



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 are welcome here.

UCUP

AUGUST 2021



The Library of Dorothy Burkhart

Some of you remember that Dorothy Burkhart was an avid reader and life-long learner, and had a vast library. After she died a couple of years ago, her daughter, Kit, dropped off box after box of her mother's books. After sorting through and adding to our church library, it is time to donate the remaining books. If you are interested in part or all of this collection of books, please contact Jenny in the church office or Pastor Cathy to set up a time when you can look through them. If you would like us to set aside any of the books shown for you to pick up, please let us know and we will set them aside. They are free for the taking. If you would like to make a donation, you are welcome to do so. Any books not taken by the end of August will be donated elsewhere.

Note: The office will be closed

Thursday July 28th and

Friday July 29th -

Thanks!



President's letter

Our Olympic Challenge

Greetings, members and friends of United Church in University Place. As I write this month's article, I'm eagerly anticipating the start of the Summer Olympic Games. I love the Olympics – summer and winter! I'm not typically a big television viewer in the summer, but the Olympics are different. Camping and hiking still take priority, but Don and I are looking forward to many evenings of prime time Olympic coverage. I think I'll always get a thrill watching the Olympic athletes – so many of them so young – and living vicariously through the absolute dedication they have toward their sports. It takes a lot of commitment and sacrifice to compete at the Olympic level!

At United Church in University Place, we face our own Olympic challenge as we prepare to reopen 18 months following the pandemic closure. Just like the Olympic athletes, we must develop a plan and commit to a lot of hard work, training and practice. For UCUP, this is NOT a spectator event! There are many tasks that need to be addressed as we prepare for our Olympic challenge – from marking off seating areas in the sanctuary, to educating church members about our safety protocols, to cleaning and sanitizing the spaces we occupy. Each of us has a role in training, preparing and cheering the church to success.

Under the guidance of Pastor Cathy Law and our Worship and Adornment Committee, we have a new tech team that is meeting and working in the sanctuary to figure out the myriad of details associated with hybrid worship – offering both in-person and virtual, or livestream worship. At its July meeting, the UCUP Board approved the purchase of new camera equipment that will enable us to capture the liturgy, messages, and music of worship and stream it to those who are not able to attend in person. The tech team is already hard at work, setting up and testing the camera, sound equipment, and computers that will support our hybrid worship.

Committee meetings and small group gatherings serve as training events as we prepare to return to worship in the sanctuary. At the July board meeting, we took advantage of our new OWL 360-degree camera and held an in-person meeting that was shared with remote participants on Zoom. We are encouraging committees and small groups to migrate to in-person and hybrid meetings, using the OWL camera to include those who are unable to attend in person. These are good opportunities to see one another in person and to get familiar with the tools and technology for hybrid gatherings.

We'll earn that gold medal when we safely and successfully introduce a new, inclusive form of worship that welcomes both those who are in the sanctuary and those who are not able to be with us in person, whether due to health and safety concerns or geographical constraints. We hope to make that transition to in-person worship in September. Week by week, we continue to follow the ever-changing data and guidelines relative to COVID-19, our own Reopen plan, and the guidance of the United Methodist and United Church of Christ conference offices.

How will you support our Olympic challenge? We're one big team, and we appreciate our volunteers! We also appreciate all who cheer us on with your continued patience, love, and understanding as we advance toward our Olympic dreams!

Marilyn Thompson,

President

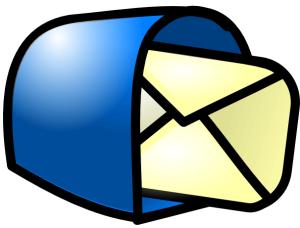


Pastor's letter

We welcome Reggie as our brother in Christ .

Our first in-person worship gathering in 16 months since the pandemic began was for the Sacrament of Baptism. Over thirty folks gathered under the shade of the walnut tree to affirm God's belovedness in Reggie as he was baptized. Reggie was surrounded by his family, Magdaline and Malia, by friends Emily and James, and by our faithful congregation. Many thanks to those who helped behind the scenes: Jim & Don M., set-up; Tanya, welcome & protocols; Jeff & AJ, music; Angie, photographer; Judy & Magdaline, flowers; Tanya, Pamela, Judy, Joe, Angie, Magdaline - liturgists. It was a beautiful day in God's creation to be with our beloved community.





We Get Mail . . .

Last month we received a letter regarding our readerboard messages. This letter was received from a M. Hayes and is retyped verbatim as follows:

06/24/2021

To whomever is in charge of the message board outside,
I guess you could say I'm a big fan of your work.

I'm not religious. I was raised Catholic, but as I got older and came to find myself, I felt less and less welcome by the church. I am a queer, leftist, Korean-American woman. In a lot of ways, I feel like I am not who church was made for. I feel like I'd have to change who I am to be accepted by religious people and their faiths. But I don't think that's what God would want. I think God would love me and accept me for who I am, as He made me, if He were real. I'm not sure if He is. I don't have a problem believing He might be, it's just the whole organized religion aspect of things that turns me off from it the most. I do believe there is something bigger than all of us though, and for the time being I'm content with that.

