



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



## CELEBRATING OUR NONAGENARIANS

On Sunday, July 17th, following worship, (11:15am) we will be celebrating seven of our nonagenarians who have for so long helped to build, maintain, and faithfully serve this church. They will be sharing their knowledge, memories and traditions with us. We will gather west of the church under the trees near the Youth Wing to share food, cake, wisdom, laughter and joy. While some have already passed 90, others will be turning 90 later this year – we celebrate them all. Who are these very special people? If you can't name them, come see who we are celebrating. Family and friends are welcome. To help out with these festivities, please call Pamela Maddess (253-310-7418) or email at [pmaddess@comcast.net](mailto:pmaddess@comcast.net).



happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!



## Rev. Amara Oden's Ordination and Installation as pastor at Suquamish UCC



(Photos by Judy Thierry & Cindi Bodie)

# Statement of Support of Reproductive Autonomy and Healthcare from Greater NW UMC Area

By an overwhelming margin, lay and clergy members of the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and PNW Conferences of the United Methodist Church voted to affirm the following statement on June 25th.

We, as the laity and clergy members of the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest Conferences of the United Methodist Church, affirm the sacred worth of those who are or may become pregnant; further affirm their bodily autonomy, right to privacy in medical care and treatment, and right of access to reproductive health services including abortion and contraceptive care; and further affirm their access to the divine gift of free will and personal ethical decision making rooted in our shared faith and practice.

The United Methodist Social Principles state that “we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child,” and “we recognize the tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases, we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures,” and “the Church shall encourage ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies and support of initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls around the globe,” and “a decision concerning abortion should be made only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration by the parties involved, with medical, family, and other appropriate counsel.”

The recent ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States grieves us and places the physical and emotional health, and spiritual well-being of people in jeopardy. It disproportionately punishes those already pressed to the margins and places them under undue financial and emotional strain. As conferences committed to anti-racism, equity, and justice, we cannot be silent in the face of such mendacity.

The members of the Greater NW Area of The United Methodist Church denounce in the strongest terms the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn Roe v. Wade. Further, we name the real harm that this decision will exact upon those bearing children and the children they bear.

We call on our laity, clergy, congregations, extension ministries, and communities to commit to local and connectional ministry in support of individuals seeking reproductive health care that may be prohibited by the jurisdiction in which that individual resides. We commit to working with United Methodist entities in states that are banning abortion in order to allow people affordable access. We call upon our annual conferences to create funds where people may donate to help support access to vital reproductive healthcare for staff, clergy, and their families.

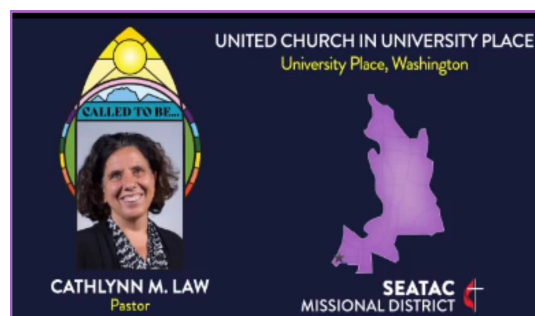
We call on our congregations to have well-facilitated conversations about abortion care, reproductive health, and the intersections of health care, racism, poverty, and sexism, prioritizing compassion over judgment.

We call upon our federal representatives to move a Constitutional amendment securing the protected rights for reproductive health, including abortion.

We call on the Secretaries of our Annual Conferences to send a copy of this resolution to each member of their legislative bodies, both state and federal to publicly bear witness to the Church of Jesus Christ standing with and for those whose agency is being denied, whose freedom is being restricted, and whose voices are being ignored.



During Annual Conference of the PNW UMC on June 21st, Bishop Elaine Stanovsky and the district superintendents read the pastoral appointments for the coming year. I am delighted to be re-appointed as I begin my 9th year at United Church in University Place, and my 21st year serving as UMC clergy.





## President's letter ~

Friends in Christ,

This has been a month of extremes both in temperatures and legal rulings. While I love hot weather and waited impatiently through "January," I was dreading, not impatient, to hear the fate of *Roe v. Wade*. I lived in the Tri Cities for nearly 20 years. During that time, I sat on the Washington State Family Planning Advisory Board. It was eye-opening to see the vast statistics at that time demonstrating the terrible consequences for children born of unplanned/mis-timed pregnancies. Overwhelmingly, these children are neglected and abused at much, much higher rates than children resulting from a planned pregnancy. According to these studies, the fate of the women who bore children resulting from unplanned/mis-timed pregnancies did not fare well, either, with increased rates of domestic abuse and higher rates of poverty.

I also found that the work of Planned Parenthood (and similar organizations) to educate and provide contraceptives at low cost was crucial to reducing the unplanned/untimed pregnancies and their often terrible outcomes. It did not surprise me to learn that less than 1% of PP's income comes from conducting abortions. And after 1973, when I was so proud of *Roe v. Wade*, there were something like 1.1 million abortions per year. Last year, there were about 350K. That means that in the 50 years of *Roe*, while our population has expanded, our abortion rates have actually reduced by two-thirds.

