

CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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Worship in the Season of Lent

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th, and leads us, for forty days, to Easter. Those "forty" days (not including Sundays) represent the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for his public ministry. For some, Lent is a season of reflection and repentance. For others it is a season of simplicity and focus. Some folks "give something up" for Lent. Others "pick something up" as their Lenten practice. The Season of Lent is a time with its own energy.

This year our congregation has been following a pattern of worship that has blended the Biblical story and church seasons with Diana Butler Bass's book, "Grounded, Where God is Found." Bass encourages us to look around at the basic elements of life to understand our spiritual connections. In the fall, the church season of Ordinary Time, we explored "earth." During Advent and Christmas, "air" was the basis of our inspiration. In the season of Epiphany, we have reflected on "water." And in the spring, leading up to Pentecost, we will look at "fire." These four elements are familiar in our western world.

For Lent, we have reached beyond the western tradition of the Four Elements to the eastern tradition for a fifth element. That element is often called "emptiness." Such a focus seems fitting for this time of mindfulness. Our scripture text will be Philippians 2:5-11, in which Paul quotes an early Christian hymn that describes Incarnational theology as a kind of "emptying." We will explore ways of understanding that emptying as a spiritual perspective and practice.

We will begin Lent with two worship opportunities on Ash Wednesday, at noon or 6 p.m. Each service will include the option of an imposition of ashes.

125th Anniversary: Save These Dates!

This year we are celebrating the 125th birthday of our congregation. We officially began as a church on March 24, 1891. We have been celebrating our 125th anniversary all year. But we have some big days coming up, you will want to get on your calendar now.

March 20, Palm Sunday, we will honor the actual date of our beginning. That will include taking the photo of our congregation to put on the front of our new picture directory. Don't miss that Sunday!

May 14, the Saturday before Pentecost, we will have an all church potluck and birthday party.

We hope you will be able to join us for both of those special days.

One other event you might want to participate in is Historic Seattle's tour of university district churches on Saturday, February 20.

The historic society will be focusing especially on church architecture and will include a tour of our building. You can find more information by going to the Historic Seattle's website, or follow this link: <http://historicseattle.org/event/religious-life-off-campus/>.

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News and Events in Church

Calling All Women's Voices!

Are you a woman (or identify as one)? Do you have a voice to sing? Viriditas women's ensemble invites high school girls and women of all ages to sing for a very special music experience during worship on Sunday, March 13. We will sing songs of love, lamentation, celebration, and empowerment. Ask not, "Am I singer?" But rather, "Do I have a voice to sing?" Feel our welcome and come sing with us! Rehearsals following worship in the chapel on 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, and 3/6 from 11:30 (or after Witness & Worship Walk)-12:45.

Seabeck Summer Family Camp 2016— Creation in Color

July 10-15, 2016

Seabeck will be here in less than 6 months! Woo Hoo! Get the swimsuits out of the drawers, instruments warmed up, and voices ready for some serious campfire songs (jokes too). This year we are excited to announce our adult speaker Rev. DaVita "Day" McCallister. Our program theme is "Creation in Color." Designed to inspire, provoke and challenge, the program will give us the opportunity to work our minds, spirits and bodies as we learn about Racial Justice. Dr. Day's program, at its core, is intended to provide participants with the skills to unmask and dismantle racism. This training will introduce the six stages of the Inclusivity Spectrum: Tolerance, Acceptance, Respect, Affirmation, Solidarity and Critique. The children's program will be full of games, adventures and learning opportunities that encourage us to embrace cultural differences. Summer Camp has never been this fun. And an extra bonus this year: Gospel Musician Rawn Harbor is returning as our camp musician (some of you know him from last year). Make sure to attend Seabeck Sunday on Marc 6th to learn about signing up.

Senior Lunch—February 8

Join us for the Senior Lunch on at **noon on Monday, February 8**. Continuing the topic of Homelessness, Bill Kirlin-Hackett will be our speaker and give us the broader picture of homelessness in the Seattle area.

Heartfelt Thank You!

It has been the warmth, love, prayers and caring from all of you that have carried me through the past weeks and months. Thank you for reaching out with a card, a hug or just keeping me and my family in prayer. Jim's memorial service was a true celebration and so many of you had a hand in helping to make it happen. This is what the church is about and I am so appreciative.

-Cathy and the entire Gunstone/Lonheim family

We Remember



Jim Gunstone

Born: August 30, 1934

Died: December 22, 2015

Jim passed away peacefully at home the morning of December 22nd. His wife, Cathy, and her daughter and son-in-law were with him. Jim and Cathy joined the church several years ago and he was very active in work on facilities and maintenance. He was also a strong supporter of the youth here at the church. Jim always had a smile and a story for anyone he met. He was an outdoorsman, a mountaineer, and an adventurer. Jim was a scout leader for decades and helped many, many young men become Eagle Scouts.

