



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.



Every child matters.

Orange Shirt Day  
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation  
September 30



## World Communion Sunday

On October 2nd, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. We will also be in solidarity with Canadians in remembering The **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** also known as **Orange Shirt Day** (read story on p.4) .Wear an orange shirt to worship.

Each year we receive a special World Communion Sunday offering that will be split between our two denominations: The United Methodist Church and The United Church of Christ.

**Neighbors in Need** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States to support the Council for American Indian Ministry the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

In **The United Methodist Church**, this offering helps students from around the world reach their full potential through scholarships, training and mentoring. Half goes to scholarships for ethnic minorities in the United States; half goes to the Central Conferences outside the United States to be used for educational purposes.



## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - November 6, 2022

On Sunday, Nov. 6th, we will celebrate All Saints' Day in our worship service. We remember those who came before us in the faith. We celebrate their lives, and remember that we are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses". During the service, we will read aloud the names of all church and family members who have passed away since last All Saints' Day.

If you would like a loved one's name included in the service, please let Jenny, our office administrator, know by November 1st. During the service, there will be time for you to speak aloud the name of anyone who has impacted your faith, and also light a candle in their memory.



## "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. Rev. Angie Wolle will be facilitating our sessions for us.

Please sign up at church, or by emailing the church.



## President's letter ~

Friends in Christ,

Happy October! Hard to believe summer has ended with so much sunshine in September.

The Church has many things going on, so I'll touch on just a few. **Our Nominating Committee** is busy finding volunteers for leadership positions for our Board and our church for next year. Can you step up to fill an open position? If you are interested in volunteering, please don't hesitate to contact Vicki Diamond, Pamela Maddess, Pastor Cathy, Roger Martin, or me to talk. Don't see yourself as a leader? We need people on our committees, too. And if you're asked, please "discern" to see if there's a way to say, "Yes!"

**The Discernment Class** starts this Wednesday. The materials are amazing—what I've seen so far—I love anything Rev. Angie Wolle facilitates, and we'll all be together. I look forward to seeing everyone there. Finding new ways to hear from God—how exciting is that!

**The Stewardship campaign** is kicking off this month. Just for the record, I did not ask Joe Becker (my husband), who graciously agreed to chair it. He and Janet Wicks are an amazing team. (If you missed it, they spearheaded the SNL theme a few years ago that was so funny!) Expenses have gone up for the church, just as they have for all of us.

Thank you all for spending this time in discernment regarding your financial contributions for next year.

Warmly,

Tanya Sorenson, President of the Board



## Pastor's letter ~

*Our UCC & UMC conferences are in a time of discernment and transition. In September, Conference Minister Rev. Mike Denton finished his role of 15 years serving as the PNW UCC Conference Minister. He is now serving as pastor at South Congregational Church in Pittsfield, MA. Bishop Elaine Stanovsky will retire in December 2022, after serving six years as Bishop of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area. As you read the two articles below about the process for our transition, please be in prayer for our two denominational conferences.*

### **From Rev. Tara Leininger, Moderator Board of Directors, Pacific Northwest UCC:**

Please join me in welcoming the Reverend Dr. Courtney Stange-Tregear as our Acting Conference Minister! Courtney has served in the Pacific Northwest Conference for the past six years as Minister for Church Vitality, and previously served as Acting Conference Minister during Rev. Mike Denton's sabbatical. She has been the staff support for the PNC Stewardship Committee and the PNC Church Development Committee. She has led retreats and annual meetings, created the weekly moderator's group to support local church leadership during the pandemic, and so much more. Courtney was instrumental in the PNC's participation in "Giving Tuesday," a national day of giving fundraising event, for which our conference received national recognition.

