

CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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Youth Mission Trip!

North To Alaska

Last summer, in June, we were on our high school summer mission trip in the San Juan Islands. It had been a long day of work, and we were finally settled around our campfire eating dinner. A discussion began amongst the youth about where to travel the next summer for their upcoming out-of-state mission trip. You see, newer to the life of the Youth Ministry Program here at UCUC, we are developing a pattern of travelling beyond our state borders every 3 years. We started this with a trip to Chicago back in 2013, so the youth were getting excited to plan our next out-of-state trip. Someone said, *"I think we should go to Alaska!"* This idea was met with several *oohs* and *aaahs!* Thus, the seed had been planted and though we looked into several other ideas, Alaska was chosen as the destination for this summer's high school mission trip.

Amazingly, we had 22 youth and 4 adult leaders say YES to this Alaska experience! By saying yes, the youth were committing to attending half of the 9am youth group time, participating in retreats, fundraisers and planning meetings. This was not a small commitment! While in Anchorage, the group will be working with Beans Café and the Downtown Food Bank. To deepen our understanding of the work we will be doing, we will be engaging in discussions and reflection to understand underlying causes of homelessness (along with substance abuse and domestic violence) in Alaska. We will also be spending some time connecting with local communities and time exploring the beauty of Alaska! God has been so present with us on this journey to create this trip! Connections have been made with wonderful folks up in Alaska who are waiting to welcome us, and are preparing a space for us to call

"home" for a week. We are incredibly grateful to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of Anchorage for letting us spend the week in their church. We are grateful to Beau Bassett, our connection from Anchorage, who has set up our work, and will be along with us on our journey!

Again, a huge thank you to this congregation who knew we were dreaming big, not only with this trip, but with sending five high school youth as delegates to the National Youth Event and in planning our Middle School Mission Trip. You, as a congregation, helped us raise about \$13,500 which will make all of our summer trips affordable to *all* of our families!

While on our trips, we take time to reflect on how the work we do and how we live in community is informed by our faith. These trips have the power to transform who we are, and further our faith journeys in some really profound ways. Please hold us in prayer as we travel! We look forward to sharing the stories of our journey with you when we return.

--Margaret Irabarra Swanson

In this issue

Along the Way.....	8
Children's Ministry.....	4
Church Council News.....	10
Imagine Campaign Update.....	7
Ministry Update.....	5
Special Offering.....	11
Youth News.....	6

News and Events in Church



Be Green without Gardening!

Sacred Earth Matters would like to invite you to participate in our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program this summer. Receive about 20 weeks of high quality, farm-fresh organic produce, with an easy pick up at UCUC on Sunday Mornings! Each week you'll get a bag of 8-15 seasonal items. Half-shares and prorated shares are available. This year, deliveries will begin June 5 and the last delivery will be Oct 16, 2016. You can sign up in the Church Narthex on Sundays in May. Please contact Joan Davis at joandavis3@gmail.com or 206 729-0973 with any questions.

Imagine Campaign Giving Period Nearing End

The Imagine Campaign is extending its giving period to June 30 to make it easier for anyone who still needs to turn in their pledges. We are so grateful for the abundance that has been donated to complete our various projects. There is, however, a considerable amount of pledged dollars that have not yet been received. If you need more time, or are unable to complete your pledge, please let David Anderson know at danderson@universityucc.org, or (206)524-2322. And, if you are called to donate additional funds, we are welcome to that too! Thank You!!

Gratitude from Mwanzo

On behalf of the Mwanzo Proud Farmers Board of Directors, a deeply felt and grateful "Thank You" to the over 130 members of this wonderful church, who contributed so generously to the April Special Offering, raising over \$15,000, or donated to our organization as part of the 2016 "GiveBig" Campaign. All donations over \$10,000 will make possible the further construction of the Mwanzo Education Center/Primary School, meaningful investments in micro-finance via the Chicken Coop Program, the community Savings and Loan organizations (with 300 plus participants!), and other community identified/implemented initiatives. What Good News! Through this work, we are making the world a more hope-filled space, and bringing people closer into community. Bless you for your faithful service!

-Mark Peterson Chair, Mwanzo Board of Directors

Love & Justice Quarterly Meeting A New Look!

If you are curious about the many and diverse ministries of the *Love & Justice Action Teams* that embody passionate engagement with the issues of: Beloved Community, Child and Youth Wellbeing, Economic Justice, Homes for All, Sacred Earth, and Global Ministries, then check out this upcoming event!

