



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



2022



WORSHIP THEME FOR LENT and LENTEN STUDY 2022 Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith

Our worship series for Lent and our Lenten study this year is based on a book of devotions by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie: *"Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection"*. Kate Bowler is a seminary history professor, and author. She has two recent New York Times bestselling books - (*Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved*, and *No Cure for Being Human And Other Truths I Need to Hear*) - about dealing with the pressure to "live your best life now" when life throws you curveballs that make constant upward achievement very difficult... like the cancer she has dealt with over the last few years.

We live in a culture that describes the good life as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences and adventures. But life happens. We are not necessarily moving upward but trying to repair the rung we've just slipped from. We are still in the midst of great disturbance from "the way we imagined" life to be. Dreams have been thwarted by pandemic through loss of life, health, and economic security. What if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? The symbolism for the series will be a ladder with plants on it, inviting us to nurture what actually is, not continually climb the ladder of success.

In the *Good Enough* book of devotions, Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie offer invitations to seek alternatives to the pressure of perfectionism. You are invited to add these daily devotions as part of your Lent practice and consider joining our Lenten Study to deepen your experience.

Here is a description of the book: *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection gives permission for all those who need to hear that there are some things you can fix—and some things you can't. And it's okay that life isn't always better. We hope to offer fresh Christian imagination for how truth, beauty, and meaning can be discovered amid the chaos of life.*

You can order the book on Kate Bowler's website, <https://katebowler.com/good-enough/> or through any other bookstore or Amazon, or you can download it to your Kindle. **If you want to join the study, let Pastor Cathy know, and she will deliver a study guide to you to go along with the book.** Class sessions will be held on **Thursday evenings from 7-8pm, March 10, 17, 24, 31 & April 7th.**

Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and embrace our "good enough" lives. May this worship series and Lenten study invite us to embrace the imperfections of life and faith, knowing that we are never alone.

Ash Wednesday - March 2nd—6:30pm Worship on Zoom

COME TO THE CHURCH between 5-6pm to receive Drive-By ASHES TO GO from Pastor Cathy.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be on zoom only at 6:30pm -

Pastor Cathy will send out the zoom link and bulletin on Wednesday morning.

Lent marks the 40 days leading up to Easter, mirroring the 40 days

Jesus spent in the wilderness. It is a practice that began during the 4th century as a way to prepare Christians for the holiest days of the year. During Lent, we ask God to show us the world as it is. We begin with the reality of our finitude rubbed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday—from dust we were made, to dust we shall return.



President's letter ~

Slow down, breathe, and listen for God . . .

Friends on the Journey,

As I write this on a beautiful, snowy day, I can't help but think of the beauty of our church grounds, probably also dusted with snow this morning. How many times have countless volunteers thrown on galoshes and pushed the snow shovels to dig out our sidewalks and parking lot? Only God remembers, I suspect. And only God remembers every single volunteer as clearly as those volunteering this year. Which brings me to the current season of an active church with active volunteers making UCUP's history now.

The church leadership for 2022 had their first Board meeting last month. And what a meeting! I am sure I felt your prayers for our success in that room. Spirit was everywhere! After two years of dreary COVID restrictions and heartbreaking losses, people are still fun-filled, enthusiastic, and ready to help. We started a new chapter in our church history last month as we intentionally worked on our slow down, breathe, and listen for God theme to set the stage for endemic, not pandemic, times.

I do hope you will attend a meeting of the Board if you have never been, or even if you have. We meet the second Monday of every month at 6:30 on Zoom. Write to me for the address anytime. Meanwhile, please, say yes if someone asks you to help, and please, please, keep praying every day for our church, our pastor, our lay leaders, and our congregation. We can't do it without your help..

In gratitude,
Tanya Sorenson



UCUP Establishes the Win & Nels Bjarke Memorial Fund

The UCUP Board voted to establish the Win & Nels Bjarke Memorial Fund which will be invested to get a better return than a bank or credit union. The original proposal was to direct the fund toward education, but after considerable discussion the fund was left open ended so that the income could be used for any church project or need. Obviously, supporting youth and adult education would take a priority, but it can serve the church more widely by leaving it open-ended.



The Board will also discuss at its next meeting whether or not to establish a general memorial fund that would allow donations in memory of various individuals to accumulate and generate income for the church. No restrictions would be placed on these funds, but funds given in memory would enrich this fund as well. Open-ended donations serve the church most broadly, as designated donations can restrict our growth. All contributions in memory of church members will be acknowledged by the Congregational Care Committee. We are deeply grateful for contributions in memory of our beloved members and want to see these serve UCUP in many ways.

