



## 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



2021



Our September worship series will invite us to embark on a journey. It is a journey *about* journeying, *about* traveling as a spiritual act. This four week worship series inspired by Dr. Marcia McFee from Worship Design Studio will encourage

us to open ourselves more fully to the curiosity and wonder, reflection and transformation that travelers—not merely tourists—experience when we choose to immerse ourselves in soul-widening adventures.

While travelers worldwide cautiously await the opportunity to pack their bags once again, Executive Director of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) of the UMC, Dr. Tamara Gieselman engaged renowned travel expert and author Rick Steves last spring in a discussion on the topic of “Travel as a Spiritual Act.” After a traumatic year of the COVID-19 pandemic and rampant social unrest, Steves offers a perspective on how traveling can help us foster a more compassionate, empathetic world and greater spiritual growth within ourselves.

During the past 18 months, most of us have not traveled far from home because of the pandemic. We can still create a pilgrimage experience to explore different areas right in our own neighborhood. Whether you travel far away or see your local surroundings as if for the first time, learning about and praying for people around the globe and in our own neighborhoods can help build our compassion for others and strengthen our faith. There is a travelers mindset that we can foster in our spiritual lives. That perspective can help us in caring for one another, our local community, and those who are beloved by God all over the world. Travel need not be a journey to the other side of the world to challenge ourselves. So pack your metaphorical bags and prepare to get your spiritual passport stamped as we embark on the next adventure God has in store for us.



### Worship Transition by Pastor Cathy Law

We are planning on transitioning to in-person virtual worship in our sanctuary September 12th, 19th, and 26th while simultaneously continuing worship on zoom. See page 2 for more information from UCUP President Marilyn Thompson.

We will take a pause in offering in-person worship while Pastor Cathy is on “renewal leave” in October (see Pastor’s page). All worship services will be held virtually on zoom for the month of

October, with hopes of returning to in-person worship in November.

Those who wish to attend in-person worship in September will need to sign up in advance by emailing Pastor Cathy at [pastor@ucup.org](mailto:pastor@ucup.org) or Jenny at [office@ucup.org](mailto:office@ucup.org) indicating the dates you would like to attend. You will receive a confirmation of which Sundays you may attend worship in our sanctuary, based on our capacity limitations.

Please send your request no later than September 5th.





## President's letter

### ***Reopening and Transforming***

Ever so gradually, we are returning to carefully planned in-person gatherings. After successful outdoor services for a baptism and the blessing of the animals, in September we will hold our first hybrid worship services, combining in-person attendance at the church with our continuing virtual service on Zoom and Facebook.

What a comfort and a pleasure to see our church family AT CHURCH!! At the same time, we follow the numbers in the current COVID surge with great concern, and acknowledge that we still face a long road to the “new normal,” whatever that may be. Part of our reopening theme, as defined in the plan that our church has been following for the past year, is transformation. It’s exciting to start to see some of that transformation taking shape.

Our hard-working tech team has completed the installation of new camera and computer equipment in the sanctuary and worked with Pastor Cathy and Jeff Andersen to test every angle. The Worship and Fellowship team leaders have gone through their initial training for welcoming individuals and supporting worship while closely adhering to our health and safety protocols.

For three Sundays in September, Sept. 12, 19, and 26, we will hold worship services in the sanctuary with up to 25 attendees. Because limited seating is available for the in-person worship, we are asking people to sign up in advance. It’s kind of like getting your tickets in advance for a Seahawks or Seattle Storm game, except this event is FREE! Please contact Pastor Cathy or the church office if you want to attend in-person.

The protocols of our church, and the recommendations of the United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ conference offices will be followed. These protocols include the requirement to wear a face mask at all times, to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet between household groups when sitting in the sanctuary, and to limit the time in the building to one hour or less. As we have communicated in the past, we will not sing while inside, in the sanctuary. These in-person services will give the staff, worship committee, and tech team a great opportunity to practice with our new camera equipment and become familiar with the tools and techniques for offering in-person and virtual worship experiences simultaneously. Lots of fingers will be crossed and prayers lifted heavenward as we embark on this new challenge with technology. It’s all part of the transformational experience!

