



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

Celebrate Pentecost on June 5th with Fire Colors



Pentecost is considered the day on which the Christian church began. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 50 days after Jesus' resurrection and gathering his early followers as a church. Historically, Christians borrowed the word Pentecost (meaning 50th day) from Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday, known as the Festival of Weeks, (*Shavuot* in Hebrew). Leviticus 23:16 instructs people to count seven weeks or "fifty days" from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next

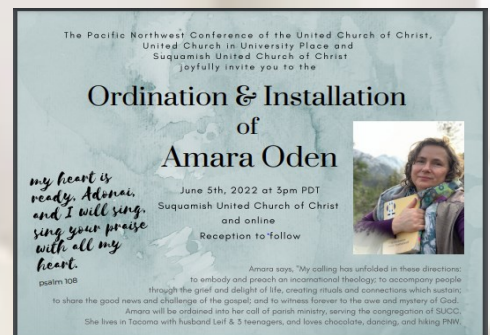


holiday, the Harvest Festival.

This Pentecost Sunday we will conclude our Eastertide Worship Series "Beyond the Cross: Symbols of Early Christianity". The last symbol we will be exploring in this series is the dove - representing the Holy Spirit and peace.

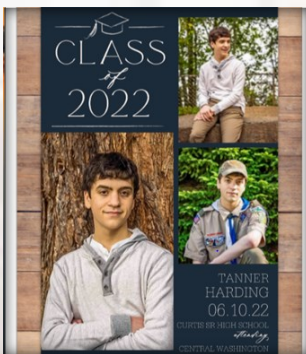
Amara Oden ~ Ordination

Suquamish Church is located on the Kitsap Peninsula, just north of Bainbridge Island, and an hour's travel from Tacoma. Join by calling (253) 215-8782 * Meeting ID: 871 188 9085 * Passcode: 2020 or open Zoom link with same meeting id and passcode.



Tanner Harding ~ Graduation

Tanner is graduating from Curtis Senior High on June 10th and Tacoma Community College with an Associate of Arts in Computer Science degree on June 11th. His family will be co-hosting an open house on Saturday, June 11th from 2-5pm with Tanner's best friend Chris Sandusky at 3006 Elwood Dr. W, University Place WA 98466. We would love to invite members of the church to stop by to share in the celebration and enjoy some s'mores!



President's letter ~

Friends,

Have you ever taken a peek at the denomination websites of the Pacific Northwest? The UCC holds a rainbow comma (God is still speaking—to all of us!) and says, “You are welcome here”; a mindset we live continuously.

If you’ve checked out the UMC website recently, then you’ve seen these words: “Alert. Faithful. Brave. Love.” These four important words of St. Paul give us an opportunity to respond to the horrific Uvalde children’s massacre last month—and the many others, including 13 more over Memorial Day Weekend alone. And these same four words, in my opinion anyway, stand out as the descriptors of our congregation (and pastor, too!). As a church, we do not have the right to endorse a particular political candidate, but we have every right to speak out/act out/love out issues that are deemed “political,” such as allowing 18-year-olds to buy semi-automatic weapons. As your president, I believe it is time for us to speak out. As a congregation, we are called in the timeless words of the apostle Paul to

Be alert; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love. 1 Cor. 16:13-14

Our church leadership team, aka the UCUP Board, will be meeting on June 6th at 6:30 pm. I believe it is time for our leadership to officially, if only symbolically in that moment, take a stand for an aggressive background check system, and a stand against individuals owning combat weapons – to stand firm in the faith, to be courageous, to be strong. Our church, like many others, is more than symbolic. We have a history of action. Our Board represents you. Please reach out to our officers to let your thoughts be heard. Tanya Sorenson, Vicki Diamond, Judy Thierry, Don Thompson, Paul Koepe, Laura Giddings.

We have a history of action, of service, of courage, and most of all, of recognizing that love is a verb. As Stephen Covey, Sr. wrote, “**Love** is an active and empowering **verb**.” I am confident that our church will be stepping up and stepping out in actions of love to hold politicians accountable for making laws that reduce the senseless killings enabled by free access to AR-15’s and the like. Stay tuned.