Meet with Action Team members and the Love & Justice Board to take *A Fresh Look* at present and future activities of our dynamic ministries through the lens of our past history of social justice at UCUC. Come and hear our members share their stories—successful as well as not-so-successful—on Saturday, June 11 from 9:30 to 12:30 in the Lounge. For more information, please contact Cassie Emanuel at cassieemanuel12@gmail.com, (206)466-2626.

Senior Retreat Dates are Set!

The Senior Retreat at beautiful Rainbow Lodge is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, October 3rd and 4th. Please mark your calendars!

Clergy & Lay Leadership Training

You are invited to participate in a Clergy and Lay Leadership Training Saturday, *June 11, 2016 12:30-3:30pm*, Kirkland UCC, 106 5th Avenue in Kirkland. The following day, Tara will be installed as Specialized Minister of Support for Clergy and Congregations at Alki UCC. If you would like information on either of these events, please contact Tara Barber at barber-tara@hotmail.com.

Birth Announcement

Good news of great joy

Congratulations to Lily Lahiri and family on the birth of her precious grandson, Mohan! He was born on Lily's birthday, April 22. His name is Mohan Walsh Lalani, and he was born 7lbs 7oz, and 21". Proud parents are Anjali and Imran Lalani. Mom and baby are both healthy and happy. His grandparents are thoroughly delighted!

Rae Waggoner Memorial Service

A memorial service for Rae will be held at Horizon House on **June 3, at 10:30am.**

News and Events in the Church

Staffing Update and Welcome!

Many thanks to Carol Coleman and Barbara Deppe for their work and ministry this last year while our discernment process helped define the needs and positions of the Parish Care and Worship programs. We have been blessed by both of them and the ways they have helped the life of this congregation.

Carol Coleman has been named as Program Assistant for Parish Care, a 10 hour/week position. She has been filling the position on a temporary basis for the last few months, while discernment, reconfiguration and search were underway. Carol's long history with the congregation, and understanding of the role of assisting the parish care program will be crucial.

Dan Hammer has been named as Program Assistant for Worship, a 10 hour/week position. Dan replaces Barbara Deppe, who had been filling the position on a temporary basis, and chose not to apply for the permanent position. Dan is a theology student, and director of music for Mercer Island Presbyterian Church. He has great organizational gifts as well as a deep understanding of worship. He began on April 18.

Erin Lovejoy-Guron has begun as Lay Ministries and Communications Coordinator on Monday, May 9. Erin brings an excellent background in administration, communication, and operations. Her experience will be great as we focus more of the crucial communications function in this position, and as we continue to find ways to help the congregation carry out the ministries that engage and call us. Erin's own membership here at UCUCUCC will also help her understand our unique ways and foibles, how to make sense of them, and make them work better! This is the reworked position that Vicki Farmer has been in for the last year; she decided not to apply for the new position. Thankfully, Vicki will be around for a while longer working on a couple of special projects.

Bookkeeper Su Devan is currently out on medical leave following knee replacement surgery in April. Her recovery has been slow and painful, but she is making progress and plans to be back on a part-time schedule in early or mid-June. Candice Hoyt is in place as temporary bookkeeper and doing well. Su is grateful for the cards and care she has received from the congregation, and looks forward to being back soon.

I'm grateful for the care and commitment of each of these colleagues, and all the ways they support our ministry together.

-David Anderson

For Those Who Cannot Attend Church And Those Who Can Wishes for Aging

The latest research in aging well suggest that our attitudes can make a positive difference in our health and in our recovery from physical challenges we face. Certainly we can choose to try to age well by eating healthily, exercising, and taking good care of ourselves.

Volunteering in our communities and social engagement also helps keep us mentally sharp. But anyone who has read Atul Gawande's book, *Being Mortal*, has been reminded that eventually our bodies will decline and our lives will end.

The question is how we respond spiritually to whatever happens to us as we age. What are your visions or intentions for yourself?

Maya Angelou said: *My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.*

My friend Deb said: *My intention is to create a new experience of 'ease' (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual) in my second year of retirement.*

In his poem, *My Hero*, Billy Collins, advocates for living a slower pace of life while being mindful.

Just as the hare is zipping across the finish line,
the tortoise has stopped once again
by the roadside
this time to stick out his neck
and nibble a bit of sweet grass,
unlike the previous time
when he was distracted
by a bee humming in the heart of a wildflower.