In October, Pastor Cathy will be away on a well-deserved renewal leave. We know that some of the speakers who will be filling the pulpit in Cathy’s absence are not comfortable, yet, with in-person gatherings. Honoring the wishes and comfort levels of our guest speakers and worship leaders, we will take a pause in our reopen plan for the month of October, and will revert to virtual-only services, on Zoom and Facebook. In November, when Pastor Cathy returns, we will resume with the option to attend in-person worship. By that time, we’re hoping we can increase the number of attendees, but we will continue to follow the data and the advice of health authorities, as well as the recommendations of the UMC and UCC conferences.

As we travel through this journey of reopening and transforming, we will not all move and transform at the same pace, and that’s OK. The hybrid approach to combined in-person and online worship provides the space for each of us to connect with our church in the format that best matches our personal comfort levels.

As always, it’s an honor to share the transformational journey with you.

Marilyn Thompson, President

## Pastor's letter

The apple trees at Curran Orchard are heavy with ripened fruit, and that is my reminder that September marks another year of pastoral ministry at UCUP. I will be starting my eighth year at UCUP and in June 2022 I will celebrate 20 years in pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church in the Pacific Northwest. It's hard to imagine how all of those years have gone by. I count it as a blessing to have spent one-third of my ministry appointed to UCUP.



United Methodist pastors are allowed one month during every quadrennium for spiritual renewal, continuing education or a spiritual growth program. United Church of Christ pastors are allowed up to 12 weeks every six years. It is not considered part of vacation, and is planned in consultation with the local church and District Superintendent.

The UCC handbook on ministry says *"Sabbatical leave is an important part of a minister's development. Its first goal is reconnecting with one's sense of vocation through rest, reflection, and prayer. It is time to nourish their relationship with God, recommit to their call, and provide renewed vision and focus for ministry. A sabbatical is not a vacation, but it does provide time away from the daily work of ministry. It also provides an opportunity both for the church to reflect on present ministry and grow in vision for the future. Effective congregations practice a good balance between the pastor and the congregation in leadership."*

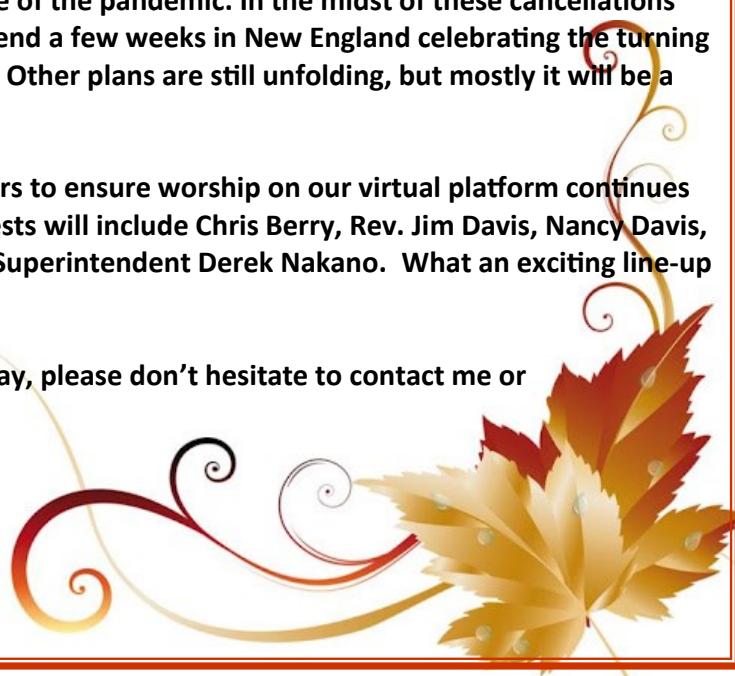
As you can imagine, the pandemic provided ample motivation to consult with the Staff Parish Relations Committee and my District Superintendent last fall to ask for their blessing to take my first renewal leave in almost 20 years of ministry. With the support of SPR, our church board, and DS Derek Nakano, I am fortunate to have received approval to be on renewal leave for the month of October (not the full 12 weeks of a sabbatical), and I am so grateful for your support for this important time to rest and recharge.