Wishing you peace and blessings,
Tanya Sorenson

253-970-3110

Tanyatalk411@gmail.com

During our last meeting the Board voted with unanimous approval for these pandemic protocols.

- Drop the 75 minute limit for indoor events
- Masking requirements exterior to the church building and on church grounds is dropped
- Allowing choir/singers/vocalists to be 3 feet apart and n95 masked
- Congregation can sing with masks.
- Communion in the pews can be taken. Outdoor communion can continue.
- Food provided can be taken outside and eaten.



Joys & Concerns

By Ardath Herbel



Prayers: for the people of Buffalo, N.Y. and Uvalde, TX as they grieve for their loved ones lost to gun violence. May our country come to the realization that we need to do something as our country is the only one in the world to have such a big problem with gun violence even though other countries have mental health problems, angry people etc.

Prayers for those who continue to struggle with Covid, Cancer and other health issues. May we remember to wear our masks when necessary.

Prayers for Lynn Jenks Dudchus who recently had painful shoulder surgery.

Prayers for those trying to resolve family issues.

Blessings for our newest members; babies of Cierra and Cecelia.

Continued Blessing for all of those who continue to work so hard to bring us a beautiful service every Sunday beginning with Pastor Cathy, those who volunteer every Sunday as Lay Readers, tech people, our choir and Jeff who blesses us every Sunday with his beautiful music.

Pastor's letter ~

From Lament to Lament -

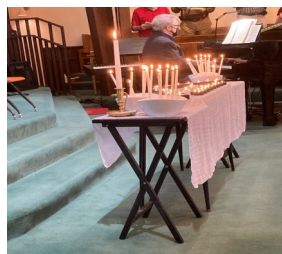
There is much to lament in the world right now - from war in Ukraine, to senseless gun violence, to surpassing over one million lives lost to COVID-19 in the United States, and the ongoing pandemic of racism, and economic inequality. On Sunday, May 29th, we journeyed from Lament to Lament. In our worship service, we remembered the lives of those who were murdered at a Buffalo, NY supermarket, and the children and teachers gunned down at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX. Following worship, we journeyed outside to the outdoor path and bench where we commemorated the lives lost to COVID-19. People wrote prayers on white paper sacks and white flags to place in the ground along the path. As they crossed the threshold from pavement to path, a bell tolled, symbolizing the thousands and millions of lives lost to this virus.

Mark Vroegop wrote in his book, "Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament", "Lament is a form of prayer. It is more than just the expression of sorrow or the venting of emotion. Lament talks to God about pain. And it has a unique purpose: trust. It is a divinely-given invitation to pour out our fears, frustrations, and sorrows for the purpose of helping us to renew our confidence in God. Some may think lament is the opposite of praise. Lament is a path to praise as we are led through our brokenness and disappointment. The space between brokenness and God's mercy is where this song is sung. Lament is the transition between pain and promise. It is the path from heartbreak to hope!"

Over one third of the psalms are laments. The prophets also cry out to God. Lament is not a failure of faith, but an act of faith. The psalmist takes the time to express pain and anger, and gradually turns to praise God for God's mercies. Both adoration and grief, praise and pain are aspects of congregational worship and expression.

N.T. Wright states, "Many of the laments in the psalms are calls to action. They plead with God to pay attention to them and to act on their behalf. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, he was inviting them to participate in the arrival of the Kingdom. Lament is not only for the suffering; it is for *solidarity with the suffering*. *We love our neighbor when we allow their experience of pain to become the substance of our prayer. Lament is not our final prayer. It is a prayer in the meantime.*"

There is much in the world to lament. How might our individual and collective prayers of lament lead us to faithful action? May we find a new path of peace and justice, love and compassion.