I appreciate her keen listening, her grounded presence, and her skills as a creative problem-solver as she has supported the PNC board and our strategy team. She is a gifted preacher and a passionate, spirit-filled, theologically-grounded minister. Under her leadership the vitality ministry has led the conference priority of deepening relationships and has increased our capacity to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Courtney is a member of the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Found board of directors, the Antoinette Brown Society leadership, and is a founding member and chair of the Associate Conference Minister's alliance. Courtney has a BA from St. John's College, a Masters of Arts from the University of Leeds, a Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry from Bexley Seabury Seminary at the University of Chicago.

Our conference is a covenant between each of our churches, with our camps, with all our clergy, and with each of you. Just like a UCC church is led by its members, a UCC conference is led by each of you who participate. The conference staff supports the work of the conference, but it is really all of you who make the conference possible. In this time of staffing transition, I'm grateful we have someone who can step into the Acting Conference minister role who knows us and loves our conference. You can reach Courtney by email at [courtney@pncucc.org](mailto:courtney@pncucc.org).

Welcome to our Acting Conference Minister; may her journey with us be blessed!

# In Search of a Few Good Bishops

By Nancy Davis

As a Pacific Northwest Conference delegate to the Western Jurisdiction, I have been focused on our task of preparing for the election of several Bishops for this Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

A little background information. We have had five bishops for the Western Jurisdiction (the Western 1/3 of the United States including Alaska and the Pacific Islands). Given the upcoming retirements which are mandated, we will be reduced to two bishops, and perhaps only one. We, the western jurisdiction delegates have clearly stated that we cannot function with less than four, and ideally all five Bishops in place. We have 32 candidates to consider which is a daunting task for such important discernment. To add to the complexity of the task, much of our discernment is occurring online. We will meet in November in Salt Lake City for the final discernment.

## Here is a bit of what is involved.

- There are excellent candidates and a very wide diversity among them.
- The possible length of service candidates could serve vary from 5-6 years to over 30 before they reach the mandatory age of retirement.
- So far, we have heard from each candidate for 4 minutes each answering each of 4 questions. This doesn't sound like much, but it's been over 8 hours of video time.
- As the PNW delegation we can meet with key candidates for a longer question and answer time. This will involve 10 more meetings within the next two weeks.
- Then we need to confer with Ore/ID and Alaska to talk about shared criteria and values for episcopal candidates. This should narrow our list.

I was an observer at the 2016 Jurisdictional Meeting and saw the process of electing a bishop. There were 17 votes taken (this was only for one bishop). There would be prayers and moments of reflection between each vote. In between some of the ballots delegations could meet with candidates for further discussion and questions. This was the high art of discernment and it is not easy nor rushed.

Even I can become impatient with process. Had I held to the "let's get this over" mindset, I would not have heard, seen and felt the mystery of God moving among the delegates. I cannot tell you how or when it happened, but movement happened, consensus arose, and by the final vote we knew it was God's choice. And Karen Oliveto was elected. I deeply believe this will happen again in November!

## Here's what I'm looking for in a candidate

- Would this individual be able to lead in the PNW/GNW culture? The Greater Northwest is very diverse.
- Does this person have a deep and tested faith?
- Can this person embrace the changes coming to the UMC at both the local and global levels and help us find our new path?
- Can this individual listen deeply to us, all of us and draw forth our visions?
- Does this person have the leadership style, skills and experience to draw together clergy, laity, community connections and move us across our many divisions and into our future?
- Does this candidate support inclusivity at all levels and functions of the church?
- What does this candidate see as his or her priority as a bishop?

These are not in order of priority, and I may find a few more. Please pray for all of us involved in this process, November 1 – 5 in Salt Lake City.



Every child  
matters.



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National Day for Truth and Reconciliation  
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# WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

## October 2nd

From Marilyn Burwell, member, and Chris Hanson, chair,  
PNW UCC Dismantling Racism Team

Wear an orange shirt to worship in solidarity with indigenous children attending Canadian & U.S Indian Boarding Schools.