I wanted to write this to thank you for all the wonderful messages you put on your signs. I drive by them every day on my way to and from work. I really look forward to seeing them each day. They make me smile and I get excited when I see that there's something new posted on them. I've never seen a church that was so inclusive and so bold and clear in its support for the marginalized. That had the guts to call out white supremacy and racism by name. That stands with Black Americans, Asian Americans, LGBT+ Americans, Immigrants, and all those different from ourselves. I appreciate what you do so much.

I'm quitting my job and moving soon, so I won't be driving by your sign nearly as much anymore. But before I left I wanted to let you know that my days were made brighter and my hopes for humanity and religion were made higher because of your messages.

Thank you. The way to lead people to God is with kindness and acceptance, not with fear and condemnation. You're doing a wonderful thing with these messages. Please never stop.

Thank you and God Bless,

M. Hayes



UCUP is an Open & Affirming and Reconciling Congregation.

WALKING with UCUP . . .

On Wednesday, July 21st, 2021 Dorothy, Cathi, Pamela, Gretchen, and Rosemary met at the Pt Defiance Rhododendron Garden and hit the Spine Trail for the second UCUP Summer Hike.



**NEXT UP : Chapman Trail in Puyallup -
Aug 18 - 9am**

Join Rosemary Jones and Pastor Cathy for the third in a series of summer hikes. The Nathan Chapman Memorial Trail cuts through woods and wetlands. It is a wide, paved route. Dogs on leash are welcome. Please contact :
Pastor Cathy at 425-232-6000 or
Rosemary at 253-209-4743
if you are interested .



(Photos by Pastor Cathy)

Joys & Concerns



Submitted by Joyce Demarest

Our sympathy to Kay Shaben, who lost a sister recently and Robert Brown on the death of his brother-in-law. Our prayers go out to Tom Milligan's brother, Kevin, whose cancer has returned.

Please keep Jenny Hartley, still having neck pain from a fall in May, in your prayers...Allison Milligan

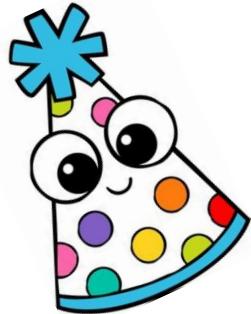
as she adjust to her new electric wheelchair and the Reopen Ad Hoc Committee as they make plans to safely reopen our church building.

We rejoice with Jim and Nancy Davis as they welcome a new daughter-in-law into their family – Congratulations to the newly weds.

We give thanks to Pastor Cathy and the crew that work to bring the ZOOM services each Sunday.

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

August Birthdays



3- Laura Balcom

4- Dave Higby

Stuart Lane

7- Joan Walston

10- Cathi Cline

Cathy Dimmerman

24- Lou Lehmann

25- Pat Rudolph

29- Pamela Maddess





Family Housing Network School Supplies Donations

(From Judith Thierry)



Back to school! Backpacks k-12 for in-person-in-school learning! Help Family Housing Network (FHN) families get their children ready for school. Think of it! Bus rides - carrying homework to and from school, building sturdy backs and strong shoulders, ... classmates together ... library books, chrome tablets safely stored. Let's celebrate. Bin in narthex awaits the usual school supplies. Deadline early August - date TBD. Office hours for drop-off M, Th, F. 9-1. Questions? Please contact Judy: 240-994-8572 Peace and Justice



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Position Description: Emergency Food Network's Home Delivery Program brings fresh and nutritious food to community members who have barriers getting to a food pantry. This program relies on volunteers to deliver boxes of food from EFN's Distribution Center in Lakewood to homes all over Pierce County. This is an exciting opportunity to serve our neighbors and make a direct impact on so many families' lives.

We are currently seeking volunteers ready to serve as 'on call' drivers, with the possibility for regularly scheduled driving, as well.

Qualifications:

- Must be over 18
- Access to a vehicle
- Ability to lift and carry 30 pounds repeatedly
- Access to GPS
- Available to be "on call" to volunteer at least one shift per week
- Complete EFN Volunteer Application & WSP background check



Volunteer Sessions:

- Tuesdays, 8:30 am – 11:30 am
- Fridays, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Sign Up: To apply to be a volunteer driver, contact Marissa at MarissaL@efoodnet.org or (253) 290-7172.

[Church Contact](#)
(253) 564-2754
office@ucup.org



[Church Employees](#)
Rev. Cathlynn Law
Music Director: Jeff Andersen
Nursery Attendant: Addy Harding

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POSTMASTER:

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ABOVE ADDRESS

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

United Church In University Place

3912 Grandview Dr W
University Place, WA.
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253-564-2754
office@ucup.org



Weekly

Sundays

10am Live ZOOM Worship
JOIN US!



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

Monthly

1st Sunday of the month
Communion during worship

1st Tuesday of the month
1pm Alzheimer's Support
Group
(Restarting Tues Aug 3rd)



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