



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



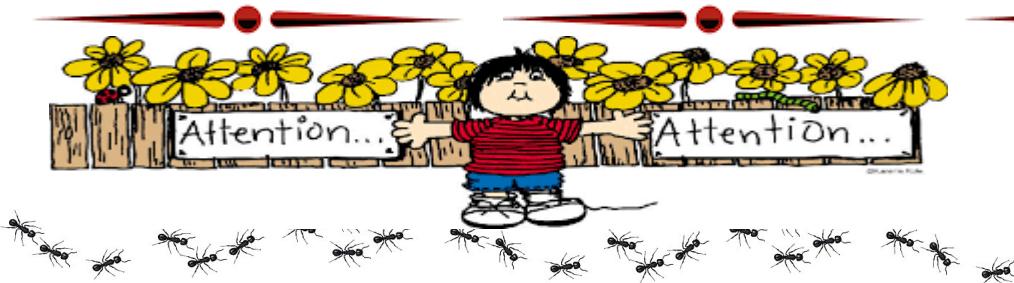
"Finding Your Way in the World Using the Art of Discernment"



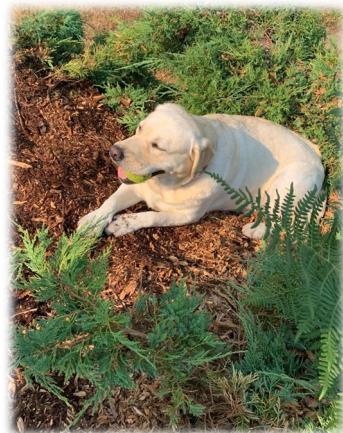
Discernment course on **Wednesday nights**
October 5th - November 9th, 6:30-8pm on zoom.

Join us as we engage in spiritual contemplative exercises and as we become grounded in discernment for our own personal lives and in our communal lives as a faith community at UCUP. You will have access to training videos by Rev. Beth Estock.

Rev. Angie Wolle will be facilitating our sessions for us. Please sign up at church, or by emailing the church.



(All God's critters got a place in the choir)



POTLUCK & BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

September 11 at 11:30am

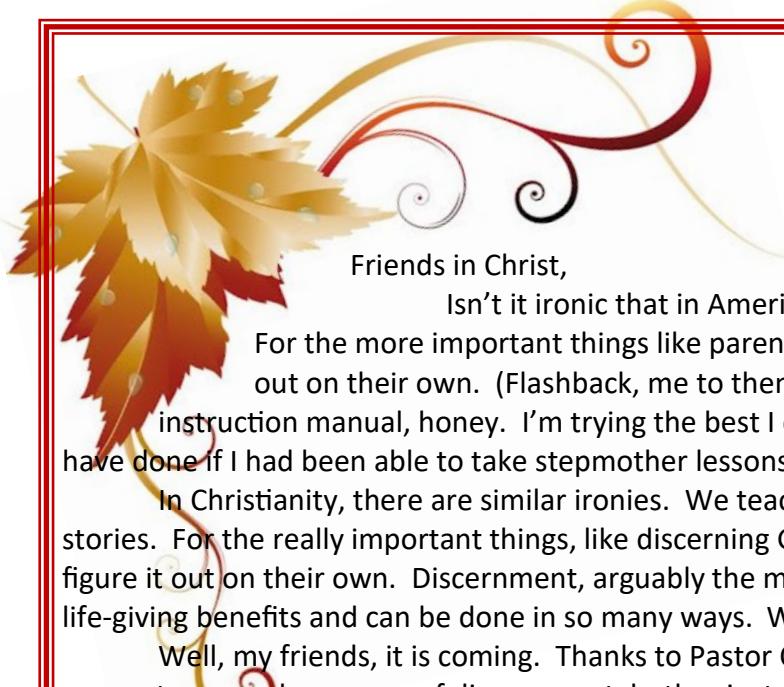
We will hold our hybrid worship (in the sanctuary and on zoom at 10am). Following worship, we will gather under the trees by the youth wing for a potluck and BBQ. (If you are able to bring a food item to share, please do so, but not necessary.)

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.





