



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.



Pastor Cathy,

As you look back with pride on your accomplishments and look forward to all your new opportunities waiting for you, this one thing is clear . . . You are going to continue to make this world a more wonderful place.



Thank you for sharing your journey with us . . .

Congratulations!





## UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UMC annual conference was held in June 2023. Pat Mail and Rosemary Jones attended virtually and very much enjoyed fellowship together as they were able to attend on a shared computer.

Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth carried a theme from opening worship where his sermon was entitled *Lay Ministry Enhancement* through the closing worship session. He used the acronym M. I. L. E. as a preventient thread.

- M. Ministry around affordable housing access
- I. Itinerarion and location (getting Pastoral leaders where they can thrive)
- L. Lay ministry enhancement (everyone is called to serve - celebrate every calling)
- E. Elimination of racism (examine policy structure. Must go beyond congregations).

The Bishop will provide book studies, speakers and congregational coaches to this end.  
More about legislation to follow in our UCUP annual meeting report. Stay tuned!  
Respectfully submitted by Rosemary Jones



# **President's letter ~**

## **Safekeeping - President Reflections**

We know the world can be a dangerous place, unfair, unforgiving, merciless even.

And we know shelter when we step into someone's arms, experience a ready welcome and sometimes even a hello from a passerby that connects even for just a moment.

During my Osteopathic medical school training I entered a year long extracurricular course on "Grief, Loss and Change." It was the year my mother would die of uterine cancer, nine months later my first child, Ben was born. This small group was a spiritual shelter of the highest sort. Our weekly evening class, periodic weekend retreats marched, sailed and dropped us into a collective experience of shared lives full of change and loss. I was also in counseling, tended by a woman who helped me explore my tucked away emotions, modeled boundary setting and self care.

Being present takes effort, especially when all we really want to do is bury our heads, go into a zone, disassociate or escape into a maze with blind ends. It is not to say they aren't choices and default options and that hitting the pause button isn't helpful, but being present to grief, grieving is a rich path through the labyrinth.

As we have heard in Pastor Cathy's last sermon at UCUP we might consider that we are traversing a *liminal space* a time out of the ordinary. The horizon at dusk is that for me. Catching my grandson staring at me, like he is seeing me for the first time is that space. Standing in a time of silent farewell outside the Pastor's office, arms hugging leftover candles and my laptop computer, purse, keys can be such a space also.

Take time to experience this grief. You aren't supposed to *get over it* -- ever. It gets easier.

Be curious, take nourishing thoughts, rest and find both solitude and community in prayer, pastoral care and worship with one another.

In faith,  
Judy Thierry, UCUP Congregation and Board President

## **Update from the Pastoral Search Committee**

The work of the Pastoral Search Committee is well underway as we head into summer. The profile describing our church to potential candidates has been finalized after feedback received at our May forum. We will be sending the completed profile to the UCC Pacific Northwest Conference to be entered into the national UCC database of churches seeking pastors. From there, we will prepare to begin receiving applications from potential candidates who may be interested in serving our church.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our congregational survey! Your responses will be very helpful as we prepare for interview conversations with pastoral candidates. All individual responses will remain confidential; the committee and board have been provided with a summary of themes and trends observed in pooled responses. The themes emerging from the survey responses will allow the search committee to speak to the strengths, challenges, and aspirations of the congregation when interviewing potential new pastors. We are grateful to all who provided their honest and open thoughts about your vision for UCUP now and in the future.

We will continue to keep the congregation updated on our progress through newsletter updates like this one, so keep an eye out for future communications!

Blessings,  
Pastoral Search Committee  
Cathi Cline (chair), Paul Koppe, Neva Laurie-Berry, Roger Margin, Beth Tanner, Janet Wicks



# Pastor's letter ~

Dear friends at UCUP,

THANK YOU for a glorious party for my farewell Sunday. How beautiful to see folks coming in the doors of the sanctuary - especially those for whom it is a bit more of a struggle to attend in person. It warmed my heart to see you all, both in-person and on zoom, and to receive your prayers, well-wishes, cards, gifts, and hugs. I have a heart full of gratitude for almost 9 years of serving as your pastor.

