

March 2018

Volume 70, Number 3

CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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The Lecture Series presents:

Faith on the Move: Reframing the National Conversation, March 9, 10, 11

With Rev. Dr. David Vasquez Levy, President Pacific School of Religion, and
Bob Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General (Friday only),
with introductory remarks by Michael Ramos, Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle

Friday night, Michael Ramos will set the stage with introductory comments touching upon our local immigration and refugee outreach work. Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy, immigration leader and President of Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, and Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson will provide a rare opportunity to engage in a conversation on this timely issue from both a faith-based and a law-and-justice perspective.

What question would you like posed to our speakers on Friday night?

We are gathering your questions for the moderated portion of the event and welcome your questions from the floor at the end of the session.

On Saturday, Rev. Dr. Vasquez-Levy will take us on a deep dive into the Book of Ruth to explore its relevance and resonance to today's immigration stories.

On Sunday morning, Dr. Rev. Vasquez shares his faith, hope and confidence that we can reframe the discussion during a session on *Prophetic Imagination: Spiritually Rooted Leadership for a World on the Move*, followed by his sermon *The Gospel Outside: Healing at the Border* during the 10 am worship service.

Tickets and more information are available in the Turner Narthex through Feb 29 or online at www.BrownPaperTickets.com (search *Faith on the Move*). Student, clergy and need based scholarships are always available.

Volunteers are always needed, as are donations of cookies and fruit for the Saturday sessions.

Email us at lectureseries@universityucc.org with questions, your questions for the Friday night session, or to make a donation.



March Calendar

Sunday, March 4, 2018

11:45 end-of-life discussion

12:00 spirit workshop vigil for good

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

6:00 men's soup supper

Friday, March 9, 2018

7:00 The Lecture Series

Saturday, March 10, 2018

9:00 The Lecture Series

Sunday, March 11, 2018—Seabeck Sunday

8:45 The Lecture Series

11:45 Inquirers Lunch

End-of-life discussion

Sacred Earth Matters monthly meeting

12:30 U. District Sanctuary planning group

2:00 spirit workshop: the science of tea

Monday, March 12, 2018

12:00 Senior Lunch

Saturday, March 17, 2018

4:30 Parents with little ones dinner

Sunday, March 18, 2018

11:45 food-packing service project

Racial Justice: microaggressions workshop

John E. Strausz Clement book discussion

End-of-life discussion

2:00 spirit workshop: the art of deep listening

Saturday, March 24, 2018

7:00 UCHA dinner and auction

Sunday, March 25, 2018—Palm Sunday

9:30 Palm Sunday parade around block

11:45 Mwanzo presentation with Loyce Ong'udi

End-of-life discussion

12:00 spirit workshop vigil for good

Monday, March 26, 2018

6:00 All Women Extraordinary dinner

Thursday, March 29, 2018

7:00 Maundy Thursday worship service

Friday, March 30, 2018

7:00 Good Friday worship service

Saturday, March 31

9:00 Facilities gardening party

5:00 Children's: pizza & egg dyeing

7:00 Holy Saturday worship service

Births

Ravenna Suginaka

Congratulations to Caitlin & Alex Suginaka who welcomed their second child, Ravenna Ann, on January 23. She joins big sister Amaya. Blessings to their growing family.

Deaths

Lois Ann Pearson

Born: August 15, 1926

Died: February 9, 2018

Lois Ann died peacefully on a Friday morning.

She was an active member here for over 52 years — attending church almost weekly until this last Fall.

Lois Ann and husband Russ (died March 2012) both joined in 1965. She served in many ways, deeply cared about the UCUC community, and was always curious about how people were doing.

Lois Ann was a music teacher in the Bellevue School District as well a piano teacher.

Our prayers are with her son, Matthew and his family; and with daughter, Sara, and her family.

Memorial Service: Plans are being finalized.

Easter Azaleas

Honor a friend or a loved one.
Remember those who hold a special place in your heart.
Commemorate a meaningful event.

Donate to our Easter Flower fund, and on Easter Sunday, April 1, your dedication will be in the Sunday Bulletin. Your potted Azalea will decorate the chancel until you pick it up after the worship service.

Return this form to the office by March 25, so we can get your dedication in the Easter bulletin.

Your Name _____

and Phone _____

I/We donate _____ plant(s) at \$15.00 each.

Payment in the amount of _____ is enclosed.

~ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ~

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

March Special Offering: **One Great Hour of Sharing** **More than we can imagine**

What makes a house a home?

A house is a structure with some walls, a roof, doors and windows. The house becomes a home when it is a place where you can feel safe and loved. When you're at home, you can let your guard down. You can relax and rest.