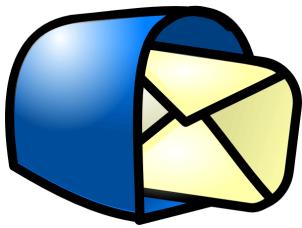
Angie and I had planned to spend two weeks on pilgrimage in Ireland and spend a week at San Damiano Retreat Center to finally finish the two-year Academy for Spiritual Formation with our cohort. Sadly, both of these events have been canceled due to the resurgence of the pandemic. In the midst of these cancellations and disappointments, we are choosing instead to spend a few weeks in New England celebrating the turning of the seasons with the vibrant fall colors and crisp air. Other plans are still unfolding, but mostly it will be a time to rest, reflect and renew.

I will be working with SPR, staff, and other UCUP leaders to ensure worship on our virtual platform continues and pastoral care needs are met. Our virtual pulpit guests will include Chris Berry, Rev. Jim Davis, Nancy Davis, Laura Giddings & the L'arche Community, and District Superintendent Derek Nakano. What an exciting line-up of quality speakers to bring the Word of God to life.

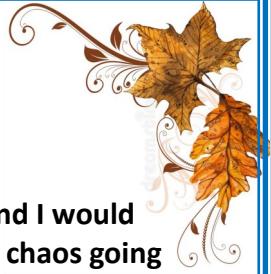
If you have any questions about this time that I am away, please don't hesitate to contact me or Joe Becker, SPR chair.

Blessings,  
Pastor Cathy





# We Get Mail . . .



Email received 08.10.21

HELLO: I just saw a sign you have on your church grounds and I would personally like to say THANK YOU! What a beautiful thing to do in the midst of all of the chaos going on in the world.

THANK YOU! And MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Clark West, LMHC, NCC, M. Ed  
Lakewood Ranch, Florida



## WALKING with UCUP . . .



NEXT UP: Spanaway Lake/Bresemann Forest Trail -      Wednesday Sept. 15th - 9:30am

Our monthly walk will take place on Wednesday, September 15th at 9:30 at the Spanaway Lake/Bresemann forest trail. A 70 acre park with a trail of 1.7 miles.

From Military road turn into the park and pay an admission fee of \$3.00 or \$1.00 if you are over 62. Please let Pamela Maddess know if you can join us,(pmaddess@comcast.net) all are welcome for what is deemed an easy walk.



## Grounds Tree Planting

By Judith Thierry

Two legged and four legged helpers wrestle roots, dig holes and plant drought tolerant perennials in the area where the Deodar Cedar tree and stump were removed this spring. Plenty of woodchips with some donation of fresh Tagro will see these summer beauties into fall with light watering. An ornamental maple found it's way to UCUP from a friend in Fircrest.



UCUP is an Open & Affirming and Reconciling Congregation.

## Blessing of the Animals

We resumed our annual Blessing of the Animals in August next to the youth wing. Many thanks to Don Morgan and Jim Cash for set-up: Jeff Andersen, music; Tanya Sorenson, Rosemary Jones, and Pamela Maddess - our welcome crew; Leslie Ann Knight (aka Three Dog Knight), Tanya Soerenson, and Angie Wolle - blessers. It was lovely to be together in person for this special worship service.