Pastor's letter ~ Con't ~

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL AND MARCH AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

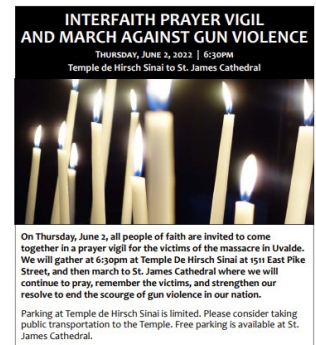
One of our ministry partners, Faith Action Network, is hosting a vigil march on behalf of lives lost to gun violence. It will be held this Thursday, June 2, beginning at 6:30pm at Temple de Hirsch Sinai, and marching to St James Cathedral. Together we will pray, remember the victims, and strengthen our resolve to act to end the scourge of gun violence in our nation.

FAN writes: We join our prayers with yours & so many rising up in grief during these weeks of tragedy & gun violence in Uvalde & Buffalo, and other places not as prominent in the news, and as we remember the murder of George Floyd two years ago. We join voices calling out for an immediate & significant decrease in the availability of lethal weapons. We are grateful for all the ways multi-faith communities have made a place for grieving, prayer, and consolation during these difficult times. We stand with you in that prayer and cry out for justice. We urge you to move prayers into action for all lives lost to gun violence. We continue to look for ways to act together, especially at the national level, to create policies that will protect children, BIPOC communities, and all people. There is no more powerful force to counter gun violence than the Alliance for Gun Responsibility, working with Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Moms Demand Action, Grandmothers Against Gun Violence. With them, we invite you to call for a ban on assault weapons at the federal level. Please take action **send a letter to Congress calling for a federal assault weapons ban.**

<https://fanwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Prayer-for-Uvalde.pdf>

You can take action. Please **send a letter to Congress calling for a federal assault weapons ban.**

<https://secure.everyaction.com/aC2bOEaUHU22aOEMF5desw2?emci=d8aabd94-7fdc-ec11-b656-281878b8c32f&emdi=3a429ebb-83dc-ec11-b656-281878b8c32f&ceid=5241637>



Bob Rudolph, Angie Wolle, and Pastor Cathy attended the vigil against gun violence and call to action with Mt. Cross Lutheran Church on May 28th in the rain. Orange has become the defining color of the gun violence prevention movement.

Thoughts, Prayers, and ACTION

FAN Advocacy Supports Legislation Addressing Gun Safety—from Peace & Justice

With a lot of time and engagement, substantive change can happen to address the scourge of gun violence. In the state of Washington, the Faith Action Network (FAN) took an active role in advocating for legislation that addresses gun safety. United Church in University Place is a member of FAN and church members participate in the advocacy events. Here is a summary of legislation passed in the 2022 legislative session:

Safer communities will be created through the momentous victories of several bills, especially high capacity magazine restrictions [SB 5078 – Sen. Liias], restricting weapons in certain locations such as school board meetings and election-related facilities [HB 1630 – Rep. Senn], and closing the ghost guns loophole [HB 1705 – Rep. Berry].

Report of the PNC UCC Annual Meeting

(held 4/30/22 on Zoom—submitted by Paul Koppe)

I was born into and raised in the newly formed UCC by my parents and congregation. As a youth, I represented my congregation at several UCC Annual Meetings. Later, as an adult I was a delegate for UCUP at several UCC annual meetings. After returning from Arizona after 10 years, I was pleased to have the opportunity to once again represent us at the UCC annual meeting on April 30th.

Annual meetings are an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. They are joyous meetings that typically approve the conference budget for the coming year and new leadership and committee assignments. Sometimes there is discussion about social issues.

The theme for this year was Promised Hope and began with Conference Minister Rev. Mike Denton reflecting on the despair many of us, including himself, have felt during the past two years. Issues of racial and social justice, the pandemic and many other concerns have sapped our hope. In a far more eloquent manner than I can convey, he suggests that Hope. Is. Built. It comes from within, and we can not depend on it being provided by external forces. I recommend reading his reflection. It seemed many were inspired by his thoughts.

At last year's meeting the proposed budget included \$2,000 to create an Anti-Racism Fund. The delegates at that meeting amended the budget to add \$50,000 for a total of \$52,000 for this fund. A report was given on the initial efforts of the team. This was followed by committee reports and a time for questions about the proposed budget. We returned from our lunch break, ahead of schedule, and I expected we would quickly approve the proposed budget and leadership and committee assignments. That was not to be.

