



**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



2023

Lenten Theme - "SEEKING"

Many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. This Lent, we will follow the lectionary, exploring stories of Jesus encountering people who are also asking questions of faith and seeking spiritual answers: Nicodemus comes to him in the veil of night, he approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. In these interactions, an unveiling often occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

(Worship materials come to us from A Sanctified Art)

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple.

The questions we ask of our spiritual lives won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. They may lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

There will be a Lenten Devotional that follows the Lenten theme: Seeking. The devotional will be available both online or you can pick up a paper copy at the church.

*Join us this Lent as we engage in the spiritual practice of seeking— by asking: What am I seeking?
What is God seeking?*



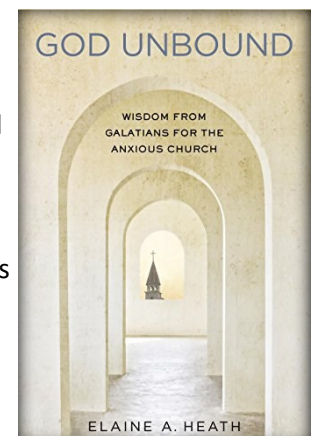
ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP - February 22nd, 7pm

We begin the journey of Lent marked with ashes, the sign of our mortality. In remembering that we will die, we are called to remember God who is the source of our life. The season of Lent invites us into wilderness places where we remember what is most essential to us.



LENTEN STUDY - WEDNESDAY NIGHTS - March 1st-29th, 7-8pm.

God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church by Elaine Heath Today Christianity is undergoing a cultural shift just as challenging as the situation confronting Paul and the Galatians. The power of the early church is that they believed God would do more than they could understand or imagine. This opened them to a holy boldness. Just as Paul led the Galatians through a radical cultural change to expand their view of God, themselves, and the church's mission, Christians are challenged to do the same today. Elaine Heath urges the church to boldly follow the Holy Spirit's leadership beyond buildings and programs to join what Jesus is doing in the world. Heath offers practical advice and hope for how the church can move through anxiety to courageous, culturally sensitive, and Spirit-led engagement in our rapidly changing world. Rev. Angie Wolle will be facilitating this study. (Purchase book for \$10 from Upper Room or Amazon; ebook \$8).



President's letter ~

Greetings from your incoming
2023 UCUP President Judy Thierry

"We are hinged."

Hinge *noun* : a movable joint or mechanism on which a door, gate, or lid swings as it opens and closes or which connects linked objects.

I took this photo in North Tacoma while on a walk with my five month old grandson Emerich. The pictured gate and hinge is rustic, quaint and still functional but the gate door it is trying to connect seems a little under used and undermaintained. Note the shrubs twining around the post and blackberry peeking over the top of the gate. The hinge itself looks stable and there are two more below. Much like our relationships that surround us, hinges connect, link and allow for movement. Whether by zoom, on the phone, words in a letter, with the passing by of a stranger at a store entrance, in greeting an acquaintance or in a deep friendship or with a family member we live with – we are hinged. Hinge the **verb** has synonyms of to turn, to ride, to hang and to depend. Emerich would agree. Consider the hinges in your life, the valentines and the treasured relationships to explore in our church community and beyond.

As a quick reminder, the State of Washington has alternating "long sessions" and "short sessions" each biennium. This year is a long session (105 days). So, when the budget for the next biennium will be written . . . it is NOW! There are budget items and many bills of interest to [Faith Action Network](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/). Pick your interest area and likely there will be a bill with the option to vote "pro" or "con" and to comment if you like or to testify in person or virtually if you feel so inclined. Go to: <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/> The screen shot below shows you where the link will take you. UCUP's Peace and Justice committee shares specific bills that are *in committee*, up for a hearing and/or awaiting public comment. Exercising your right and privilege is really less than 6 clicks away. Search, select, vote, comment, and submit – it's that easy. Thursday, February 9th many persons of faith gathered in Olympia to worship and then went to the Hill to meet with their individual legislators.

In Faith,

Judy Thierry, UCUP Board President.
240-994-8572 jthierry84@gmail.com



Annual meeting with District Superintendent Derek Nakano, and new President of the Congregation, Judy Thierry 01.22.23



Pastor's letter ~

Dear beloved ones of United Church in University Place,

Over the last 8 1/2 years, I have been honored and privileged to serve as your pastor - being re-appointed year after year at Annual Conference to return as your pastor. This year is different. Most of you have received the news that I will be leaving United Church in University Place at the end of June to be appointed

to serve Mill Creek: Cedar Cross United Methodist Church starting July 1st. In the United Methodist Church, clergy make a covenant to go and serve wherever their bishops send them. Clergy appointments are for one year at a time. Each January, the cabinet begins the process of appointment making. The goal is to match the gifts and graces of the particular pastor with the ministry needs of a particular congregation.

I have been appointed to four churches in almost 21 years of pastoral service, and have become deeply attached to the people in each congregation. Saying good-bye is always difficult and full of grief. And I acknowledge the complexity of being faithful to the United Methodist itinerant system, of being called to serve in a new way, in a different setting.

