

CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



4515 16th Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA 98105-4201
Phone: 206.524.2322 Fax: 206.524.0602
www.universityucc.org office@universityucc.org

A Look Back...

...1980's UCUCG involvement with Laotian Refugees

Few present UCUCG members know the significant role the church played in a refugee crisis over 35 years ago. It's story that needs to be part of the 125th anniversary!

During the Vietnam War, two brothers from the Mien tribe in mountainous Laos were conscripted by the US army. When the US left Vietnam in 1975, 1000's of similar families, in fear for retribution, fled through the jungles to Thailand refugee camps. The brothers, with their petite mother, wives, sisters and children spent five years in a camp while resettlement efforts commenced. After several delays, thirteen people in tribal clothes and flip flops arrived at SEATAC on Halloween day in 1980 and were met by our UCUCG committee. Neither side knew what to expect—the Laotian's English was limited to a few words and the American's Laotian even less.



Shortly after arrival

The six adults and seven children moved into our gold house on the alley next to our Parking Lot C (named for the original color.) Plumbing, electricity, cooking, and shopping were all new to the refugees, and knowing this, UCUCG women had carefully planned food for the first week. This food

disappeared overnight! Bedrooms had been designated but these families had always slept in one room. We learned together about social security, social services, bank accounts and access to health care. Trying to introduce our customs, we arrived on their doorstep with a Christmas tree, only to have the interpreter not show up. Always gracious and trusting, the bewildered family invited us in as we set up a dead tree in the middle of the living area and obligingly followed our lead in stringing cranberries and popcorn. In this same space later we experienced an animist funeral complete with a huge sacrificial pig, drums and chanting.

A lawn care business was attempted but faltered eventually. Learning English became a clear priority. While the men tried community classes, a weekly class for area Mien women was held in the church upstairs for over a year. This is just the beginning of a long story of five years of joys and frustrations and many hours given by many as the church continued to

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Celebrating
125 Years
of love & justice

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News and Events in Church

Stewardship...

Over the last few years, there has been some interest in thinking about adding a line on stewardship to our church covenant. This has come up in some formal recommendations as well as informal observations. Our church covenant is an important part of how we articulate ourselves and our call as a community, and considering a change to it would not be taken casually. The church council has formed a task force to explore possibilities and process for this, and we welcome others to join us. We would plan to explore some options, provide opportunities for congregational conversation and input, and then make a recommendation. Earliest for any vote would be at the May annual congregational meeting. If you'd like to be involved on the task force, please contact David Anderson, Ann Lev, or Virginia Felton. And stay tuned for opportunities to discuss this important aspect of our life together.

~David Anderson, Church Administrator

Create a Cross for Lent

During our ongoing conversations about the sanctuary cross, a different expression of this symbol is being offered each liturgical season. During Lent our focus in worship will turn to the concept of Emptiness. In preparation for this season, the Creativity Council invites you to participate in creating a cross that tells the story of those things—events, objects, thoughts, emotions—we wish to empty from our lives. Your responses will be mounted on a simple, newly-created wooden cross. We hope to receive enough submissions to be able to partially obscure the content of each piece as it is pasted onto the cross—a way for the concepts we express to be buried or emptied from our lives. We welcome stories, poems, drawings, paintings—any two-dimensional expression of your thoughts on paper. Please consider and respond to the question, "What do I need emptied from my life?" Submissions may be anonymous or labeled with your name. Lent begins February 10, so to allow sufficient time to construct the cross, please send submissions no later than **January 22**. You may email them to Kris Garratt at kgarratt@universityucc.org (206- 286-8937) or Debra Jarvis at djarvis@universityucc.org (206-361-0149). Your submission may also be left in Kris's church office mailbox. Due to the nature of this project, we will be unable to return submissions to you. Please contact Kris or Debra with any questions, and thank you for participating!

We Remember



Teri Balmer

Born: June 5, 1955

Died: November 18, 2015

Former UCUC member Teri Balmer Wednesday morning, Nov. 18, at her home. She was surrounded by family and her partner, Marcia Trickey. She was 60 years old had been in declining for the past number of years. Teri joined UCUC in 1995 and she and Marcia had their commitment service here in 1997, one of our first such services here at church

Notes can be sent to Marcia Trickey – 2101 South 320th Street, unit 39, Federal Way, WA 98003

There will be a memorial service for Teri on Saturday, January 23, 2016 in the Chapel.

