



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

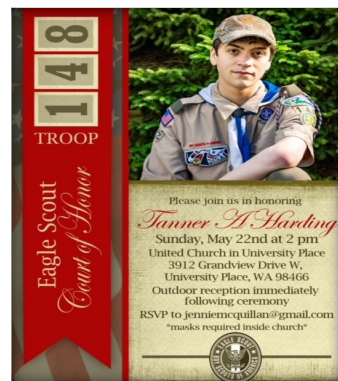
Invitations & Announcements

Tanner Harding—Eagle Scout Ceremony



Sunday May 22nd at 2 pm
United Church in University Place
(N95 masks are required inside the church)

RSVP to jenniemcquillan@gmail.com



Amara Oden—Ordination

Amara Oden joyfully invites you to attend her Ordination and Installation at her new church, Suquamish UCC, on **Sunday June 5th at 3pm**. The service will also be streamed online through zoom.

She says, "As the church that walked with me through the final years of my time as member in discernment, held me in care throughout, and presented me to the Conference for consideration, I would love for your presence on this important day." A reception hosted by Suquamish UCC will follow the service.

Suquamish Church is located on the Kitsap Peninsula, just north of Bainbridge Island, and an hour's travel from Tacoma. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8711889085> or phone in by calling (253) 215-8782 * Meeting ID: 871 188 9085 * Passcode: 2020



Peyton Gillard—Welcome !

Greetings, UCUP family! Jordan and I were so pleasantly surprised to receive the congregation's gifts for our baby girl, Peyton. They were incredibly thoughtful and generous. THANK YOU, ALL! We are loving getting to know our little one. We will be sure to bring her to a UCUP service to meet everyone next time we are in town. With love and gratitude, Cierra (Gillard) and Jordan.



Pastor Cathy will be away for Continuing Education May 9—14, 2022. You may reach her via email or text.

The office will be closed Friday, May 13th.

President's letter ~

Friends in Christ,

As I write this, I am enjoying the sunshine in the Columbia Gorge, where we are camping while Joe photographs the fields of yellow balsam, blue lupines, and pale pink phlox all over the hillsides. Nature's floral display is amazing.

By now, you've probably noticed that our Re-opening and Transformation Committee deemed it safe to have up to six masked singers at a time during worship--and boy, has the music been good! Live singing also removes a huge amount of work from the tech team, who spend many hours syncing photos of scenery and the lyrics to the song every week. Thank you, Tech Team.

Opportunity: Volunteer to help the Tech Team on Sunday mornings. If this calls you (and we hope it does), please let Pastor Cathy know.

One of my values as your president is help keep you informed. One change is the Finance Team's recommendation, approved by the Board, to put memorial donations into a memorial account, rather than the general fund. If the donor has not requested a specific use of the funds (e.g., landscaping), we look to the future to consider ways to make memorable uses of those funds in honor of those donors.

Opportunity: Volunteer to chair the Finance Committee. The chair doesn't need a financial background, but does need to be able to lead a meeting (having the minutes approved, conducting old and new business, etc.). The committee meets once a month and attends the church Board meetings. There are few to no responsibilities between meetings. Can you do this?

And finally, thank you so much for your prayers for our church, our pastor, our board, our lay leaders, and our congregation. We have much to be thankful for.

Yours on the journey,

Tanya

President

253-970-3110/tanyatalk411@gmail.com



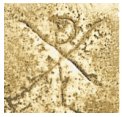
Pastor's letter ~

The cross has become a universal symbol for Christianity, but it wasn't always that way. The symbol of the cross was rarely used in the ancient Roman catacombs. Other symbols are inscribed into marble tombstones as a testimony to the early Christians' faith in the resurrected Christ. Art from the oldest existing church buildings, dating from the 4th and 5th centuries echoes the symbols found in the catacombs. In my sermon on Easter, I talked about how the early Christians focused not on the cross and not on the empty tomb, but on Jesus very much alive in the world. They believed that in his death and resurrection, Jesus had re-opened paradise. Paradise was not limited to a heavenly realm, but it was about this world, permeated and blessed by the Spirit of God.