(Blessing of the Animals photos by Rosemary Jones and Roger 08.22.21)

## Joys & Concerns

Submitted by Joyce Demarest

**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES:** I enjoyed the stories some of you told, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. of your tent camping experiences following Angie's sermon and I thought of the 3 years that Nels & Win and Vince & I were leaders of the joint Jr & Sr High Youth Group. We went camping at least 3 times each summer, with a dozen plus kids. I'm happy to say that we never had a major injury... we did have a lot of fun.

We want to keep in pray the UCUPers that have had surgery recently: That includes Duncan Foley, Dawn Foreman (cataract), Laura Giddings on a broken ankle...please continue to pray for Cathi Cline as she goes though treatment for cancer, the Rev. Joanne Brown (former UCUP minister) and Seamus Neary (one of our Christmas pipers) with on going medical problems.

Continue to give prayers of thanks for Pastor Cathy and those that help her put on the ZOOM services... and for those that were able to step up and get Cathi Cline to and from her treatments at the University of Washington.

Hope to see some of you soon back at/in the building known as United Church.....keeping wearing your masks and stay well.

## September Birthdays



- 2 Robert Brown & Chuck Schilling
- 7 Diane Small
- 8 Vic Bode
- 12 Elizabeth Gregg & Judy Thierry
- 14 Ellen Davis
- 19 Jenny Hartley
- 21 Doris Larsen & Kris Schrantz
- 22 Marilyn Thompson



**Thank You ~** The Book of Acts tells us the early followers of The Way in Jerusalem ... survivors if you will, of Jesus' execution... would "sell their possessions and distribute the proceeds as any had need." That spirit is still alive in this church, and that is a profoundly counter-cultural thing. And we are blessed beyond words to have fetched up here among all of you. We'll be seeing you in September and later this fall in the vehicle our kids have christened "The Mother Ship." From the bottom of our awed, astonished hearts: Thank You. Allison & Tom Milligan



**Peace and Justice** will be meeting on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 1:30 PM. We welcome new members to our team. Please contact [Dorothy McCuistion at dorothymcc@venture.com](mailto:dorothymcc@venture.com) if you'd like to find out more about what we do.



## **Amara Oden is awaiting Ordination pending call**

Amara has been on a spiritual journey that includes a call to ministry within the United Church of Christ. UCUP has been part of this journey the past two years when Amara and her family chose UCUP as their spiritual home. Our church board recommended Amara as a candidate for ministry in 2020. Allison Milligan, Tanya Sorenson, Judy Thierry, and Pastor Cathy served on her discernment committee from UCUP.

During this past year, Amara became a Member of Discernment with the PNWUCC Committee on Ministry; finished her internship at Magnolia UCC; graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry; accepted a three month invitation to serve as Sabbatical Pastor for Prospect Congregational UCC this summer/fall where she will lead worship and provide pastoral care; and wrote and presented her ordination paperwork for the Committee on Ministry in August. The Committee on Ministry voted unanimously to affirm Amara's status of ordination pending call. All of this occurred during the pandemic. Please take time to congratulate Amara for these achievements and hold her in prayer as she prepares her profile to send to churches actively seeking a settled pastor.

## **Harvest Reminder from the Curran Apple Orchard CORE Volunteers**

**Harvest time is here for many trees!**

**Please visit your tree and take home the fruits of their labor!**

Remember, you are responsible for picking your own apples. We do our best to discourage non-adopters from picking before September 7th via signage, tree taping and friendly interactions in the orchard; however, there is not 24-hour oversight.

We Appreciate your support and hope you enjoy many delicious apple treats from your tree!



### **Church Contact**

**(253) 564-2754**  
**[office@ucup.org](mailto:office@ucup.org)**  
**[pastor@ucup.org](mailto:pastor@ucup.org)**

### **Church Employees**

**Rev. Cathlynn Law**  
**Music Director: Jeff Andersen**  
**Nursery Attendant: Addy Harding**  
**Office Admin: Jenny Huntsman**

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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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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



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