Voice Over the Waters: Nihonga Paintings by Delro Rosco

The voice of God is over the waters. Psalm 29:3
During the season of Epiphany, our church is hosting a special exhibit of paintings by Hawaiian artist Delro Rosco. He uses a technique called nihonga—Japanese mineral pigment painting. His "suggestive seascapes are inspired by biblical scripture, everyday life and beauty found in nature. Through the undeniable display of God's creation, Rosco presents visual whispers telling the viewer, 'You are not alone.'" (from the artist's statement). From January 10 through February 7, as we move through our Epiphany worship series, *Where God is Found: Water*, please come to the chapel to experience this artist's work. And mark your calendars for **Sunday evening, January 31 at 5pm** when we will offer a special worship service in the chapel. The service will integrate worship with the art through movement, music and contemplation, and help us meet God in the element of water. This exhibit is sponsored by UCUC's Creativity Council and the Janis Jacobson Memorial Fund for Worship and Music Ministries.

Senior Lunch Monday, January 11

All are welcome to our monthly Senior lunch held on the second Monday at noon. We generally have a speaker, and always have great food and interesting conversation. Please Join us!

News and Events in the Church

Fellowship Breakfasts

Please join us for Sunday fellowship breakfasts in the church lounge from 8:45-9:45am every Sunday through May 15. Drop in for nourishing food, creative activities, supervision for children, and the opportunity to connect with your church family.

Life in the former Soviet Union

Have you wondered what it must be like to live and work in a former Soviet republic? Come to a presentation on **Sunday, January 10 after worship** with UCUC member Carl Donovan. Carl will speak about his recent experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer for three years in Moldova, a small country sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine. He will share his thoughts on Moldovan culture and how it was shaped by 70 years as a Soviet Republic, the impact of Peace Corps, and the current Moldovan economic situation. He also will discuss his work with the Jewish community in Moldova. The event will be held in Ostrander Hall at 11:30am on Sunday, January 10. All are welcome; light snacks will be provided.

Emptying: January 10

You are invited to participate in creating a special cross for the sanctuary during Lent. (see related article on previous page and Peter's Monthly Reflections on page 8.) In case you find neither the time or the materials at home, please stop in the chapel **after worship on January 10**. There we will provide paper and colored pencils for you to write or draw about those things you wish to empty from your life. Along with other submissions, those collected during this event will be mounted on our Lenten cross. Please plan to join us. Questions? Contact Kris Garratt at kgarratt@universityucc.org or 206-286-8937.

Lent Brainstorming Party:

Bring your ideas and creativity to this session where we will explore the concept of "Emptiness," sharing ways to bring this to life in our worship services during Lent. Our focus is this scripture: "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of a man." Philippians 2:5-7. Join Peter Ilgenfritz and Lori VanderBilt on **Jan 17, 2016 at 11:30am** in the chapel. All are welcome. Light snacks provided.

Come for a Winter Sail!

Being near water makes us healthier and happier, reduces stress and brings us peace. So this winter, why not give yourself the gift of some time on the water? Come out for a sail... or a row... or share a cup of tea on the dock with Peter at the Center for Wooden Boats on South Lake Union. Contact Peter at 206-524-2322 or pilgenfritz@universityucc.org.

For Those Who Cannot Attend Church (And those who can)

Carol Scott-Kassner

Welcome to the year 2016. Often in January we spend time reflecting on the past year and imagining where our dreams might lead us in the new year.

Reflecting is often best done in the quiet and peacefulness that winter can bring with its invitations to hibernation and to germination.

Going inward through mediating and journaling can provide us with rich insights about our deepest longings at this stage of our life.

Renowned poet, David Whyte, has done such contemplation in his poem, The Winter of Listening. These excerpts from that poem may help to guide you on your way.

**What is precious
inside us does not
care to be known
by the mind
in ways that diminish
its presence.
what disturbs
and then nourishes
has everything
we need.**

**Inside everyone
is a great shout of joy
waiting to be born.**

May you listen deeply to find what you are longing for in this new year. *CS-K*

Children's Ministry News

Giving Thanks

When you volunteer your time and talents, you make a priceless contribution to the life of our church. We are thankful for Advent Workshop co-chairs Lynn Schafer and Eva Bonnema, the Advent Workshop Committee, and the 50 volunteers who helped with this event. Thank you to all the families who brought delicious food to share at our holiday potlucks.

Thank you to Sarah

Turner, Sue Landeen and Heidi Blythe for their work with the Children's Choir and instrumentalists. Thank you to Pastor Amy for hosting the Family Advent Party at her home. And thank you to all the people for acting in the Christmas pageant and to Evette Hackman, Amie Hanson and Kyla Gray for coordinating costumes. We are grateful for Mary Paananen, Ann Giesel, Elizabeth Walkup, Evelyn Rucker and the breakfast helpers for preparing nourishing breakfasts every Sunday in the lounge. We appreciate the work of all of our Sunday



school teachers, assistants and caregivers who share their faith with our children every Sunday. We are grateful for the Children's Ministry board members who oversee our Children's Ministry program. Finally, thank you to the children who are so vital to our big church family and who inspire us in countless ways!