Early Christians used a wide variety of symbols to express their faith. The second-century Christian teacher Clement of Alexandria identified a dove, a fish, a ship, a lyre, and an anchor as suitable images to be engraved on Christians' signet-rings (or seals). Archaeologists have discovered a gold finger-ring from the third or fourth century that depicts an anchor, cross, lamb, shepherd, dove, and the abbreviation for Christ. One of the best known early Christian symbols is the fish. On the next page are some of the early symbols found in the ancient Roman catacombs in the first four centuries after the resurrection of Jesus:

Con't ~

Chi-Rho is the oldest known monogram for Christ. Chi and Rho are the first two letters (XP) of "Christ" in Greek ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ. (*Christos*). It was used very early by persecuted Christians in the catacombs. Later, when Constantine was struggling to become emperor, he lifted this symbol at the front of his victorious armies. Sometimes the Chi-Rho appears with the first and last Greek letters, **Alpha (Α) and Omega (Ω)**, a symbol of eternal life in Christ, who is the first and the last, the beginning and the end (Rev. 1:11).



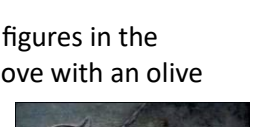
Ichthys is the Ancient Greek word for fish. Greeks, Romans, and many other pagans used the fish symbol before the early Christians did. So the fish, unlike the cross, attracted little suspicion, making it a perfect secret symbol. When threatened by Romans, Christians used the fish mark to designate meeting places or to distinguish friends from foes. According to one ancient story, when a Christian met a stranger in the road, the Christian used their toe to sketch one arc of the fish outline in the dirt. If the stranger drew the other arc, both believers knew they were in good company. As early as the first century, Christians made an acrostic from Ichthys: Iesous Christos Theou Yios Soter, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior". Followers of Christianity also identify with the fish as a symbol because fish frequently appeared in the ministry of Christ: feeding the 5,000; Jesus called his disciples "fishers of people." Second-century theologian Tertullian, interpreted the fish as a symbol of baptism: "But we small fishes, named after our great ICHTHUS, Jesus Christ, are born in water and only by remaining in water can we live."



The **Good Shepherd** was a popular early symbol of Christ's care for his sheep ("I am the Good Shepherd," John 10:11). Sometimes the shepherd is seen carrying a sheep over his shoulders; occasionally the sheep is by his side. The image of the Good Shepherd suggested the recovery of the lost sheep, the tender care and protection, the green pastures and still waters, the self-sacrifice. In John 21, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" and then said "Feed my sheep."



Doves can be seen on the walls of the catacombs, dating back as far as the 200s AD. It is a very old and common symbol in Christian art. The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit in Christianity, descending upon Jesus like a dove when he was baptized. The dove symbolized peace in early Christian art. A dove brought back an olive branch to Noah, signaling the end of the storms and of the flood and that land was emerging.



Person in Prayer/Orante. This pose of arms lifted in prayer is found in thousands of figures in the catacombs, representing a soul at peace in paradise. This particular figure shows a dove with an olive branch in its mouth landing on the person in prayer.

The **anchor** was an early Christian symbol commonly found in the Roman catacombs as a symbol of the hope we have in Christ beyond this life. "*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*" (Hebrews 6:19).



Ancient symbols of the **Eucharist or table** are also depicted in the catacombs. Early Christians held these symbols in highest regard for the profound mystery they represented and preserved various symbols of the Eucharist. This image is the "banquet of the seven disciples" recalling the encounter of the risen Christ with the disciples at the Sea of Galilee, where, "Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish" (John 21:13). The feeding of the multitudes, uses similar language of the Last Supper, and is a foreshadowing of the Eucharist. "He took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds" (Matthew 15:36).