A memorial service was held on January 10th in the sanctuary. Cathy and all of their family continue to be in our prayers.

Birth Announcement

Good
news
of
great
Joy

Hazel Jane Gill

Born: January 3, 2016

Welcome to the world baby Hazel! Hazel was born, January 3rd at 6:22 pm. She weighed in at 8 lbs. and 20 inches long. Delighted parents are Andy Gill and Jennifer Jenkins Gill. She joins toddler sister, Lucy.

Mwanzo Proud Farmers

We are excited to report that Loyce Ong'udi, will return to Seattle from Kenya on January 25. During the past four months Loyce has led efforts that have resulted in the construction of two additional school classrooms, the purchase of new equipment (ovens, student desks, and instructional materials), and the installation of communal chicken coops. Huge steps in improving the lives of children and adults! Loyce will brief the Church community and share her thanks for your loyal and long-standing support!

-Mark Peterson

Mary's Place Hosting Ministry

Our guests from Mary's Place have come and gone and have left behind memories of fun times, struggles, resilience, patience, surprises, and many, many stories. These Moms are amazing and their children are such a joy.

A thousand thank yous to all the volunteers who made our hosting possible: those who helped set-up and clean-up, volunteer week-end van drivers, morning clean-up crews, shoppers, cooks, team leads, shower helpers, evening and overnight hosts. That you all stepped up and said YES when you were asked to help, then said yes again when unexpected vacancies came along, is what makes this ministry possible. That you cared deeply about our families and provided them with a loving, hospitable environment is what makes this a ministry. THIS is church!

We have set our hosting schedule for the remainder of the year. Please save the dates now, especially those who may want to try volunteering for the first time.

May 24–June 7, 2016 at University Christian Church

August 23–September 6, 2016 at UCUC

November 15–22, 2016 at University Christian Church

We are grateful to University Christian Church for again providing space and facility resources for another three weeks this coming year. *Submitted by Liz Gilbert*

Thank you UCUC!

GREAT NEWS! On Dec. 31, volunteers with the WAmend coalition turned in over 336,000 petition signatures to the elections office in Olympia for [Initiative 735](#). This means it's almost certain that I-735 will be on the ballot in 2016. Which means the people of Washington state will almost certainly be able to make our state the 17th one to call for amending the Constitution to settle for once and for all that constitutional rights are for people — NOT corporations — and that money is NOT speech.

This is one big step closer to a democracy that works for ALL Americans, not just the wealthiest few. Just wanted to say a big **THANK YOU!** for helping us do this. Faith communities like yours made a big difference, and we almost certainly wouldn't have gotten enough signatures without that help. It's unheard of, getting an initiative on the ballot without relying on billionaire backers and armies of paid signature gatherers. As I said to many people many times, "I know this is a long shot; but we're people of faith, and long shots is kind of what we do."

This is a great day to remember the next time someone says something is impossible or can't be done.

2016 Photo Directory



You probably know that we're producing another photo church directory this year. We've had a good percentage of the congregation sign up

already, but we want everybody! You don't have to be a member to be included. You can sign up for a photo session in the narthex every Sunday through February 21, 2016, if necessary. You may also go to our church website at www.ucucc.org, click on 2016 UCUC Photo Directory to see complete information on the directory and access a link where you can sign up for a photo session online. We will also take a congregational photo for the front cover on March 13, 2016, Palm Sunday. Please read the FAQ sheet thoroughly. If you have any questions, contact Bob Hackman at (206) 522-6581 (please always leave a message), or rhackman@fredhutch.org.

For Those Who Cannot Attend Church And those who can

Practicing Gratitude

Engaging in a daily or weekly gratitude practice can help raise our spirits and also become a form of prayer. What are you grateful for?

Here are some ideas. Read them through then add some of your own.

I'm grateful for everything in my life that has led me to this moment as it has all been part of my unique destiny.

I am grateful for all the people who I have met for a moment or known deeply for they have all been my mirror and my teachers.

I am grateful for all the times I have thought I have failed for I know now they taught me resilience.

I am grateful for all the heartache I've experienced because it means I am willing to open my heart.

I'm grateful for when I've had more because it taught me how to give and I'm grateful for when I've had less because it taught me how to receive.