Happy New Year Swim Party

We are hosting a fun event for our kids, youth and families: a pool party at Helene Madison Pool, 13401 Meridian Ave N, Seattle, WA, on **Saturday, Jan. 2, 1:30-3:30!** We've rented the entire facility! All ages are welcome in the pool from 1:30-2:30pm (arrive up to 15 minutes prior to get into suits). Then, from 2:30-3:30pm we will meet in the lobby area for snack-potluck. Please bring a healthy snack or beverage to share. Lifeguards will be present. The high dive and deep end will be open. There is no charge to you for this event. RSVP to Rebecca Schmidt, at 206-524-2322 or rschmidt@ucucc.org. Please bring friends and family—there's plenty of room!

Teach Sunday School

We are recruiting volunteers to teach Sunday school February through May (one to two times per month during the 10am worship hour). It is fun to get to know the kids and nurture their spiritual growth. All

volunteers are screened. We provide training, curriculum, materials, set-up and clean-up. Please contact Rebecca Schmidt at rschmidt@ucucc.org or 206-524-2322 for more information.



Save These Dates for Summertime Fun

- ◆ UCUCS Seabeck All-Church Summer Camp: July 10-15, Seabeck, WA
- ◆ Camping Trip for Families with Children: August 12-14, Camp Casey, WA



Ministry Update—Love, Justice, Shelter

~Catherine Foote

This month University Congregational UCC is again hosting Mary's Place, a rotating homeless shelter. With deep gratitude for the Homeless Action Team who inspires this work, and for Liz Gilbert who makes it happen, we will join with other congregations in the U District to offer our church as a temporary home for fourteen women and children.

This month as well, people will gather for the "One Night Count," where volunteers fan out into the streets throughout King County, in the middle of the night, in the middle of the winter, to try to get an estimate regarding how many people in our region are unsheltered at the coldest time of the year. Last year's count was 3,772, an increase of more than 20% from the year before.

Last November, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray joined King County Administrator Dow Constantine to declare that our homelessness crisis here is a "state of emergency." This opens the door to increased funding on the local level and appeals for increased funding on the national level to address the housing crisis here (and across our nation.)

In the meantime, our congregation is continuing with

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sponsor more relatives of the original thirteen—forty people in all.

Thirty-five years later... one daughter is a nurse at Children's where she first spent three months in the NICU, another teaches ESL with a master's degree. All remain grateful to UCUC.

Although UCUC has played a significant role in refugee resettlement in the past, the present worldwide crisis is haunting. UCUC involvement in the '80s was through local Church World Service which is not

Thirty Years later...



our work, and stretching ourselves to do more. The 125th Anniversary planning team has asked that the whole congregation get involved, and folks from the Homeless Action Team (HAT) are ready to help. Here are some specific things you can do to learn more about homelessness and how you can make a difference:

- Commit to volunteer on a homelessness project during this year's Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service. You can find volunteer opportunities, including one involving the Plymouth Housing Group, here: <https://www.uwkc.org/events/mlk-day-of-service/>
- Get involved at the ROOTS shelter, for homeless young adults in the U district. More information about ROOTS is available at rootsinfo.org.
- 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/>
- Commit yourself to checking back in each month for action items regarding homelessness in this Church and Home newsletter.

active in the same way now. The best aid can be given either through cash donations or volunteer help with the International Rescue Committee <http://www.rescue.org/us-program/us-seattle-wa>.

-Jenny Springer

Anniversary Calendar (*With More to Come!*)

There are a number of important events that are part of our 125th Anniversary celebration in the coming months:

- **January 5 – 19, 2016** – Host Mary's Place—supporting homeless families
- **February 6-7, 2016:** Lecture Series
Alistair McIntosh: *Spirituality of Love and Justice*
- **February/March/April:** Reading as a congregation "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time." Sign-up after the first of the year.
- **February 10-13 and 23-27:** Anniversary Picture Directory Photo Sitzings
- **March 20, 2016:** Palm Sunday—Celebration of those who came together 125 years ago today
- **May 14, 2016:** Anniversary Dinner—An Old Fashioned Church Pot Luck in Ostrander Hall

Youth News

On-going Gatherings and Classes:

Sundays January 10, 17, 24, 31: Youth Group & Worship (*no youth group on the 3rd*)
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 January schedule—however, this is subject to change due to our cancelled class in December.