President's letter ~

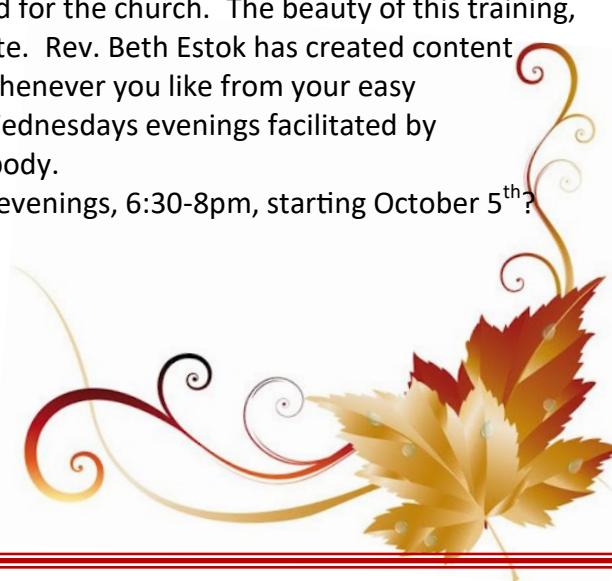
Friends in Christ,

Isn't it ironic that in America it takes lessons and a license to drive a car. For the more important things like parenting, though, we mostly expect that people figure it out on their own. (Flashback, me to then 12-year-old Janelle: "You didn't come with an instruction manual, honey. I'm trying the best I can!") Can you imagine how much better I might have done if I had been able to take stepmother lessons? I can.

In Christianity, there are similar ironies. We teach our children to memorize Bible verses and stories. For the really important things, like discerning God's will in our lives? We mostly expect people to figure it out on their own. Discernment, arguably the most important facet of Christian life, offers so many life-giving benefits and can be done in so many ways. Where is the training?

Well, my friends, it is coming. Thanks to Pastor Cathy's connections, we are having an all-church course to expand our ways of discernment, both privately and for the church. The beauty of this training, six weeks in October/November, is how easy it is to participate. Rev. Beth Estok has created content videos to train us. You will have access to watch the videos whenever you like from your easy chair as soon as you sign up. We will have Zoom classes on Wednesdays evenings facilitated by Rev. Angie Wolle. Spoiler alert: it's got something for everybody.

Will you please mark your calendars for Wednesdays evenings, 6:30-8pm, starting October 5th? This is so important. I hope I'll see you there.



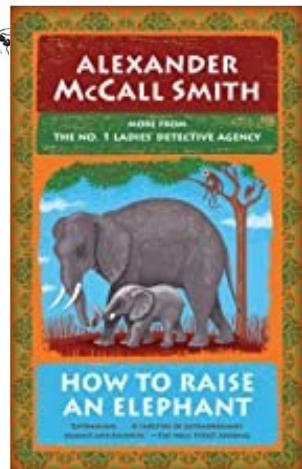
Blessings,

Tanya Sorenson
President of the Board



Book Club Opportunity

"How to Raise an Elephant" by Alistair McCall Smith, #21 in the Mma Ramotswe "No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" series. We will collect ourselves at a mutual zoom time for one hour in mid to late September. Let us know if you are interested? Do you have a book you would like to read? Contact Judy Thierry at jthierry84@gmail.com (240)-994-8572 and/ or Leslie Knight at revlaknight@gmail.com (253) 565-1766.



Pastor's letter ~

The Cider Squeeze in the Curran Apple Orchard last Sunday reminded me of my anniversary of coming to UCUP eight years ago. My very first Sunday on September 7, 2014, the church parking lot was full to overflowing - not for worship, but for the Cider Squeeze. It's astonishing to realize that almost 33% of my time serving as the pastor at UCUP has been during the pandemic. It took a year and a half of meeting solely on zoom for worship during the pandemic, waiting for a vaccination to become available, before taking our first tentative steps to re-open our sanctuary for worship on a very limited basis last September. Today, we have settled into a hybrid model for worship, with about half of our members worshiping on-line (via zoom or other social media) and half in person in the sanctuary. It is a testament to the depth of relationships within this congregation, and a miracle of modern-technology that God has held us together as a faith community.

But we are not the same - either in our personal lives or our communal lives as a congregation. One of the questions that keeps coming up for me is "Who are We Now? Where is God leading us? How is God calling us to love and serve?" These are communal questions for our congregation, but there are also personal questions of discernment for our own lives? We are always making decisions in our lives - whether it is low-level decisions of what to eat for breakfast or what movie series to binge-watch to more impactful decisions like discerning a life path or health decisions or where to live.

Tanya Sorenson, UCUP's Board President, and I, would like to invite the whole congregation into a journey of discernment - both personally and communally as a congregation. During this Discernment course, we will be answering some of these significant questions:

- How do you know you are on the right path?
- How do you know you are making good decisions?
- What is the life that longs to be lived through you?