Sometimes, though, a house isn't really a home. That was certainly the case for Roger Doris and his family. They built their house in Haiti's Northwest Department in 1989. It was a traditional mud-and-stick house, like so many in Haiti are. In 2000 and 2001, they renovated their house to replace the mud walls with concrete blocks and added a tin roof. It was definitely a home.

Then Hurricane Matthew hit in late 2016. As the wind pounded on the house and the rain poured down, extensive damage was done to Roger's house. The walls shook and cracked. The wood support columns—which weren't particularly sturdy to start with—were damaged badly.

Overnight, that house was stripped of being a home. The family still lived there, but they were afraid. They didn't know how much longer the house would stand. That sense of security was gone. There was no more peace of mind, and no way to let down their guard.

We responded to help Roger and his family build a new house. Roger had training as an iron worker and carpenter, so he teamed up with professional masons to work on the new house. His family provided funds to pay for the new foundation and food for the workers. They also received seeds to plant, so that the family would have a food and income source.

Now, the family has a house where they can feel safe. The house has a strong foundation and sturdy support columns made of rebar. More than that, everyone has peace of mind. It is truly a home.

Roger describes the house as a "miracle." He doesn't live in fear anymore.

Each of God's children is loved. Each one deserves to be safe and protected, too, no matter where they live.

Our neighbors in Haiti needed us when their security was taken away, and we were there to help. Thank you for your support of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities.



Along the way

Lent Journeys

~ Catherine Foote

As of early March, we are two weeks into the season of Lent. This church season began on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Easter. Lent is a time of simplicity and focus. An Episcopalian priest and colleague of mine has said that Lent is the season of “the cross and the resurrection”. He went on to explain that this 40 days offers us a chance to set aside what distracts us, and focus on what matters most.

In our world, it is rare to have such a time. There are not only daily duties to grab our attention, there are also things specifically designed to distract us. A 24-hour news cycle can become confusing, as we try to sort through what news matters and what news numbs. Similarly, focusing what matters most in our own lives can be difficult. Daily chores must be done, schedules must be maintained, and then come interruptions. I often have to ask myself, “Is this interruption actually the most important matter to which I can attend today, or do I need to stay focused on the task at hand, and not let the interruption pull me away?”

In his classic book, *The Prophetic Imagination*, Walter Brueggeman speaks of how our imagination is captured and limited by the dominant culture. Transformation comes when we break through numbing that come with such limits.

Lent can be the opportunity for such a breakthrough. Some of us are a few weeks into our Lenten fasts, and some of us are well into some new spiritual practice we have taken up for this season. In the process of giving up, or taking up, we are inviting ourselves to see the world in a new way. Or as my Episcopalian colleague might say, we can better discern that for which we are willing to sacrifice much, and those places where we can imagine resurrection and new life beyond the death we see around us.

The examples can be simple. For me, giving up chocolate breaks me away from mindless eating, and can also invite me to imagine letting go of the mindless consumerism which the dominant economic system encourages. And those who take up the simple practice of a daily prayer or devotional might find new ways to order their days and accomplish each day what matters most, including attending to important tasks or interruptions.

Wherever you are in your Lenten journey, or in your faith journey — my prayer for you is that you find time this month to make room for letting go, and taking up, in ways that transform your imagination towards actions of love and justice.

March Events

More Vigils for the Common Good!

Lent is a time to ground ourselves in the journey toward Good, and to share the journey with others. Join with others to stand together for the Common Good!

On Sundays, March 4 and 25 (Palm Sunday), we'll meet in the Narthex shortly before noon to center ourselves, then head out. This public witness will enrich the corner of 45th St. and 15th Ave. NE, from noon – 1.

Sign making materials will be on hand or bring your own sign of *what you are standing for*. Offered with Spirit Workshops, the church's outreach program.

Mar 11, Seabeck Sunday

Seabeck Sunday is the official start of registration for our all-church camp. The Turner Lounge will be full of pictures of Seabeck, diagrams of the separate houses/cabins, and folks who can answer any question you may have about Seabeck.

Picture it.

Five days: Away from the routine...the rat race. Meals prepared ... friends to play with your kids ... friends available to you for conversation, relaxation, laughter. Time to meet new folks ... learn new ideas ... stretch your faith, and your beliefs in new ways.

You won't be alone. We will all be learning, stretching, relaxing. **Join us July 8 through 13 at Seabeck.**

Come learn more on Seabeck Sunday, March 11, and look for your registration packet in the mail soon!



Invitation to Susan Fairo's ordination

Susan used to be a very active member of our church. She graduated from the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University. On **Sunday, March 11** at 5pm, she will be ordained at Alki UCC, 6115 SW Hinds St. Seattle 98116. All are invited.

