



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
April
2022

HOLY WEEK SERVICES ~~ EASTER SUNRISE ~~ EASTER WORSHIP



April 10th - 10am

(in-person at church & on zoom/FB)

We begin Holy Week this day as we celebrate as
Jesus enters Jerusalem.



April 15th - 6:30pm

(zoom only—will NOT be on Facebook or recorded)
The Friday before Easter...Commemorates the crucifixion
and death of Jesus.



April 17th - 6:30am

Join us in the upper Apple Orchard!
We are resurrecting this service after a two year
hiatus during the pandemic.
Rise and shine and give God the glory!



April 17th - 10am

(in person at church & on zoom/FB)
We will lift our voices in praise that Jesus is Risen!

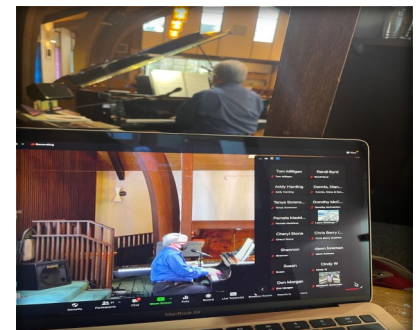


NEW OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays—1—3pm

Thursdays—9am-1pm

Fridays—9am-1pm



The view from Pastor Cathy's
perspective in worship.

President's letter ~

Good morning friends,

With the good news of springtime everywhere you look—tulips, daffodils, cherry and plum blossoms, green leafy things everywhere—I'm grateful that the soggy, soggy winter is finally leaving us.

And there's more to be grateful for around UCUP. The Ad Hoc Reopening and Transformation Committee has agreed that up to six socially-distanced singers (all vaxxed and boosted) can perform safely in the sanctuary at the same time. This decision was not made lightly. The committee carefully tracks the COVID numbers and trends. The members deliberate on the various advice both locally from the county and regionally from sources such as the Governor of Washington State and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). All of this is encircled by the advice from our two denominations.

Members of the Facilities Committee and the Trustees are working proactively with the City of University Place, which is going to upgrade the stormwater collection and retainment system of the neighborhood later this year, including the church's land. I am grateful for the dedication of Marilyn and Don Thompson, Janet Wicks, David Higby, and others, as this important work continues. The work of this subcommittee is both environmental and financial. Their conversations with the city are helping reduce the disturbance of trees and plants, as well as ensuring the church receives fair compensation for any work performed (such as, repaving what was torn up, careful moving, storing, and replanting displaced trees, and so forth).

Finally, a memorial fund in memory of Nels and Winn Bjarke has been established as a lasting testament to their love of UCUP.

Spring is here! Please pray for our church, our pastor, our lay leaders, and our members so that all of the work your pastor and the Board do together is "good enough" for God's purposes on this Earth.

Wishing you peace and grace,
Tanya Sorenson, Board President
253-970-3110/tanyatalk411@gmail.com



A Walk in the Park

Last year a group from UCUP took a monthly walk exploring local sights and while getting exercise also learned more about each other. It's time to venture outdoors again and you are welcome to join us.

The format of our walks include gathering on the second Tuesday of the month, thus April 12th this month, at 9:00AM. We will start at Wapato Lake, located off of S. 72nd, near the exit to I-5. (Park near the TPD precinct station) The trail is noted to be about a mile, thus if you want to also do it twice, know that others will be doing this also.



Participants are encouraged to plan a walk to share the experience. Please come dressed appropriately as we walk in any of kind of weather. Questions, please call Pamela Maddess at 253-565-9411 (hm), 253-310-7418 (cell)

Pastor's letter ~

Each day for the past month, the war in Ukraine battles on, bringing more heartbreak and violence for millions of people. We grieve for the people caught in this unprovoked war by Russia. We also recognize that of the almost 200 countries in the world, 15-25% of them are in conflict at any given time - Ethiopia, Myanmar, Haiti, Israel-Palestine, Yemen, Afghanistan - to name a few right now. While wars have been fought to achieve freedom and peace, we know that war is not a redemptive act. War pits "us" against "them" in counterforces destined to destroy and promotes the illusion or delusion - that we are separate when in fact we are all interdependent.