The Orange Shirt is a symbol of the harm done to the indigenous children, who were forced to attend Indian Boarding Schools. In the U.S., Orange Shirt Day was observed officially for the first time on September 30, 2021. Someday soon it is hoped that September 30<sup>th</sup> will be commemorated as the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, as it is in Canada.

The orange shirt comes from a true story about six-year-old Phyllis Webstad, a Shuswap native, who began school at St. Joseph Mission Residential School near Williams Lake, British Columbia, in 1973. To ease her fears as she boarded a bus alone, Phyllis' grandmother gave her a brand-new orange shirt. When Phyllis arrived at the school, she was stripped of her clothing, including the new orange shirt, then she was given a bath, her long hair was cut short, and she was issued a school uniform. Phyllis never saw her orange shirt again. Phyllis attended the school at Williams Lake for only one year, nevertheless, the experience contributed to low self-esteem.

She says, "that feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don't matter."

Phyllis' story is relatively mild, compared to other indigenous experiences, but her story was traumatizing. Other children, who attended boarding schools for longer periods of time, lost their native languages, their native cultures, the nurturing presence of their families and sometimes their lives. They were exposed to cold, hunger, fatal diseases, like tuberculosis, even beatings and rapes. Many children died at the residential schools. In some cases, parents were not advised of their child's death, and children were buried in unmarked graveyards on school grounds.

In the summer of 2021, and partly as a response to the over 200 graves discovered at Kamloops in Canada in June 2021, U.S. Interior Secretary, Deb Haaland, announced the creation of an Indian School Initiative to quantify the problems and to create a way for Indigenous people to heal from their boarding school experience. The US Dept of Interior released the first portion of their promised Indian Boarding School report on May 11, 2022. The findings stated: "The investigation found that from 1819 to 1969, the federal Indian boarding school system consisted of 408 federal schools across 37 states, or then territories, including 21 schools in Alaska and 7 schools in Hawaii." In addition, approximately 53 burial sites were identified. The federal investigation will continue, and the number of burial sites is expected to increase.

The May 2022 report also announced the launch of "The Road to Healing." "This year-long tour will include travel across the country to allow American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian survivors of the federal Indian boarding school system the opportunity to share their stories, to help connect communities with trauma-informed support, and to facilitate collection of a permanent oral history." In this way oral histories can be collected before all survivors pass away.

The May 2022 report lists 14 federal Indian Boarding Schools in Washington state at these locations: **Oakville, Kettle Falls, Tacoma, White Swan, Davenport, Neah Bay, Squaxin Island, Taholah, Olympia, Federal Way, Omak, Tonasket, Tulalip Bay (Priest's Point)**. Many people in the U.S. have no knowledge of the Indian Boarding School era. It's time for this history to become broadly known, to listen to the indigenous accounts, to make apologies and to allow for healing. What better place to seek truth and reconciliation than through our churches?



# Halloween Candy Needed!!

Saturday, October 29th, from 1pm to 4pm the parking lot of Tacoma Community House in the Hilltop area of Tacoma will be filled with goblins, witches, lions, tigers, cowboys and cowgirl girls scooping up candy from cars parked around the perimeter.

It's the Annual Halloween Trunk and Treat event for the neighborhood. It has become an annual event since the new TCH building was completed three years ago. Over 600 kids and parents are expected to wander from car to car scooping up goodies. TCH will have a table of treats, the library will be giving out free books, and the Pierce County Health Department will be handing out toothbrushes! (Over 300 were given out in 2021!)

Last year UCUP members helped TCH with the candy distribution by donating bags and bags of bite-size wrapped candy. Candy left at the church will be gathered up by Kay Shaben who will take it to TCH on Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, wearing her bee costume. Want to help?

Call Kay 253-564-2536. Thank you for supporting this outreach program of TCH, a Hilltop fixture established by the United Methodist Women organization to assist immigrants in 1910.