My spiritual director, Terry, is simply offering a prayer for grace, no matter what happens to her as she ages.

~~~~~  
Reflect on what your wishes are for yourself as you age. How will you put those into action?

~Carol Scott-Kassner, Commissioned Minister UCUCUCC

## UCUCUCC at the Mariners - June 10, 7pm

It's Baseball season again! We have had great fun at UCUCUCC at the Mariners each year. This year we are scheduled to go on June 10<sup>th</sup> for another fireworks night at the Mariners. Tickets will cost \$12. Questions? Contact Nancy Hannah, nlhannah@earthlink.net or 206 525-0494.

## Children's Ministry News

### Summer Sunday Activities for Children

Bring the kids to church this summer! Before and after worship every Sunday kids can enjoy activities in the church lounge. During 10am worship, young children can take part in toddler, preschool & kindergarten Sunday school.

Elementary children can attend special sermon time with a pastor and special project time on select Sundays throughout the summer. All children are welcome to remain in worship with their families if they prefer.



### Check out our summer family events!

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reception, June 5, 9am
- Volunteer Recognition, June 5, 10am
- Mariners Baseball Night, June 10 7:10 pm
- Seabeck All-Church Camp, July, 10-15 (space is available!)
- Camping Trip for Families with Children, August, 12-14 (space is available!)
- Everett Aqua Sox Baseball Outing, August 28, 4:05 pm

### Food Packing Service Project

After worship on June 26, July 17 and August 21, 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.

### Children's Ministry Board Meeting June 6

We are recruiting new participants for our Children's Ministry board that oversees our Sunday school program for children (birth through 5th grade), as well as faith formation and community building activities for children and families. Please consider coming to our next meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm at church to see what we are all about.

### Get Involved!

There are many ways for you to get involved in the ministry of the church: become a volunteer teacher, host a fellowship event, coordinate a service project, join our Children's Ministry Board, assist with projects, or simply attend worship and join us for a fellowship event. We encourage children's involvement in church through reading the "call to worship," playing an instrument, participating in Sunday school and much more. Please contact Rebecca Schmidt, Children's Ministry Coordinator, to get involved and feel free to send her your suggestions, questions, or concerns, [rschmidt@ucucc.org](mailto:rschmidt@ucucc.org), 206 524-2322.

### Invitation to Teach Sunday School

Live into our covenant "to encourage each other in the growth of our minds and spirits" and become a Sunday school teacher or assistant. **We have a particular need for preschool teachers and elementary assistants this summer and teachers this fall in all grade levels.** Please contact Rebecca Schmidt at [rschmidt@ucucc.org](mailto:rschmidt@ucucc.org), 206-524-2322 for more information.



*Please contact Rebecca Schmidt for more information on anything on this page or any other children's ministry activity — [rschmidt@universityucc.org](mailto:rschmidt@universityucc.org) or 206-524-2322.*



## Ministry Update

### Good work is going on in the three boards of the Stewardship Ministry!

**Stewardship and Finance Board** has reviewed audit results, reviewed and celebrated the special offerings process which the Love and Justice board oversees, made plans for a review of insurance coverage, scheduled a meeting for November to review our endowment investment options, and continues to support the ongoing process with offering receipts.

The **Facilities and Equipment Board** is working hard with the *Imagine* Campaign implementation committee, looking at *Imagine*-funded projects, and projects where *Imagine* funding is not available but where needs and issues need addressing. They celebrate the good work that the *Imagine* campaign has made possible and the ways that our ministry is enhanced because of it. They are also dealing with a much larger than expected increase in our church property taxes, and the implications of that hit. They also are addressing ongoing maintenance issues and priorities and working to keep the building safe and fit.

The **Personnel Board** is working on supporting the implementation of the staffing study recommendations, and the implications and hopes with those changes. As a congregation committed to being a fair and just employer, the board is also involved in a process to update some sections of the personnel guidelines, and how best to support both staff and the church's ministry, which the staff help carry out.

These three boards exist solely to support the church's ministry, to provide logistical and infrastructure support for all the ways we are called to share God's love with each other and the community. This is a great group of committed and faithful folks, and it's good to be working with them!

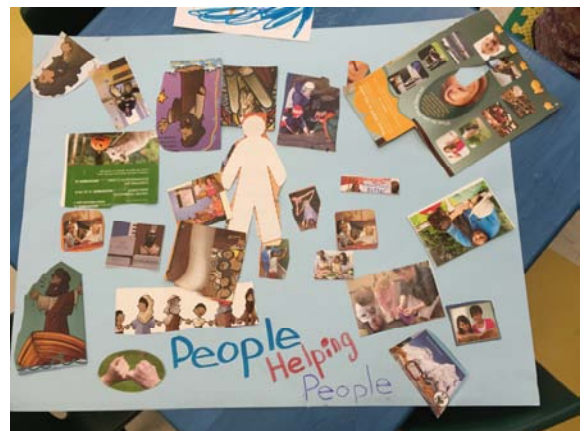
~David Anderson

*(Children's ministry, continued from previous page)*

### Thank you Volunteers and Staff!

Thank you to the wonderful children's ministry volunteers and staff who served this year as teachers, caregivers, board members, musicians, chaperones, special guests, and more! We will recognize our volunteers in worship on Sunday, June 5th, followed by a reception after worship in the lounge.

