



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
Shine
Hello
2023

2023 UCUP Congregational Photo



Photo by Joe Becker



CELEBRATING PASTOR CATHY



Come Together for Worship & a Celebration

~~ Come & Party with the Pastor ~~

Sunday - June 25th

A Special Time to Gather with Cathy & Angie

This is Pastor Cathy's Final Sunday with Our Congregation
Remembering & Honoring Her Ministry with Joy / Fun / Laughter

LOVE ~~ & ~~ HUGS

President's letter ~

Dear Congregation,

I am weaving my June remarks around the board Agenda. It helps to see an agenda to understand the business of this church body that you have lifted up and approved in January, not so long ago. The hours of committee work, all of it is in part about camaraderie and patience, continuity and the ability to recognize priorities and managing the tempo and pace. Add in gentleness and kindness, and as I sometimes say during the board meeting, "I'm going to move us on."

So, we welcome each other on Zoom. Zoom has allowed for our effective and efficient gathering. We will continue with virtual meetings in the foreseeable future. A Quorum is established.

Our Centering Prayer in June with an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement will be provided by Roger Martin.

An Approve Agenda launches us formally into the meeting.

Minutes are reviewed. Final minutes are sent to Jenny for electronic filing.

"For the Good of the Order announcements" is placed here as we will have a special closing. Usually, it is placed at the end of the meeting.

Pastor's Report – is time to listen to Pastor Cathy on what every rises to importance, recently and expectantly in the month and weeks to come.

Key Committee Reports/Discussion – this is a biggie as you might imagine. All committee chairs are asked to submit, or invited to submit a written report that we combine and send out 4-5 days before the board meeting. The board meeting is always the 2nd Monday of the month. If a committee has an action item it will be discussed otherwise reports are for reading prior to the meeting. Currently, it has been the president's priority to give time to SPR and Finance. For obvious reasons with the changes underway, here is our focus. Our V.P. has been diligently working with the board and committees on descriptions and procedures.

- Staff Parish Relations: (Rev. Dr. Leslie Ann Knight) 20 minutes
- SPR committee description: Vicki and Leslie Ann 10 minutes
- Finance: (Joe Becker): 30 minutes
- Financial Secretary's (FS) Report: (Paul Koppe)
- Treasurer's Report: (Don Thompson)
- Finance committee chair, officer descriptions and procedures: Vicki and Joe Becker
- Trustees report on the audit – also posted in this newsletter. (5 minutes)
- Survey wrap-up and steps toward strategic planning - Nancy Davis and board) 20 minutes – Yes, we have surveyed ourselves across 10 items and are taking steps to understand the best process looking forward, informed by our past work, honoring that work and widening the lens so to speak. Given the changes we are taking this slowly, incrementally and will spend time each board meeting. A forum will likely be planned for July to give a more detailed update.

Laying on of hands with Pastor Cathy and our last board meeting together: The work of the board is holy work and we stop and pray as we surround our Pastor. Tanya Sorenson will start us off in prayer and then each and all members will have the opportunity to share followed by Pat Mail providing the closing prayer.

May it be so, Amen.

Judy Thierry, Board President/Moderator

Pastor's letter ~

There was a time when I didn't know a soul from United Church in University Place, except to recognize Rev. Jim Davis as the chaplain at University of Puget Sound, who welcomed clergy and Lay Members to PNW United Methodist Annual Conference every year when we met at UPS. In September 2014, when I arrived as the pastor at UCUP, we entered into liminal space with each other wondering what the next season would bring. From that first Sunday, Angie and I both felt your hospitable welcome and generous hearts, and we embarked on a journey of ministry together. Almost 9 years later, I am privileged to know each one of you by name and by heart. I have been privileged to hold some of your stories, and will continue to hold them tenderly in my heart. As the apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3: "*Whenever you cross my mind, I thank my God for you and for the gift of knowing you.*"

I am profoundly grateful for the many ways that you have supported Angie and me, and encouraged and affirmed our shared ministry as we have journeyed together in faith. I have never found leaving or transitions easy. And it is particularly poignant and difficult when you care as deeply as I do about the people of UCUP.

I am confident that you will find creative ways in the coming months to care for and pray for one another. You do this so well. You will continue in your work as a social justice church. And you will continue to offer an authentic, inclusive UCUP welcome to those who enter the doors of this church, just as you welcomed Angie and me. At some point during this liminal space, the church will receive a new pastor to partner with you in ministry. I will be praying for you as a congregation in this next season, AND after June 30th, I will no longer be serving as your pastor - leading worship, offering pastoral care, or officiating at weddings or memorial services.