—Carol Scott-Kassner
Commissioned Minister on Aging, UCUC

Children's Ministry News

Come to Church

Kids, there are so many great reasons to come to church! Here are a few: See your church friends and make new ones! Learn about the Bible! Play games! Make art! Eat yummy food! Sing! Make church attendance part of your weekly routine. Contact me with ideas for new programs and activities, and to ask me about any of these activities. See you soon!

Rebecca Schmidt

Children's Ministry Coordinator

rschmidt@ucucc.org, 206-524-2322

4th and 5th Grade Sleepover on January 30

Our annual sleepover for 4th and 5th graders will take place on January 30th in the church lounge. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Rebecca Schmidt, rschmidt@ucucc.org, 206-524-2322.

Kid's Retreat—*cancelled*

Due to Seattle Public Schools' revised calendar, school will be in session on February 17-19; therefore, our Kids' Retreat that we had planned for those dates has been cancelled. Sorry kids! Please take part in our other fun church events instead!

Family Pizza Night February 6

Please join us for "Family Pizza Night" for families with children at church on Saturday, February 6 from 5-7pm. We will celebrate our church's 125th Anniversary! All ages are welcome. Bring friends! Please RSVP to Rebecca Schmidt, rschmidt@ucucc.org, 206-524-2322.

From 5-6, we will eat pizza and potluck together in the church lounge. From 6-7, we will break out into groups.

Children: We have hired Lucas Bonnema of "Fun Assembly Required" to lead the kids (age 5 and up) in a LEGO building workshop, with a 125 Anniversary twist! Lucas will bring LEGO for us to play with and enjoy. We will provide toys, crafts, games and supervision for toddlers and preschoolers as well. Babies are invited to remain with their parents in the adult or children's session. **Adults:** While the kids are having fun, Pastor Amy will lead a Christian parenting circle for parents in the chapel. *Special thanks to the Phyllis and Ralph Swanson Endowment for Children's Ministry at UCUC for providing funding for this special event.*

Have your Family Picture Taken for the Church Directory

... and keep a copy for yourself! See announcements in the Sunday bulletin or check the table in the Narthex each Sunday.

Parent's Night Out (Kids' Night IN at Church!) on February 13th

Bring your kids to church for fun and games while you enjoy an evening off on February 13 from 4-7pm. This is a chance for kids to develop friendships and parents to take a break or plan a Valentine's date night out! We are offering this as a fundraiser for this summer's UCUC Youth Mission Trips. Some of the helpers at the event will be our capable youth! Donations to the Youth Mission Trips will be gratefully accepted, but are not necessary for your child to participate. Advance sign up is required by contacting Rebecca Schmidt, rschmidt@ucucc.org, 206-524-2322. Please pack a sack-dinner for your child (no nuts). This event is geared for children between the ages of 2-11. If you have a child under age 2 or who has special needs that necessitate 1:1 attention, contact Rebecca to see about making special arrangements. ***We expect this event to fill so sign up now to secure your spot.***

Children's Choir Begins February 14

The Children's Choir is our vocal group for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. We have fun and develop our Christian faith through singing. To sign up for this great opportunity, please come to rehearsal or contact Sarah Turner, Director, at skturner@gmail.com. There is no charge for this activity.

New singers are welcome; Rehearsals occur Sundays in the choir room starting on February 14th at 9 a.m. The main performance is on Easter Sunday, March 27th at the 9 a.m. service.

Preschool Music Circle Begins February 21

We are pleased to offer a fantastic musical opportunity for our youngest children on Sunday mornings! The "Preschool Music Circle" is a gathering for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their adults at church. We will sing, dance and play together while learning Christian songs from accomplished music teacher Rachel Teigen Brackett.

Rachel Teigen Brackett is a master's educated and National Board certified early and middle childhood music specialist. She graduated from PLU in 2002 with her undergraduate degree in music education and has been teaching K-6 music in the public schools since. She currently teaches music at Lakeview Elementary in Kirkland. Rachel has also spent her whole life involved in UCC churches and church camps (her father is UCC Pastor Terry Teigen). She now has a preschool age daughter and is delighted to bring the joy of

(Continued, next page)

Ministry Update

David Anderson

The **Stewardship Ministry** consists of three boards: Facilities & Equipment, Stewardship & Finance, and Personnel. These three boards and the ministry are charged with supporting the four program ministries and to help provide a healthy legacy of facility and focus for the generations yet to come.

In the monthly meeting, scheduled for 2nd Wednesdays, the boards meet together for general prayer, check-in and updates, and then break out to individual boards. It's a great group of people committed to the church's ministry. The boards met in mid-January and all have full plates for the time ahead.

Personnel Board: has staffing study proposal & implementation, personnel guidelines evaluation & updates, Amy's sabbatical proposal and staffing to cover, evaluations, salary surveys and continuing focus on healthy stewardship along with being a fair and just employer.