What can we, as people of faith, do? We pray for resolution in the midst of conflict, we pray for those who are in harm's way and we pray for the millions of refugees who must flee their homeland. We support our denominational partners: United Methodist Committee on Relief and Disaster Ministries with the United Church of Christ with our resources, who are already at work in areas of conflict. We can advocate for compassionate legislation for immigration and refugees, and be ready to partner with Lutheran immigration and Refugee Service in our area. And then, what? What do we as people of faith do in the face of so much suffering?

In reading Henri Nouwen's book "The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming" for sermon preparation, I appreciated his words regarding suffering and pain. (Found on p. 114-116)

"God rejoices. Not because the problems of the world have been solved, not because all human pain and suffering have come to an end. God rejoices because one of God's children who was lost has been found. We are called to enter into that joy. It is the joy that comes from seeing a child walk home amid all the destruction, devastation, and anguish of the world. It is a hidden joy, as inconspicuous as the flute player that Rembrandt painted in the wall above the head of the seated observer in his painting of The Return of the Prodigal Son.

"I am generally ready and prepared to receive bad news, to read about wars, violence and crimes and to witness conflict and disarray. I expect my visitors to talk about their problems and pain, their setbacks and disappointments, their depressions and their anguish. I have become accustomed to living with sadness, and have lost the eyes to see the joy and the ears to hear the gladness that belongs to God and which is to be found in the hidden corners of the world.

"I have a friend who is so deeply connected with God that he can see joy where I expect only sadness. He travels and meets countless people. When he returns home, I expect him to tell me about the difficult economic situation of the countries he visited, the great injustices he heard about, and the pain he has seen. But even though he is very aware of the great upheaval of the world he seldom speaks of it. When he shares his experience, he tells about the hidden joys he has discovered - about the stories that brought him hope and peace, about the groups of people who are faithful to each other in the midst of turmoil. He keeps saying: 'I saw something very small and very beautiful, something that gave me much joy.'

"The father of the prodigal son gives himself to the joy that his returning son brings him. I have to learn from that. Yes, I know that there is not yet peace everywhere, that all pain has not yet been taken away, but still, I see people turning and returning home. I hear voices that pray; I notice moments of forgiveness, and I witness many signs of hope. I don't have to wait until all is well, but I can celebrate every little hint of the Kingdom that is at hand. This is a real discipline. It requires choosing for the light even when there is much darkness to frighten me; choosing for life even when the forces of death are so visible, and choosing for the truth even when I am surrounded with lies. There is so much rejection, pain, and woundedness among us, but once you choose to claim the joy hidden in the midst of all suffering, life becomes celebration. Joy never denies the sadness, but transforms it to a fertile soil for more joy."

May we recognize and be compassionate toward both the grief and sorrow, as well as beholding and choosing moments of joy.

Blessings,
Pastor Cathy

*Pastor Cathy will be taking Mondays off starting
April 4th (except for the 2nd Monday of the month
for Board Meetings)*



From Pacific Northwest UCC Moderator Hillary Coleman

What does it mean to do antiracism work? In 2020, the Pacific Northwest Conference board adopted antiracism as a PNC Board priority, acknowledging white supremacy and white-dominant culture within our Conference, and committing to develop and use an antiracist lens. At our PNC 2021 Annual Meeting, the initial budget included \$2,000 for the Board to support that priority, and the gathered delegates said, “This is not enough.” Within hours, a new proposal was crafted with a budget of \$52,000 toward the work of antiracism in the conference. We acknowledge the harm done by that initial budget. We honor the courage of those present at Annual Meeting, led by Black delegates and Black clergy, who asked the conference to support antiracism with action instead of just words. By making this new budget commitment, which passed by unanimous vote of our delegates, we show that our budget can truly be a moral document led by the movement of the Holy Spirit and shaped by the covenant promise that binds us together as the United Church of Christ.