Many thanks for Jeff playing Michael W. Smith's *"Friends are Friends Forever"* that brought tears to my eyes, the litany of farewell offered by 10 UCUP presidents (impressive), the vibrant Tree of Life stole presented by UCUP's own **Paramenterian**, the beautifully arranged flowers, the amazing photo boards capturing so many cherished moments in ministry with you all, for Wes's beautiful viola solo, the yummy "Farewell with Love" cake along with festive reception, the L'Arche hanging basket of flowers, not to mention... A UCUP send off with a spoof on *"So Long, Farewell"* from the Sound of Music, with slightly altered words by the most amazing lyricist Janet Wicks, aka *"Joyful Joy"*, *"Hosanna Rosanna Danna"*. The prologue definitely offered a poignant moment and brought tears to my eyes. But the tears were replaced by howls of laughter with kazoos at the end. I won't ever hear the song again without thinking about how much I love all of you beloved UCUP folks.

"There's a sad sort of clanging from the clock in the hall, and the bells in the steeple too.  
There's an echo of joyful music, and a resonant hint of laughter,  
from the chancel, through the choir, and the pews.  
Regretfully they tell us, but firmly they compel us; that it's time to say...  
Good bye to you!"

Here is a portion of my farewell sermon for my last newsletter article: Change and transitions are difficult. Liminal space is hard. It is not easy to leave a beloved congregation like this. When I enter the doors of Cedar Cross UMC next Sunday, I won't know the congregation or the people the way I know you. I don't know the challenges they face, their gifts, their way of doing things. And your beautiful faces won't be the ones to greet me. Every congregation I have ever served I have loved, and I remember them fondly and continue to hold the people and their ministry in my prayers. But this congregation has been THE BEST FIT I've had in ministry, and perhaps ever will have. It's a strange thing to say. What do I mean by that? You, beautiful people of UCUP, have freed me to be my fullest, most authentic self in ministry and life. You accepted creative expressions in worship. You are a congregation with the best sense of humor, and not just the *"choir quippers"*. You constantly make me laugh. We laugh so much in this place. You have shown me welcome. You have shown me compassion. You have demonstrated faithfulness. I have loved you and I have felt your love for me and my family - for Angie and for our beloved dogs - first Denali and then Ivy.

The words that Paul wrote to the Philippians, they are true for me when I think of you. *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, constantly praying with joy for all of you. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion.*

Your relationships with each other are strong, and even more, your relationship with God is strong. I celebrate the fact that the folks who will be coming to lead worship here in these next "how ever many months" will experience the sweet spirit in this place and a hearty UCUP welcome. Your next pastor whoever it may be will be so lucky and so blessed to land in a church like this with beautiful people like you. And so I go, trusting that God holds the future, and God holds you in this liminal space. This is God's promise. We can raise our Ebenezers knowing and trusting that God is with you, God is with me, God is with us. Blest be the tie that binds.

*Bring us, O God, to the edges and boundaries, thresholds and doorways of our lives. May we find the strength to stand with one another there. And help us to step through to the other side where we shall find the welcome of the door and know that you meet us there. Amen.*



# Dr. Preston Woodall, Jr. DO —

After a career as a physician in the US Air Force and US Public Health Service, Preston now serves others as a pastor, encouraging others to grow in love and faith in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

After medical school in Missouri and family practice residency in Ohio, he worked with low income and migrant folks in central Washington before joining the Air Force. Duty stations included the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Cyprus, New Zealand, New Hampshire, Utah and California, as well as Washington where he was chief of flight medicine at McChord Air Force Base.

A graduate of Issaquah High School, Pacific Lutheran University (B.S.), Kansas City University, College of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) and, most recently, Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry (M.Div.), Preston enjoys outdoor recreation, reading, Mediterranean, Indian and Sichuan cooking and being a bass in the Seattle Men's Chorus. He has been an active member of Bethany since 2006.



"Humans may look for reasons to exclude others. God, through God's love and grace, desires to include. This inclusive love is manifested in Jesus. A personal relationship with Jesus is transformative and available to all. Praise God!" (from Bethany Presbyterian Church website)

## Beth Prevo—

Beth Prevo's home church is Immanuel Presbyterian in Tacoma's North End. She holds Masters' degrees in Pastoral Studies (2019) and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (2001), both from Seattle University.