|                 |                       |                    |                    |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Linda Beck      | Theresa Fjermedal     | Ian McAbee         | Lynn Schafer       | Megan Turner     |
| Sally Bjornsen  | Kyla Gray             | Jessie McAbee      | Kurt Schmidt       | Sarah Turner     |
| Eva Bonnema     | Bob Hackman           | Rob McAbee         | Rachel Schmidt     | Tom Vasquez      |
| Lucas Bonnema   | Evette Hackman        | Alyson McColl      | Rebecca Schmidt    | Kathie Vitz      |
| Mark Bonnema    | Carol Hamilton        | Christy McDanold   | Trent Siegel       | Sarah Wallen     |
| Jenny Breed     | Amie Hanson           | Miranda Meyer      | Betty Spieth-Croll | John Worthington |
| Tucker Bush     | Holly Hendrickson     | Marla Murdock      | Ann Stephenson     |                  |
| Chris Buzard    | Betsy Herring         | Barb O'Brien       | Aaron Turner       |                  |
| Patricia Clarke | Neil Hoff             | Charlie O'Brien    |                    |                  |
| Jeff Coleman    | Anne Holland          | Loyce Ongudi       |                    |                  |
| Martha Coleman  | Gretchen Hull         | David Ovens        |                    |                  |
| Phillip Coleman | Steve Hunt            | Susan Ovens        |                    |                  |
| Beth Crispin    | Joyce Jackson         | Mary Paananen      |                    |                  |
| Tim Croll       | Sara Kerr             | Claudia Patton     |                    |                  |
| Chris deMaagd   | Paul Kraegel          | Gina Peterson      |                    |                  |
| Will Domke      | Kathy Kripps          | Sven Peterson      |                    |                  |
| Bill Ewing      | Sue Landeen           | Michael Phipps     |                    |                  |
| Clara Fjermedal | Erin Lovejoy-Guron    | Sally Pritchard    |                    |                  |
| Emma Fjermedal  | Vanessa Lovejoy-Guron | Tom Pruiksma       |                    |                  |
| Grace Fjermedal | Gina Massoni          | Candyce Rennegarbe |                    |                  |



## Youth News

### A note about Youth Group

Sunday morning 9am Youth Group is on break for the summer and will resume Sunday, **September 11**. In the meantime stay tuned for summer activities!

### June Dates to Keep in Mind:

#### Sunday, June 5

- 9am: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome
- 11:30am-2pm: High School Mission Trip Meeting  
Youth attending the HS Mission Trip are asked to be at our meeting in preparation for our trip. We will meet in the Pilgrim Room and lunch will be provided.

#### Sunday, June 12—End Of Year Party 6-8:30pm in the Narthex

All youth and their families are invited to come to our end of year celebration! We will celebrate our volunteer youth leaders and our high school graduates! We will also watch our annual slide show to remember all our fun times together this year! Dinner will be provided! Please see your weekly emails for information on how to RSVP!

#### Sunday, June 19—HS Mission Trip Final Logistics Meeting 11:30am – 12:15pm

Youth attending the HS Mission Trip and their parents, are asked to be at our final logistics meeting in preparation for our trip. We will go over packing list, airport drop off and pick up and other necessary details. We will meet in the Pilgrim Room and some light snacks will be provided.

### Sunday, June 25—Saturday, July 3: High School Mission Trip to Alaska

Please hold us in prayer as 22 youth and 4 adult leaders travel to Anchorage, Alaska for the HS Mission Trip. The group will be working with Beans Café and Downtown Food Bank. To deepen our understanding of the work we will be doing, we will be engaging in discussions and reflection to understand underlying causes of homelessness (along with substance abuse and domestic violence). We will also be spending some time out exploring the beauty of Alaska! We are excited for our trip and cannot wait to bring back stories to share with you all.

### Summer Schedule

July 10–15: All Church Camp at Seabeck!

July 18: Paddleboard Yoga

July 20–23: M.S. Mission Trip

July 23–30: National Youth Event  
(five H.S. Youth Delegates going)

August 25: Outdoor Movie Night  
– *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*

August 14: M.S. Rock Climbing Outing

August 21: H.S. Rock Climbing Outing

**Contact Margaret Iribarra Swanson for more information on any youth ministry activity — [mirribarra@universityucc.org](mailto:mirribarra@universityucc.org) or 206-524-2322.**

### There is room for you at Seabeck!

Seabeck isn't sold out yet! There is room, and we want to share this week with you if you can make it. This year at our All Church Family Camp, July 10-15, Reverend DaVita "Day" McCallister is leading the Adult Programming. She has lead numerous Racial Justice trainings at UCC conferences around the country. The theme for the week is *Creation in Color: Embracing and Celebrating Difference*. This will be a week for reflecting on the truth that God loves all people, and the world was created to be diverse, yet many of us still have to work to find the best words and actions to live out that love for people who are different from us. We will be guided through this process using the six stages of the Inclusivity Spectrum: Tolerance, Acceptance, Respect, Affirmation, Solidarity, and Critique. Workshops throughout the week will challenge and inspire us to be a voice for racial justice in our world. The work of this week will give us the tools to come back to our lives at UCUC ready to start our church's racial justice campaign in our community.

