger Walk or Crop Walk! We hope you, your families and your leashed dogs will join us.

The Pierce County emergency food system includes more than 71 food pantries and hot meal sites, providing over 18.3 million meals annually to over 1.3 million clients (duplicated count). In recent years, food programs have experienced an increase in the number of clients seeking services.



Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

See the Spring 2021 issue of the UCC Newsletter at:

<https://www.pncuccnews.org>

- Dismantling Racism—Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown on becoming senior pastor at Plymouth
- PNC Dismantling Racism team conversations at Annual Meeting.
- Stop the Hate against Asians – Spokane teen speaks out.
- Justice Witness Ministries Committee, chair Steve Claggett reviews five years addressing racism, environment, immigration and more
- Ecumenical justice and peace organizations in Colombia – proposed partnership.
- N-Sid-Sen's protocols for 2021 summer camps



As Kelle Brown becomes the official senior pastor at Plymouth UCC in Seattle, she joins with the church on a journey to be a model for dismantling racism in the Pacific NW Conference.



GREAT...Kathy Munn's first great-granddaughter, named Quinn, was born in early April...and Dorothy McCuiston's great niece, Kayla, also arrived in April. We give thanks for the safe arrival of both of these little ones...and for AJ's new job, also prayers of thanks that the 'shut down' has been lifted in the assisted living facilities. Mary Jones, Donna Shoe, Win Bjarke, Doris Larsen, Sharon Britcher and JoAn Walston (did I miss anyone?) are now able to come and go and/or have visitors...and that most of us are

now eligible for the Covid-19 shots AND that schools are now open for our young ones.

Our former minister Joanne Brown is home after a brief hospital stay, please keep her in your prayers...and for Sam(antha) Burhop, now able to walk short distances and Cindi Bodie and the boys, Jimmy and Jeremiah.

Spring is here, hope you drove by the church is last week and saw the trees, along the Grandview side, in full bloom.



28TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL ON FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE & TWITTER

Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m.

With Sen. T'wina Nobles and Reps.
Mari Leavitt and Dan Bronoske



Go to this website for more information, including submitting questions in advance: <https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/>

Links to Facebook and Youtube to attend the town hall:

<https://www.facebook.com/WAHouseDems/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS1efpiizSPYZpTms-AonQg>





ANDREW LARSON WILL BE PREACHING MAY 30TH - FOLLOWED BY ZOOM FORUM

Consider you have chosen to move 6600 miles for three years to a welcoming community with plans for a ministry leaning heavily into social justice. The place is near Manila, Philippines. Extrajudicial killings against the farmers and the poor is rampant. It is February/March 2020.

Andrew Larsen serves with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. His appointment is made possible by gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission. He will join UCUP Sunday, May 30th preaching and leading a Forum after worship. "I've been called to the work of Justice, Peace, and Human Rights (JPHR) in the West Visayas." A link to his mission work, some of his sermons, blogs and bulletin inserts are available.

<https://www.globalministries.org/people/andrew-larsen/>

We have much to consider as we anticipate Andrew's zoom visit to our UCUP family. A special offering will take place.



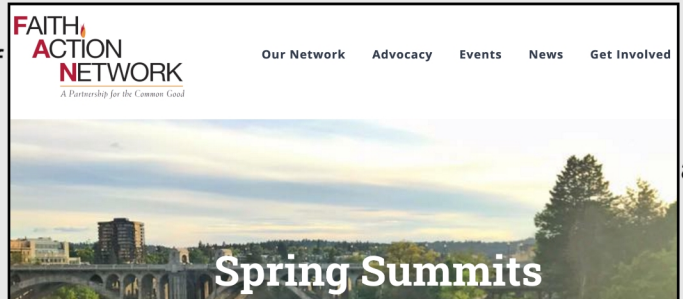
TWO DOZEN gun violence prevention laws have passed 2014 in the Washington state legislature, including some of the strongest domestic violence protection and suicide prevention laws in the country and a first-in-the-nation Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention, which is crucial first step toward addressing the gun violence that impacts our communities—especially Black and brown communities—every day.

