



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



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday, March 19th

UCUP will receive a special offering to help fund One Great Hour of Sharing and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This is a once-a-year special offering that we take to help us all be a presence of compassion and assistance in a world torn by disasters, poverty, climate change and violence. Those who are severely impacted by these things need our help, our love, and our prayers.

This church has always been generous with all of this and I know we will continue to do so. But on this special Sunday, we have an opportunity to give financially as generously as we can in order that the assistance needed can reach those who need it most.

Thank you all.

Cathi Cline, for Peace and Justice Committee



Meet the UMC Bishop You are Invited ~ Welcome Event

for Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth and his husband Christopher Hucks-Ortiz.
Saturday, April 1st from 2-3:30pm, Seattle First United Methodist Church.

Bishop Bridgeforth was elected to the episcopacy in November 2022, and appointed to serve the Greater Northwest Area, serving more than 400 churches and ministries across Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and the southwest part of British Columbia.

If you would like to attend this meet-and-greet event, let Pastor Cathy know by **Wednesday, March 22nd.**



President's letter ~

"23 Things You Can Do for Your Church in 2023"

I think back on last year's Stewardship campaign, Joe Becker reading the words spoken by President Kennedy, "Ask not what you can do..." We, or most of us, can finish the quote. It was an invitation wasn't it? Kennedy's inaugural speech, the camera panning over the crowds, the faces, Lyndon Johnson hands folding and unfolding, ... a time beyond time and all that happened thereafter in his life spilling into our Nation's history and our lives.

I asked Janet and Joe: "What about a '2.0' version of "Ask,?" Janet came up with the "23 things" title!

What and where has your legacy come from? The definition: *something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.* Time and talent given to us and now we to others— as we make coffee, transcribe meeting notes, sign a check, stand vigil, sing, write a letter, fix a toilet, greet a guest and call on a member or check-in on zoom. We transmit. We receive. We carry forward many treasures. Contemplating work and spirit-lead play of our church consider the verb *intertwined*.

John 15:1-17 opens us to our connections to Christ as *the vine*. The Cambridge dictionary offers a graphic and striking definition for "intertwined: *twisted together, or closely connected so as to be difficult to separate.*"

We are an intertwined people, *the branches* heavy with fruit and gifts, 23 plus, be assured.

Prayerfully,
Judy Thierry



GERRI SAYLER ARTIST

Hunger Walk 2023 is coming!

We're back at Fort Steilacoom Park on May 6th for an in-person and virtual walk. Be sure to check our event website for event details and tools and forms to help your fundraising efforts.

You can reach out to events@efoodnet.org if you have any questions about this year's event or need help registering online.



Pastor's letter ~

We just finished the third week of Lent with the focus on the Woman at the Well from John 4. I have always loved this story, with its many nuances and layers and rich conversation. In fact, this passage is the longest recorded conversation in the gospels between Jesus and another individual. I love it when I learn something new in researching scripture. A legend arose about the Samaritan woman in Orthodox history. When this unnamed Samaritan woman was baptized at Pentecost by the apostles of Christ, they gave her the name of **Photini** which means “**the enlightened one**.” In Greek sermons from the 4th- 14th century, Photini is called Apostle and Evangelist. The Samaritan Woman is compared to the male disciples and apostles and found to surpass them. Byzantine hagiographers - those who study of the lives of saints - explored the story of the Samaritan woman. St. Photini lived in first century Palestine. She began a missionary career, traveling and preaching the good news of the Messiah's coming, his death and resurrection. She had quite a following, with everyone talking about her. During the reign of Emperor Nero in the first century, excessive cruelty was displayed as Christians were persecuted and martyred. Eventually, Nero had her arrested, and threw her into a dry well, where once again a vision of Jesus came to her before her death and she surrendered her soul to God in the year 66AD. There are ancient prayers in the Greek tradition made to Photini for her assistance in dark times. She is known in the Eastern tradition as **Photini, the luminous one**. Eastern Christians remember her as a Holy Martyr and refer to her as Equal-to-the-Apostles.

*O Almighty Saviour, Who did pour forth water for the Hebrews from a solid rock:
You did come to the Land of Samaria, and addressed a woman, whom You did attract to faith in You,
and she has now attained life in the heavens everlastingly. Amen.*



**Artist Statement on Living Water inspired by John 4:5-42
by Lauren Wright Pittman from “A Sanctified Art”**

In a quick Google image search of this story, I noticed that, in most of the art, Jesus and the Samaritan woman are almost never on the same level. In my piece, the positioning of Jesus and the Samaritan woman is inspired by the work of Karoline M. Lewis in her commentary on John. She introduces a fresh way of looking at this text, with a focus on their “mutuality of need.” Jesus needs water to drink, and the woman needs living water. Karoline writes: “Jesus needs her to be a witness, and she needs Jesus to invite her into this new identity.”