We have five months to continue the work of ministry together - the longest I have ever had with a congregation. Let us use the time well, to be in ministry together, worshiping and serving, laughing and grieving, singing and praying. A call for me to move is also a call for a new pastor to serve in this beautiful

setting, bringing new energy and ideas. Change is always hard AND change can be good.

Thank you for all the love and support you have given to me and to Angie over these past 8 1/2 years. We are so grateful for each of you.

On the next page you will find the letter from our District Superintendent Derek Nakano announcing the appointment change, and the process in UCUP's Constitution for selecting the next pastor. Please hold Dr. Judy Thierry, President of the Board and Congregation in your prayers as she puts together a Search Committee to select the next pastor who will serve at UCUP, as well as Rev. Dr. Leslie Ann Knight and the Staff Parish Relations Committee, as they begin their work to select an interim pastor.

With abiding love, Pastor Cathy



Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth intends to appoint the **Rev.**

Cathlynn

(Cathy) Law as

pastor of [Cedar](#)

[Cross United](#)

[Methodist Church](#) in Mill Creek,

Washington, beginning July 1, 2023.



Rev. Law currently serves as lead pastor at United Church in University Place.

Cedar Cross UMC's current pastor, Rev.

Jim Clarke, will retire at the end of June.

February is African-American History Month

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.



**SEA-TAC MISSION FIELD
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE**

February 5, 2023

Dear members and friends of United Church in University Place.

Grace to you and peace in the name of Christ, whom we love and serve!

I am writing to share with you today that Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth intends to appoint your Pastor, the Rev. Cathlynn Law, to be the pastor of Cedar Cross United Methodist Church, in Mill Creek, Washington, beginning July 1, 2023.

I know this comes as unexpected news, but it is important to remember that in the United Methodist Church, pastors are appointed each year by a Bishop to churches and ministries, and can be appointed to another ministry setting, in response to the missional needs of a Church. As Pastor Cathy came to you in this spirit nine years ago, she is now called forth to this new ministry setting at this time and season. We believe that God is working through our appointive processes, and will continue to be at work with you, as you begin the journey of seeking a new pastor for United Church in University Place.

As you begin the transition process and near their time of leave-taking, please keep Pastor Cathy and Rev. Angie in your prayers, as they respond to God's call to this new pastoral appointment in Mill Creek. And I pray as well that in these days you will offer your deepest gratitude and thanksgiving to God, for their faithful service to United Church in University Place.

Rev. Derek Nakano

The Constitution of the United Church in University Place

Article VIII The Ministry

- The Pastor of the church shall be a clergyperson in good standing in one or the other of the two cooperating denominations.
 - In the issue of harmony and fair representation of each of the denominations, a balance shall be maintained in the call/appointment of pastors.
 1. Realizing that the selection processes of the two are not necessarily compatible, as a general rule the pulpit shall be rotated between the two denominations.
 2. When a Pastor leaves and the pulpit has been occupied by ministers of one denomination in excess of 60 percent of the time since United Church's founding (excluding the use of interim ministers), a pastor from the other denomination shall be considered.
 3. In case of a vacancy in the pastoral ministry of United Church, the selection of replacement will proceed as follows:
 4. A United Methodist minister will be appointed by the denomination's conference procedure through the Staff/Parish Relations Committee of United Church.
 5. If needed, an interim pastor shall be identified by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and presented to the Board for approval.
 6. For a UCC pastor, the President shall appoint a Pastoral Search Committee from the membership.
 - The Committee shall be representative of the membership of United Church and shall consist of a minimum of five members.
 - The Committee shall select a pastoral nominee and present the nominee to the Governing Body for acceptance.
 - The appointment of the new settled Pastor shall be by a 75% vote of a quorum.
- Should a recommendation not be accepted by the Governing Body, the Pastoral Search Committee will submit another candidate recommendation.

UCUP 2023 Annual Meeting and Charge Conference Re-Cap

The Annual Meeting and Charge Conference of United Church in University Place was held via Zoom on January 22rd, 2023 following worship. There were approximately 40+ members of the congregation in attendance.

President Tanya Sorenson welcomed all to the meeting, and extended a special welcome to UMC District Superintendent Derek Nakano. Members voted approval for the slate of new officers.

2023 Officers:

President	Judy Thierry
Vice President	Vicki Diamond
Secretary	Roger Martin
Treasurer	Don Thompson
Financial Secretary	Paul Koppe
Asst Financial Secretary	Open

Trustees:

Trustee 1 (2021-2023)	Pamela Maddess
Trustee 2 (2022-2024)	Pat Mail
Trustee 3 (2023-2025)	Nancy Davis

The current President and Past President Tanya Sorenson also serve as trustees.

UCC 2023 Annual Meeting—Finance Report

(By Don Thompson)

At the church annual meeting and charge conference we passed a 2023 Budget with total income of \$196,784 and with expenses of \$212,176 . This leaves a net deficit of \$15,392 which will be covered by savings.