THREE successful ballot initiatives include:

- 1) I-1639 (2018): raised the age and strengthened rules to purchase semi-automatic assault rifles, required safety training, and more
- 2) I-1491 (2016): created Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs); and
- 3) I-594 (2014): closed background check loopholes.

Current legislative work needing support by persons of faith concerns policies that address and armed intimidation by restricting open carry, strengthening police oversight and accountability, and more.

Faith Action Network listserv is a great access point for these Justice issues. Please visit their website at <https://fanwa.org/> Note the upcoming summits.





Mark your calendars if you want to have some initial impact on what Faith Action Network works to accomplish next year. There are two dates for the Spring Summit, both being held virtually. One date is Sunday, May 23, and the other is Sunday, June 6. The times for both are 2- 4 pm. That beginning input is what is the basis for FAN's work over the next year's legislative session.

Faith Action Network has a lot to celebrate after this year's legislative accomplishments. Gains were made in all six areas of FAN's interest. Some of the most impressive are that the legislature decided to tax capital gains at a 7% rate, which experts think will result in income to the state of \$500,000,000. It goes some distance in righting our upside down tax system. Also, we won some gains in our policing policies, including banning no-knock warrants and neck restraints. I cannot name all the good things that happened, but there are many more, and, I suspect, you will soon be able to find them on the Faith Action Network's website, fanwa.org. By the way, the path to registering for the spring summits is fan.wa.org/events/regional-spring-summits. I hope to see you there.

By the way, I got an e-mail just moments ago from Judy Thierry that was an excited missive about how many bills passed that were supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics. My guess is that FAN supported most of their issues as well. This year, 2021, was a good year for the Washington State Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown

Peace and JUSTICE



DISMANTLING RACISM

One of my interests is that our little committee on Dismantling Racism is having an outsized presence at this meeting. We provided wording for a change in our constitution, which is up for a vote at the meeting. Our group has worked on a 6-minute video, which we hope will premiere at the meeting. While the video has not been finalized, it should feature music from our church and photographs from both Don Thompson and Joe Becker. I am excited to see it. The purpose of the video is to prompt/assist/encourage churches to work on eliminating racism. We are aware that we all are at different places along this path, but the goal is to end the systemic racism that exists in the world as well as in our conference and its churches.

May it be said that this is not the only reason for this annual meeting, but it is where I intersect with its planning.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown

NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST:

As many of you know, the annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ is this weekend. It starts on Friday at noon, and it is entirely virtual.



Happy Earthday to You!
(Submitted by Roger Martin)

That opening avoided any chance of being sued for copyright infringements, anyway. It was not like just any Sunday. It was April 25th, the first Sunday after Earth Day. After regular services, several folks hung around on Zoom and offered up some good ideas we might want to incorporate into our own daily lives to help out with keeping God's blue earth a decent place for us and other critters and plants to live. So that readers can keep some of these ideas around for later reference, and for those who attended this after-church session to perhaps be reminded of what was said, here is a list of what Zoomed through and those who were the Zoomies (with apologies to those who attended the Air Force Academy).

This August group of deep-green thinkers (green, deep-thinkers?)—in April!—contributed the list of ideas that will follow: Laura Balcom, Vic Bode and Leslie Ann Knight, Cindi Bodie, Robert Brown, Kathleen Kenna, Roger Martin, Dorothy McCuistion, Tom Milligan, Nancy Moffett, Neil and Norma Rader, Dennis Small, and Don and Marilyn Thompson.

Ideas presented were:

Use rechargeable batteries instead of buying single-use batteries (rechargeables can be purchased from Amazon Smile, Harbor Freight, and many other stores).

Convert your lawn from grass to organic-food production.

Recall the ancient words of wisdom found in the Dead Sea Scrolls: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Use washable cloth napkins instead of throwing away paper ones.

Get yourself a compost bin; one of us just did that!

Replace your big, gas-guzzler with a smaller vehicle to save fuel and reduce pollution. (Lamborghinis and Ferraris are small. Does an electric Hummer count?)

Avoid plastic; that stuff is made from petroleum! (More on that thought later)

Donate cuttings from your yard to others to use in their own. Evangelize! There are ways to give some to military veterans in VA hospitals too! You can contact the VA to ask how.