Facilities and Equipment: working with a tight budget and ways to maintain the facility on an ongoing basis to not slip back into issues of deferred maintenance. They are considering ways to pay for replacing windows outside of *Imagine* funding (not all windows are included

in *Imagine* budget.) They focus on ongoing maintenance, repairs, and necessary upgrades. They host yard cleanups twice/year, and are working on the new safety plan implementation. And they're working on formalizing and implementing a long-term maintenance plan that projects big-ticket costs and the ongoing funding necessary to ensure the work can happen when needed.

Stewardship and Finance: They watch the monthly financial reports to address issues, anomalies and unexpected events. They see to the proper tracing of offering receipts and oversee the financial operations. Supporting the internal review process underway. They oversee administration budget. And they try to support plans and possibilities to ensure the long-term financial support for the church.

All this behind-the-scenes work, conscientiousness and commitment helps the program ministries immensely in their work to carry out the church's ministry. It's good, hard work and a wonderful group of people doing it. The year is off to a good start with these people – thanks be to God!

(from previous page)

music-making and singing to our youngest members of University UCC! We will meet on Sundays Feb 21 & 28, March 6 & 20 from 9:15-9:50 before worship in preschool room 241. No sign ups - just show up! Thanks to funding provided by the Phyllis and Ralph Swanson Endowment for Children's Ministry, there is no charge for this offering.

Magician Thomas Pruiksmas to Perform Feb. 21

Elementary Sunday school kids will enjoy magical entertainment in the chapel during Sunday school on February 21st, presented by the poet, magician and storyteller Thomas Pruiksmas. Thomas grew up in our church community and is an accomplished writer and entertainer. His show, "The Poet's Magic" combines poetry with surprising magic to explore the power of words and Biblical teachings. After his show he will even teach us a few magic tricks!

Food Packing Service Project Dates

After worship on February 14 and March 13 come pack grocery bags for the Emergency Feeding Program in the 1st floor hallway at church. This is an easy way to help others; people of all ages and abilities

are encouraged to come! The activity lasts about 30 minutes and is coordinated by Diane and Steve Adam, sfdadam@comcast.net, 206-522-0925.

Save These Dates for Summer Fun

July 10-15: UCUCS Seabeck all-church camp, Seabeck, WA. Registration begins on March 15th.

August 12-14: Tent camping trip for UCUCS families with children and youth, Camp Casey, Whidbey Island, WA. Sign up with Rebecca Schmidt, rschmidt@ucucc.org, 206-524-2322..

Our Program is Growing

It is fantastic to see so many children attending church! Our program is growing, and we are recruiting volunteers to serve in our children's ministry by teaching Sunday school, helping with fun projects, sharing special talents and more. For more information, please contact Rebecca Schmidt, Children's Ministry Coordinator at rschmidt@ucucc.org, 206-524-2322.

Youth News

On-going Gatherings and Classes:

Youth Group & Worship

Sundays February 7, 14, 21, 28:

9am Youth Group

Youth in grades 6 – 12 are invited to join us Sunday mornings for our weekly gathering. Youth group is a place where we talk about things that matter, we do things that matter and we know that we belong. We will have times of discussions, activities, games and more. All youth are welcome!

10am Worship & Youth Pew

Youth are invited to worship together in the youth pew or with their families.

Our Whole Lives, Sexuality and our Faith

Class continues for our 19 youth and 3 volunteer leaders. Here is the February schedule

February 7 – 5:30-6pm Dinner, 6 - 8pm Class

February 14 – NO CLASS : Mid-Winter Break

February 21 – double session: 4pm - 8pm (class, dinner, class)

February 28 – 5:30-6pm Dinner, 6 - 8pm Class

Contact info for Margaret—

mswanson@ucucc.org or 206-524-2322 x3315.

Moving Mountains

will be held Saturday, March 12—Save the Date!

Other Events

Palestinian Program

There was some discomfort with the Palestine Resolution that was passed May at our annual meeting. There were a number of objections, concerns, and abstentions. Indeed, the decades long Israeli-Palestinian conflict is feeling like a lose-lose situation for all. We need to hear each other's thoughts and worries. Set aside **Sunday, Feb. 7 after church from 11:30-1pm** for a short video followed by member discussion. Playwright Ed Mast of Seattle Mideast Awareness Campaign will be our informational resource. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served.

UCUCC Palestine Action Group

Ed Crouch, Susan Towle, or Carol Ingram

Other Events:

More events are being planned – please make sure to watch your weekly emails and church bulletins.

