



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

## *Beguiled* BY BEAUTY

*Cultivating a Life of Contemplation & Compassion*

Psalm 27:4 One thing I ask of you, Divine Goodness,  
one thing I seek: that I may dwell in your house all  
the days of my life, to gaze on your beauty and to  
meditate in your Temple.

Over these last weeks of summer our worship will be based on a book called “Beguiled by Beauty”, written in 2020 by Dr. Wendy Farley. We will enter spiritual practices of contemplation and noticing beauty in the midst of our lives. Dr. Farley writes that “The difficulty and crisis of the world is overwhelming. It is virtually impossible to bear it without very deep resources.”

The world is on fire, and beauty abounds. How do we hold both of these truths at the same time, without succumbing to despair or denying the reality of suffering? For the next month, we will knock on the door of the beauty of creation, summoning courage to open our hearts to the beauty and suffering all around us, to fall in love with the sacredness of the world in all its brokenness.

Dr. Farley invites us to make a shift from a moral obligation to do right to a deep desire for all beings to be right - whole and beloved. She gives us tools to notice that the world we have fallen in love with is our own - to have a rich, courageous, generous, and joyful life.

The title of her book comes from Pseudo-Dionysius, an early 6th century theologian who described God as “beguiled by beauty.” The Creator was lured by a longing for beauty and so set in motion a world of immense diversity & goodness. We were made for this Divine Goodness. We were made inherently worthy, not by our “doing,” but by our simply being. All things are beautiful—not by a standard of “pretty” as seen by our eyes, but by an essence of sacred worth that is sensed by the spirit. This is the root and heart of compassion and justice. Practices of contemplation help us train our gaze to these deeper truths. In this worship series we will dwell with the God of Divine Goodness, deeply in love with us, and practice ways to return that love as we fall more deeply in love with creation and with one another.

## POTLUCK & BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - August 21st at noon

We will hold our hybrid worship (in the sanctuary and on zoom at 10am). Following worship, we will be gathering under the trees by the youth wing for a potluck and BBQ. (If you are able to bring a food item to share, please do so, but not necessary.) Robert Brown will be providing hamburgers and hotdogs to grill. If you prefer to bring your own meat, please do so.

At noon, we will offer a simplified service for the blessing of the animals. Please bring your leashed or crated pet, or a photo of your pet to be blessed. We will also offer a blessing for those pets who are no longer with us.



## Pastor's letter ~

When I was in college, I went on an overnight sailing trip out of Bellingham. It was the first time sleeping on a boat and awaking to the most glorious sunrise that filled the entire horizon and water before us with light. It might be one of the few mystical experiences I have had in my life - where I felt infused with light and love, and felt a sense of love and connection and compassion for all around me.

Three years ago, Angie and I embarked on a whirlwind trip of National Parks in Utah & Colorado - from Arches, to Canyonlands to Mesa Verde to the golden aspens and mountain peaks driving to Telluride, to Capitol Reef. I became more deeply aware of the beauty of that land and a deeper sense of connection to the divine, to the earth, to all created beings. A sense of being totally alive, noticing beauty all around me. One morning we woke up at 3am to wait for sunrise at Arches National Park. As night shifted to dawn, I had the overwhelming sense of being so small in the vastness of the universe that I forgot about myself, with an overwhelming sense of gratefulness.

During these last weeks of summer, we will be entering into a worship series based on a book called *Beguiled by Beauty*, written by Dr. Wendy Farley, who has taught as a professor of theological studies at Emory University, the Graduate Theological Union, and University of Redlands. I had the privilege of meeting Wendy in the fall of 2019 when she led a retreat on Orcas Island for Tacoma area clergy. It was a few months before the pandemic started and before she published this book in 2020, It was on that retreat that I realized - Beauty is not a luxury; beauty is a necessity to life.

"Beguiled by beauty" is a phrase Dr. Farley borrowed from the writings of a 6th century monk, known as Pseudo-Dionysius. He wrote: *"Divine goodness fell in love with creation and so was compelled to bring it into being."* He believed that the beauty of creation beguiled God; God fell in love with the cosmos, was charmed by all life's interrelatedness, and held deep affection for all beings. On our retreat on Orcas Island almost 3 years ago, Wendy said "Beauty is the pathway to forget ourselves." I found that concept so freeing. The ancient world thought about beauty as being that which distracts us from our ego-preoccupation. Beauty entices us so that something other than our own minds, our sufferings, our anxiety gets our attention. It gets us outside of ourselves and we enter into blissful self-forgetfulness. It's not that our specific needs or worries cease to exist, but they fade into the background, and the world becomes real and beautiful to us. Beauty is a threshold into the Divine way of seeing and can bring healing into our fragmented, anxious lives.