With that budget vote as the catalyst, the PNC Board convened a working group to be in conversation with Black, Brown, Indigenous, Pacific Islander, and Asian clergy in our Conference to determine how the \$52,000 antiracism budget would be spent, and, just as importantly, *how to spend it in an antiracist way*. What does it mean to do antiracism work? It means dismantling the white culture characteristics of perfectionism, paternalism, and a tendency towards performative allyship (where white folks prioritize being recognized and validated over humility and listening). It means being okay with being uncomfortable. An antiracist approach to spending these funds acknowledges urgency doesn’t create more impact. An antiracist approach to spending these funds prioritizes the experience and knowledge of those most impacted by racism.

We are inviting each church of the Pacific Northwest Conference and each participant in our Conference to make a meaningful contribution towards the PNC’s Antiracism Fund. You can donate on the PNC website, by mailing a check to the Conference, or through your local church with a congregational gift to the PNC’s Antiracism Fund.

This is a step towards reparations, and a covenantal promise that centers the leadership and wisdom of our PNC Clergy of Color. The work doesn’t end with a single year’s operating budget. God calls us to the work of dismantling racism in our camps, churches, communities, and committees. We are called to join with the PNC board to take meaningful action, to identify and dismantle systems of white supremacy and white-dominant culture, to cultivate and use an antiracism lens. We support this work with our pledges, our prayers, and our presence. Thank you for showing up and working for meaningful change with actions as well as words. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a financial gift to the PNC’s Antiracism Fund in Solidarity with our Clergy of Color.



General Conference of the United Methodist Church postponed until 2024

As the pandemic continues and the wait time for visas stretches to over two years in some countries, the Commission on the General Conference announced that the 2020 General Conference cannot be held in 2022 due to COVID-related and governmental policies/constraints.

Rev. Jeremy Smith, pastor at Seattle 1st UMC writes on his blog “Hacking Christianity”:

The General Commission on General Conference deliberated for months upon months, but in the end, COVID-19 vaccine availability, unattainable visas, and the lack of infrastructure for virtual or distributed conferences have postponed the global gathering of United Methodists until sometime in 2024. They did not *cancel* the conference, they *postponed* it. That means that everyone who was elected in 2020 is on the delegation for 2024. The bishops have previously committed to no new elections, though there are provisions to replace delegates. It also means the denomination will be unable to gather and take up any division or LGBTQ+ equality legislation for another two years.

Since 2019, churches have been allowed to leave The UMC by paying apportionments and pension liability for two years. But for years, the Wesleyan Covenant Association has called on traditionalist churches to stay in the UMC so they can bargain for better leaving conditions. The Protocol was the result of those years of bargaining and threats: it would not only let churches leave scot-free, but the WCA would get \$25 million to continue their ecclesial malpractice in a new denomination of the Global Methodist Church. Many conservative churches that want the lowest possible payout may find it most cost-effective to leave now. Progressives will continue to be a minority in United Methodism, and conservatives will continue to be the majority perspective, as they have since at least the 1980s. My progressive perspective will continue to call the majority to accountability with the Gospel call for inclusion. My hope will continue to be that a fully inclusive, global church is attainable and that by working for it, it can become real earlier than any of us expect.

Blessing & Consecration of the Path & Bench

On Sunday, March 20th, we gathered outside on the north end of the church's property to consecrate and bless the path and bench that was part of Tanner Harding's Eagle Scout project. The timing was perfect as the rain held off and the daffodil bulbs planted in loving memory and honor of those who have gone before us were glorious in their splendor.



(Photo by Judy Thierry)



(Not in picture: Nancy Moffett & Pastor Cathy, photographers)



Six vocalists allowed to sing in worship

Our UCUP Board voted to allow more vocalists to provide music in the sanctuary during worship. Six masked and vaccinated vocalists will be providing worship music for our service, standing 6 feet apart from each other. How glorious it was last Sunday to have more vocalists raise their voices in song to lead us in worship. Various vocalists will be rotating to allow the participation of a number of people. How lovely that our newest member, Beth Tanner, was one of the vocalists this past Sunday.