She will be doing interim ministry with Spirit of Peace UCC in Sammamish, WA.

Community in a Cup:

March Spirit Workshops

Offer a cup of tea or a shared meal. These ancient practices tell us that we are truly, deeply welcome.

March's Spirit Workshops gatherings:

March 11, spend time with the science of tea

March 18, the art of deep listening over a meal. Please bring your favorite food to share to the potluck

Both programs begin at 2pm in the lounge.

RSVPs and questions to Beth Amsbary at spiritworkshops@ucucc.org or the office 206-524-2322. Spirit Workshops are gatherings for casual, creative activities and meaningful conversations. All beliefs are welcome.

Mar 18, *Unconventional Ministry* reading and discussion

John E. Strausz Clement, who serves on our Covenant and Personnel committees has recently published his memoir *Unconventional Ministry: Wrestling with the Call of God to Serve the Church and Work for Justice*.

John Edward Clement was born in 1934 and grew up in Chickasha, Oklahoma. His autobiography is a front row seat to political and religious change in America over the last eight decades. John talked his way into Oberlin, sang and danced to pay for seminary, and emerged to play a role of the Presbyterian Ministry in Minneapolis and other major cities. *Unconventional Ministry* is the story of his extraordinary life, from a big-eared, red-haired Oklahoma boy to a man who fulfilled his calling.

We are hosting a reading and discussion in the Chapel after worship.

2018 End of Life Discussion Series

This 5-week series, Sundays from 11:30—1:00 February 25 to March 25 in the Chapel, is a part of our desire to provide a safe and caring environment to talk about how we approach the end of our lives.

How do we engage in conversation with our families? How can we incorporate our values into our health care choices? How do we leave a gift of legacy for our family?

Feb 25, View and discuss the film, *Speaking of Dying*.

Mar 4, Overview: palliative care & end of life options.

Mar 11, Advance directive overview and planning.

Mar 18, Leaving a legacy & memorial planning.

Mar 25, Living through grief.

RSVP or questions to: Gretchen DeRoche (425) 640-8217 gretchen@deroche.com; Cheryl Ellsworth (206) 612-0935 Cellsworth000@gmail.com

UCHA Final Mortgage Payment? Party!



Join us Saturday, March 24, for University Congregational Housing Association's (UCHA) Annual Fundraising Dinner at the lovely Seattle Yacht Club, where parking is free and easy.

In just 2 ½ years, we are close to being able to pay off our mortgage on the Westwood House in West Seattle. This is the house that provides a permanent home for up to five formerly-homeless women, who are chosen and supported by our partner, Transitional Resources, a nearby community mental health center. And we have done it without any major outside grants, but with many gifts from generous people in this congregation, which has supported this and other housing ministries for many years.

Come to the party!

Musical entertainment will be provided by singer Cristin Hubbard Miller and David Nichols.

Our featured speaker is Mark Putnam, who now heads the YMCA program that gives services and housing to youth, including those in our McGrath House, an UCHA property in NE Seattle.

Tickets will be sold at a table in the Narthex the first three Sundays this month. Let's Celebrate!!

March Racial Justice Update

By Toni Higgs

The flurry of events, actions and activities around racial justice in February and March give me hope that it is indeed possible to imagine and perhaps even create a more just, equitable country, and UCC is in the thick of making it happen.

Congratulations to Carol Hamilton and Candace Tkachuck for their end-of-February workshop: "*Too Important to Ignore: Finding a Way into Anti-Racism.*"

Upcoming events include:

March 9-11: The Lecture Series presents a conversation on Friday about immigration with a leading theologian and a politician: Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy, President, Pacific School of Religion, and Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson. The workshops are on Saturday, with a sermon on Sunday. Ticket info available in the Narthex and online at **BrownPaper-Tickets** (search *Faith on the Move*).

Sunday, March 11, 1:30pm, Liberation

United Church of Christ, 832 32nd Ave, Seattle, 98122, celebrate their 10 year anniversary with Rev. Dr. Velda Love, who leads the racial justice ministry for the national UCC. More info on Rev. Dr. Love:

www.ucc.org (search *UCC welcomes Velda Love*)

Sunday March 18, Microaggressions 11:45-1:15.

Back by popular demand— after an impressive workshop on Microaggressions, Elizabeth Dickinson and Barb O'Brien give a follow-up to their talk and introduce some new tools for talking about race.

Sunday April 22, Seabeck preview: 11:45-2

"Imperfect, Messy & Striving: God Calls Us to Talk About Race" with Diane Schmitz & Cynthia Macleod. Lunch included.