Junior & Senior Small Group

Wednesday, February 17:7-8:30pm, Pilgrim Room

Youth in grades 11 and 12 in High School are invited to participate in our once a month gatherings. This is an opportunity for youth of this age group to share where they're at, support each other and explore questions of faith and life to help navigate these two years. Please contact Margaret Iribarra Swanson if you're interested in attending or would like more info.

High School Retreat 2016

YOU ARE HERE

4pm Friday, Feb. 26—12pm Sunday, Feb. 28

Bayview Ranch House at Warm Beach Camp

Open to youth in 9th – 12th grade

Youth are invited to take a weekend to connect with God while sharing in experience, discussion and connection with other high school youth. The theme for the weekend is "You Are Here". The retreat is a chance to have some Sabbath time to focus on being in the here and now - being present to the moment, and being open to God's presence in your life. We hope that discussion, reflection time, games and connecting with others will give you the chance to refocus on your relationship with God and with each other.

Cost to Families: \$115 (further scholarship available)

To get more info and to register: <http://bit.ly/hsr2016>.

Kingian Non-violence

Two Upcoming Workshops

Kingian Nonviolence is a multidiscipline body of knowledge derived from the nonviolence philosophy and methodology of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., from which individuals and communities learn how to address the issue of conflict without resorting to violence. There will be an introductory workshop on **Friday, February 12 (4-9:30pm) and Saturday, February 13 (9am-7:30pm)**, and an advanced workshop open to people who have attended this introduction or a previous one on **Sunday and Monday, February 14 and 15 10am-6pm each day**. Both workshops will take place at the church.

Registration fees are \$40 online at <http://bit.ly/knvadvfeb2016> and \$50 at the door. Students may attend free, and financial assistance is available for others. If you have questions, ask Ginger Warfield (vwarfield@mac.com or 206-525-0175).

News and Events In Our Church & Community

Celebrating the Arts in Worship

Peter Ilgenfritz and Kris Garratt

Many of you might remember that we received a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship to produce *An Inverted World*, a UCUCS arts series. This series took place from September 2014 to May 2015. During that time, five visiting artists came and worshipped with us. You may recall the sculptor, Charles McCollough who showed us images of his work, much of it focused the parables of Jesus. Or, if you had a child who participated in the production of *God Bless the Gargoyles* that Sam Vance, an actor and director, produced, you might remember this event best. Others of you may have especially enjoyed the other artists who were with us: Valerie Tutson, Betsey Beckman, and Rawn Harbor.

For many of us, the series reinforced the importance of the arts to dynamic, inclusive worship. Energized by this experience, we have looked for ways to continue to bring arts into worship.

Borrowing from a model used by the Love and Justice Ministries, we have created an action team around worship arts that we are calling the Creativity Council. (This team reports to the Music and Worship Board.) The mission of the council is to bring together experience in visual, musical, graphic, movement arts as well as intergenerational, community, and liturgical engagement.

Our hope is to not only deepen and enrich the experience of UCUCS congregants but to also be a

resource to other congregations that are seeking to bring the arts into worship. One way we are already doing this is to loan out pieces from our liturgical art collection. Our Jesus' Table of Welcome installation has traveled to three other venues, and during Advent our tree banners and paraments graced another local church's sanctuary space. We are grateful for the resources allowing us to build this collection and plan to keep sharing it.

The Creativity Council is led by pastor Peter Ilgenfritz (206-524-2322) and members of the *An Inverted World* grant committee. The members of the council along with their focus areas are listed below.

Musical Arts: Holly Eckert-Lewis
(hollytheknitter@gmail.com)

Theater and Movement Arts: Beth Amsbary
(bethamsbary@gmail.com)/Lori Vanderbilt
(lorivb@yahoo.com)

Verbal Arts: Debra Jarvis (djarvis@universityucc.org)

Visual Arts: Kris Garratt (kgarratt@universityucc.org)/
Nadine Santo Pietro
(nadine.santo.pietro@shorelineschools.org)

Communications: Candace Tkachuck
(cantka@gmail.com)

We are looking for people to assist with various projects. If you would be interested in helping out in a particular area, please contact a lead associated with that area to get involved.

Imagine Campaign Update

Have you noticed the new retaining wall along 45th Ave. NE between the alley and NE 15th St.? This WayFinding/Universal Access project was part of our Imagine Campaign. Landscaping for this area will happen soon. It will be accomplished through work parties by volunteers. Please look to the bulletin for contact information & dates. The final Wayfinding/Universal Access project, which includes a new door & portico at the 16th Ave. entrance, new accessible parking and other improvement at the north end of our property is currently in the permitting process with the City of Seattle, DPD. We are hopeful the project will begin in February. Please look to the drawings on the west wall in the Narthex to see what is coming.