January 3—double session: 4pm-8pm (class, dinner, class)

January 10—5:30-6pm Dinner, 6-8pm Class

January 17—NO CLASS—MLK Weekend

January 24—5:30-6pm Dinner, 6-8pm Class

January 31—double session: 4pm-8pm (class, dinner, class)

Other Events:

Wednesday, January 20: Junior & Senior Small Group—7-8:30pm in Pilgrim Room at UCUC
 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 Irribarra Swanson if you're interested in attending or would like more info.

High School Retreat 2016

Date and Time TBD

We are still working on nailing down the date for the High School Retreat 2016. Please watch the weekly emails for more info.

Contact info for Margaret—mirrabara@ucucc.org or 206-524-2322 x3315.

Solar Update

The COP21 Climate Summit in Paris just ended with a historic agreement that aims to keep global temperature rise to under 2 degrees C (with a stretch goal of 1.5 degrees)! Many factors must coalesce to make this happen, including the will by major polluting nations to keep their promises over the decades. We'll see whether that happens.

In the meantime, we the people can take action – such as driving and flying less, insulating more, and collecting renewable energy instead of unearthing carbon-based fuels. With this in mind, happy birthday to our solar array at UCUC, which will turn 1.5 years old on Christmas Day! After an eerily sunny summer, we've settled in to a normal, cloudy fall. Predictably, we've collected less energy each month since the June solstice. But soon, the sun will head north again and so will our energy production numbers.

Here are those production figures as of early December, 2015:

Solar results	Nov. 2015	Year to Date	Cumulative
<i>Production (in megawatt-hours)</i>	0.58	28.0	42.0
<i>Carbon offset (in tons of CO₂)</i>	0.44	21.3	31.0
<i>Trees planted equivalent</i>	11 trees	517 trees	755 trees

News and Events In Our Church & Community

Superfluity Sale is coming!

The dates are set for Superfluity 2016. This amazing rummage, collectibles and plant sale and recycling extravaganza will be held **Thursday-Saturday, April 7, 8 and 9**. Mark your calendar now and start looking around your home, garage, and storage unit for items in good condition that you would like to donate. All proceeds benefit non-profit organizations.

Bring your donations to room 133 starting on Sunday, January 31. Due to limited storage space, *please* do not bring items to church before then. Check the next issue of Church and Home for information on what sells particularly well. For questions or to volunteer contact Mary Ellen Smith at superfluity@ucucc.org or 206-5255-0494.

Stop What You're Doing—Mark Your Calendars for July 10 thru the 15!

Seabeck is just six months away. Be sure to mark your calendars now and plan to attend, July 10th thru the 15. Along with sunshine, campfire and cheese blintzes, we've got an exciting adult program and an action packed elementary and youth week planned. The adult program this year will be led by the dynamic speaker and minister with the Connecticut UCC Conference, Dr. Da Vita McAllister who will focus on Dismantling Racism, From Tolerance to Unity. As a mother, ordained minister, entrepreneur, philanthropist, writer and advocate for youth and young adults Dr. Da Vita McAllister comes to us with a wide breadth of passion, experience and perspective. Stay tuned for more details on the upcoming Seabeck program.

Noisy Coins—Thank you!

Coins ring out loud and clear, bringing messages far and near. Thank you for your wonderful outpouring of many coins on November 30. The \$422.09 received will be added to the Special Offering for November which is sent to support Kairos. Included were two coins from Portugal and New Zealand! This year our total received in four Sundays was \$1687.51. This is the largest yearly total in the past three years that we have had Noisy Coin Offerings! Your next opportunity to share will be on January 31st. Start saving! Those coins will be added to the January Special Offering to help with the Global Ministries and partners working to settle Syrian Refugees.

Pacific Northwest UCC Justice Leadership Program has grown!

Looking for Housing to accommodate more interns!

The Justice Leadership Program will likely increase to 6-8 Social Justice Interns next year, outgrowing our current apartment at All Pilgrims Christian Church.

We are looking for a house or apartment in Seattle where 3-6 of our interns could live together in intentional community, Sept 2016 through July 2017. Of course we'd love the gift of a year's housing to this great cause, but more realistically, we'd be thrilled with a low-cost rental.

If you know of a living space available below the insane average rental cost in Seattle, please contact Elizabeth Dickinson. Our young adults are responsible and dedicated to justice advocacy, and our rental payments are reliable!

UCHA Open House

UCHA will hold an open house and dedication for Westwood House on **Sunday, January 17 from 1-3pm**. This new home for five people living with mental illness is located at 8400 32nd Ave. S.W. in West Seattle. On Sunday, Jan 17 after Worship, there will be a table in the Narthex where you may pick up driving directions and the opportunity to join up with others for a ride or to carpool.