Assuming the fate of women and children are now more relevant today, I am proud of our church and our church leadership for decades of supporting compassion towards all, including women making the difficult decision to terminate a pregnancy. In Matthew 9:13 Jesus said, "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' Praise to all of you for being a church filled with mercy.

In Christ,  
Tanya Sorenson  
President of the Board



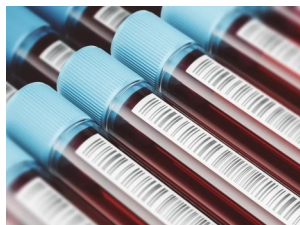
### AIDNW Lunch for Asylum Seekers

Thank you to Cathi Cline, Rosemary Jones, Pamela Maddess, Kay Shaben, Marilyn Thompson, and Angie Wolle, for quickly helping Pastor Cathy fill and assemble and take lunch to AIDNW. Large numbers of asylum seekers are being brought from the southern border to Tacoma and released from the detention center — 15 to 25 people each day. ICE has told AIDNW that this is expected to continue through the summer - double the average number of guests normally served at the AIDNW Welcome Center.

### WA Blood Donors 'Urgently Needed' Heading Into Summer

Donations usually dip in the summer months, but local blood centers warn that supply levels are already very low.

(Photo / Luca Combos,  
UP Patch)





**JUNE**, a month of celebrations, including the fact that SUMMER arrived on time – after a wet and cold spring. Seeing Pastor Cathy present Emma Berry with her Bible was heartwarming.

**GRADUATIONS:** Tanner Harding from Curtis High School and Jimmy Bodie from Thomas Middle school in Lakewood.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** *141 years of marriage* was celebrated this month: Leslie Ann Knight & Vic Bode, their 18<sup>th</sup> on the 12<sup>th</sup>; Laura Giddings & Church Schilling, their 35<sup>th</sup> on the 21<sup>st</sup>; Nancy and Jim Davis, their 38<sup>th</sup> on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Then there's the couple that quietly celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> on the 24<sup>th</sup> ... hint, there's only 4 letters in their last name. Were there others?

**THANK YOU:** Chuck Schilling and Laura Giddings for the party held after church on the 19<sup>th</sup>. I think there were 3 reasons for it: 1) Laura's birthday on the 24<sup>th</sup> 2) their 35th anniversary on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 3) so we could meet granddaughter, Penny (and her parents Cecelia & Addison Sims). Good time had by all...hugs, cupcakes, and baby smiles. Marilyn Thompson got the most and biggest smiles from Penny. THANKS Laura and Chuck and CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Judy Thierry for the forum on the 26<sup>th</sup>...for showing us what it's like when she sees patients on her trips to India. Also 'thank you' to her interpreter (Cindi Bodie) and those that were the 'patients'. Judy is returning to India on July 13<sup>th</sup> and collecting sunglasses to take with her. Pray for her safe travels.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** For all those suffering with COVID, Margie Lehmann's daughter Jan and her family and Dorothy McCuiston and her family...Ardie Herbel, recovering from a fall...Michelle Wallace's brother Pat in need of back surgery...Rosemary Jones' sister Judy who has several health problems.

**GIVE PRAYERS OF THANKS:** That so far, the results of tests on Norma Rader's heart are good, but she has more tests to take...that Laura Balcom's mother's health has improved...that at the end of the PNW UMC Conference the Rev. Cathlynn Law was reappointed to serve at United Church in University Place!!!



June Birthdays, Father's Day Celebration and meeting Penny, our newest member at UCUP.



Our Hunger Walk participants raised \$700 for the Emergency Food Network.



# *PNCWUCC Transition*

*(a reflection from Conference Minister, Rev. Mike Denton (paraphrased))*

September of 2019 was the 20th anniversary of my ordination and it set off a season of discernment. The last 11 years in this conference had been rewarding in work and life. The conference was on a good path. Lauren and I had fallen in love and married during the time I was here. We'd welcomed Leo into the world. Life was good.

I expected to spend my entire career in small, urban churches called to service and advocacy. That description fit the first church I was called to, and I loved it..

Lauren and I had sometimes talked about maybe moving back east close to family someday but we were pretty settled in where we were. We'd bought a house.

When my sister found out she had lymphoma, our family back east seemed very far away, and life seemed shorter and more fragile than before. I started actively talking with colleagues about leaving conference ministry and finding a position closer to our family.

It was on Ash Wednesday of 2020 when I sent a note your way about preparing for the pandemic. We all did the best we could with what we had and, with God's help, we did some amazing things. In the middle of so much loss, grieving, and disruption we supported each other and our neighbors. The fragility of the world was exposed and in the spaces left behind, we found little certainty but unusual clarity. There was no waiting for someone else to do something. It was up to us and we did well. I'd never been prouder to be part of any group of people, ever.

There had been other family health and life challenges during 2020. There were deaths from COVID in our extended family. I had some health challenges, too. Considering the state of the world, we started to wonder if we'd ever get to see some of our family again.