We invite all members, friends, and family to come be a part of this call to action. The mornings will have the more structured programming for adults, youth and children. The afternoons and evenings will be filled with relaxation, fun, and fellowship. Even if you can't make the whole week, you are welcome to come as many days as you are able. Scholarships are available for anyone who wants to attend. Don't let financial barriers be the reason you miss out on this opportunity to spend time with your church family. Visit the Seabeck page on our website: [www.ucucc.org](http://www.ucucc.org), or contact a Seabeck Committee Chair: Carol Bryant [carolrbryant@comcast.net](mailto:carolrbryant@comcast.net), Kay Sneed [behaka@comcast.net](mailto:behaka@comcast.net) or Theresa Fjermedal [theresafje@comcast.com](mailto:theresafje@comcast.com).

# Imagine Campaign Implementation Committee

## 2016 ICIC Annual Report

Last May, it seemed as though the Imagine Implementation was just starting to hit its stride, and now, twelve months later, we are looking at the final stretch towards completion. Projects both large and small, obvious and unnoticed have been completed around the church. We have much to be thankful for, and a multitude to appreciate. June 31 marks the end of the 3-year pledge period, and we have received 92% of the pledged revenue! Your generous spirits have allowed us to make so many visions become realities. As with most building and remodel projects, initial ideas and plans can bump against some hard walls on the way to completion. Ours is no different. Some project budgets we voted on in 2013 were inadequate for the vision and scope of work required. A few, such as an electronic reader board and solar hot water, were great ideas that faced technology or regulatory obstacles that made them unworkable. And others, like the full kitchen/lounge/narthex remodel, are still great ideas that may, or will, be deferred to a later date due to budget or building use constraints. The Implementation Committee is working to reallocate remaining funds to faithfully complete as much of the work as is possible.

Cutting back most of the work in the kitchen/lounge/narthex project was a difficult decision as there was much energy and planning invested in developing a plan. However, the available funding was well short of the need to fulfill a meaningful portion of the vision. The plans as developed are still with us, and can be held until such time as money becomes available. In the meantime, small pieces of the plan which would not impede future improvements can be done. These will include: some safety/code upgrade to sinks, improvements to storage rooms and cupboards, a new door (with window) for the chapel to reduce noise, and narthex dome repairs. Already completed work includes a new coffee maker, refrigerator and dishwasher.

Replacing the single pane windows in the church is high on our list, and the first phase of that project is completed. New energy efficient windows have been installed in the main and second floor rooms and offices (with the exception of the north wing which has existing double-paned windows). Already, we are receiving comments on the difference they make in noise reduction and improved livability during hot,

sunny days. A second phase is planned, using reallocated funds, which should finish the work in the main building.

Wayfinding, the overall name given to several combined line items, includes: work to improve access into and around the building, improvements to our landscaping, and better signage.

It was determined early on in the process that developing a master plan for the building would allow us better integrate current work with projects that can be funded in the future. This will allow us to follow a comprehensive design that unifies our visual identity in the community, as well as making our building safer and easier to navigate. This expanded vision will also receive funds reallocated from other projects.

During the permitting process for the universal access doors work now underway on 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, the city determined that park of the curb and planting strip on 16th were out of compliance with city codes and would need to be restored. Work on this curb and sidewalk area has long been a desire for the Facilities and Equipment Board at church as well. Cutting back the curb to widen 16th and create safer drop-off zones, along with adding a crosswalk from Lot A is something that would benefit not only our Sunday morning congregation, but also parents dropping off children at school, and even folks stopping to drop off Superfluity donations! In the past, the city has turned down our requests to do this curb cut. So, rather than spend funds to simply make repairs to the curb and restore the designated planting strip to grass and trees, we have directed the engineering firm already working on Wayfinding to create plans they feel the city could approve for us to move forward with a curb cut, even though it is beyond the current scope of work we had planned for this time. If the city does approve, we do not have all the funding at this time to complete the work and will need to determine how that might be accomplished. A future fund raiser, a loan from the endowment, or re-allocating current funds are all possibilities. This is a great opportunity and we will do our best to make it happen.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this project! ~Margaret Stine, ICIC Chair