You can plant deciduous trees that will provide energy-saving shade in the summer, and they will let light through to help heat things up in the winter.

Even if your lawn has some big ol' tree roots that attack the mower blades, you can replace the old grass with a pollinator garden to help out the bees (locally, the big kids who do the big work are the threatened bumble bees who can certainly use the help)—and PLEASE don't use glyphosate!

OBTW, one of the main reasons you might wanna buy non-GMO products is one of the top reasons the non-GMO movement got started: commercial farmers wanted ways to kill off weeds that weren't what they were growing. Crop plants were genetically altered so that they could survive being sprayed by glyphosate (e.g., Roundup) and other herbicides. So, a lot of places where plants critical to migrating critters like monarch butterflies used to grow were stripped of the milkweed, etc., that once provided sustenance for the innocent, starving migrants. By purchasing non-GMO products, you disincentivize the use of herbicides like glyphosate.

Avoid plastic straws, and if you have some just waiting to wear out or you are otherwise stuck with them, try to wash the straws so that they can be re-used instead of winding up in the gullet of a starving seabird. Costco has been using paper straws for about six months now. You can help by not buying drinks from places that still use plastic.

You can look for products that don't come wrapped in plastic, and you can buy them instead. Send a message to retailers.

Interplanting (like mixing farm crops with milkweed) is better for wildlife, especially pollinators and food-unique migrators.

There are books out there for inquiring minds who want to know on what can and cannot be recycled. Remember, this is a regional thing. What can be recycled in one jurisdiction might be refused in another. Tacoma takes things that other places in Pierce County do not, for instance. A lot of what you think can be recycled isn't.

You can use single-use plastic bags as garbage bags for things that go to landfill if you can't recycle your plastic bags.

Go to markets where you can support local growers. That can reduce the single-use plastic packaging that comes from factory operations. Avoid one-use plastics. Just say, "No!"

Letting your lawn grass grow longer increases the amount of carbon it absorbs. A two-inch-tall blade of grass absorbs twice as much carbon per minute as a one-inch-tall blade of grass. Also, taller grass saves water by making roots go deeper into the soil. Mulching instead of bagging returns that carbon to the soil, where the grass can be used to recharge the soil, thus saving the need to buy fertilizer that can run off into waterways and the Sound and saving you money too.

The same thing goes for pruning bushes. If you leave the clippings on the ground, they will decompose and replenish the soil while sequestering carbon there. National Wildlife Federation also reminds people if you leave small branches and twigs on the soil it provides habitat for little critters that depend on protection from predators and the elements. Prunings on the ground also naturally deter weeds from growing.

There are a lot of easy ways to stop adding plastic that lasts forever into landfill. Plastic can escape and kill wildlife. For example, many products are offered as compostable/bio-degradable plastic, including bio-degradable cat-litter-disposal bags instead of non-degradable ones. You can also pick up a few extra compostable/degradeable produce bags at Trader Joe's and take them with you to another store where you can use the TJ's bags for the other store's veggies.

Crazy cat ladies (and guys) can buy cat litter in boxes (cardboard can be recycled, and it decomposes in landfill too) instead of in plastic jugs. Why not do that? Same thing for laundry detergent. For those who religiously celebrate with sacramental wine, you can buy wine with cork corks instead of plastic corks. Cork will eventually degrade in landfill and can be used as a filler in potted plants and reducing the amount of bagged soil you might otherwise purchase.

Light-colored exterior paint and roofing reflects light in the summertime, keeping interiors cooler and requiring less energy for electrical cooling (if you have it). If you use gravel or bark on your soil outside, light colors reflect more heat back into space than dark colors do. Every infrared quantum helps.

Save a lot of energy in warm weather when cooking by using an induction cooktop (with compatible pots and pans) or pressure cookers.

Go solar. It pays for itself a lot faster than it used to, and after it's paid off, it's all "profit." There are new financing methods for buying or leasing solar now. Getting a survey of your own place and estimated costs and break-even timeframes is free. If you already have solar, consider buying battery backups. There is competition now. Prices are dropping, and there are more choices.

Be well. Be green.

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