I've loved the travel that's been part of this position but ended up loving being with my family during the pandemic even more. The longer the pandemic continued, the clearer this became. Sometime in the late fall of 2020, we decided to be open to what the Spirit might do. I put my profile together and started searching for a local church position.

This past Sunday, South Congregational Church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, voted to call me as their next pastor. It's a ¾ time position with a church that feeds about 700 families weekly through its food pantry. They are consolidating with another church in town, First Church of Christ (UCC), to form something new together. The challenges and the gifts of these churches and this place call out to me. The opportunity to be no more than a day's drive from our family is exciting and a relief. As with any significant change, there are some other feelings mixed in, too. Even though we'll be closer to family, we'll miss all those we've served with here...

We're at a complex moment in conference life. The turnover in local churches is unprecedented. Rich and challenging conversations are emerging about our budget, our commitment to being an anti-racist conference, restructuring, and how best to provide our camps with the support and accountability they need. Like any ministry, there has always been more to do than our capacity would allow. That's all part of discernment.

This conference is prepared for taking this work on. Over the last 14 years, I've seen more people claim this conference as their own. Instead of complaining about what wasn't being done, the people of this conference have pulled together and done some amazing things. People are doing more and more to self-organize around interests, support, and causes. Our collective response to the onset of the pandemic didn't come out of nowhere. We'd been working at developing and investing in the skills we used for years. The pandemic allowed us to practice all those things we'd learned and those same learnings will be helpful, now. In your staff, you have one of the best, smartest, and most skilled groups of people in the UCC. You have boards and committees ready to work, learn, listen, and try new things. The denomination has already started the process of coming alongside us and helping PNC through this time, too. This conference, your conference, is ready to be open to what the Spirit might do.

I'll start working for South Congregational Church in the 2nd half of September. I'll be working remotely in August. Between now and then, my most important tasks will be finishing what I can, handing over what can be handed over, and saying goodbye to all you wonderful, beautiful people. Soon, you'll hear from the board their plans for carrying the conference through this transitional time.



# Memorial flags in remembrance of those lives lost to Covid19

## Sunday May 29th



(Photos by Judy Thierry)

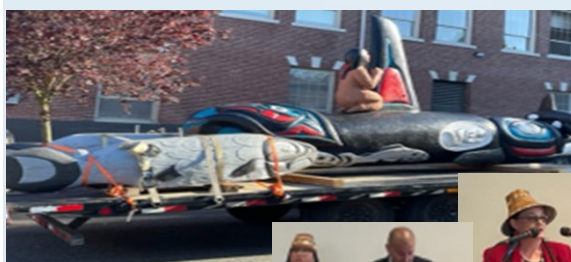
### Emma Hope ~ 3rd Grade Bible Receiving Ceremony



(Photos by Judy Thierry)

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

Pastor Cathy, Judy Thierry, Cathi Cline and Angie Wolle attended this gathering held Friday May 20th to actually hear from our native neighbors about their history, culture, and faith. Here are a few of her photos from the event.







### Back Pack Addendum Back-to-School

FHN students especially need 2.5 and 3 inch binders w dividers, college and wide ruled paper and colored markers - back packs etc are still welcomed but these are the desired items.



Deadline Sunday August 8 - see the donation box in the narthex  
P&J thanks YOU!



Sometimes you just need a little love . . .

## CRISIS RESOURCES ~ WHERE TO TURN?

"You may have conversations with people in need or crisis and wonder what is available? How do I connect them to resources?" You can make a difference!

Here are hotline numbers for easy reference. Numbers include: suicide, DV, Homeless reentry, GLBTQ support, local Foodbank links, Family Housing Network and the WA Behavioral Health line."

Homelessness is now being addressed through a single line 2-1-1 phone call. This has cut down on wait times, duplicative work and gets families and individuals connected effectively. The goal is rapid rehousing. There are many food banks hence the link which you may want to put in your smartphone or bookmark on your computer. The other hot lines are 24/7 . Please note the National Hotline for suicide has a link "ask" that takes you to a two-page reference and simple screener. There are many ways to take care of one another during these times and sometimes we need outside help."

**Suicide** National Hotline 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Twenty seconds makes a difference NIH/NIMH/ASQ [ASK](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention)  
or <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention>

**Domestic Violence Pierce County 24/7 1-800-764-2420**

**Homeless Coordinated Entry 2-1-1 or toll free: 800-572-4357 (9 to 4).**

**GLBTQ – Trevor Project 24/7 1-866-488-7386 text 'START' to 678-678**

**PCFood Bank system: <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/454/Food-Banks>**

**CCS Family Housing Network – 253-471-5340 (9 to 5) rapid rehousing**

**Washington listens BH line 1-8033-681-0211 'sad, anxious, stressed'**



(UCUP Peace Pole)

***Because 20 seconds makes a difference!***

### Church Contact

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### Church Employees

Rev. Cathlynn Law  
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Nursery Attendant: Addy Harding  
Office Admin: Jenny Huntsman

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Or where you are on life's journey, **you're**  
**Welcome here.**

**United Church In  
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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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