



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

UCUP

July  2021

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

WALKING with UCUP



(Photos by Pastor Cathy)

Nisqually Walk

On June 24th, before the sweltering heat came, [Dorothy McCuistion](#) led our summer hiking group (Cindi Bodie, Robert Brown, Dawn Foreman, Rosemary Jones, Pamela Maddes, Roger Martin, and Pastor Cathy) out on the boardwalk of Billy Frank National Wildlife Refuge. No doubt Helen Engle was smiling from heaven as members from her church gathered to walk and appreciate the gifts of nature. Helen, along with Thelma Gilmur, helped form the Washington Environmental Council and served as co-chairs after years of coalition-building and lobbying. When federal shoreline preservation money came available, the council had political, tribal and local support in place to purchase the land for the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. After the hike, Dawn invited us back to her nearby home to enjoy lovely hospitality and conversation and food.



NEXT UP : Summer hike at Pt. Defiance Park - July 21st - 9am

Join Dorothy McCuistion and Pastor Cathy for another summer hike at Pt. Defiance Park. We will park and meet at the Rhododendron garden (beyond the zoo), and hike the Spine Trail. Dogs on leash are welcome. Please contact Pastor Cathy at 425-232-6000 or Dorothy at 253-678-8587 if you are interested .

From Our President Marilyn

Greetings, members and friends of United Church in University Place.

We are slowly emerging from the restrictions of the pandemic and preparing for the time when we can return to our sanctuary for in-person worship. At its meeting on June 14, the Board approved advancing to Stage 3 of our ***Plan for Reopening and Transforming During the COVID-19 Crisis***. *Under Stage 3, we allow for gatherings of up to 50 people indoors, and 100 participants outdoors. This is consistent with the current guidelines from the United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ conferences and is well within county and state guidelines.*

Initially, indoor gatherings will be limited to committee meetings and small group gatherings to prepare liturgy for worship. The church recently invested in a new device, the OWL, a 360-degree camera that captures images and audio of participants around a table in a meeting, enhancing the virtual experience for those who are still participating remotely. This supports the “hybrid” form of meeting, which combines in-person and virtual participation. Committees and other small groups now have the option to hold in-person meetings, inside or outside, provided the church COVID protocols are followed.

The next step will be building the tools and skills to offer a hybrid experience for worship services, which we hope will take place this fall. Pastor Cathy has assembled a technology team to assist the Worship Committee in this task, and they are hard at work to develop new ways of supporting worship, both in the sanctuary and virtually, in our homes. We are looking for your input as we work through these steps. You’ll be receiving a survey soon that asks about your comfort level in returning to church, and expectations in this time of reopening. Our return to in-person worship and programs will require many helping hands, and the survey is one way that each of you can help us prepare for a return to the sanctuary in the fall.

The good news is, we’re getting closer to a “new normal,” and that feels great! There’s also a cautionary tale, and a continuing challenge to respect those who are still vulnerable. It’s important to remember that children under 12 are still unvaccinated, and many adults are still uncomfortable with large indoor gatherings. We continue to require masks for all indoor activities, and continue to follow safety protocols such as distancing, frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer.

Thank you for continuing to support our church community and our staff with your patience, love, and understanding. Happy summer to all!

Marilyn Thompson,

President



Reflections from PNWUMC Annual Conference



Impressions of the 148th UMC Annual Conference of the Pacific Northwest

by Rev. Dr. [Leslie Ann Knight](#)

*The theme: Love Never Ends, (I Corinthians 13) A vision of love that selflessly seeks the good of others, resists arrogance as it aims to understand, and perseveres in hope through hardship and lack of perfect knowledge.

*Building trust with indigenous persons and dismantling racism in our region were front and center as an overarching agenda. Every speaker began with the recognition of native tribes that lived and continue to live on the land where his/her/their congregation is located. Hearing the many names of tribes from Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, so many names I was unaware of, created for me a new sense of our PNW history and people. The building and land of a UMc church in Wallowa, Oregon, which has closed, has been returned to the Nez Perce Tribe. The Milton UMC has closed, and the building and land will be used by a new ministry for a Korean language congregation, Good Seed. There are other stories like these.

*Alaska has been a Mission Conference under the General Board of Global Ministries for many years. At their request, the PNW approved (joyfully embraced) Alaska as a district, and Alaska will be part of our conference. “De-colonializing ministry” was a recurring focus for the Alaska members..

*Reports were given on video. Usually reports become “fillers” while waiting for voting results, but these really became the structure of our time together. In a time when we could be very depressed, there was a feeling of lightness and hope. The legislative business was spare, with little dissension. We are carrying on in mission and ministry. We are adapting to new realities.

*The conference closed with the Commissioning and Ordination Service. Held outside, the vows were spoken through masks. But they were spoken and received with joy and renewed energy. As I watched them process, some carrying babies, I thought “What a vulnerable time we are living in. And how we are blessed with these brave folks.” It was a profoundly hopeful moment for me.

*Very visible in leadership were Pastor Cathy and Conference Lay Leader Nancy Tam Davis. (Good job both of you!) Others present as voting members were Lay Members Pat Mail & Rosemary Jones (alternate), Rev. Angela Wolle, Rev. Jim Davis, and myself. Vic Bode was online, as an attentive observer.. We were, of course, on Zoom.

(con’t)



PNWUMC Annual Conference—con't



ANNUAL CONFERENCE reflection for PNWUMC by Pat Mail, Lay Member

The Annual Conference was spread out over 6 days instead of the usual crammed, busy weekend at the Puyallup Fair Grounds. Sunday June 20 was a general worship service, followed on Monday by a long “focus” group meeting (with some 300 people attending) to recommend several proposals for adoption or rejection to the Annual Conference on Thursday. Some were debated at length, while others of similar content were bundled for adoption.