UCHA wants to thank our church leadership team for their strong support for this project, the Imagine Campaign and so many members of our congregation! After providing much of the initial funding, church members have stepped up to provide the furnishings and have helped with the transportation to get them there. We are especially grateful for the support and advice of Darcell Slovec-Walker, executive director of Transitional Resources, our partner agency. We want to especially acknowledge the patience and expertise of Carol Christoferson, our president during this process, who has patiently negotiated us through twists and turns, including dozens of trips to West Seattle, to finally acquire this very special house.

We viewed many, many houses with the guidance of Roger Morris, former UCHA president. From the very first time we saw this house it seemed to provide the extra qualities to make a house a home for mentally ill people who otherwise would be homeless. We hope that you will come to see Westwood House and also feel that way about this home made possible by your support.

Along the Way - monthly reflections from the leadership staff

~Peter Ilgenfritz

We have had a rich series of conversations about our sanctuary cross this past fall. And what a season to do this as we have gone through yet another year marked by violence, fear, racism, prejudice. The cross reminds some of us of the Suffering God who knows us and meets us in such places of pain. The cross reminds some of us of the God of Resurrection and New Life who proclaims that Death is not the end of the story.

Each season, we will continue to explore different representations and ways of using the cross in worship as a way to spark our imaginations about the meaning of the cross for us today. During Epiphany, our chancel cross will be transformed into a boat, the symbol of the ecumenical movement (Christians of various traditions working together in common mission). During Lent, we will use a processional cross made from art and words collected from the congregation.

This fall, the Worship and Music Board hosted two congregational conversations on the cross. During November we reached out to families with young children, our youth and their parents, and our seniors for additional responses. We have received many emails and letters sharing stories about the cross and ideas for our sanctuary cross. The Worship and Music Board will meet in January and form a recommendation for our sanctuary cross that we will present at a **Congregational Forum on February 7, 11:30-12:30 pm**. After hearing your responses, the Board will present a recommendation to the church council in March.

The Worship and Music Board’s recommendation on our sanctuary cross will grow out of our reflection on the conversations we have engaged in this fall and reflection on the values we bring to worship. We’ll be talking more about these values at our February congregational conversation. Here are the values our Worship and Music Board and Worship Staff have been using as we shape worship each week. We welcome your response.

Values in Worship

We gather each week in our believing, seeking and doubting, opening ourselves to the Spirit of the Living God, present with us now. We listen for the God who is still speaking.

Extravagant Welcome

We recognize and celebrate our diversity as a community of faith.

We seek in all we do to welcome the stranger and newcomer, to those new to Christian church and practice.

We seek to open participation barriers to those with visual, hearing, mobility and other particular needs.

We seek to ground our worship in ways that reach a diversity of generations and ages.

We seek to give expression to the various sensory and cognitive ways we connect to God and God reaches out to us.

Liturgically Grounded

We mark the year through the cycle of Christian seasons.

We use a flexible and changing worship space to support the changing seasons and diversity of theological perspectives we emphasize at various times of the year.

We use a variety of musical and liturgical arts each season to expand the ways we connect to God and God to us.

Inclusive Leadership

Our worship leadership each week supports a variety of different perspectives and participants in liturgical and music leadership.

We seek to develop in the rhythm of each season worship that is:

participatory and includes different voices, lay and ordained,

pastoral and prophetic in preaching and worship emphases,

the best of traditional and contemporary worship.

We seek intellectual integrity and a willingness to question.

We encourage multiple understandings of “God”.

We affirm our grounding in the Christian Faith with a simultaneous sincere respect for other faiths.

We seek to embody strong ecological concerns and commitments.

We hope you will join us on **February 7** for our next conversation. Thank you for being part of this rich exploration!

New Group Opportunity for Women: Contemplative Spirituality meets the Expressive Arts

If you have you been searching for a way to explore the arts and creativity while deepening your connection to God, this is for you! In this 12-week women's group, we will journey together through Lent and Easter using expressive arts practices such as writing, visual arts, and movement to explore scripture and other texts. Through personal and shared experience, we will explore the important role expressive arts can play in contemplative and transformative spirituality. The book, *The Artist's Rule*, by Christine Paintner will guide us through our time together as we explore themes such as

- establishing a creative, contemplative practice
- using sacred tools and sacred space
- exploring sacred rhythms
- embracing your imperfections and limitations
- welcoming the stranger or inner hospitality
- finding creative community

The group will have two facilitators: Mary Jeanne Phipps LICSW, and Lori VanderBilt MS. Both Mary Jeanne and Lori incorporate their many years as spiritually-integrative therapists into their leadership. Each of them has been in groups led by the author, Christine Paintner, and found the experience to be life-changing.