Retired since 2018, Beth enjoys traveling, singing with the South Sound Threshold Singers, cooking, and being outdoors, and she has a part-time position at Immanuel. As Parish Associate, she's involved with visiting the home-bound and working with the Deacon Board, facilitating spiritual retreat mornings, working with



the new members' groups, and teaching others how they can advocate in Olympia.

She recently completed the Portuguese Coastal Camino, walking over 160 miles in 2 weeks. No blisters!

She's lived in the Puget Sound area since 1982 and a visit to Mt. Rainier National Park always brings her great joy.



# Joys & Concerns

By Joyce Demarest

We give THANKS for the 9 years we had with Pastor Cathy.....and give thanks to those that put on the Fellowship time in her honor.

Cathi Cline is readying a suitcase to take to Indianapolis where the UCC Synod will take place this coming weekend.

Thank you for your gifts of menstrual supplies and money for this effort. 12 kits are packed and ready to go. Other supplies are expected to go to My Sisters Pantry, Tacoma, Community House or Family Housing Network women and girls.



The Board Handbook produced by Vicki Diamond with respective committee chairs and members, officers and trustees is more than half way complete. The "Done" list is now larger than the "To Do". We will provide more information regarding the governance function at UCUP in the August newsletter. We are also developing a church office handbook. Watch for it!

## UCUP UPCOMING PULPIT SUPPLY SCHEDULE

July 2	Rev. Leslie Ann Knight
July 9	Dr. Preston Woodall
July 16, 23, 30	Ms. Beth Prevo
August 6	Rev. Melody Young
August 13	Ann Berney

## PASTORAL CARE

If you are in need of pastoral care during our transition please contact one of our ministry team:

Chris Berry 253.579.3537, Cathi Cline 518.928.2393, Leslie Ann Knight 253.565.1766, Pamela Maddess 253.310.7418, Tanya Sorenson 253.970.3110

## Sunday School Announcement

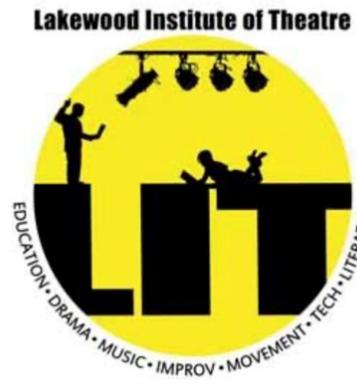
We are blessed to have Judy Theirry step up to answer the call for Sunday School teachers!

She offers a unique and spiritual leadership and presence to our young people. God is good!

We will resume Sunday School on the second Sunday of July, with our youth attending worship the first Sunday of each month, in order to celebrate communion with their church family.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Jones





## Lakewood Institute of Theatre

By the time you read this the ground floor at UCUP will be a buzz from 9-4 pm Monday through Friday with rehearsing, stage managing, and music making as 35 youth with stage managers, conductors, assistant stage managers, musicians, and costumers prepare for Lakewood Institute of Theater's youth performances. From June 26th to August 4th Institute Director, Debbie Armstrong and troupe will occupy the fellowship hall, youth wing and child care space.

Pat Mail with Mac, David Higby, and Judy Thierry with Emerich toured the space with Debbie.

Support your local community theater by checking out their youth camp offerings. <https://www.lakewoodinstituteoftheatre.org/fall-2022.html>



To register for this camp, go to [www.lakewoodinstituteoftheatre.org](http://www.lakewoodinstituteoftheatre.org) and go to Summer 2023, or scan the QR code



SCAN ME

**United Church In University Place has graciously opened their facilities to LIT for our Summer Secondary Space.**

Many thanks to our community partner for ensuring a safe rehearsal space for all of students. Your support is invaluable!