Symbols are powerful images that convey meaning and can deepen our faith. Some anthropologists view religion as a series of symbols that people in a given community believe explains the order of the universe and their place in the world. During the 50 days of Eastertide, we will be exploring various symbols of the faith in early Christianity. What symbol best represents your faith? Is it one of these ancient symbols of Christianity, or is there another symbol that is most meaningful to you? Let's enter the conversation.

Christ Is Risen ... Easter Sunrise Service



After a two year hiatus we returned to the beautiful Curran Apple Orchard for our 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service.

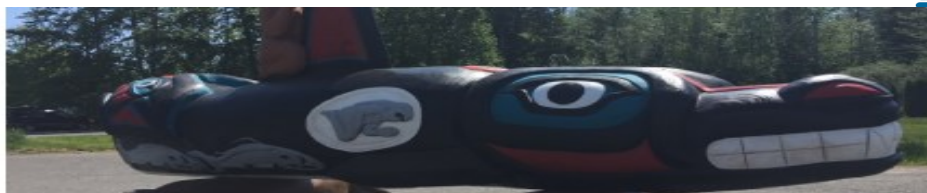


Thank-you Susan Kelly for photos



Snake River to Salish Sea Spirit of the Waters Totem Pole Journey – Tacoma

Cathi Cline, Peace and Justice Chair



Earth Ministry, one of our ministry partners, is inviting and encouraging us, along with other faith communities to “participate as an act of solidarity” in this event. This is an opportunity to do more than give a land acknowledgment during worship and at our meetings (although that is a very good thing), but to actually hear from our native neighbors about their history, culture, and faith.

Again, from Earth Ministry, “*The 2022 totem pole journey aims to inspire, inform, and engage Pacific Northwest communities through intergenerational voices, ceremony, art and science, spirituality, ancestral knowledge, and cross-cultural collaboration in support of the indigenous-led movement to remove the Snake River dams and restore to health the Snake River salmon runs and our relatives, the Southern Resident Killer Whales (Skali’Chelh in the Lummi language) that depend on them.*”

Come hear from great speakers:

Jay Julius/Sequoyah Julius of Se’Si’Le
Annette Bryan, Puyallup Tribe
Willie Frank III, Chairman, Nisqually Tribe
The Black Stonefly (Gian Lawrence)
Fiorella De La O and Jewell Jame
Fr. Patrick Twohy, S.J.

The totem journey will be in Tacoma

Friday, May 20th, 6-8 pm

St Leo’s Parish, 710 S 13th St.

Tacoma WA 98405

[RSVP here](#)

<https://earthministry.org/event/snake-river-to-salish-sea-spirit-of-the-waters-totem-pole-journey-tacoma/>

Now more than ever it’s time for the faith community to show up as good allies following Native leadership. This Totem Pole Journey is a space to center the voices, knowledge, and perspectives of Native Nations and Indigenous communities leading the movement to protect natural and cultural heritage for the generations to come. We hope to see you there!



Tacoma Seafarers Center

Located on Port of Tacoma Road, this small building serves hundreds of merchant seaman and women who journey around the world on those huge freighters you see at Tacoma’s busy port. For those seaman who have permission to leave their ships, the Center provides rides to shopping in the city, visits to local attractions, and to the area churches who offer fellowship to the sailors. The Center provides telephones and computers for the sailors to connect with their families and friends at home. The Center also has a small store to supplies. There are racks of books in dozens of languages for the sailors to take with them.

For several years, I have taken magazines to the Center. They are of all types, even children’s magazines so the travelers can take them home to their children. Director Paul Petersen also likes to have The Upper Room magazine available to use in Bible study groups. I stopped my regular runs to the Center when COVID restricted travel. Now I would like to begin again!

Please continue using The Upper Room for your study, BUT, if you would bring them back to the church when you are done, I will gather them up and take the down to the sea. If you subscribe to any other magazines, regardless to topic, you can also drop those off for me at the church. Thank You!! Kay Shaben 253 564-2536

Joys & Concerns

By Ardath Herbel

We offer prayers for the homeless especially at this time of year with the unpredictable weather. Also for those traveling to see family and taking trips during spring breaks.