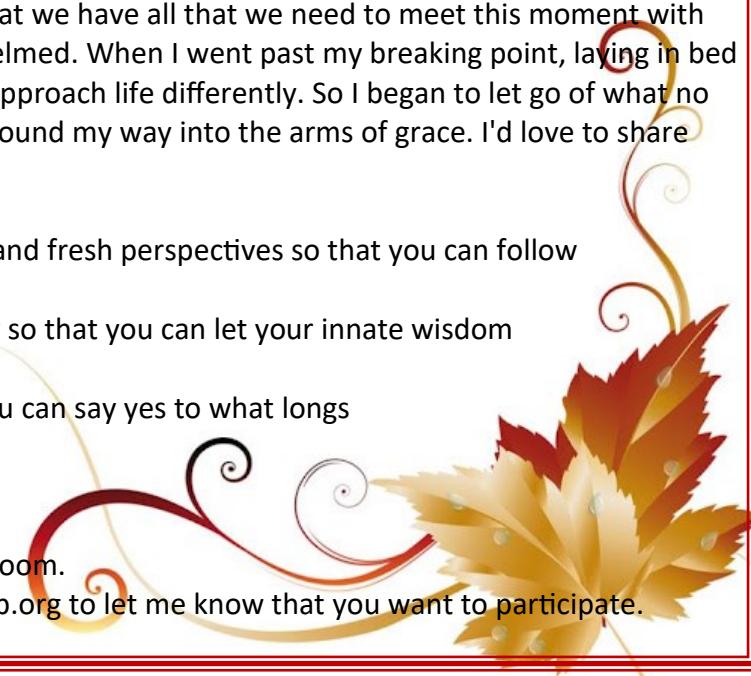
The course will be facilitated by Rev. Angie Wolle, and will be based on the work of Rev. Beth Estock, United Methodist Clergy and a master certified integral coach. Rev. Estock wrote a book on Discernment in 2019 and created an on-line course earlier this year called *"Finding Your Way in the World Using the Art of Discernment"*. She writes:

"When discernment becomes a part of our life practice, we engage our world with grounded confidence. We can listen to our internal wisdom and move into right action instead of reaction. We spend a lot less time worrying and a lot more time trusting that we have all that we need to meet this moment with grace. I know what it is like to feel stuck and overwhelmed. When I went past my breaking point, laying in bed with broken bones not able to walk, I knew I had to approach life differently. So I began to let go of what no longer served me. Through the gift of discernment I found my way into the arms of grace. I'd love to share with you what I have learned along the way."

- How to open your mind to new ways of thinking and fresh perspectives so that you can follow the synergies that emerge.
- How to listen to your heart's desire with curiosity so that you can let your innate wisdom guide you.
- How to let go of what no longer serves so that you can say yes to what longs to spring forth.

Please prayerfully consider joining us on Wednesday evenings, October 5th-November 9th, 6:30-8pm on zoom.

Please sign up at church, or email me at pastor@ucup.org to let me know that you want to participate.



Joys & Concerns



other and to see the beauty around us and in each other.

Prayers for those in our church family who have friends and family who are seriously ill. May they be able to be close to them to give them comfort. Prayers for those who have lost family or close friends. May God be close and comfort them.

Faith Action Network's Annual Dinner

Sunday November 20, 2022.

More information will be shared in the months ahead. We are planning for a hybrid celebration, with in-person opportunities as well as options to view remotely.

SAVE THE DATE

FAN ANNUAL DINNER

SUNDAY EVENING | NOVEMBER 20



September Birthdays

- 2 Robert Brown
- Chuck Shilling
- 7 Diane Small
- 8 Vic Bodie
- 13 Liz Gregg
- Judy Thierry
- 14 Ellen Dvis
- 19 Jenny Hartley
- 21 Doris Larsen
- Kris Schrantz
- 22 Marilyn Thompson
- 24 Roger Bolcom



OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday
1:00-3:00pm

Thursday
9:00am—1:00pm

Friday
9:00am—1:00pm





Peace & Justice

Thank you UCUP!



Donations of school supplies to Catholic Community Service's Family Housing Network have been delivered!

Pens, pencils, glue, markers, college and wide ruled paper, 2.5" and 3" binders are all ready to be assembled to support young learners during elementary, middle and high school.

Thank you to Kay Shaben who ordered several hefty boxes of paper and binders.



With about 116 days until Christmas—Christmas gift cards will be our next endeavor with Family Housing Network.



Walk - Sharing the Journey

NEXT UP: Swan Creek Park in Tacoma
Tuesday Sept. 13th - 9:30am

Walk a beautiful, wooded trail next to the creek. The trail is uneven ground that could be muddy in places. Dogs on leash welcome. No bathroom. We will do 2 of the 5 miles. Take 72nd street east to Waller road. Turn left at the light onto Waller. Turn left at the light at Pioneer and the parking lot is immediately on the left. Let Rosemary Jones know if you're coming. 253-209-4743.



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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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