The group will meet for 12 consecutive weeks beginning on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 from 2-4pm in the chapel, and is limited to 6 participants. Cost is \$180 including supplies, with sliding fee scale available. Please email Mary Jeanne Phipps at maryjhipps@earthlink.net Or 206-522-1522, or Lori VanderBilt at lorivb@yahoo.com or 206-789-8123 if you are interested.

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

Alastair McIntosh is a Scottish writer, broadcaster and activist on social, environmental and spiritual issues. Raised on the Isle of Lewis, he is a Fellow of the Centre for Human Ecology and an Honorary Fellow in the School of Divinity (New College) at Edinburgh University. His books include *Hell & High Water: Climate Change, Hope and the Human Condition* on the cultural and spiritual dimensions of climate change, *Rekindling Community* on the spiritual basis of inter-relationship, *Soil and Soul: People versus Corporate Power* on land reform and environmental protection, and most recently, *Spiritual Activism* (Oct 2015), co-authored with Matt Carmichael. This new book reflects the author's own experiences over a lifetime of activism and is drawn from the spiritual teachers of many different faiths, and from front-line activist experience, including direct action, with case studies of effective activists at the end of each of the ten chapters.

More about *Spiritual Activism*. Over the past half century the issues facing activists have changed, as has our understanding and awareness of spirituality. For activists, spiritual philosophy is rising up the agenda because it offers distinct, tried and tested approaches to deep questions: Where did it all go wrong? What does it mean to be human? What is the place of leadership? What is the nature of power?

The book begins by defining spirituality for a modern audience of all faiths and beliefs, and goes on to consider the problems and necessities of true leadership. Drawing on a rich history of spirituality and activism, from The Bhagavad Gita, to the Hebrew prophets, to Carl Jung, it is both guide and inspiration for people involved in activism for social or environmental justice.

The text is enriched with tales from the authors' own experiences. It contains case studies of inspirational spiritual activists (including Mama Efua, Desmond Tutu, Gerrard Winstanley, Sojourner Truth and Julia Butterfly Hill), which demonstrate the transformative power of spiritual principles in action.

Tickets to the Alastair McIntosh Lectures are now available at a table in the Narthex, and at Brown Paper Tickets (search Alastair McIntosh). Cost is just \$35 for all lectures or \$20 for Friday only. Join a pre-lecture discussion group is being planned for Sunday, January 24th. Watch for more details.

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.

John Dorhauer, our national UCC President, highlights three key domains where our denomination needs to engage deeply in the near future: interfaith connection, faith & science, and race. These areas are key to our vitality.



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 this conversation.

Inquirers class coming up on January 10 – the first of our “second Sunday” classes in 2016

Inquirers classes are offered on the second Sunday of every month (except December and summer) to help people learn more about our church. This two-hour, one-session class provides an introduction to our church community for people who have recently started attending or those who have been part of the community for a while and just want to learn more. The class is informal and lively, and includes lunch. **January 10 and February 14** are the dates of the next two sessions. To let us know you're coming, or if you want more information, please call Virginia Felton at 206-526-5616 or email us at inquirers@ucucc.org.

Here are the “**top-ten**” reasons to consider attending this class.

1. Learn **about our church** and what it might mean for you to be a member.
But don't worry – you won't get a high-pressure sales pitch. Whether you join or not is all up to you.
2. Get to know **our ministers**. One of our ministers always attends the class. Plus, you can sign up for a one-on-one conversation with a minister to get to know them better.
3. Learn about the **rich history** of the national UCC church.
Find out more about why nationally we are known as “the church of firsts.” For example, we were the first church to take a stand against slavery, the first to ordain a woman pastor and the first to support marriage equality.
4. Enjoy delicious, lovingly prepared **free food**.
5. Yay! **Childcare is provided**.
6. **Find the answers** to your “I-wonder” questions. I wonder what Mix-Sups is all about? I wonder why they call it Ostrander Hall? I wonder what happens at Seabeck?
7. **Meet others** who are also seeking a faith community and explore what you are seeking for yourself as well.
Figuring out what makes sense to you as a spiritual being is not easy! You don't have to struggle with these big questions alone. That's what Inquirers classes are all about.
8. **Learn about this denomination** and how we fit in. Where did this church come from? What are our roots? What are our priorities?
9. Find out all the ways we are **servicing our community**. Putting faith into action: homelessness, earth stewardship, hunger action and other social justice issues are important to us. Discover what resonates with you.
10. Find out **what's in it for you!** You'll meet other church members, find out how you can get involved, learn about ways to connect and make new friends.