## Along the Way

~ Catherine Foote

On Tuesday, May 10th, I gathered with twelve women from around Puget Sound for breakfast in our church's lounge. It was a diverse group. Some were older, some were younger. Some were Christian, some were Muslim, some were Jewish, and a few might be better described as more generally "spiritual" rather than identifying with any particular religious tradition. One woman was from as far away as Afghanistan, and is here in Seattle organizing support for the education of girls back in her home country. One woman had come by bus from the south Sound, to speak on behalf of homeless women dying on our Seattle streets. She is currently living in a homeless shelter.

We were all there to meet with Sister Simone Campbell. You might have heard of Sister Simone. She belongs to the Sisters of Social Service, and led the "Nuns on a Bus" social justice tour of the United States a few years ago. She is also a lawyer, lobbyist and executive director of NETWORK, a national agency working for economic justice, immigration reform, healthcare access, and peace in this country and around the world.

Sister Simone was in Seattle to accept an award from Seattle University on Monday night, and wanted to gather for conversation with a small group of women the next morning. As her assistant put it several weeks earlier when she contacted me, "Sister Simone likes to take advantage of openings in her schedule when she travels. She likes to meet with small groups of women who can help her understand local economic justice issues."

So it had been my privilege to reach out to such women. Just narrowing it down to a small group was

not easy. We could have filled the room three times over with women just from our congregation. In the end, the request for diversity drove me beyond our walls and into the wider world. I connected with an amazing variety of powerful, active, and faithful women from all around our area. Not everyone I invited could come, but everyone I invited was glad to refer me to others who might be available. That means I got to talk with even more women who are working to make a difference in our world.

In the end, twelve of us were able to get together. Mary Paananen and her crew made a wonderful breakfast, featuring, of course, her famous dutchbaby pancakes. After breakfast, I walked with Sister Simone across the alley, where we met and talked with some of the Tent City 3 residents. All in all, it was quite a morning.

What I was struck by, at the end, were three things. First, the amazing stories of the women who gathered that morning. It was an honor to be in their midst. Secondly, I was moved by how engaged Sister Simone was with each of us. And finally, I was deeply aware of the long term faithfulness of this congregation, reflected in every part of the morning. Because of that faithfulness, we had a gracious and welcoming place to gather. Because of that faithfulness, we had a community ready to serve. Because of that faithfulness, it was just a short walk to connect with folks living on the margins in our region. Because of that faithfulness, one of our own strong women, Hillary Coleman, was able to speak eloquently at the breakfast about social justice issues in our state.

Thank you, congregation, for being such a faithful community.

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### Letter-writing gets results!

At the UCUCS annual meeting in 2015, the congregation passed a resolution, "A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict". One of the four action areas to which we committed ourselves was Congressional pressure. To fulfill this, the Palestine Action Group has generally been having a letter-writing table in the Narthex on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. In March, we weren't inclined to do that because it was Palm Sunday. However, just days before, we received word that Israel had appropriated large tracts of land in the occupied West Bank near the Dead Sea and the Palestinian city of Jericho. The reported seizure of 579 acres represented the largest land confiscation in the West Bank in recent years. The U.S. State Department criticized the land seizure. In response, we wrote a letter protesting the land seizure, obtained signatures on an accompanying petition, and mailed copies to President Obama, Senators Murray and Cantwell, Representative McDermott, and presidential candidates: Clinton and Sanders. In response, we have received letters from President Obama and Senator Murray. Copies of the letters are posted on the Love and Justice bulletin board across from the office. Check them out, and come sign our letters and petitions on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays! Contact: Carol Ingram, (206) 783-0608, carol.ingram@comcast.net.



# News and Updates

## 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting: Celebrating 125 years & looking ahead

The annual meeting on May 15 included recognition and thanks for the 125 years (thus far) of the congregation's existence, and thanks also for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee who brought a variety of opportunities and events to our life together. The committee's charge was to celebrate well; foster stronger connections within the church; further our homelessness ministry and other Love and Justice activity; and increase the church's profile in the greater Seattle area. One part of our celebration has been to look back on our legacy of social justice action and to challenge ourselves to new steps. In focusing on our faith home, we also focused as a community on homelessness. The 125th Homeless Action Team will continue to carry this energy forward into the next year and beyond as we look to how God is calling us to stand with and serve those who are on the margins of our wider community. Also at the meeting, there was a robust and fruitful discussion about the proposed restructuring of the board and committee structure. Following the discussion, the congregation voted by a large majority to proceed. The goal of the restructure proposal is to (1) 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, and (2) create a mechanism to assist people in identifying their calling(s) and how they might live out that calling both inside and outside the church.