This conference was complicated by having three jurisdictions attending: Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and the Pacific Northwest. It was really interesting to hear from the folks in Alaska, and it is being proposed that Alaska become a part of the PNW Conference. It was also good to hear from our own Nancy Tam Davis who led the Lay Leader session. The 2020 General Conference was postponed due to COVID, so there are many issues piling up that will need to be addressed. The Bishop's retirement was put on hold and others serving in various leadership positions were extended. The major issue is how to allow parts of the church to remain inclusive while others want a more conservative outlook. It is hoped that the outcome will not be acrimonious.

In addition to church business, we saw several short filmed reports on the work of UMCOR, the status of our various camps, and the work of the UMC Foundation with its fiduciary responsibilities and management discussed. In addition, the music was bold and uplifting. The focus session was followed on June 23, there was a general session at which several proposals were adopted. On that evening, we had a closing worship service as well as acknowledging those we had lost over the last year. Friday, the 25th was set aside for Ordinations of new Elders. It was a rich and informative week, which both Rosemary Jones and I were privileged to attend as Lay Members.



Nancy leading the Ordination Service.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

From Pastor Cathy

This year's PNWUMC Annual Conference was held virtually again this year. Our own Nancy Tam Davis helped lead various portions as the Conference's Lay Leader including being a liturgist for the in-person Ordination Service outside at Kent UMC. One of traditions of Annual Conference is the ritual commemoration of District Superintendents and the Bishop reading aloud the United Methodist clergy appointments for the coming year (July 1-June 30). There is something holy and sacred in the reading of the appointments every year at Annual Conference (even virtually). After the appointments were read, my Facebook feed lit up with many of my clergy colleagues and friends posting their gratitude to be appointed or reappointed to their ministry setting. I am blessed to be re-appointed to UCUP for my 8th year of ministry at this beloved church, (and my 20th year of ministry since being commissioned in 2002). May God go before us, blessing our shared ministry.



JOYS & CONCERNS



Submitted by Joyce Demarest

Congratulations Amara Oden! Amara graduated on June 13th, a member of the last class of Seattle U's School of Theology & Ministry...Congratulations to all those that haven't graduated yet, but will be going into a higher grade when they return to school in September.

Please continue to hold Cindi Bodie, Jimmy and Jeremiah in your prayers – that they may be together again soon. Cindi would like to thank the members of the United Church family that are volunteering their time and service to make this happen...Pray that the elbow Jimmy dislocated isn't too painful...Please keep Joanne Brown, one of our former pastors, in your prayers as she is dealing with health concerns...Susan Kelly and Sophia as they continue to grieve the loss of their mother/grandmother. Cathi Cline as she goes in for more tests about her throat.

Hold Traci Drake, who served as interim at UCUP during the Summer of 2014, and Denise in your prayers, that their move to Camano Island goes smoothly.

Hoping to see everyone sometime this summer, via ZOOM or in person – maybe in the orchard.



July Birthdays

11—Jeremiah—12 yrs old

28—Amara Oden

31—Bob Rudolph





UCUP is an Open & Affirming and Reconciling Congregation.



GIVING ...

Sign up for AmazonSmile and select United Church of Christ of University Place as your preferred charity at smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0879452.

Remember to shop for deals at smile.amazon.com, or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon app, and AmazonSmile will donate to us at no cost to you."



Together, let's take our shot.



COVID-19 Vaccines Help Get Us Back In Business

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Church Employees

Rev. Cathlynn Law

Music Director: Jeff Andersen

Nursery Attendant: Addy Harding

Office Admin: Jenny Huntsman

EMERGENCY FOOD NETWORK REPACKING



Six volunteers from United Church in University Place participated in a food repack at the Emergency Food Network, a food distribution program that serves 70 food banks in Pierce County.



□

Our job was to repack 1,500 pounds of oatmeal into 2-pound bags that will be distributed to 750 families. We also received a tour of the warehouse. This organization does amazing work!



Many thanks to Marilyn Thompson for organizing this event and to Cathi Cline, Dorothy McCuusion, Dennis Small, Don Thompson, and Pastor Cathy for your efforts so that no one goes hungry.

(photos by Don Thompson)





Heat Danger

How to stay safe

(Excerpt from TPC Health Dept)

When the weather heats up, know how to stay safe.

When outside temperatures are very high, the danger for heat-related illness rises. Older adults, young children, and people with mental illness and chronic diseases are at particularly high risk.

The following tips will help you and your family stay safe:

Keep cool:

- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun.
- Dress in lightweight clothing.
- Take cool showers or baths.
- Don't rely solely on fans to keep you cool. Electric fans can provide some comfort, but when temperatures are hot, they don't prevent heat-related illness.
- Use your stove and oven less to maintain a cooler temperature in your home.

[Visit a cooling center](#). Spend time at a shopping mall, grocery store or public location—even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help.

- Stay inside during the hottest times of the day (afternoon and early evening).

Check on your elderly neighbors and relatives, and encourage them to keep cool and hydrated.

Drink liquids:

- Drink plenty of water.
- Avoid drinks with caffeine, alcohol and lots of sugar—they actually dehydrate you.
- Keep water with you whenever possible, and sip or drink frequently. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.

If you go outside:

- Limit the time you're in direct sunlight.
- Do not leave infants, children, people with mobility challenges and pets in a parked car.
- Limit activities that are tiring, or that take a lot of energy.
- Do outdoor activities in the cooler morning and evening hours.
- Avoid sunburn. Use a sunscreen lotion with a high SPF (sun protection factor) rating.

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

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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



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