## 2022 Blessing of the Animals



Sunday  
September 11, 2022



Photos by  
Nancy Moffett



# Celebrations...Walks...and Signs!



## Faith Action Network's Annual Dinner Sunday November 20, 2022.

Faith Action Network 2022 Annual Dinner — Sunday, November 20  
(in-person at Renton Pavilion & Spokane Thrive Center, and online)  
Social Hour begins at 4:30 PM, Dinner and Program at 5:30 PM

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FAN ANNUAL DINNER**  
**SUNDAY EVENING | NOVEMBER 20**

Please Contact Robert @ [larkbrown@comcast.net](mailto:larkbrown@comcast.net) for additional information.



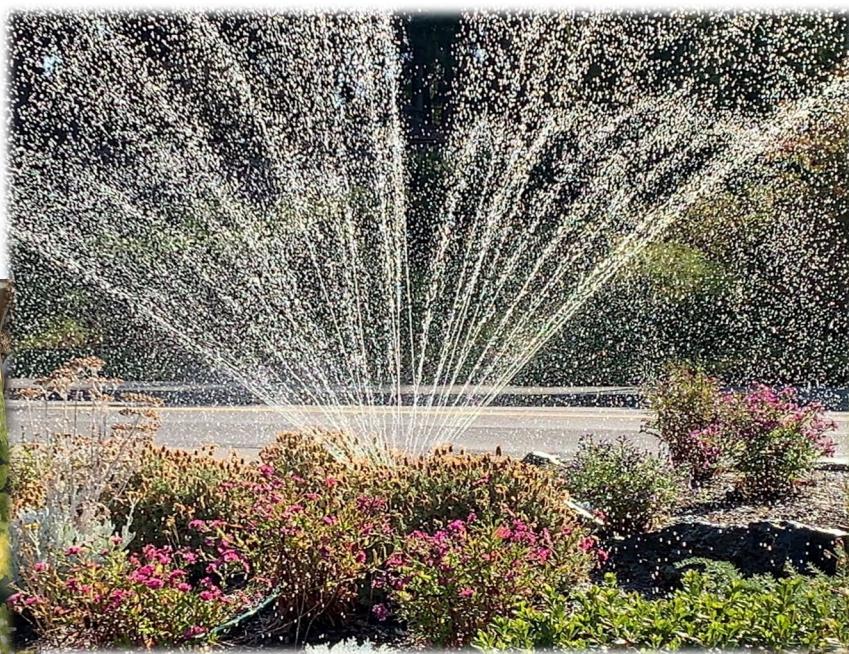
## Walk - Sharing the Journey

NEXT UP: We will be taking a brief winter weather break from our monthly walks. If you are interested in meeting for a stroll after church services or have any other winter walk ideas, please send an email to Pamela, Rosemary or Dorothy.



## Holy Grounds Stewardship

Seeking interested gardeners for horticultural work and play at the church  
Please contact Judy Thierry



# Joys & Concerns

Our sympathy to Laura Balcom and her family on the loss of her mother. Please keep them in your prayers. Dorothy McCuistion's nephew Rich is hospitalized with an infection following surgery and Dorothy's husband John is recovering from COVID. Norma Rader is undergoing cardiac tests and Kathleen Kenna's sister has been recently diagnosed with a heart condition. Prayers that Cindi Bodie and the boys will be reunited and give prayers of thanks that Cathi Clines tests came back negative.

Give thanks for the life of The Rev. Rodney Case 3/10/35 – 7/14/22. Rod and his late wife, Annick, were with United Church in the 80s and 90s, sometimes giving the Sunday message. Before retiring Rod served for a number of years as Tacoma General Hospital's chaplain.

Dogs 12, cats 0, humans 26, that was my count of attendance at the Blessing of the Animals. A good time was had by all, except maybe some of the dogs that had to stay in their cars. Thank-you to all that worked to put the picnic together, especially Robert Brown and Jim Fohrman for grilling the hot dogs and hamburgers.

On Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> Bob Rudolph joined the Autism Walk in Seattle to help bring awareness to Autism – for their 2 1/2 years old grandson. THANKS BOB!

THANK YOU to Joe Becker and Don Thompson for sharing their pictures on the walls of the UCUP sanctuary for the past 3 years – we can't wait to see what's going up in their place.

SOMEONE (initials JD) made a mistake on the September birthdays, Vic Bodie's birthday is December 9th, not September 9th - Sorry!

If you're going on the Tacoma Studio Tour, October 15 & 16, check out #1 on the tour, Dorothy McCuistion's printmaking, book art and John's ceramics.

Kids (and teachers) are back in the classroom. How about bringing a jar of peanut butter for the food bank?!

- 6 Norma Rader
- 8 Peter Burhop
- 10 Sophia (11)
- 11 Lahara Beesley
- 12 Rosa Beth Gibson
- 13 Hank Thierry
- 15 Ron Wicks
- 18 Meredith Sage
- 21 Kathleen Kenna
- 25 Angie Wolle
- 27 Tom Milligan
- 31 Blanche Beesley

October Birthdays



## Peace & Justice

With about 85 days until Christmas—Christmas gift cards will be our next endeavor with Family Housing Network.



**988** If you or someone you know is in crisis, you can call or text 988 or visit [988lifeline.org/chat](http://988lifeline.org/chat) to chat with a counselor from the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, previously known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free, and confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress anywhere in the U.S.

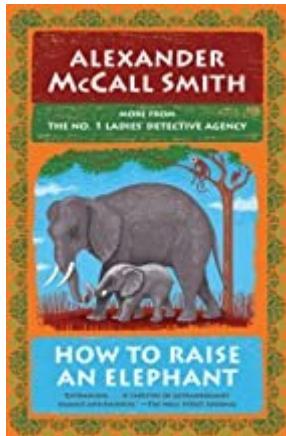
# Associated Ministries

## November 3: Lead the Way Home Breakfast

AM's annual **Lead the Way Home** breakfast is a great opportunity to be inspired by the difference we are making together every day in the lives of vulnerable families and individuals... and this year we are returning to an **IN PERSON** event! [Click this link](#) to register for this free and inspiring gathering, and invite members of your congregation to join you! Please join us on Thursday, Nov. 3, 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the McGavick Center at Clover Park Technical College, 4500 Steilacoom Blvd., Lakewood.

## November 22: 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Celebration of Gratitude

Please join us as we come together as people of faith during the season of Thanksgiving. AM's annual **Interfaith Celebration of Gratitude** is one of the most inspiring and unique gatherings in our local faith community; this year it will once again be held **IN PERSON** on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 7:00 pm and hosted by Mason United Methodist Church, 2710 N. Mason St., Tacoma. For decades this annual service has brought together people of many faith traditions to be inspired by being together in grateful community. A fellowship time will follow the service. For more information email Sandy Windley at [sandyw@associatedministries.org](mailto:sandyw@associatedministries.org). Information and programs from previous years' gatherings can be found [here](#).



## "DON'T FORGET" 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 Octpber.

Let us know if you are interested? Do you have a book you would like to read?  
[jthierry84@gmail.com](mailto:jthierry84@gmail.com) (240)-994-8572 and/ or [revlaknight@gmail.com](mailto:revlaknight@gmail.com) (253) 565-1766



Our 40+ years "downstairs" friends started their 2022/2023 preschool year in September. The little ones are enjoying the use of our Sunday School space and working hard discovering and learning how to play with others.



### Church Contact

(253) 564-2754

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[pastor@ucup.org](mailto:pastor@ucup.org)

[www.ucup.org](http://www.ucup.org)

### Church Employees

Rev. Cathlynn Law

Music Director: Jeff Andersen

Worship Assistant: Addy Harding

Office Admin: Jenny Huntsman

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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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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



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