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First Time Visitor's Welcome Kit

Venturing out to a new church for the first time can be a challenge. Will I be welcome there? Will I be comfortable? With this "visitor's kit" we have tried to identify and answer most of the questions that first time visitors might have. If, after you have looked through these questions and answers and still haven't found all the information you are looking for, please call our church office at **206 524-2322**. We are eager to welcome you and make your first visit with us a rewarding one!

Where is University Congregational United Church of Christ?

Our church is located in Seattle's University District, near the University of Washington Campus. Our address is 4515 16th Ave. NE. Specifically, our front door is located on 16th Ave. NE, near the corner of 16th Ave. NE and NE 45th Street.

What time are the services?

Sunday mornings include Christian Education (Sunday school) for all ages (except in June, July and August), and an intergenerational worship service. Christian Education begins at **9 a.m.** Worship begins at **10 a.m.** Child care and programs for kindergarteners and preschoolers are available year round(see below).

How long do services last?

Services vary in length from just over an hour to an hour and 20 minutes, depending on whether communion is served or there are special events such as baptisms or special music.

What time should I plan to arrive?

If you are joining us for the education hour, plan to arrive at 9 a.m. There will be an easel in the church lobby telling you what is being offered that day and where the classes are. If you are coming later to attend worship only, plan to arrive about 9:45 in order to have time to find a seat and get settled.

Where should I park?

There are two main church parking lots—one to the east of the church that is accessed from 16th Ave. NE and one to the west of the church which is accessed from 15th Ave. NE. We encourage those with small children, or those who need to move more slowly to park in these lots.

If you come at 9 a.m. for Christian Education, you will find plentiful parking directly across 45th street near the Burke Museum. (To get to this parking, enter the University of Washington campus through the main entrance at 17th Ave. NE and N.E.45th St., and turn right after you pass the gatehouse. Parking here is free on Sundays.)

If you are planning to arrive later (e.g. after 9:30 a.m.), you may find parking more challenging. There are several churches in the area and it can get busy. If you are unable to find a place in the church lots right near the building, try parking on campus and turning **left** after the gate house, instead of right. The walk from here is a little further (about 3 blocks), so you'll want to allow a bit more time.

What about Sunday school for my children?

We are a family-friendly church and we welcome families with children of all ages. The Christian Education Programs begin at 9 a.m. Worship begins at 10 a.m. Ask one of our volunteer greeters in the church narthex (lobby) to help you locate the right program for your children.

Here's a summary of what we have to offer for children and youth during the school year:

Age group	Type of program	Location
Infants and toddlers (0 - 2 years old)	Childcare is provided at no charge. It is available both during the Christian Education Hour (9 a.m.) and during Worship (10 .m.) Some parents keep their babies with them in the service.	Childcare is located at the north end of the building. We use the excellent facilities which we share with the UCUC Child Learning and Care Center.
Preschoolers (Age 3 - 5, including kindergarten)	Childcare is available during the Christian Education Hour. Our preschoolers generally join us for the beginning of worship, and then they go to their classrooms. Many of the families with preschoolers sit together at the front of the church.	Ask a volunteer (or another family) for directions to classrooms - parents often accompany their children to their classrooms, then rejoin the congregation.
Elementary	Elementary school children attend age-appropriate classes during the Christian Education Hour. Then, they join in worship until the sermon begins. At this time, younger elementary children go to a special children's sermon time with one of the pastors. They re-join the congregation after the sermon.	Check the easel in the narthex for information about the location of classes and the special worship time for children.
Youth	Middle School and Sr. High classes meet at 9 am on Sundays. Youth often participate in worship leadership.	Check the easel in the narthex for information about the location of classes.

What should I wear to church?

Dress comfortably and casually. We care about who you are on the inside, not what you are wearing. Feel free to wear your jeans and T-shirt, or whatever you feel most comfortable wearing to church..

Any other questions?

If we haven't answered all your questions here, please call the church office at (206) 524-2322. Office hours are 9 - 4 on weekdays, and the office is also open on Sunday mornings. Or e-mail us with your questions: office@universityucc.org