The proposal moves us into a period of change and transition, with some answers and processes not yet in place. Flexibility and adaptation will be needed, and there are a variety of opportunities for engagement and involvement. A follow-up retreat is planned for **Saturday, June 25**, and participation from all boards and committees is encouraged. Deep gratitude was expressed to restructure chair Roberta Hollowell for her work, and the work of the committee. The meeting also heard from outgoing moderator Susan Heck, and expressed their gratitude for all her work on the church council and in many other ways. New moderator Jan Von Lehe laid out the opportunities and challenges for the year ahead. And so we move into our 126<sup>th</sup> year, looking forward together.

— *David Anderson*

## Facilities Use Review Committee (FURC)

About a year ago, the Church Council convened a group of people to take a look at, and understand, how our building is being used, and how that may or may not be fulfilling our mission as a church. One of the things we tasked ourselves with was to interview each of the non-UCUCC users/tenants of the building, and provide a summary synopsis of their mission and activities. We have learned a lot!

Over the next several months, we will share this information in Church and Home. We hope you will find their stories as fascinating as we did. ~*Vicki Farmer, committee member*

## United Churches Emergency Fund (UCEF)

*We believe everyone deserves a home. We provide compassionate listening, focused referrals, and financial assistance to prevent homelessness.*

This is the mission of a small organization we house on the bottom floor of our church, who, over the years has assisted thousands of people in need. In the last year alone, they served 721 people, including 158 children. Their focus is on helping people who currently have housing to stay in their homes. It was started back in 1986 by a small ecumenical group from several churches in the University District, to serve people living in the local area, mainly in the 98103, 98105 and 98115 zip codes. Currently, churches in our area provide about half of the funding, and UCUCC provides a free space for their offices.

Many of the volunteers and members of the board of directors come from supporting-churches as well. Clients who come into their office often tell them that the most valuable service they provide is compassionate, non-judgmental listening. After an interview is completed, the volunteer will provide referrals to the client, and if eligible, financial assistance to help pay for rent or utilities.

This small organization is also looking to the future! They have recognized that their model of sustainability over the past 30 years is now outdated, and are looking toward social media and other methods of getting their message out, so they can help more people.

## Church Council News

### UCUCC Council Summary March 2016

**Leadership staff reports:** Carol Coleman will be hired as the Program Assistant for Parish Care at 10 hours per week; Dan Hammer will be hired as the Program Assistant for Worship at 10 hours per week. Brenda Mohr will be hired as the Interim Music Director while Heidi is out on maternity leave. Brenda has a doctorate in music from the UW and the hiring team is very excited about her.

The Lecture Series is not sustainable financially. This prompts questions about whether it should continue, in what form it should continue, and if supplemental funding should be considered. This is a leadership and discernment question.

**Financial report:** Pledges continue to run slightly ahead of plan. Expenses are on budget. 1 week of pledge revenue is about \$25,000.

**Audit of Church Financial Records:** Don Guthrie, Skip Aagaard and Christoph Heck have completed an audit of church financial records. They looked at three specific things: accounting procedures; check authorization process; matching statements to bank accounts. Don noted that there are a significant number of transactions for the size of the operating budget. Findings were broken in to Significant findings—important to change, and Further findings - recommend changes. Don went through each of the findings with the Council. David has addressed and corrected all of the findings. The Council thanked Don and the audit committee for all their work.

**Tent City 3 and Parking:** The question of whether to retain the existing parking spaces while Tent City 3 is encamped in Lot C or allow Tent City 3 to expand and use the spots (now that Superfluity is over) was discussed. When the congregation voted on Tent City 3 encamping in Lot C the permit for Way-finding work had not been received. The permit had been in the works for months with no clear timeline for when it would come through. If the Way-Finding work is delayed, it will be considered a cancellation by the contractor with potential financial penalties. The contractor does not have a plan for a delay in the scheduling and sequencing. Susan Heck has been heading up the Way-Finding work and she will leave at the end of May. Tent City 3 had the expectation that they would expand to all of Lot C after Superfluity; Tent City 3 is a true expression of our mission and the need is so great – there are still people needing spots.