This photo of the UCUP readerboard is from *The Spotlight—Lakewood Institute of Theatre's Newsletter—62723*



*What has space for 22 characters and four lines?  
Our reader board!*

*Would you like to join Pastor Cathy's legacy and explore meaningful community level communication?*

*Feel comfortable on a step stool?*

*We sure could use you and will orient you. Please talk with Judy Thierry or Chris Berry about this opportunity.*



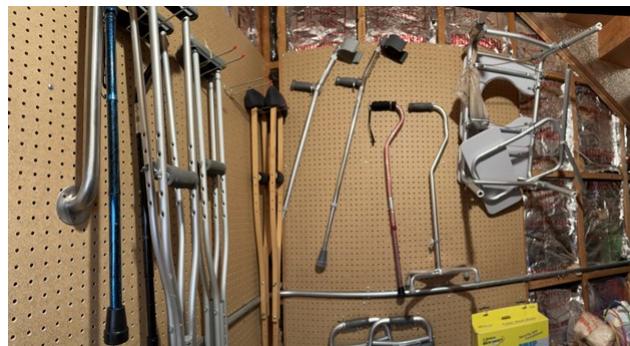
## Walkers, Canes and Chairs—Oh My!

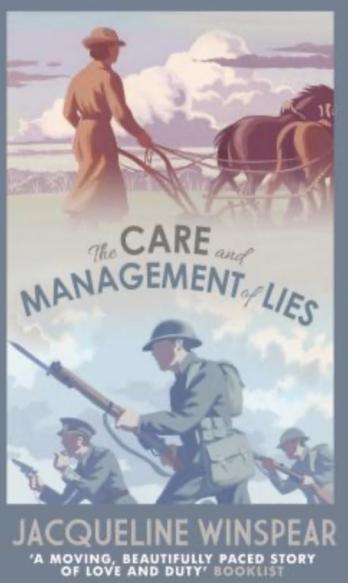


UCUP has canes, walkers, wheel chairs - even raised toilet seats. -free to any one

Please contact  
[Jthierry84@gmail.com](mailto:Jthierry84@gmail.com) or call the church

(Photos by Judy Thierry)





## UCUP Book Club

Our Book club gathers at 3:00 pm for one delightful hour at the Happy Duo Cafe in University Place adjacent to the library the second Friday of each month. Please join us or read along. We are reading *THE CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF LIES* by Jacqueline Winspear. Published in 2014, the centenary of World War I we are swept into the consuming and brutal nature of war where truth is buried as even homeland orchards and forests are destroyed to feed an army. Paradoxically the food the soldiers eat is hardly seen as what comes from the earth, neither nourishing or sustaining. Three out of five will soon be buried in farmlands in France while those who barely survive are shuttled back to England at night hidden from the public. The narrative is built through Kezia's love letters to Tom with her recipes read aloud to those in the trench reframing their despair as a Kent farming community, its "care and management" is upended. The author lays before us questions of classism, oppression, and ineptitude in military leadership in a un-winnable war. I favor the online audio version as the voices by Nicola Barber give great life to the characters and times.

## 4 Ways We Will Provide Pastoral Care in the Time of Transition

The question has been asked: Who is going to provide pastoral care when we don't have a full-time pastor? The answer is: We will, as an intentionally caring congregation. "Pastoral Care" refers to the care given by the congregation, including the pastor, but not solely the pastor. In the ministry of care, there are layers. We have the ability to carry out this ministry with the skills and the gifts already at work in us. Here is an overview of our system.

1. There are the **networks of friends** who are watchful of one another and stay in touch. Those are often wide and inter-connected networks, and are the foundation for caring in the church. Ideally, every person should be able to both give and receive the nurture of these friendship networks. New people, long-time members all need to feel connected to others. One friend creates a caring bond.
2. At UCUP there is already the designated team of persons who tend to the well-being of our people, remembering things like birthdays, and reaching out to those who are homebound (temporarily or permanently), to those dealing with illness of their own or a loved one, and those experiencing grief. This is the **Congregational Care Committee**. This team systematically keeps track of where extra "touch" is needed with phone calls, notes, and visits. They meet monthly, chaired by Pat Mail.
3. We have a list of names and contact information of those who are on call in the event of hospitalizations or other crisis events. (This includes children, teens and parents.)
4. There is also a list of persons available for Memorial Services if the need arises.

Creating a Congregation of Care,  
Leslie Ann Knight  
SPR Chair



(UCUP Peace Pole)

### Church Contact

(253) 564-2754  
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[www.ucup.org](http://www.ucup.org)



### Church Employees

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 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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### 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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