In this image, their body positioning is mirrored, with their eyes on the same plane. Where their arms overlap becomes a vibrant blue, creating a water drop with a dove in it, representing the living water that springs forth from their mutual need and relationship. Each of their clothing is patterned with the other's need. In Jesus' clothing are simplified “springs of water gushing up to eternal life”.

In the Samaritan woman's clothes, her water jar is positioned upright and poured out, representing her wrestling with whether she will interact with this man—and further, whether he is the awaited Messiah.

The image is subtly divided in half by slight shifts in color value. There is a chasm between them socially, culturally, religiously. Referencing a primary dispute between the Jews and the Samaritans, their places of worship are in the background: on the left is the temple in Jerusalem, and on the right is Mount Gerizim.

In the center is the Samaritan woman's vessel. We are not told whether she fills the jar or gives Jesus water, however, we are told that she leaves the jar behind. Her need is not the water in the well; her need is for grounding in a new identity, and to be seen for who she really is. She needs to not be defined by the worst parts of her life, the number of her husbands, or others' assumptions, but to be seen through the lens of mutual need—to be seen as one of the first witnesses of the Messiah and now a vessel of living water herself.

Joys & Concerns

Our sympathy to Gay Blanch and Paul Koppe on the recent death of Gay's brother...and to the family of Roger King. Roger died in late January...he started attending United Church in 2015. His memorial will be at United Church on March 25th, at 2pm.

We ask prayers for those recovering from recent surgeries: Ruth Cannon (hip surgery - she's home), Joe Becker (on his right hand)...for Dennis Small, upcoming surgery on the 21st to remove a mass from his bladder. Pray for the healing of Wes' left thumb – since it's their left thumb, they won't be able to 'play' the strings of the viola or rehearse with either their school's orchestra or the Youth Symphony for the next few weeks.

Welcome home Cathi Cline and Elizabeth Scherman – hope to hear about your trip 'down under', a forum maybe? On March 12th, we welcomed Roxane Hreha and her flute back to the sanctuary. Thank you Jeff and Roxane for some great music.

Lastly we give prayers of thanks for the years we've had Pastor Cathy with us...and give thanks that we will have her with us for a few more Sundays/weeks. Submitted by Joyce Demarest.

WANTED – CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care Committee is seeking additional members to help with various tasks assigned, including visiting our home bound or touching base by phone or sending a card. If interested, please contact Pat Mail. Blessings for our church family.



THE PRAYER CHAIN

Our prayer chain goes out to interested individuals who wish to pray for and reflect on the joys and concerns of our congregation. The current list has been lost, so we seek to rebuild it from those who wish to receive our congregational prayer requests. Please send Pat Mail a note with preferred email address if you wish to be on or be restored to this list. The prayers of the congregation come out weekly, or more if needed.

March Birthdays!



4 Dennis Small
10 Elizabeth Ohls
11 Roger Martin
14 Jimmy – 15
16 Susan Kelly
Allison Milligan
27 Paul Koppe

April Birthdays!



13 Emma – 10
14 Mollie Chaffee
14 Terry Gibson
17 Don Thompson
18 Beth Tanner
21 Christine Crossley
23 Ardie Herbel
30 Vicki Diamond
30 Kay shaben

Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia Energizes FAN Action!

We are grateful to the amazing advocates who made the trek to Olympia yesterday for Interfaith Advocacy Day (IFAD) – a joyful return to in-person advocacy! We are also grateful to those who viewed online and took action remotely. 207 people from 36 districts attended over 87 meetings with their legislators. They brought their experiences, knowledge, and passion for justice to decisionmakers.



We started the morning at United Churches of Olympia. Lutheran Bishops Shelley Bryan Wee of ELCA Northwest Synod and Rick Jaech of ELCA Southwestern Synod shared reflections on how we are called by our faith traditions to learn and to act for justice. FAN staff provided overviews of the day and our legislative agenda. We were delighted to be visited by 41st District Rep. My-Linh Thai, whose passionate message resonated with ours: that love guides her policymaking decisions as she calls on her colleagues to do what is right. Workshops on each category of our legislative agenda were expertly presented by our coalition partners and FAN leaders. Advocates caucused with others from their legislative district and planned their afternoon meetings.

We are grateful to the WA Poor Peoples' Campaign for bringing members to advocate with FAN, as we echoed their chant: "Forward Together! Not One Step Back!" Let's keep the momentum going throughout the year.