-Susan Heck

Science as the Voice of God—A Day with Ron Cole Turner

On **February 20, 9am-3pm**, Ron Cole Turner, an accomplished theologian in the intersection of science, technology and faith, will keynote a day exploring that dialogue for ourselves. *Science as the Voice of God: Exploring the Intersection of Faith Journeys and Scientific Discoveries* will be held at **Magnolia UCC in Seattle**.

This event is an opportunity for clergy and *anyone else* interested to begin learning to trumpet with energy and specificity how the UCC is open to science and what can be learned religiously through scientific discovery. We will be stretched theologically, and, we can start exploiting an evangelistic opportunity waiting to happen as we engage in this conversation.

Along the Way - An Update from Kris Garratt

It's been over six months since the Church Council voted to call me to the position of (Visual) Artist in Residence. I've had a busy and fulfilling journey so far. My call included two tasks: to continue oversight of the liturgical art installations and to participate with UCUC's Creativity Council in imagining ways to grow our arts ministry. My time has been focused both within and outside the walls of our church, but always on enriching our spiritual experiences through visual arts.

There is often much advanced design planning for each liturgical season. This planning task both lengthened and broadened over the last six months as arrangements were made to borrow several sets of banners from Holden Village and to host two different art exhibits. To minimize the shipping costs associated with hosting the art exhibits, I worked with two other local churches to arrange for them to host the exhibits after their time at UCUC.

In October of last year, I traveled to Cleveland at the invitation of the UCC's Faith Formation Team to participate in a webinar on creating sacred space - a panel presentation and discussion with two UCC ministers from Massachusetts. In February I will be

leading a local sacred space workshop sponsored by the NW Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

While getting to know others in the local faith community with a passion for artistic expression, opportunities to share our own work materialized. Our Jesus' Table of Welcome installation has traveled to three other venues, and our "tree" banners and paraments are currently in use at a church in Edmonds. I hope a network of mutually sharing resources will blossom.

Helping to shape the framework of UCUC's new Creativity Council has also been a challenging and rewarding experience.

Our arts ministry operates without funds from the church's operating budget. My role as Artist in Residence is a non-stipend position and costs for materials and other expenses are paid from the Janis Jacobson Memorial Fund for Worship and Music Ministries. To support the continuation of our arts ministry in the future, your contributions to this fund are most welcome.

In gratitude for our work together, Kris Garratt

Mount Selinda Hospital in Zimbabwe - February Special Offering



You may have been following the saga of Mount Selinda Hospital in Zimbabwe, which we have supported for several years now. They have so little money it is difficult for them to keep the simplest supplies on hand, such as gauze and gloves.

In the words of the President of the Shumba Medical Society, an association that helps hospitals upgrade their capabilities, "Mt. Selinda is a beautiful place to visit, both with respect to geography and people. The hospital is a pleasant place to work, but the poverty is too obvious to ignore."

Two years ago, a second doctor was added to the staff. Until then, there was only one physician to care for patients—including those needing surgery and the 40 or so expectant mothers who come from some distance to stay during the last month of their pregnancy. For most, this medical help for their delivery is the only medical assistance they will have had for their unborn baby.

Our support will help continued funding of this position as well as acquisition of medical and surgical supplies.

Your contribution may provide a lifesaving difference! Please fill out a special offering envelope from the pew pockets, making checks payable to UCUC. Write Mt. Selinda or February Special Offering on the memo line. Your gift makes treatments and supplies we assume in Seattle available for Mt. Selinda patients too. Thank you!





The Lecture Series is proud to present:
Alastair McIntosh | *Spiritual Activism, Climate Change, and Liberation Theology for our Times*—
February 5, 6, 7, 2016

Tickets on sale now - \$35 for all sessions / \$20 Friday only

Friday, Feb 5, 7 - 8:30 | Spiritual Activism - Land, Soul and Agency in Social Change

In his main lecture, Alastair will speak to what can sustain our activism for social, environmental or religious change. Drawing on principles from his latest book, *Spiritual Activism: Leadership as Service*, he will use a case study of community land reform in Scotland to explore community empowerment that has had a positive impact on tackling climate change. The land, he will argue, has been colonised because our hearts are colonised. The building of right relationships with the Earth and one another requires a profound decolonisation, starting with the inner life that is the soul.

Saturday, Feb 6, 9 am - 2:30 pm 9:00-10:30 am | Spiritual Experience as a Basis for Activism

It's all very well to talk about spiritual activism, but what basis do we have for thinking that the spiritual is 'real'? How can we deepen the inner life of the soul, hand in hand with making our outer life as activists more effective? This session will start with listening and sharing from the previous evening's lecture.

