



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

UCUP

June Newsletter

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

2021



UCUP Volunteers Needed

For EFN Food Repack Project Thursday, June 10

You are invited to join Team UCUP for a repacking session at the Emergency Food Network in Lakewood on **Thursday, June 10, from 9 to 11:30 am**. The Emergency Food Network is a nonprofit organization that distributes food to the more than 70 food pantries and hot meal sites in Pierce County. The network provides more than 15.6 meals annually. The majority of the food that EFN distributes to individual food pantries is donated by large corporations such as Fred Meyer, Carolina Logistics, QFC, and SuperValu, but EFN also acts as a Sub-Distributing Agency for the USDA Commodity Food Programs and purchases food through its Co-op Food Purchasing Program. EFN is able to leverage \$1 into 5 meals. One way they accomplish that is by buying food items in bulk and repackaging them into smaller, family-sized portions. They also accept large perishable and non-perishable donations that need to be sorted before distribution to the food pantries. It takes a lot of helping hands, and United Church in University Place will provide those helping hands on June 10!

To sign up, please e-mail Marilyn Thompson at marilynht@outlook.com. We'll take the first eight volunteers who sign up, so don't delay! With gratitude—Marilyn Thompson, President

Walking with UCUP

Dorothy McCuiston is organizing our first walk of the summer:

Nisqually Wildlife Refuge - Thursday, June 24th, 9am

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/billy_frank_jr_nisqually/

Walkers should bring a small day pack with water and snacks, sunscreen and a hat--there is no shade on the long walk. If you're a wildlife watcher, bring binoculars. No pets are allowed. Meet up in front of the visitor's center (which is closed).

If you are planning to join in the hike, email Dorothy: dorothymcc@nventure.com or text the day of if you have a change of plans at 253-578-8587.

If this day or time doesn't work for you, but you would like to be involved in joining or leading other outdoor activities this summer, let Pastor Cathy know, so we can include you in future planning.



From Pastor Cathy

As I reflect on my education growing up in Washington State Public Schools in the 1970's and 1980's, I now realize there are gaps in my education where history is concerned. I learned about explorers to what was called the New World, including Christopher Columbus, and because my school was named after Captain Robert Gray, (thus Grays Harbor, also because the weather is frequently gray) I learned about him as well. I learned about Canadian fur trappers and the First Thanksgiving. I loved learning about the Aztecs, Mayas, and Incas. I remember celebrating the bicentennial when I was in third grade dressed in red, white, and blue for our school assembly. I can still recite all 50 states because I learned the song, "Nifty Fifty United States from the 13 original colonies". But I did not learn about Native American history or African American history. In fact, until the last decade, I did not realize that African Americans have been celebrating Juneteenth for over 150 years. Juneteenth is the oldest of all African American celebrations. It commemorates the day of June 19, 1865, when African Americans in Galveston, Texas first learned of their freedom from slavery under the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by President Lincoln and which had gone into effect on January 1, 1863, nearly two and a half years earlier.

Celebrations of Juneteenth – also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day – began a year later in Texas and quickly spread to surrounding states. Commemorations waned during the Jim Crow era but resumed in the Civil Rights era of the 1950s and 1960s. As of this year, The District of Columbia and 47 states recognize Juneteenth. Our own Washington state Legislature approved a bill to make Juneteenth a state legal holiday in April 2021. In addition, the Tacoma Metro Parks issued the following proclamation earlier this year:



Proclaiming February 2021 as Black History Month
and Juneteenth as a Metro Parks Tacoma holiday

- WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma desires to take this opportunity to acknowledge beginning June 19, 2021, and every June 19 moving forward the 1865 announcement ending slavery in America and the freedom of African Americans or Blacks in the United States was final; and
- FURTHER WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma will observe June 19 each year as part of our commitment to anti-racism, racial and social justice, encouraging a day of reflection, recognition, acknowledgment, and healing;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners, hereby proclaim February 2021 as BLACK HISTORY MONTH and JUNETEENTH as a Metro Parks Tacoma holiday. We encourage all Tacoma citizens to recognize the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.