Robert Brown, rosemary Jones, Neva Laurie-Berry, Judy Thierry, and Pastor Cathy were able to attend in person.



Tacoma Community House ~ Thank-you

Thank you for the calendars, greeting cards, scratch pads, and magazines that you left for me to deliver to immigrant and refugee families attending classes at Tacoma Community House in Tacoma. I delivered these items as well as new hats, gloves, and socks that I had purchased to TCH in February before I attended their monthly Executive Board meeting. This was our first fully in-person, face-to-face meeting since COVID began three years ago! Since last November, I have been interacting with two immigrant families—one from Afghanistan and one from Mexico. While the adults and older children attend language classes at TCH, the youngest ones stay at home with Mom. I have donated to both families lots of games, sticker books, puzzles, Dr. Seuss ABC flash cards and hats, gloves, socks and blankets for the kids. Just this past weekend, I even gathered up shoes for the seven Afghan children from the Clothing Closet at Fircrest United Methodist Church. Thank you to Sandy Holliday!!

On Friday, April 28, TCH will hold its first in-person luncheon at the Hotel Murano since 2019!!

As a long-time member of the United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith), I love to ask my friends to attend the luncheon and share a table with me. While the luncheon is complementary, TCH hopes to raise significant funds at the event to support the work of TCH and the REACH Center.

If you would like to be a part of the contact that I have with these families or attend the luncheon, please contact me at 253 564-2536 or katyshaben@hotmail.com

Thank you for your generosity! Kay Shaben



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



PALM SUNDAY DRAMA - April 2nd

From the Mount of Olives to the Way of Sorrows:

VOICES FROM THE PASSION

This drama was written by Nora Douglas, for Rev. Ann Berney, because she asked, and for Des Moines UMC, because it's home. Neva Laurie-Berry brought this drama to UCUP in 2013 and 2016, and will be directing it again this year with dramatists from our congregation.



Maundy/Holy Thursday - April 6th - 6:30 pm

We remember the last night Jesus spent with his followers in the Upper Room before he was betrayed and arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. We will commemorate The Last Supper with Holy Communion, and with music by our choir.



Easter Sunrise Service Sunday - April 9th - 6:30am

Join us in the upper Apple Orchard!

Rise and shine and give God the glory!

Contact Pastor Cathy if you can help set-up.



Easter Service Sunday - April 9th - 10:30 am

We gather to celebrate the Risen Christ with shouts of Alleluia and joyous singing.

Pacific Northwest Conference UCC Annual Meeting April 28-30 in person in Bellingham. "Loving Deeply"



1 Peter: 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Robert Brown is our delegate and Paul Koppe our alternate.

Please note the Rev. Dr. Courtney Stange-Tregear is our Acting Conference Minister, PNC, UCC.

Pacific Northwest UMC Annual Conference Session Hybrid Event June 13 -15th



The UMC annual conference session will be held at Mason UMC, and on the campus of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. This event will be hybrid, offering in-person and online participation options. Pat Mail is UCUP's Lay Member, with Rosemary Jones serving as Alternate Lay Member.

4th Sunday Forum

A 4th Sunday Forum held February 26th entitled "Words of Peace in Uncertain Times" was hosted by the Peace and Justice Committee.

Several quotes from former President Jimmy Carter and Martin Luther King Jr. were read by the participants while Judy Thierry shared about her visit to Hiroshima Peace Park and Kyoto's Sanjusangendo Temple contrasting it with thoughts on 1937 Nanjing, China and other atrocities.

"Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love." MLK

A final poem by Kukai a.k.a. Kobo-Daishi (774-835) entitled "Full Moon." was read.



(peace cranes at the Hiroshima Children's Memorial)

Greening Activity Group



Roger Martin with the UCUP Greening Activity Group has been writing informational articles and stated, "For those who want to participate in environmental advocacy by registering your preferences in pending legislation: You can sign up for Washington State weekly legislative info by Googling this: 350 Washington Civic Action Team".

Thank-you Roger for your ongoing participation.

Board Monthly Meetings

The UCUP Board meets every second Monday night of the month at 6:30pm.



Annual Financial Auditor Solicitation

We are seeking a few members to serve on our audit team to review our financial processes using a UMC provided check-list. It is expected to take a few hours and we want to have the process completed within the next few months.

If you are interested/questions, please contact Pamela Maddess at 253-565-9411 or 253-310-7418.

Book club

We meet for 1 hour the 2nd Friday of each month at 3pm and would enjoy your company at the Happy Duo Cafe next to the Pierce County Library in University Place or just read along and when next we meet we can share.

We are starting *The Book of Joy* - His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

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

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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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