11 am -12 Noon | Climate Change as a Focus for Liberation Theology

Alastair sees liberation theology as theology that liberates theology to do the job that theology should be doing. What does theology have to say about the driving factors behind climate change, and how might it help us cope with come what may in the come to pass?

1:00-2:30 pm | Nonviolence in a Context of Engagement with the Military

Nonviolence as informed by the Quaker Peace Testimony is central to Alastair's work as an activist. For nearly two decades he has lectured regularly on this theme at military staff colleges across Europe. What is the spirituality of nonviolence, why does it matter, and how does he present the case to senior officers in the armed forces?

Sunday, Feb 7, 9:00-9:45 am | Christianity, the Cross and Activism Today

Is it time to dump the embarrassment of the Cross, to dump Christianity itself? Are these things past their sell by date, or have we hardly yet begun to appreciate what a spirituality of the Cross might offer to the world in this, the third millennium? Worship and Music Board invited you to attend this session as part of our 'cross conversations.'

10 am Service - Preaching to Mark 6:30-52.

This passage describes the feeding of the five thousand and the walking on the water. How are the challenges of our calling to feed the hungry, and to walk on water, as activists in these our troubled times?

125th Anniversary Celebrates Home, Takes Action for Homelessness

We are well into our celebration of 125 years as a congregation, and as a part of that celebration of our faith home, we are inviting everyone in the congregation to take some kind of action for folks who have no homes. At least three ways to get involved will be listed here in Church and Home each month. In addition, a list of these suggestions will be posted on the Love and Justice Outreach Ministry area of the Red Wall, right across from the church office.

Here are some activities you can participate in during February.

- ◆ Attend the Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day in Olympia on February 2nd. You can be a voice for change at our state level. You can find more information at the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance website here: <http://wliha.org/>.
- ◆ Connect with "Facing Homelessness" on Facebook. Facing Homelessness is a Facebook page that seeks to raise awareness by posts, photos, and stories of people who are currently homeless in Seattle.
- ◆ Join the food packing group after worship this month. Monthly food packing is a part of our Hunger Outreach program at UCUC. Watch the church bulletin for details about when this is scheduled.

Call to Action!

Superfluity 2016

Annual rummage, collectibles and plant sale April 7-9, 2016

Superfluity is a highlight of every Easter Season. As a result of last year's sale, more than \$30,000 was distributed to area nonprofits. It is one event that combines our collective time and talent to **create** treasure. Here's how you can get involved and help:



- Go through your household for things that you no longer need or use and bring them in for the sale (see suggestions below).
- Help sort donations **Wednesdays from Feb. 3 - March 30**
General Sorting: 9:30 am - noon
Book Sorting: 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
- Pass out postcards and flyers to friends (available in March).
- Pot up perennials from your garden or grow seedlings for the plant department.
- Volunteer during sale week.
- Bring friends to the sale - this really helps!
- Make delicious edibles to be sold during the sale. These could include pies, soups, cookies, bars, quiches or other goodies.

These items consistently sell well

- Antiques and collectibles
- Plants and garden tools
- Children's clothes and toys
- Books and games
- Records, CD's and DVD's
- Linens, towels, craft items
- Sporting goods
- Decorative items for the home
- Housewares and small appliances, kitchen items, glassware, utensils
- Tools and electronics
- Jewelry, scarves, purses
- Men's hats and belts
- Small furniture items
- Baked goods—yum!



Bring donations to room 133 starting February 3.

All items need to be clean, in good working condition and have all their parts.

Please DO NOT bring: Large furniture, artificial Christmas trees, Christmas lights, dried or plastic flowers, rolled up pictures/posters, macramé plant hangers, stuffed animals, disposable plastics, computers, printers, TV's, VHS or audio tapes, office supplies, text books, Readers Digest Condensed books, skates, tire chains, adult clothes or shoes



Email Mary Ellen Smith to volunteer or if you have questions.
superfluity@ucucc.org

Spiritual Activism at UCUC... *Faith in Action*

Come to one or all of these sessions exploring the work and passion of our UCUC Love and Justice Action Teams and the practice of Spiritual Activism as presented to us by visiting lecturer Alastair McIntosh. The five-part series takes place after service on **Sundays Feb 21–March 20, 11:30–1pm**; light nourish-

ment provided. Sign up at a table in the Narthex or just drop in. Co-sponsored by the Love and Justice Ministry and The Lecture Series.