As a church, how will we continue our antiracist journey? We continue to witness ongoing racism and injustices impacting communities of African descent, including public lynchings and state sanctioned violence against black bodies. What actions can we take in support of black lives and to dismantle systemic systems and institutions perpetuating and supporting racists and racism? (con't next page)

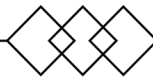
From Pastor Cathy (con't)

Twelve of us just finished reading the book "So you Want to Talk about Race" by Ijeoma Oluo and joined in a 4-week discussion thoughtfully facilitated by Nora Fleming de Sandoval. At our last session we brainstormed what we could do as a faith community. How will we attend to our antiracist journey?

Continue our inward and outward journey, Listen, Provide hospitality, Show up
Learn about Black History and amplify it,
Educating ourselves about refunding police structures,
Immersive experiences in predominantly African American neighborhoods,
Supporting business owned by BIPOC people
Representation of the full diversity of people in our visuals for worship,
Use liturgy written by BIPOC people

God who is moved to tears,
In a world of so much trauma and tragedy, it is difficult to not become numb. We confess we are desensitized to the cries of our neighbors. We confess that global terror rolls off us like water. Help us from our familiarization with pain, that it would always rouse our spirit. Keep us from that obsessive attunement which is prone toward savior complexes and feigned allyship, and lead us into a kind of solidarity that reminds us that in pausing to bear witness to suffering, we do not become the rescuer. We do not become the voice. And free us from the responsibility to feel every pain at once. Help us to discern our capacity for solidarity, for lament, and when we stand and when we rest and allow others to do so— remembering that our activism is shared among a collective. We are not alone.

@BlackLiturgies



PENTECOST WORSHIP

UCUP represents with fire colors for our zoom Pentecost Worship on May 23rd



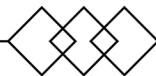
2021 Hunger Walk ... UCUP Style

From Dorothy McCuiston

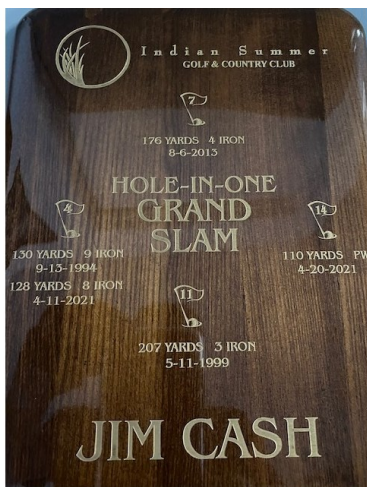
A mighty group of walkers turned out on Sunday, May 16 for UCUP's version of the 2021 Hunger Walk in support of the Emergency Food Network. We continue to support this important organization that saw a 40% increase in visits in 2020 compared to 2019. One in nine people in Pierce County are food insecure. EFN provides consistent, diverse and nutritious food with the goal of no person going hungry.



(thank-you Pastor Cathy for photos)



CONGRATULATIONS!



So what is better than shooting a hole-in-one on your home course?

Shooting your 5th hole-in-one !!!



Way to Go Jim!



Distribution of Baby Items

From Kay Shaben

If you have visited the Narthex lately, you will have seen that the baby items collected for Dawn Foreman have disappeared!! Yikes!! Oh No! Wait, with Dawn's help, Kay Shaben has found places to take them! So far, some items have gone to Forever Changed Ministries on Tacoma's eastside. The diapers are on their way to Phoebe House. Hope Sparks Family Services needs the clothing. So, the bins are empty!

My Sister's Pantry does not have the storage space to keep non-food items since they see clients only through the back door of the church to hand out bags of groceries. Martha Curwen and her crew continue to need portable food items that can be used by homeless families or individuals. The large bin outside the church remains the collection point to serve that Ministry.