Mary Jane Jones Remembrance

Mary Jane Jones, 98, died peacefully on January 15, 2022. She was born on June 14, 1923, in Morris, Illinois to Mary and Stephen Toth. When she was three, her family moved to Stevensville, Montana, where she lived until graduation from high school in 1941.

Mary then moved to Tacoma to attend business college. Her schooling was cut short when she accepted a wartime job at the Tacoma shipyard. She married Ralph Jones in 1942 and moved to Pasco, Washington, to be with Ralph while he received his Navy war training. Mary returned to Tacoma in February 1944 where she became the all-important bookkeeper and phone receptionist for her husband Ralph's commercial refrigeration business. Mary raised four children, was an active member of St. Paul's Methodist Church and later at United Church in University Place.

Mary has always been one to volunteer. She assisted with Girl Scout troops, Bluebirds, classroom tutoring, adult ESL tutoring, working at the food bank, and helping with church office activities.

Mary loved flowers. One of her greatest joys was landscaping her yard and later her small patio area with bursts of color and greenery. She was known for her great pie baking, especially her lemon meringue pies. Her many passions included crossword puzzles, embroidering, reading, and writing. She wrote a memoir titled *Mary-Go-Round* and a collection of family remembrances called *Some Days Along the Way*, as well as countless short pieces about family events and family members.

Mary will be remembered for her love of family and friends, cheerful nature, zest for learning, passion for writing, joy of reading, her sense of humor and her thoughtfulness. She always saw the sunny side of people.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 pm (daylight savings time) at United Church in University Place. For those who choose to participate remotely,



Hunger Walk 2022!

After a two-year Covid break, the Emergency Food Network's Hunger Walk is back this year as an in-person event on Saturday, May 7 in Fort Steilacoom Park. There will also be virtual activities throughout the month of May. The Hunger Walk is an annual opportunity for community members to support Emergency Food Network's mission of providing food to our neighbors in need "so that no person goes hungry."

UCUP has created a team and you can sign up to join in the walk, raise funds from your social network, or donate funds to a walker. To participate in any of these ways go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/WA/Lakewood/HungerWalk5KRun> and follow the steps for registering to walk/run or support a walker or runner. You will be given the option to "Join an Existing Team", and from the drop-down menu choose United Church in University Place.

Join us on May 7! Questions? Contact Dorothy McCuiston, dorothymcc@nventure.com or 253-678-8587



UMC & UCC Leadership Respond to Crisis in Ukraine

A pastoral letter from Methodist Bishop Christian Alsted in light of the tragic events in Ukraine

Bishop Alsted serves the Nordic, Baltic and Eurasian countries, including Russia and Ukraine.

There is war in Europe. Russia has invaded Ukraine, which is a free independent democracy. War and violence are evil and always entail considerable human costs. The Christian message points to the path of reconciliation and never to war and violence, as a solution to conflicts. The Social Principles of the Methodist Church say: “We deplore war and urge the peaceful settlement of all disputes among nations. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice.”

In the face of this evil, we pray for a logic different from the one based on geopolitical competition. We pray for a change of hearts and minds of leaders, we pray for de-escalation and dialogue instead of violence and war.

We stand with the United Methodists in Ukraine in prayer for protection, reconciliation and peace. We pray for pastors, leaders and congregations in the United Methodist Church in Ukraine; may God grant that their witness of reconciliation and peace will bring strength and hope to the Ukrainian people.

In the coming week we will enter the season of Lent, which in the church is a time for prayer and soul-searching. I call on all our congregations to intercede for the people of Ukraine, and for the leaders in the world, who have the power to bring an end to war. I call on all our congregations to pray and fast for reconciliation and peace in the world. May God open our eyes to the things that make for peace, may God protect us all from the escalation and spreading of war, and may we follow on the path of truth and peace.



Statement on Ukraine from the Methodist Presidency

We are horrified and heartbroken as we witness the violent assault on Ukraine by the Russian military. This devastating action and ensuing loss of life have rightly been condemned across the world. It is a very clear violation of the UN Charter and as such imperils the foundation upon which international security is built and on which we all depend. We regret the failure to build an understanding with Russia and we pray for the Ukrainian and Russian peoples. May aggression cease and dialogue, justice and peace be established.