There are clergy ethical guidelines by both the PNWUMC and the PNCUCC conferences to ensure the spiritual health of churches, which also allow me to give my full attention to Cedar Cross UMC, where I will be appointed to serve as pastor in Mill Creek, WA starting July 1st. These guidelines/policies may feel extreme, but they are intended to promote healthy beginnings and endings of pastoral relationships for the arriving clergy, departing clergy, and the congregations who must say goodbye to the familiar in order to welcome the new. There is a minimum period of ONE YEAR for United Methodist clergy to refrain from being in contact with members of a former congregation. It MAY need to be a longer period given the dual denomination affiliation of UCUP and depending on when the church calls your next pastor.

What does this mean? It means that I won't be calling you, or emailing or texting you, and I would ask you to also refrain from reaching out to me in the next year. If we are "friends" on social media, please consider "unfriending" me. I will either be "unfriending" members of this congregation or I will be "muting" you so I don't see what is happening in your life, and I will change my settings so you will no longer see what I post. We will be keeping our home in Tacoma, so it is possible you will see me out and about in greater Pierce County. Please don't feel like you need to ignore me, but if that is easier than re-engaging with me, I will respect your wishes. If we bump into each other publicly, I will be delighted to see you and happily talk with you, but I will not discuss what is happening at UCUP with you. In another season (a few years from now), I may be able to enter back into your lives in a different capacity, not as pastor. It is difficult to write these words, and I imagine it is hard for some of you to receive them. AND we trust in God's grace that holds us all.

I offer part of the liturgy we will enter into on June 25th, my last Sunday with you. It is important for the community and for me to enter into this profound ritual of leaving, and I hope you will be able to attend worship that day. Here is a snippet of the blended liturgy from both the UCC and the UMC Book of Worship:

LEADER: Like every human family, our church family is formed and reformed over time. Our church community is constantly changing. As members are born, as they die, as members are adopted into our family, people come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, growing toward new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings.

PASTOR: I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

CONGREGATION: **We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to be the pastor at Cedar Cross United Methodist Church. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.**

PASTOR: I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and this congregation and for your new pastoral leadership.

*"What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from." T.S. Elliot "Little Gidding" from Four Quartets*

I love you, people of UCUP. You are near and dear to my heart. And I am grateful for you. You have made me a better person and a better pastor. May God go before us.

PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 28, 2023



*Thank you Rosemary and Kris for hosting
the first gathering to celebrate Pastor
Cathy on Sunday May 28th.*

thank you



PACIFIC NORTHWEST UMC DISAFFILIATES 13 CHURCHES

Pat Mail, UCUP Lay Member

Church turmoil is always hard. For the past few years, some UMC churches have expressed a wish to leave the UMC due to the acceptance of all people, including LGBTQ+, in our church membership and leadership. This process is known as “disaffiliation” and is a long, arduous process of separating property, monetary obligations, and other things which denote an UMC affiliation. In May, the Pacific NW Conference of the UMC convened a special session to vote on the disaffiliation of 13 churches. The majority of these churches are located in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, the more politically conservative regions of the PNW. However, two churches in the “blue” part of the state also elected to leave the PNW Conference, Silverdale and Woodinville UMCs. Our prayers go with these congregations as they seek new directions, and we hope those who are uncomfortable with these decisions will find safe church homes as well.



2023 AUDIT

The 2023 UCUP audit organized by Pamela Maddess, Trustee took place May 18th in the Orchard Room. David Higby and Bill Hughes were our auditors joined by Kathe Hughes, Pat Mail, Trustee, Paul Koppe, Financial Secretary and Judy Thierry, Moderator. A big thank you to Carol Garwood, Treasurer at Lakewood United Methodist Church in Steilacoom who provided consultation on the process.



The same UMC tool was applied as used in the last two audits. A report of the proceedings will be made to the Board in June with the final analysis coming later this summer.

Kathy Hughes and Pamela Maddess will be our auditors for 2024, with a “watch one do one teach one” type process, rolling into subsequent years. This will build capacity and institutional knowledge.

A big, big **Thank You** to our past auditors and now Audit Team 2023.