Special Music

Sunday School

Sunday School resumes in-person at church

After two years of Sunday School being held on zoom, Sunday school will now be held in person at the church. Many thanks to Robert Brown, Rosemary Jones, and Cheryl Stone for continuing to provide Sunday School on zoom during the pandemic, and to Addy Harding for her consistent presence and support. Sunday School will be held during worship service from 10:10-10:50am.



Joys & Concerns

By Ardath Herbel

Prayers for all of those in our church family and their friends who are struggling with cancer in particular. Then we pray for those with other health concerns and let us not forget the caregivers who give their devoted love to those who they care for.

Prayers for those who are suffering so terribly from the war in Ukraine. May God touch the soul of those who have the power to stop this suffering.

We are joyful to receive a new member, Beth Tanner.

Prayers of thanksgiving for a baby girl born to Cierra and her husband, making the Gillards proud grandparents. And prayers for expectant parents Addison and Cecilia Sims, and expectant grandparents, Chuck and Laura.

Blessings also on the Eagle Scout project that Tanner completed for our church with a beautiful path and bench.

April Birthdays!

- 12 Danielle Dimmerman
- 13 Emma - 9
- 14 Mollie Chaffee
- 14 Terry Gibson
- 17 Yvonne Begeman
- 17 Don Thompson
- 18 Beth Tanner
- 21 Christine Crossley
- 23 Ardie Herbel
- 30 Vicki Diamond
- 30 Kay shaben

(belated HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Paul Koppe - his birthday was March 27)



Emergency Food Network's Hunger Walk 2022!

You are invited to join UCUP's team (6 of us as of this writing) for the in-person Hunger Walk on May 7 in Fort Steilacoom Park. The walk will begin at 9am! Check-in/day-of registration will open at 8am and the event will conclude at 11am. The event will also include live music, a Zumba warm-up and yoga cool-down and vendors with great giveaways. Not ready for in-person events? There are lots of ways to participate virtually and of course give a donation.

To join or donate to our team go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/WA/Lakewood/HungerWalk5KRun>. You will find United Church in University Place from the drop-down menu "join an existing team". Questions? Contact Dorothy McCuiston, dorothymcc@nventure.com

EFN is the central nonprofit food distributor for Pierce County, serving a network of more than 70 food pantries, meal sites, and shelters. In 2021, EFN distributed more than 15 million pounds of food and supported more than 1.4 million food pantry visits. By supporting EFN, we can make sure that everyone in Pierce County has access to diverse and nutritious food. EFN distributes 5 meals for \$1, meaning every donation will have a significant impact for neighbors in Pierce County.

Thank you for helping to make sure that no person goes hungry in Pierce County! **We've raised \$350 so far!**

I WALK BECAUSE

#EFNHUNGERWALK
LEARN MORE AT WWW.EFOODNET.ORG

**HUNGER
WALK**

Fill in YOUR why!



Join us!

This is a major fundraiser for this organization that was started by Methodist women in 1910 in the Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma to welcome Irish, Italian, and other European immigrants to the USA.

Kay Shaben has usually sponsored a table when the event was held in person but with COVID the fundraiser has been virtual for the last couple of years. Several members of UCUP continue to help support this work.

Although their countries of origin have changed, hundreds of people learn English, get jobs and become US citizens each year because of TCH. For additional information please contact Kay Shaben at 253.564.2536 or 253.906.7696

SPONSORS



United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith!

Find out more on the new National Website, <https://uwfaith.org/>.

The Pacific Northwest United Methodist Women's website has changed too!

You can find it at <https://www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith/>

We ask that you to join us in embracing the future for women, children and youth and contribute to The Legacy Endowment Fund. Any amount is welcome before, during and after **Day of Giving March 23, 2022, Embrace the Future!**



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Music Director: Jeff Andersen
Nursery Attendant: Addy Harding
Office Admin: Jenny Huntsman

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SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ABOVE ADDRESS

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 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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