UCC Officers share a prayer for Ukraine - from The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President; The Rev. Traci A. Blackmon — Associate General Minister; The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson — Associate General Minister

As the attention of the world turns to the ignored cries for peace from the people of Ukraine, we the officers of the United Church of Christ join our prayers with those of churches and people of faith all over the globe that the attack against Ukraine will cease. As a Just Peace Church, the UCC calls for the de-escalation of violence and a return to diplomatic negotiations, the only true way conflict ever ceases. We urge our members to pray throughout the day for peace and protection against the evils of war for the people whose lives and wellbeing are in danger, and to make this Sunday a day of collective prayer and fasting for a peace that only God can bring.

Holy God, Hear our prayers for all those who will die today because of war in Ukraine and other war-torn countries all over this world. Grant them an end to the suffering of this world and eternal peace that is only found in You.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and all nations — that war and bloodshed can be avoided and a new, just peace can be forged out of this crisis. We ask God grant wisdom to the leaders of nations, calling them to end provocation on all sides and invest instead in “the things that make for peace” as called for in all our faith traditions (Luke 19:41-2).

We pray for an end to the deep insecurity and mistrust on all sides, and call on leaders to build trust, based not on military might or alliances, but on the basis of our shared future and common humanity. Now is a time in which past harm should be acknowledged and addressed, and new partnerships can be envisioned.

We pray for and call on our leaders to have the courage to take small, verifiable, and independent steps toward peace, inviting others to reciprocate. Now is time to invest in conflict resolution, diplomacy and international cooperation — not more weapons which only escalate tension in the region.

Be with those suffering in ways that we cannot. Protect them from devastation in ways those positioned in authority will not. Shield and comfort them as they confront the terror of violence that surrounds them. Hold them close to your heart and stay the hand of the enemies against them. Give us the courage and the strength to cry aloud against wickedness in high places that dare to harm others made in your image.

Comfort the children and heed their cries to be saved from harm in this world. Make us a people who love our children, all of our children, more than we love greed, power, and control. Overturn governments of tyranny wherever they are found. Disrupt the intentions of evil and give us power to stand against demonic forces of greed and control. Grant that peace and justice come to warring nations by the hands of those courageous enough to stand and study war no more. Let Thy kin-dom come on earth as it is in heaven, we pray. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Reflections on Tribal Acknowledgement

Pierce County includes 1,806 square miles of ceded lands of four Federally-recognized Tribes: the Puyallup Tribe, Nisqually Tribe, Muckleshoot Tribe, and Squaxin Island Tribe. These Tribes are sovereign governments that predate the founding of the United States, and their sovereignty is an inherent right that has existed since time immemorial, recognized with a government-to-government relationship by the United States.

The Washington Environmental Council underpinnings of the land acknowledgment can be found at this link <https://wecprotects.org/news/why-land-use-matters/>

Puyallup Tribal Language Program Signs

Have you noticed the beautiful signs in Twulshootseed that are in front of the church and in yards around the Tacoma area? These signs are part of ongoing efforts by the Puyallup Tribal Language program to promote the preservation of their native language. Twulshootseed is the language spoken by tribes living in the Puget Sound area of Washington State.

The City of Tacoma supported the language program last summer with the printing of the signs designed by native artists. The sign I chose for my yard translates the tribal virtues into English: "be kind, be helpful, be caring". To learn more about the sign project and what each sign says in English visit: <https://www.puyalluptriballanguage.org/community/CityOfTacomaYardSigns.php>

It's fun (though a little challenging) to learn a few words and phrases in Twulshootseed. The Puyallup Language Program has a comprehensive website with easy tutorials for learning a bit of their language. Visit: <https://www.puyalluptriballanguage.org/> and give it a try.

According to Amber Hayward, Puyallup Language Program Director, don't be afraid to try to speak the language. If you've had the opportunity to visit a foreign country, think of how delighted native speakers are when you attempt basic phrases in their language. It's the same for native American tribes.



Drawn In: Living the Creative Life With God

Our Epiphany Worship Series, Drawn In: Living the Creative Life With God was extra blessed with reflections from 11 creative souls in our congregation. Many thanks to Tom Milligan for starting off our series with such a poignant reflection on your process of creativity. Tom went on to interview our photographers, Joe Becker, Duncan Foley, & Don Thompson; our quilters, Cathi Cline & Nancy Davis; our musicians, Jeff Andersen & A.J.