Bless Judy Thierry as she travels abroad to use her medical talents to help heal people. Keep her safe.

Continuing prayers for families in our church and other friends who are fighting illnesses and recovering from illnesses of all kinds. May God wrap His arms around them and encourage them. Many are also mourning the loss of loved ones and we remember them. We rejoice in the birth of a new baby in our church family and the expectation of another on the way. Blessings to Dorothy McQuiston who coordinated getting gifts for the newborns and their families as well as those who contributed Joy for being able to have an Easter Sunrise Service after an absence of 2 years and being able to once again gather in the sanctuary.



Emergency Food Network's Hunger Walk 2022!

There are just a few days left to register for the the in-person Emergency Food Network's Hunger Walk. Registration closes on May 3, 2022 at 11:59 PM. As of this writing, there are six of us from UCUP who have signed up for the Saturday, May 7 event. The walk begins at 9:00 AM in Steilacoom Park.

Still not comfortable going to an in-person event or will you be outside of Pierce County on May 7th? Register for the virtual event to participate with us in-spirit. They will be streaming live from Fort Steilacoom Park on May 7th so you can still be part of the fun on event day and walk virtually with us the entire month of May.

To register, visit the EFN Hunger Walk site at <https://runsignup.com/Race/WA/Lakewood/EFNHungerWalk> Be sure you sign up to be a part of our team, United Church in University Place.

In 2020, Emergency Food Network provided 19.5 million pounds of healthy, nutritious food annually to 70+ food pantries, meal sites, and shelters for distribution to families and individuals in need. There were 1.9 million visits to food pantries and meal sites in Pierce County in 2020 – and 54% of these visits are children and seniors! Emergency Food Network makes sure these hungry families and individuals receive the nutritious food they need to stay healthy.

I WALK BECAUSE

#EFNHUNGERWALK

LEARN MORE AT WWW.EFOODNET.ORG

**HUNGER
WALK**

Fill in YOUR why!

FAITH ACTION NETWORK
A Partnership for the Common Good

2022 SPRING SUMMITS



A TIME TO RECONNECT
Reconnecting within our regions and imagining the coming year

REGIONAL SUMMIT DETAILS:

Puget Sound: Sunday, May 15th
Southwest WA: Sunday, May 22nd
Central WA: Sunday, June 5th
Eastern WA: Sunday, June 12th
 All times in the afternoon - Varies by location.
 In-person & online options for each Summit.

Our area Spring Summit Date is Sunday, May 15th. Please contact Robert Brown for additional information

Save the Date!




Walk - Sharing the Journey

Please join us for our monthly walk. On Tuesday May 10th we will gather at the Old Tacoma Cemetery, 4801 South Tacoma Wy, parking along the road near the entrance. We start promptly at 9:00AM, and we'll plan to walk no matter the weather so please plan accordingly. There is not a public restroom available.



If you have any questions or want to sponsor a monthly walk please call Pamela Maddess at 253-565-9411 (hm) or 253-310-7418 (cell)

INTERFAITH
Women's
EVENTS PRESENTED BY **an**

*Do one thing today
that your future self
will thank you for*

my sister's pantry
food & clothing bank

Are you planting a garden?
Our clients love fresh vegetables and fruit.
We may even have a crew to help you harvest your fresh goodies!
Contact us for information on donating your items. Our phone number is (253) 627-1186.

Church Contact

(253) 564-2754
 office@ucup.org
 pastor@ucup.org
 www.ucup.org



Church Employees

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
UNITED CHURCH IN UNIVERSITY PLACE
3912 GRANDVIEW DRIVE WEST
UNIVERSITY PLACE, WA. 98466

Vol. 43 No. 5

May 1, 2022

Periodicals

Postage Paid at

Tacoma WA 98413

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.
98466
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

3rd Tuesday of the month

6:30pm Men's Discussion Group
on Zoom



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