(Photos provided by Judy Thierry)

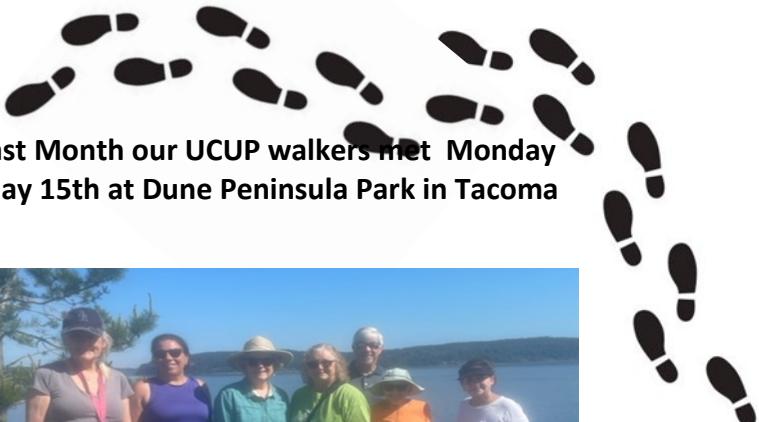
Walk - Sharing the Journey

Billy Frank Jr., Nisqually National Wildlife Preserve

Join the UCUP Walkers on Monday, June 5, 9:30 AM at the Billy Frank, Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Preserve.



We'll meet by the visitor center next to the parking lot. The walk is mostly a flat sidewalk on a boardwalk. There is a longer section on a gravel road that leads to an elevated pier that extends into the Sound for those who wish to extend their walk. Unfortunately, because this is a wildlife preserve, pets are not allowed. **RSVP to Cathi Cline: cathicline49@gmail.com**



Last Month our UCUP walkers met Monday May 15th at Dune Peninsula Park in Tacoma



Hunger Walk 2023!

Photos tell of an active community shoring up Pierce County food security with Emergency Food Network and partners on this fun good weather spring Hunger Walk attended by more than 600 people, dogs and strollers. - thank-you UCUP participants Judy Thierry, Dorothy McCuiston, Cathi Cline - thank-you Marilyn Thompson for setting up the team!





The UCC General Synod, which will be held at the end of June in Indianapolis, will be collecting menstrual period packs to be given to Church World Service for their work in assisting those who have experienced disasters. The Peace & Justice Committee has decided to participate in the collection of the items needed for these packs and I will take them with me to the General Synod. I will place a suitcase in the narthex at church in which you can place your contribution of the items needed. You may also make a monetary donation to the church, specifying "period packs." I will then purchase the things still needed to complete the packs. Here is a list of the items needed for each pack:

Here's what you'll need:

- One 1-gallon size re-sealable bag
- Two 2oz bottle hand sanitizer
- Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
- One travel pack of Wet Ones
- 5 regular Tampons
- 5 super absorbency Tampons
- 10 Pads (Unscented. Long super ultra-thin.)
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger. No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove from packaging.)
- One pack of flushable wipes (Unscented. 42 count)
- 5 regular Tampons
- Six fragrance free laundry sheets (placed in small Ziploc bags)



Assembly Tips

- Place all items in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.
- All items must be new.

Do not enclose personal notes, money, or extra items in the kits.



Peace,
Cathi Cline, Chair of Peace & Justice



1 Ruth Cannon	18 Shirley Paulson	24 Laura Giddings
2 Ben Small	22 Fran Cash	30 Cindi Bodie
8 Wes —13	22 Kay Shaben	
12 Cheryl Stone	23 Don Morgan	



Church Contact

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Church Employees

Rev. Cathlynn Law

Music Director: Jeff Andersen

Office Admin: Jenny Huntsman

2023 Legislative Successes – Outcomes of Your Advocacy!

PROMOTE ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- **Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) Fixes (HB 1477 Rep. Thai)** extends eligibility to Married Filing Separately tax filers, which helps survivors of domestic violence; increases the time limit to file claims to 3 years; and creates a legislative reporting requirement.
- **Repeal Statewide Advisory Votes (SB 5082 Sen. Kuderer)** ends non-binding advisory votes on the ballot and adds fiscal information to voters' pamphlets.