A few nights ago, Angie picked up some ravioli with ricotta and Romano cheese from Trader Joe's. At one point, she said it was Pepe Cacio Raviolia - with infused pepper in it. In the very next bite, I said, "Wow! You can taste the pepper in it!" I was oblivious to all the varied nuances of taste in what I was eating. Once she said something, it brought my attention, awareness and appreciation to the meal. Sometimes we need to be invited to notice in order to be aware of the beauty around us. It is easy to stop noticing with intention, to be lulled into complacency of the beauty of the earth, of divine goodness. Mary Oliver - nature mystic, and praise poet - grew up with an abusive father and a neglectful mother. Mary said she barely escaped her troubled childhood if not for the beauty of nature that saved her. Every morning she would go into the woods at 5am as a daily discipline. She carried a notebook and would write while she walked. This poem, *"The Other Kingdoms,"* was written after one of those early morning walks.

*Consider the other kingdoms.*

*The trees, for example, with their mellow-sounding titles: oak, aspen, willow.*

*Or the creatures, with their thick fur, their shy and wordless gaze.*

*Their infallible sense of what their lives are meant to be.*

*Thus the world grows rich, grows wild,*

*and you, too, grow rich, grow sweetly wild, as you too were born to be.*

Like Mary Oliver, nature can take us to another kingdom where we grow rich and grow sweetly wild as we were born to be. The gospels portray Jesus regularly retreating to the wilderness for prayer and restoration, in the midst of so much injustice in his 1st century world.

I invite you over the next month on a journey of contemplation to behold divine beauty all around us. May we drink from a deeper well, and may our lives become open and attuned to divine beauty and immersed in everyday joy, sorrow, delight, suffering, and routine.

## President's letter ~

Friends,

Although the Board is taking a well-earned break in August, there are plenty of things going on despite so much hot weather. A broken link on our website has been repaired. I've authorized a survey of board members to see how we can improve our work. Thank you, Nancy Tam Davis and VP Vicki Diamond for a lot of effort on this, and more.

As a Board, we created a position statement against gun violence and for gun legislation. You will see it later in this newsletter. Because this represents all of us, board and pastor and membership, we are asking for your input this month. Please write to me with your comments at [tanyatalk411@gmail.com](mailto:tanyatalk411@gmail.com). I will present your comments for careful consideration at the September Board meeting.

United Methodist District Superintendent Derek Nakano recently directed all local churches to review their Safe Church policies. As requested, the Board will be reviewing our church security and safety processes. While people who work directly with children must take the annual Safe Church training, do the rest of us know what something suspicious looks like? And what about something odd that doesn't have to do with children? When do we speak up? And to whom? The Board is considering these important questions this fall. As they say in Britain, "See it. Say it. Sorted." The chances are very small of anything happening, but we live in a society of hate crimes, vandals, and pedophiles, unfortunately, so if you feel anything is "off," if it raises your antennae for concern in any way, the best thing to do is pass it on, so we can "sort" it. For now, please, tell Pastor Cathy, Vicki Diamond, or me if something concerns you.

Enjoy the blessings of summer,

Tanya Sorenson, Board President



*Friends, this is the position statement on gun violence and legislation that our Board proposes we adopt. Many thanks to Marilyn Thompson for so much work on this. Your voice is important. Would you send me your comments? [Tanytalk411@gmail.com](mailto:Tanytalk411@gmail.com).*

*Thank you, Tanya Sorenson, your Board President*

### **United Church in University Place**

#### **Statement on Gun Violence**

We, the members of United Church in University Place, stand with the United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ in condemning all acts of gun violence and grieving the loss of life. We also stand in solidarity with the Faith Action Network and the Alliance for Gun Responsibility and applaud the gun legislation passed in the State of Washington in 2022, including restrictions on high-capacity magazines (SB 5078), restrictions on weapons in certain locations, such as school board meetings and election facilities (HB 1630), and closure of the ghost gun loophole (HB 1705). We commit to continued advocacy for common-sense gun laws, including the following:

- Mandatory background checks for all gun sales, including gun shows and private sales
- The prohibition of further sales of military-style assault (e.g. AR-15-style) rifles
- The prohibition of high-capacity magazines
- The extension of waiting periods to all firearm sales
- The implementation of red-flag laws
- The expansion of mental healthcare as a guaranteed right and coverage to all persons



# CELEBRATING OUR NONAGENARIANS

On Sunday, July 17th, following worship, we celebrated seven of our nonagenarians who have for so long helped to build, maintain, and faithfully serve this church.—Joyce, Ruth, Kathy, Neil, Joan, Lou & Margie We gathered west of the church under the trees near the Youth Wing to share food, cake, wisdom, laughter and joy with friends and family.

Here we are celebrating these very special people! Many thanks to Pamela, Janet & Nancy for event planning and Addy Harding for the delicious cupcakes. Check out additional photos on the bulletin board next to the offices.





# Joys & Concerns

By Joyce Demarest

Prayers for those who have lost family and friends to cancer. May new treatments come soon for cures and treatments for quality of life. Also prayers for those who continue to battle Covid.

We enjoy the Blessings of celebrating those in our midst who have celebrated their 90th birthdays. We are enriched by their knowledge and their service and what they show our younger generation as an example of real faithfulness.