Narrows Preschool Co-op News

"More than a Preschool, IT'S A COMMUNITY"

From Judy Thierry, Liaison

We welcome new co-presidents, Alison Mayer and Julie Curley. Aimee Crawford and Kelly Froio have guided the school during the pandemic with our stellar Bates's teachers Jessica Freeden and Judy Manza and long-term consultation by Joan Rapkoch. Staff, children and families have remained well applying CDC protocols for preschool settings. The Narrows Preschool Cooperative follows the UP School District schedule. Narrows Preschool will restart in September. With the state and county re-opening, Narrows's fall enrollment is on track. UCUP and Narrows are finalizing the agreement for 2021-22.

Joys & Concerns

CONGRATULATIONS to Dennis Small on his recent retirement. A drive-bye was held to honor him on Sunday, May 16th ...**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jim Cash, who recent shot a hole in one, on his home course in Olympia....We rejoice with Kathleen Kenna on the birth of a new family member, Cohen

Robert Morrow, born May 13th in Courtney, BC...with Shirley Paulson, that her son Brian is now cancer free.

A big **WELCOME BACK** to the Pacific Northwest to Paul Koppe and Gay Blanche. After 10 years in Arizona they are now living at Bonaventure of Puyallup. Please keep both of them in your prayers as they deal with Gay's Alzheimer's...Wayne Brown, experiencing recent health issues...Blanche Beesley recovering from an outpatient procedure...Susan Kelly on the death of her mother (Sophia's grandma)...that Rosemary Jones' brother-in-law, Jack, will be out of the hospital soon...and United Church's former pastor, Joanne Carlson Brown, as she deals with continued health problems. We continue to ask prayers for Cindi Bodie and Jimmy and Jeremiah. We give thanks that Cindi's brother and sister came from Chicago (drove) to see her and pray they have a safe trip home.

THANK GOODNESS, finally there are places we don't have to wear masks...and just maybe we'll be back 'in church' soon...even when that day comes we will continue to give thanks to all those that worked to bring us Sunday services and meetings via ZOOM.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Faith Action Network News

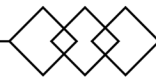
Faith Action Network has four seasons, just like our calendar: in spring we hold summits, in late summer we hold cluster gatherings, in the fall we hold our annual banquet, which serves as our largest fundraiser, and in the winter, we lobby in the legislature for bills/laws that will improve our state. The process begins with our spring summits.

At these summits, we first celebrate our victories from the year before. There have been some years in which we had little to cheer for; however, this year, we managed to support the passage of at least thirty bills we supported and which have become laws. For the year of 2021, we had six areas of focus, including: Values we support; policing and criminal justice systems reform; housing and homelessness; climate change; immigrant, civil and human rights for all; and access to healthcare and mental health care.

At the summit this year, we will be hammering out the beginnings of an agenda for our legislature in the 2022 session. This is where the process begins, while our Inter-faith Action Days in February are where they end (along with multiple calls to legislators). I hope you will want to be in on the starting point.

The first summit takes place on May 23 from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Register for this event on fanwa.org 's website. The entry URL is <http://bit.ly/2021summitMay>. The second summit meeting is on June 6 from 2:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. Register as above. The entry URL for this meeting is <http://bit.ly/2021summitJune>.

Robert Brown will be at the second summit meeting and hopes you choose to attend one as well.



COVID-19 Vaccines Help Get Us Back in Business

Everyone 12 and older is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in Washington. Visit [FindYourCovidShot.com](https://www.findyourcovidshot.com) or the Washington DOH Vaccine-Locator to find location options and information.

Need a ride? People who face transportation barriers and need a ride to get a vaccine can call the state COVID-19 information hotline at 833-VAX-HELP and a hotline specialist will assist in coordinating rides.

Together, let's
take our shot.