There was an extended and difficult conversation about Anti-Racism and white privilege and the commitment of the conference to our claims of Anti-Racism. There was agreement that the budget is a "moral document" and should reflect our beliefs and priorities. But, some questioned whether the proposed budget truly reflected those beliefs. There were statements about white privilege that were hard to hear, but that felt like they carried truth. The conference moderator did what I considered a good job of allowing passionate views to be expressed, while maintaining civil conversation. There also was some brief discussion about the challenges facing our small, rural congregations and their desire for support. On returning from a break, the conference leadership removed both the proposed budget and leadership and committee assignments from the agenda. They pledged to have another meeting within three months to vote on a revised budget and slate of officers and committees. During that time, the conference will act to ensure that views of more people are reflected in the budget and that it become a better reflection of the morals of the conference. While this is accomplished the conference board will do short-term spending authorizations. In addition, the committees will be asked to continue their work and include the proposed new members, knowing that they are not yet voting members.

This meeting could have gone very badly. But, it seemed the consensus was that something big had happened and that we had been led by the Spirit in a new and unexpected way. The path forward is not clear. But, the theme, Promised Hope, seems especially appropriate.



1 Ruth Cannon
2 Ben Small
8 Wes —12
12 Cheryl Stone
22 Fran Cash
Kay Shaben
24 Laura Giddings
30 Cindi Bodie
Harry Garrison



Our 2021/22 school year is ending. Summer vacation is upon us.

If you are at the store and see a backpack that catches your eye and school supplies for our [Family Housing Network](#) Families and their school-age children -- make a purchase! We know the need is great and UCUP members have been so generous. Thanks. P & Justice.

Our meetings are virtually the last Tuesday of each month - 1-2 pm.





Congratulations ...

to Tanner Harding who celebrated an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at UCUP on May 22nd, celebrated his 18th birthday at the end of May, and will graduate from Curtis High School in June.



Donations Needed!



Seeking donation of toothbrushes and dollar store reading glasses of all strengths. Sunglasses too. I'll wrap them in bubble wrap and happily carry them with me to India. See box in narthex!

Please contact Judy Thierry

@ 249-994-8572 for additional information.

(Woman farmer awaiting eye surgery appreciative of sun glasses)

4th Sunday Forum!



Sunday, June 26 directly after church, a 4th Sunday Forum hosted by Peace and Justice will look at medical care in low resource settings. Judy Thierry will present on her recent experience in northern

Walk - Sharing the Journey

Cathi Cline—Wonderwood Park

Please join us for our monthly walk. On Tuesday June 14th we will gather at Wonderwood Park, 5304 32nd Ave. SE, Lacey. There is a parking lot and that's where we'll meet. There is a paved path as well as many non-paved paths through the woods. Dogs are more than welcome. It's a great park for looking for, and maybe finding, painted rocks.

We start promptly at 9:00AM, and we'll plan to walk no matter the weather so please plan accordingly. There is a public restroom available. If you have any questions or want to sponsor a monthly walk please call Cathi Cline at 518-928-2393 (cell).



Hunger Walk 2022! From Dorothy McCuiston



UCUP's team in the 2022 Hunger Walk raised \$700 for the Emergency Food Network. Thanks to all who made a donation. Pastor Cathy Law, Cathi Cline, Don and Marilyn Thompson (and Gus) and Dorothy McCuiston took a brisk lap or two around the Waughop Lake in Fort Steilacoom Park on a blustery Saturday morning in early May.

Your donations help EFN annually distribute 15.5 million pounds of food, serve 1.4 million people, deliver 661,260 pounds of food through their home delivery program, grow 86,000 pounds of produce at the Mother Earth Farm and serve 75+ food pantries, meal sites and shelters (figures from EFN's 2022 annual report).

Church Contact

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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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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

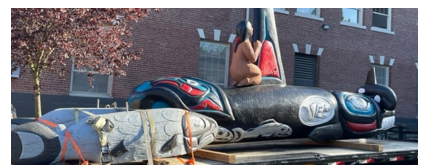
Communion during worship

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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