We offer prayers for our friends at Frank Tobey Jones. Keep them safe and healthy.

We offer prayers of blessings for the continuing work of those who make it possible to have our beautiful services on Zoom and other platforms for those of us who find it impossible to attend. Thank you for your leadership, Pastor Cathy.

We offer prayers for those who have lost their lives to the violence of guns. May those in position of leadership find some answers. Also prayers for the end of the war in Ukraine.



## August Birthdays

3- Laura Balcom

4- Dave Higby

Stuart Lane

7- JoAn Walston

10 - Cathi Cline

25 - Pat Rudolph

29 - Pamela Maddess







## Walk - Sharing the Journey

Paul Koppe—Discovery Park in Tehaleh

Please join us for our monthly walk on Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. We will gather at Discovery Park in Tehaleh, near Bonney Lake. The entrance

to the park is across the street from the entrance to Wesley at Tehaleh. The Wesley sign is easier to see than the park sign.

We will meet in the parking lot regardless of the weather. The path is paved and includes areas of shade and sunshine. We can go as far or near as interests and ability permit. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Bring a water bottle.

From Bonney Lake, head South on 198<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. Turn onto Cascadia Blvd at the roundabout. Pass through two more roundabouts, staying on Cascadia Blvd. The park is at the bottom of a hill and is across Cascadia Blvd from Wesley at Tehaleh. The address for Wesley is: 17702 Cascadia Blvd E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391.

If you have any questions, please call Paul at 253-439-0687 .



## Online Donation Upgrade

We are pleased to announce that the church website, [www.ucup.org](http://www.ucup.org), has been fixed to once again allow online giving, using VANCO's new secure donation system for one-time donations.

Unfortunately, due to a change by our provider, online donations were receiving an error when making a one-time donation. Recurring donations continued to work properly. As a reminder, we gladly accept donations during in person worship, by mailing to the church office, and by using the bill pay systems offered by most banks.

In addition, you may use the church website, [www.ucup.org](http://www.ucup.org) and click the giving option, then clicking the online giving option. This will take you to the new secure VANCO website where you may make donations using your checking account or credit or debit card. VANCO does charge a small fee, paid by the church, for using their online service. We gladly accept donations using any of these options.

Thank you for your support and for your patience while we corrected the problem with online giving.



### **Worship Service July 3rd, 2022** **Celebrating the Spirituality of Native American & Indigenous Peoples**

Thank you, Judy Thierry, for sharing these Indigenous items, prints, pottery, baskets, posters from the southwest, east, pacific northwest, and Alaska during our July 3rd service.





## Stuart Lane Invites YOU to Tacoma Concert Band "Concerts in the Park"

Friday August 19, Frank Toby Jones 6pm  
Saturday August 20, Anderson Island 5 pm  
Sunday August 21, Stadium HS Courtyard 3 pm  
Monday August 22, Dupont Clock Tower Park 6 pm

Attendees are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

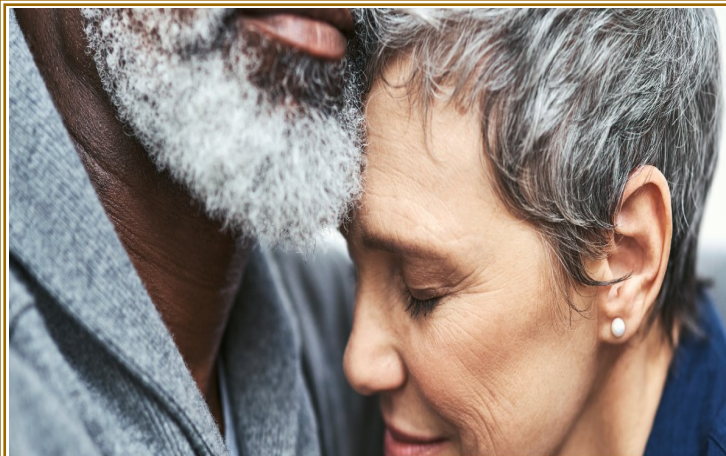
Concerts are about one hour in length.

Children are welcome.

If the weather shows a good possibility of rain on a particular day,  
the concert will be canceled. The program is the same for all events.



**All concerts are free**



There is hope.



If you or someone you know needs support now,  
call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE

**If you or someone you know is struggling  
or needs support now,  
call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org  
You are not alone.**

alzheimer's association



### UNIVERSITY PLACE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Caring for someone with memory loss? Do you need information and support? Alzheimer's Association family caregiver support groups provide a consistent and caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support from others who are also on a unique journey of providing care to a person with memory loss. Meetings are held 1st Tuesday of the month, from 1:00-2:30 pm, at United Church of University Place, 3912 Grandview Dr. W, University Place, WA 98466. For information call Karen Hyde at (360) 819-3642.

### Church Contact

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### Church Employees

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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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University Place, WA.  
98466  
253-564-2754  
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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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