Church Council News

Congregational Meeting Summary Meeting of November 22, 2015

Report from *Finding Home* Campaign

Kathryn Murdock thanked members for prayerfully considering how much they should pledge and then making a pledge to UCUC. The goal was pledges of \$1.25 million, to date, \$1,091,573 has been pledged. 354 member families out 595 member families pledged. Last year 375 families pledged. The pledge cards requested people add comments on why they give. Many specific reasons were given. Pledges sustain and support the ministries and work of UCUC.

Presentation of 2016 Budget-

Robin Turner

Robin thanked the 14 people on the budget committee that worked to create the budget being presented. She noted that this group represents the whole congregation, the values and mission of the congregation. The members were thanked for the time and thoughtfulness they brought to meetings. Robin noted that the budget tells a continuing story of where we are going as a church. Expenses are going up every year, but the pledges and resulting budget are remaining flat. With courage and generosity we are answering the question of what we choose to do with what we have available. The motion to accept the 2016 budget of \$1,391,826 as presented and recommended by the church council, consisting of \$1,140,000 in pledges and additional revenue from other sources. If total pledges received are less than \$1,140,000, the church council convene a special process to determine the steps to take to bal-

ance the 2016 budget, including articulating priorities and considering a way of inviting additional or revised pledges to close the gap. If total pledges received are more than \$1,140,000: (1) The first \$10,000 more should be allocated to audit reserve and (2) Other allocations to be considered to support ongoing ministries (not in any particular priority order): Child Care Scholarships, Communications & Public Relations Facilities and Equipment (infrastructure and utilities support), Fellowship, Love & Justice Board, Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) support to the wider United Church of Christ, Stewardship and Finance (administration support), Worship and Music Board. The motion unanimously passed

125th anniversary events

Virginia Felton provided an update. She noted that there are 4 goals for the 125th anniversary: Celebrate well; Foster stronger congregational connections; Further our homelessness and Love & Justice ministries; and Increase our church profile in the local area. The 125th anniversary will be celebrated as a part of both regularly scheduled and unique special events: Homecoming Sunday and the organ rededication have already occurred. It will be celebrated as a part of the advent workshop, mix-sups, Mary's Place, lecture series, pictorial directory and reading a book together as a congregation. Palm Sunday is the actual date of the 125th anniversary. In May there will be a church potluck.

Summary submitted by Roberta Hollowell, Council Secretary

Pacific Northwest Conference Men's Retreat

All men are invited to the Pacific Northwest Conference Winter Men's Retreat **January 29-31, 2016**.

The theme is *Stories that Matter: Men Sharing Their Hearts*. You may also sign up for the Day of Silence which begins on **Thursday, January 28**. Registration for this event will be on the following website: www.pncucc.org. You can also find the event on Facebook by searching for PNC-UCC Men's Retreat. For questions and concerns please send to the retreat email: pnwmen@gmail.com.

Sacred Earth Matters

Shrimp Cocktails for the Holidays?

You can reduce your family's carbon footprint this Christmas by buying/eating food grown or harvested on the West Coast. Buying shrimp flown here from Asia wastes fossil fuel. We can work on dieting after the holidays to reduce our waistlines. But we also need to get serious about **carbon dieting**. Sacred Earth Matters will be providing comprehensive tips and plans in the new year to calculate and reduce our use of carbon. That's something we all must work on together to save our planet.



The Syrian Refuge Crisis

Our Conference Minister Mike Denton reminds us that at Advent we are worshipping the refugee Christ. He tells us that we recommit to serve Christ as we encounter Him in all those who are vulnerable, imprisoned and impoverished.

Our January Special Offering will bring help to Syrian refugees. As they move north, their hardships are magnified by winter. It is especially harsh for children — uprooted from their homes, their schools — and all too often their very families.

Our giving this month will bring the shelter, warm food, clothing and trauma care which are provided by Global Ministries partners in the overwhelmed receiving countries.



To assist refugees, please use the special offering envelopes in the pockets on the back of the pews and make checks to UCUC, writing Special Offering on the check memo. We can't emphasize enough how important your contribution can be. Thanks for your support.



To read more about the refugee crisis, click here, http://www.globalministries.org/syria_crisis.

Breathing into Your Transitions

A Class for People from Ages 45 to 65

Led by Carol Scott-Kassner

"Your course on transitions provided abundant nourishment of soul, knowledge, and spirit. I enjoyed your leadership and the group very much. Wonderful bread for the continuing life journey!"