PROTECT AND EXPAND THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET

- **Free School Meals for More Students (HB 1238 Rep. Ricelli)** expands the subsidized meal program in schools to about 90,000 more students, to provide meals as part of the right to education. This helps create a pathway to ending child hunger and eases the financial burden on families.
- **Hunger Free College Campus (HB 1559 Rep. Entenman)** ensures that all students receiving food stamps have a Basic Food, Employment, and Training program (BFET) navigator to help them gain access to food, employment, and training services.
- **Concerning Hunger Relief (HB 1784 Rep. Gregerson)** provides funding to food banks, supports senior meals, and invests in the fruit and vegetables incentive program, replacing federal pandemic food benefits that have ended.
- **Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) Improvements (HB 1447 Rep. Peterson)** strengthens the ability of TANF to meet foundational needs of children and families through various fixes.
- **Aging, Blind, & Disabled (ABD) Program Fix (HB 1260 Rep. Alvarado)** ends the requirement that extremely low-income disabled people pay back ABD benefits after qualifying for federal assistance, for which they are required to apply.

REFORM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- **Repealing the Death Penalty and Other Unconstitutional Statutes in State Law (SB 5087 Sen. Pedersen)** removes language from the Revised Code of Washington that has been identified by the State Supreme Court or Superior Courts as defects and omissions in the laws.



INCREASE GUN RESPONSIBILITY and PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Establishing Firearms-Related Safety Measures to Increase Public Safety (HB 1240 Rep. Peterson)** prohibits the sale, manufacture, transport, and import of assault weapons in Washington.
- **Firearm Industry Responsibility & Gun Violence Victims' Access to Justice Act (SB 5078 Sen. Pedersen)** requires the firearms industry to establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls.
- **Requiring a Permit to Purchase Firearms (HB 1143 Rep. Berry)** requires a comprehensive background check, safety training, and a waiting period to purchase a firearm in Washington.
- **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & People (MMIWP) Cold Case Unit (HB 1177 Rep. Lekanoff)** creates a cold case investigations unit within the Office of the Attorney General.

PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING (more budget analysis still to come)

- **Increasing Funding for the Tenancy Preservation Program and the Landlord Mitigation Fund (Budget)** provides \$5 million for eviction prevention and funding for tenants' right to counsel.
- **Increase Funding for Organizations Providing Affordable Housing and Homelessness Services (Budget)** provides an ongoing homeless services increase of 6.5% to \$45 million to address crisis.
- **Housing and Essential Needs Rental Assistance Program (Budget)** provides a permanent ongoing increase of \$26.5 million for this program.
- **In the Capital Budget: \$400 million for the Housing Trust Fund** to build and preserve permanently affordable homes, \$40 million for land acquisition to quickly acquire land for affordable housing to be built, \$14.5 million for shelter and housing for homeless youth and young adults, \$6 million for preservation and investments in manufactured housing communities, and \$60 million for infrastructure needed when building new affordable homes.

ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **Addressing Climate Change and Resiliency (HB 1181 Rep. Duerr)** improves the state's climate response by updating its comprehensive planning framework.
- **Extreme Heat Utility Shutoff Moratorium (HB 1329 Rep. Mena)** prohibits utility providers from discontinuing electric and drinking water services to residential customers during extreme heat.
- **Improving Climate Resilience (HB 1170 Rep. Street)** ensures that frontline communities are prioritized and decarbonization goals are met when building upon recent years' clean energy and climate commitment legislation.
- **Ensuring Restoration of Salmon and Protection of Orcas (Budget)** provides funding to move toward removal of lower Snake River dams, including \$5 million in the Transportation Budget for analysis of alternative transportation needs, and in the Operating Budget, \$2 million for an action plan to transition energy services and \$500,000 for an irrigation availability plan for agricultural production.

PROTECT HEALTHCARE ACCESS

- **Safe Health Care Staffing (SB 5236 Sen. Robinson)** establishes minimum staffing standards to improve worker safety and patient care.
- **Shield Law (HB 1469 Rep. Hansen)** protects reproductive care patients and providers from out-of-state legal action.

SUPPORT IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

- **Healthcare Equity for Immigrants Campaign (HEIC) Fund (Budget)** includes \$110M to continue funding for the Exchange's Cascade Care Savings program available to undocumented immigrants under 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL); \$49.5M for a new Medicaid-like program for undocumented immigrants under 138% FPL; \$7.7M to increase the limited number of low-income immigrants eligible for long-term care support; and \$3.7M to support outreach, customer assistance, and administration for the new programs.

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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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