David noted that while the Way-finding project will be affected by this decision, the existing week-day programs and neighbors will also be affected: the 3 child care programs and high school, staff for all the programs, the staff-intensive Gold House for vulnerable populations, the dentist's offices and church staff. Many other options, ideas, commitments and comments were discussed. All agreed this is a very difficult, wrenching, choice.

The motion to continue the current configuration and leave the parking spaces available passed: 8 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstained.

**Structure Task Force:** Roberta noted that the work of the Structure Task Force has been discussed at Council each month this year and asked for questions or comments. Council unanimously recommended a trial period for the new structure. This will be voted on by the Congregation on May 15.

Council also unanimously voted to fund a retreat, led by consultant Kathleen Hosfeld, to get the process of Committees and Action Teams (formerly Boards) working together within their Ministry, a retreat is proposed. The retreat would be held June 25. At least one representative from each Committee/Action Team would be requested to attend.

*Summary submitted by Roberta Hollowell, Council Secretary*

M A R K 9 : 5 0



*Did you know that UCUCC has a Facebook Group? It's University Congregational UCC. Join it, and keep up with current happenings, photos of recent events, and more.*



**Special Offering June 2016:  
Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness**

As we celebrate being HOME at UCUC, we can be part of a bigger movement to provide homes for all through the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness (ITFH)! ITFH helps religious communities develop direct service and advocacy initiatives to end homelessness and to safely shelter those without homes in the meantime.

Directed by Rev. Bill Kirlin-Hackett, member/Covenant clergy partner of both our church and its Homeless Action Team, ITFH actively collaborates with religious communities, businesses, nonprofits and government throughout western Washington to initiate and support projects. Here are a few:

- Seattle:**
- \* University Congregational (hosting Tent City & Mary's Place)
  - \* Seattle Displacement Coalition preserve low-income housing
  - \* Real Change News (Advisory Board)
  - \* Seattle University Homeless Rights Advocacy Team
  - \* University District Conversation on Homelessness
  - \* Ballard Community Taskforce on Hunger & Homelessness and the award-winning Seattle Scofflaw Mitigation Project



Photo by Mike Siegel/Seattle Times

- King County:**
- \* ALL HOME  
(formerly Committee to End Homelessness)



- Snohomish County:**
- \* Homeless Policy Task Force Co-Facilitator
  - \* South County Winter Shelter

- South King County:**
- \* South Political Will Group
  - \* Kent HOPE offers rotating shelter and drop-in center, and is planning a new full-service resource center

- East King County:**
- \* Lake WA United Methodist & Overlake Christian Car Camps
  - \* Issaquah-Sammamish Interfaith Coalition
  - \* Tent Cities & Camp Unity Eastside
  - \* Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee

- Washington State**
- \* Advisory Council on Homelessness

ITFH does all this and more with the lowest administrative cost of any housing organization, remaining fluid, dynamic, and responsive. Your gift keeps us working within the many networks to build innovation and collaboration at all levels.  
Thank you for your generosity!

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## Worship and Preaching Calendar—Sunday worship service—10 am

### Draw the Circle Wide

*“I really am learning that God doesn’t show partiality to one group of people over another.” - Acts 10: 34*

The astounding event on that first Easter morning has sent “ripples that make waves” throughout all of human history. In this post-resurrection season, we will explore what it meant for the early church to draw the circle wider and wider as they spread the Gospel Good News of liberation from death through Jesus, the Christ. What could it mean for us to continue to draw the circle wide in order to offer the world a vision of the rippling effects of grace and peace, reconciliation and joy?

*-Peter Ilgenfritz*

#### **June 5 — Ripples of Empowerment**

Matthew 28:16-20

We celebrate today the baptism of Amaya Suginaka and give thanks for our children and youth teachers!

Preaching: Peter Ilgenfritz

#### **June 12 — Ripples of Grace**

Acts 10:1-17, 34-35

New Members join today, we celebrate our graduating seniors and the last Sunday this spring with the Chancel Choir! Come give thanks and sing!

Preaching: Catherine Foote

#### **June 19 — Ripples of God's Likeness**

Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

We will commission our high school seniors and leaders who are off to Alaska for their mission trip!

Preaching: Catherine Foote

#### **June 26 — Ripples of Hospitality**

Romans 1:1-17

We will introduce and welcome Brenda Mohr, interim Choir Director during Heidi Blythe’s family leave (August – December)

Preaching: Peter Ilgenfritz