The middle period of our lives often brings significant changes. Children frequently need us less than before. Parents or other loved ones age and sometimes die. We may be considering taking a new job or retiring. These transitions often make us feel "in-between" and unsure of how to handle what is moving in us. As our roles shift, we are invited to re-examine our lives and our place in the world. We will explore the nature of transition, share stories, and learn how to do deep soul work and to invite the Spirit to hold us in our threshold times.

The class will be offered on five Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm. We will meet in the lounge of University Congregational UCC on March 8, 15, 29, April 5, and 12. (We will skip March 22 because it is Easter week.) The cost is \$50.00 for the five sessions and handouts. This popular class is offered every two years only and is limited to 20 people per class.

Sign-up by contacting: Carol Scott-Kassner at carolkassner@comcast.net. Checks need to be made out to UCUC. Payments will be accepted the first evening of class at the latest. Folders and extensive handouts will be provided.

Carol Scott-Kassner is a commissioned minister of the United Church of Christ with ministry directed toward the spirituality of aging. She has been president of Sage-ing International, an organization that invites people into the spiritual work of aging. www.sage-ing.org.

Book Talk

Spiritual Activism: leadership as Service

By Alastair McIntosh

The Lecture Series' next speaker, on February 5, 6 and 7, is Scottish author, lecturer and social activist Alastair McIntosh. (See page 9 for more on his visit.) Author of eight books and a former professor at the University of Edinburgh, Alastair now spends his time working on environmental and justice campaigns, writing, speaking and consulting religious and social groups. He is a regular presenter on BBC Radio Scotland, and as a Quaker was a consultant to the World Council of Churches. Two of his highly regarded books are *Soil and Soul: People vs. Corporate Power and Hell* and *High Water: Climate Change, Hope and the Human Condition*.

The Lecture Series is sponsoring a book talk about Spiritual Activism on Sunday, **January 24** (time is TBD). Signups will be in the narthex the preceding Sundays, where you may pick up a handout containing two short chapters from the book to read. The book talk will be a great way to get a brief introduction to Alastair's ideas before his lecture.

PNC UCC Conference Opportunities to Serve

The visible form of an invisible grace called our Pacific Northwest Conference Constitution and By Laws calls us to **"dedicate ourselves to growing into, living, and improving our covenant together."** We have found that our Conference covenant is strongest when a wide variety of the members of our churches participate in the ministries of the Conference as well as the ministries of our local churches. We grow in both neighborliness and effectiveness when lots of folks connect beyond their local churches to serve together on Conference boards, committees, and task forces.

With this goal of "growing into, living, and improving our covenant together" in mind, we are reaching out to make connections with people in local ministry settings. We are seeking approximately eighty individuals to serve on our boards, committees and task forces beginning in 2016. That's a great many servants needed, but we feel confident that a coordinated effort will yield a terrific set of Covenant partners.

For more information, stop in the office or contact David Anderson at 206-524-2322 or danderson@ucucc.org.

New Member Bios

The new member bios are intentionally left off the online version of Church and Home for privacy purposes. If you would like a copy, please email office@ucucc.org or call the office at 206-524-2322.



New Member Bios

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, food and transportation. To learn more about what can be expected and to get a flavor of Korea here is a 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 ede-vans@aol.com.

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Worship and Preaching Calendar—Sunday worship service—10 am

Epiphany Worship Series - Where God is Found: Water

Being near water makes us healthier and happier, reduces stress and brings us peace - and water is also a fearsome and powerful element of creation. This Epiphany we will explore finding God in water as we explore the Gospel of Mark where Jesus is almost constantly at the shoreline, in a boat, getting out of a boat or into one. Each Sunday focuses on a step on the discipleship journey with Jesus - call, invite, listen, go, trust.

As part of our ongoing exploration of the cross, our chancel cross will be transformed this season into a sailboat and the traditional symbol for the ecumenical movement, the ministry of Christians of various denominations working in mission together.

In addition, as part of our focus on the element of water this season, we are hosting an art exhibit in the chapel by Delro Rosco entitled "Voice Over the Waters" and on Sunday, **January 31 at 5pm**, a special worship service to explore the themes of the exhibit. (See other article on page ???.)



Worship Schedule:

January 3

Epiphany Sunday/Communion Sunday

Mathew 2:1-12

David Anderson Preaching

We welcome David Anderson, Church Administrator and Member of our Leadership Staff Team to the pulpit today.

January 10 - *Call*

Amy Roon Preaching

Mark 1:1-20

January 17 - *Invite*

Mark 2:13-17

Amy Roon Preaching

January 24 - *Listen*

Mark 4:1-9

Peter Ilgenfritz Preaching

January 31 - *Go*

Mark 4:35-41

Catherine Foote Preaching

February 7 - *Trust*

Mark 6:30-52

Alastair McIntosh Preaching