- ◆ February 21 – Sacred Earth I
- ◆ February 28 – Global Ministries
- ◆ March 6 – Economic Justice
- ◆ March 13 – Sacred Earth II
- ◆ March 20 – Homes for All

Church Council News

Task Force working on Boards and Ministry Structure that Supports Joyful Service

There have been many changes over the past 50 years, but one thing that hasn't changed is the governing structure of church boards, committees and ministries. Last year the Council hired consultant Kathleen Hosfeld to work on developing a structure that supports the congregation in living into the church for the next generation and creating an anchoring structure for the passion and energy of its members.

The committee framed these two objectives to guide the work:

Encourage enthusiastic participation in church ministries by updating the structure to better align with how God is at work in the lives of church members and friends.

Create a mechanism to assist people in identifying their calling and how they might live out that calling both inside and outside the church.

At the leadership retreat in October 2015, about 25 church members met to discuss Kathleen's recommendations. The group had an enthusiastic and supportive response.

A task force is now working out the details of the proposal and will be presenting it to Boards to get their feedback and suggestions for improving the plan. Forums will also be offered for all those interested in March and / or April. The goal is to have a proposal for a new structure to try out, on a trial basis, for the Congregational meeting in May.

Other key areas needed to sustain a structure that supports joyful service, which the task force will work on plans for implementing, include: providing lay leadership tools for running meetings; identifying and encouraging a sense of community within Boards and Ministries – as a key source of spiritual nurture; reduce "silos" and increase communication; a process / system for bringing new members in to the life of the congregation; annual assessment of boards and committees by the board and committee members and utilizing staff in ways that leverage their expertise and make engagement easier for lay volunteers

Task force members are Ed Coleman, Carol McRoberts, Kathryn Murdock, Tim Croll, Jan von Lehe, Roberta Hollowell and Amy Roon, staff liaison.

Submitted by Roberta Hollowell

UCUCC Emergency Procedures Manual Approved

The Facilities and Equipment Board approved the "UCUCC Emergency Procedures Manual" at its January meeting. The manual is focused on dealing with emergencies that may occur in our building on Sunday mornings. Thanks to those of you who provided helpful comments and ideas during the review period last October and November. We plan to post it on the UCUCC web site, with some hard copies available in the office. There will be opportunities to participate in implementing the manual, including training and drills, in the coming months.

PNWC-UCC Exchange Delegation Visit to South Korea, May 16-23, 2016

Churches across the Pacific Northwest Conference are reminded of a unique opportunity to experience the culture and life of our brothers and sisters of faith in South Korea. The Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC and the Northwest Region Christian Church (Disciples) have had a partnership with the East Seoul Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) and have exchanged delegations for more than twenty years. Our PROK partners have extended an invitation and will host a delegation from our Conference and Region, May 16 to 23, 2016. It is an extraordinary opportunity for participants to learn about the life, ministry and outreach of the PROK – a church that prides itself in being the liberal/ progressive voice of faith in South Korea. Anyone interested in learning more about the Global Ministry work of the church, to know more about our sisters and brothers in Christ in Korea, and how the PROK church ministers in a different culture are encouraged to travel with us to Seoul. The only cost for the visit is roundtrip airfare – approximately \$1800. Our hosts in Korea will provide home stay housing with Korean families, and food and transportation. To learn more about what can be expected and to get a flavor of Korea, link to a video of the 2010 exchange visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxUpRinBrkg>

The Pacific NW Conference News included this article about the upcoming visit:

<http://www.thefigtree.org/pncnews/sept15pnc/090115PROKvisit.html>

For more information please contact Ed Evans at 360-683-4704 or 360-670-1073, or email edevans@aol.com.

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Worship and Preaching Calendar—Sunday worship service—10 am

Sunday, Feb. 7

Mark 6:30-52

“Spiritual Activism and Climate Change and a Liberation Theology for our Times”

We conclude our Epiphany series today with Guest Preacher Alastair McIntosh – we hope you can join us on this special communion Sunday.

Lent: Where God is Found - Emptiness

In the East, there are five traditional elements in creation, the fifth, "nothingness," "emptiness." The ancient hymn in Philippians sings of "Jesus emptying himself and taking on the form of a servant." Each week we will use Philippians 2:5-11 as the first reading paired with the lectionary readings below.

Wednesday, February 10

Ash Wednesday Services at 12 noon and 6 pm

February 14

Luke 4:1-13

Peter Ilgenfritz, Preaching

February 21

Luke 13:31-35

Amy Roon, Preaching

February 28

Luke 13:1-9

Catherine Foote, Preaching

**The Church Building
will be Closed on
Monday February 15,
in honor of
President's Day.**