2021 GRADUATIONS

Amara Oden will graduate with a Masters of Divinity from Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry with a Master's in Divinity on June 13th. (Photos are from Amara's synthesis project presentation of her theological journey for STM.) Amara and her family have been with us at UCUP for the past two years, and in that time our Board endorsed her candidacy process with the UCC Committee on Ministry. Amara has completed her internship with Magnolia UCC and will be serving as a licensed pastor at Prospect UCC this summer as their pastor is on sabbatical. Amara will be focused on the next step with UCC Committee on Ministry for ordination-pending-call status. Amara invites us to join her zoom graduation from Seattle University (email: odena@seattleu.edu for zoom link). Be sure to congratulate Amara on her graduation and her achievements of this past year.



RETIREMENTS

Dennis Small retired after 43 years of public service - 11 years teaching and 31+ years as Director of Educational Technology Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. It is hard to imagine what OSPI will do without all of Dennis' institutional knowledge and history. His colleagues at OSPI dedicated June 1st as Dennis Small Day with this proclamation (just a few of the statements):

WHEREAS, serving as ED-TECH Director during a pandemic would seem to many of us a nightmare position, Dennis has been able to provide support, wisdom and direction at a time when it has been most needed.

WHEREAS, the challenges have continued to grow exponentially since 1989 when her first joined OSPI, Dennis has survived and even thrived when faced with adversity.

WHEREAS, Dennis has always seemed able to present a calm and reassuring demeanor, providing encouragement and serving as an important source of support for colleagues.

WHEREAS, Dennis has remained committed over the past 31+ years to ensure that all students across our diverse state receive a high quality education that will prepare them, as technology continues to rapidly evolve, for the future as voters and informed citizens.

CONGRATULATIONS DENNIS ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



UCC Annual Meeting

From Judy Thierry

Every Sunday—10am
Zoom Worship Service

The virtual in-the-round "Rooted in Love" UCC annual meeting was a collective consciousness raising. In the time of Covid19 now in 2021 with our masking and social distancing there was the opportunity to begin an *unmasking* of racism and systemic bias that is infused with white supremacy. All placed in a real-time perspective the conference confronted its own assumptions and ways of doing business. Delegates soundly pointed out that the very budget presented for approval which included a line item to support dismantling racism was itself painfully insufficient and mere tokenism. "Start-stop-change" the Saturday agenda was amended to allow time to digest *what just happened*, with *what needed to happen*, with soul searching of several hours in committee and broad membership participation. The shift or change resulted in designating reserve funds to augment this work. Much more to come.

Thus, Saturday was a pivotal day of worship and learning, shaking loose ways of doing business, attachments to agenda schedules, "who's in charge" and "how it is supposed to go." The UCC annual meeting had always conflicted with our Samoan churches gatherings and in 2021 we were able to "dismantle" thinking that calendars could NOT accommodate all of our *siblings in Christ* as Rev. Mike Denton our conference minister calls us. Imagine sharing worship from Friday's Walla Walla church community service, to worshipping virtually in the home settings and churches on Saturday with three Samoan pastors, their families and parish members^[1] and Sunday with the Normandy Park congregation with Rev. Denton preaching.

Can we be too grateful for how the Spirit moves us? Can we be too mindful that Spirit must move us? Must open our senses to hear that God is still speaking? And all of this virtually. Amen.

A Special General Virtual Synod 33 this July is open to all interested.

<https://www.generalsynod.org/>

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
UNITED CHURCH IN UNIVERSITY PLACE
3912 GRANDVIEW DRIVE WEST
UNIVERSITY PLACE, WA. 98466

Vol. 42 No. 6
June 1, 2021

Periodicals
Postage Paid at
Tacoma WA 98413

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

**United Church In
University Place**

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Weekly

Sundays

10am Live ZOOM Worship

JOIN US!

*We are United with God,
United to Love,
and United to Serve Others*

Monthly

1st Sunday of the month
Communion during worship

3rd Tuesday of the month
6:30-8pm Men's Group:
"Concerns in Our Hearts &
Souls"

4th Sunday of the month
11:45am 4th Sunday Forum

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