Milleret; artist Dorothy McCuiston; and creative linguist, Janet Wicks. Dr. Neva Laurie-Berry offered a beautiful reflection from a scientific perspective for Evolution Weekend, on Emergence and Creation On-going.

If you missed any of these reflections during this worship series from January 16 - February 20th, you can go to our UCUP YouTube page and look for the playlist for those worship services. The reflections can be viewed separately from the rest of the worship service. We are so blessed to have so many creative people in our congregation who bless us with their gifts, and Tom just tapped the surface of all the creative energy that exists at UCUP.

Joys & Concerns

By Ardath Herbel

Prayers for those continuing to struggle with Covid and the results of this virus. We also pray for those who are battling cancer and those families who have lost someone to cancer.

We support our members in transition from one living arrangement to another. Relocation is hard, but they need to know the love and support of their church family goes with them.

We are thankful for all of those who have agreed to be officers and to serve on committees and serve our congregation in so many ways large and small.

"A joy that Jenny Hartley is in rehab for broken hip and looking forward to being able to come back to live church soon". We are thankful for all the Olympic athletes who showed us what real dedication can mean. Bring them all home safely. We are so blessed to have so many talented people who make each Sunday's service an inspiration, especially Evolution Sunday service which made us realize how science and religion are so intertwined. Thank you to all of you behind the scenes who bring us a beautiful service each week.



Set your clocks ahead + 1 hour and go ahead and check those smoke alarm batteries too!

March Birthdays!

4 Dennis Small
10 Elizabeth Ohls
11 Roger Martin
14 Jimmy - 14
16 Susan Kelly
Allison Milligan
29 Cecelia Schilling Sims

FAITH ACTION NETWORK

February 10, 2022, the Faith Action Network's Interfaith Advocacy Day was held. Five members of our church and three more people from the 28th legislative district met to voice our concerns on a wide range of topics. The opening session included prayers from two faith leaders and a talk with a representative from the Bremerton area. Her testimony to us was compelling because she has lived experience from behind bars and legislates with an eye of compassion toward inmates and resulting experiences from being released. The bills she sponsors tend to be aimed at reducing recidivism and at education for those who are incarcerated.

We also heard from Kristin Ang, who has replaced Paul Benz as the coordinator for legislative action at FAN. She discussed the bills that are still alive during the session that she hoped we would support. We met with our district counterparts, and then we all attended two educational sessions where the particular bills under discussion were more clearly focused upon.

In the afternoon, we met with legislative aides for Mari Leavitt and T'wina Nobles and shared our mutual concerns, along with our asks for their support on various issues. There was no contact with Dan Bronoski's office because they were particularly busy on this day and had no available time slots for us. The legislative aides were very helpful and promised to pass along our issues and concerns and thanks for the work our legislators are doing. We are lucky in the 28th to be represented by such excellent people. If you are interested in some of the details of particular bills, please contact me at larkbrown@comcast.net or 253-376-0031.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Brown

PEACE & JUSTICE

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) of the United Church of Christ and

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).



OGHS and UMCOR special mission offering involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS and UMCOR you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Your contributions to OGHS and UMCOR put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying

causes that create those needs in the first place.



Food Re-pack Session Supports Emergency Food Network



So that no person goes hungry! The UCUP team, plus friends, had a fun and successful food re-pack at the Emergency Food Network in Lakewood on Feb. 17. The team bagged and scooped 850 pounds of produce and 1,050 pounds of rice that will be distributed to the 70 food pantries in Pierce County that are served by the EFN. Next up: The Hunger Walk, which also supports the Emergency Food Network. The UCUP team will be participating in the actual walk on May 7 at Ft. Steilacoom Park. Virtual options are also available.



Men's Discussion Group meeting

The regular meeting date and time are the 3rd Tuesday on Zoom from 6:30-8 p.m.

HOWEVER, for next month we will meet on the March 22nd, not the 15th.

Contact Jim Davis for more information



UCC NW Regional Women's Retreat

The UCC Northwest Regional Women's Retreat welcomes women to Salishan Resort on the Oregon coast for our regional retreat Nov 4,5,6 2022. Explore the website at www.nrwr.org for information on speakers, workshops, the venue and registration. You may contact Carol Kiriluk with questions at ck5.maple@gmail.com, or any member of the committee as listed on the website.



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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

3rd Tuesday of the month

6:30pm Men's Discussion Group
on Zoom



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