The board will be looking at possible ways of increasing revenue in order to reduce the actual amount of our reserves that are spent this year.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,800	Payroll	<u>\$ 139,791</u>
Pledge & Plate	<u>\$ 187,204</u>	Office	\$ 3,281
Facilities	\$ 5,400	Facilities	\$ 32,054
E-scripts, Interest & Dividends	\$ 380	Programs	\$ 16,550
		Apportionments	\$ 20,500
	<u>\$ 196,784</u>		<u>\$212,176</u>
Net Deficit	<u>\$ (15,392)</u>		

UCC 2023 Annual Conference

The Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Meeting will be held in Bellingham WA on April 28 and 29, and closing in worship on the morning of April 30, 2023.

Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister and Vice President, Justice and Local Church Ministries, will be a special guest. The business portions of the meeting will be in person. Robert Brown and Paul Koppe are our delegates for 2023

More information including theme, agenda, accommodations and registration is coming soon!

Joys & Concerns

Our thanks go to Tanya Sorenson and the other members of UCUP's 2022-23 Board...AND to Judy Thierry and those serving with her on the Board for the current year.....THANK YOU to the Fellowship Team that served during January. They not only had a month with 5 Sundays, they provided enough for a lite lunch on the Sunday of our annual meeting and the forum on the 29th.

Nineteen of us (including those in the choir) were in the sanctuary to hear Mike Yoder, Executive Director of Associated Ministries on January 29th. After a brief Fellowship Time there was a forum, where he talked and answered questions on 'those facing homelessness'.

We ask prayers for Joe Becker and his surgeon, as he has surgery on his left hand, Thursday, the 2nd.....prayers for Cindi Bodie, looking for work and to be reunited with her boys.....the Small Family report that Jenny Hartley's health has been improving and that she may be able to go home soon – pray that that comes true.

THANK YOU, 54 items were received as a gift/celebration of United Church's 53rd birthday. Thank you to the person that brought the 54th can, putting us over the top!...and THANK YOU for the 28 boxes of dried cereal you're going to bring for the 28 days of February.



WE RAISED \$131,000!

Tacoma Community House is incredibly grateful to all of our supporters who helped us exceed our Year-End Campaign goal of \$100,000. This work does not happen without the love and support of you all. No gift is too small, when the work is this big and you all are proof of that this year.



February!



8 Neva Laurie-Berry
16 Dorothy McCuistion
21 Soren Fohrman



PEACE & JUSTICE SUPPORTS

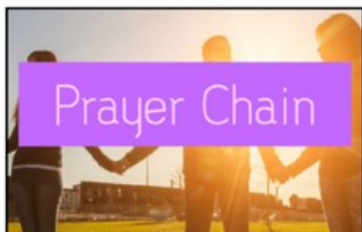
OPEN AND AFFIRMING
COALITION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



eliminating racism
empowering women **ywca**
pierce county



my sister's
food & clothing bank



Prayer Chain

PRAYER IS POWERFUL & PRAYER WORKS

If you have a little time each day to pray for our church family, their families, our State, Nation and World, and our pets, join the UCUP Prayer Chain. Just let Pat Mail know your email address and ask to be added to the prayer chain. Quick, easy and meaningful. Email to mail.pat48@gmail.com





Sunday worship January 29th with Mike Yoder, CEO for [Associated Ministries](https://associatedministries.org/) (AM) in the pulpit explored "love of neighbor" while exposing indifference. Following the service the Peace and Justice Committee hosted a 4th Sunday Forum on homelessness in Pierce County. The myths, realities and truths of homelessness were part of a question and answer time with Mike. Mental Health issues

arise and are exacerbated by being homeless. Anxiety around trying to stay safe, sleeping during the day, managing to continue to work are examples of the extraordinary human experience required to survive in this crisis, a crisis wrought by insufficient low income housing, undermanagement of rent control and a severe deficit in behavioral health services (the worst in the nation). AM is part of a network to provide consistent triage, coordinated assessment and re-housing of people after they become homeless. A question about upstream solutions versus mitigation for those already on the streets, in tents, sleeping in cars and in shelters acknowledges that 80% of those on the edge of homelessness DO find a solution or resolution

before becoming homeless. Focusing therefore on tailoring services to meet the needs, means taking care of the most vulnerable, understanding what matters to people, acknowledging the comfort of pets, respecting the partnerships formed by people, how a local shelter is set up spatially may not support those needs.



AM is one of our benevolences. Want to know more or contribute at one of their community events go to: <https://associatedministries.org/>



(Photos by Judy Thierry)

Our February Forum on the 26th will look at one city's experience of nuclear holocaust AND the continued call for peace and nuclear disarmament by Hiroshima and the survivors of the A-bomb.



Church Contact

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www.ucup.org

Church Employees

Rev. Cathlynn Law
Music Director: Jeff Andersen
Nursery Attendant: Addy Harding
Office Admin: Jenny Huntsman

Celebrating . . .

Kathy Munn's 90th birthday at the Tacoma Yacht Club



Photos by Pastor Cathy

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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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98466
253-564-2754
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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