July 8-13, Seabeck, see above.

Hope to see you at an event!

Mar 31, Spring Yard Cleanup

On Saturday, March 31, the Facilities & Equipment Committee will host a yard cleanup from 9 am to noon. **This is our opportunity to tidy up the grounds just in time for Easter.** Snacks and hot beverages will be provided.

Bring your favorite gardening tools and work gloves to help. There will be extra tools available for anyone who may need them. Youth and older children are welcome to help.

Ministry Update

**“We can’t do this again! We can’t!”
And yet, here we were, doing it again.**

~ Peter Ilgenfritz

It was the same old pattern. The meeting began with great connection, vision, dreaming and energy. But after the lunch break, as the conversation turned to plans on what to do next, all that energy we’d experienced fled the room.

We turned to making long to-do lists, agonizing over all we had to do, remembering everything that we’d once tried that hadn’t worked. Hopelessness and despair descended like thick fog over our morning mountain top of clarity and excitement.

It had happened to us before - one, three, five – too many times. And this time, we were headed that same way again until someone interrupted our pattern and said,

“Stop. We have to stop. We can’t do this one more time.”

For almost the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving as Moderator of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. My term ends on April 28 at our Annual Meeting. And yes, we have a great new moderator waiting in the wings – Wendy Blight! It has been a gift to team with Wendy, our Conference Minister Mike Denton, and Minister of Church Vitality Courtney Stange-Tregear, as we have helped lead our board of directors into leading into the new. After a year of coming up against some familiar barriers, something began to happen. And then, we returned to our familiar patterns.

But on that day, last month, we did something different. We stopped. We put down our to-do lists, raised our heads from our hands, unclenched our fists, and got curious about what we were doing. We talked about our fears. We acknowledged that, as a board, we had a lot invested in our time, energy, histories in holding this work together and keeping it going. We remembered however that our call wasn’t to keep things going as they’d always been, but to do things differently, to lead into change. We wondered if we kept falling back into our familiar pattern of stuck and despair, so that nothing needed to change.

My experience at the meeting made me wonder what patterns I might be invited to interrupt today. I mean, when we find ourselves falling back into the “same old same old”, what if we stopped and acknowledged that we were stuck again in a life-draining way. What if instead of pushing through it, we got curious about what was happening? What if we tried doing something differently?

The meeting that day, ended not with us fleeing the room exhausted and weary, as we had done so many times before — but looking around at each other with delight and giving ourselves a round of applause. Instead of a long list of things to do, and not sure who was going to do it, we came out with just a couple of items that a few folks gladly took on.

If the season of Lent might be an opportunity to practice some new ways of being, what pattern might you be invited to interrupt today?

How might you pause and reflect on the way things always are — to make room for the new that might possibly be?

What would it take for your day to end with applause?

March News

Hear the call to work with our children on Sunday?

Would you like to volunteer in our ministry for children aged infant to eleven years?

Please consider becoming a part of our Sunday school team. It’s fun! We support you completely with lesson plans and supplies all prepared...you just show up and help our children grow their faith and friendships.

You can also inquire about becoming a substitute teacher. Real life happens, and often we need to enlist the help of substitute teachers for Sundays.

For details contact Jermell Witherspoon, **ChildrensMinistry@ucucc.org** . He has an easy online sign-up, so you can volunteer for exactly the Sundays and classes you want.

January 2018 Council Meeting

Summary submitted by Bob Fleagle, Secretary
The University Congregational United Church of Christ Church Council met on January 17, 2018.

Staff Reports:

- Love & Justice is distributing their funds and will do a report.
- The Wells Fargo account is closed.
- David will take 100 pounds of hygiene supplies for girls with him to Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan.

Financial Report:

- Pledges and non-pledging contributions are about \$28K over budget for 2017. Total revenues were almost \$58K over budget. Expenses were \$14K over. Net revenue over expenses for the year was \$45,000 to the good.
- The outside audit has arrived and includes some minor recommendations that will be implemented, and some major ones that we may or may not adopt after David's return from sabbatical. Overall, it is a great report.
- Money will be set aside for future audits.

Restructure:

- The process started Sept 2016.
- We're restructuring because we need to clarify how decisions are made and insure that the ministries and committees feel connected to the structure. This must be 'baked in' to meetings.
- **Ministry liaisons are key.** What's needed has been broken into 'toolkits'. We need to ask the liaisons what might make their jobs easier & ask the ministries *'what do you need?'*
- We can't tell people what to do but we can give them 'parameters', ie: The priorities of the Church as a whole.
- Jan will meet with Ministry Liaisons for soup on Feb 21 at 5:45pm. That's an hour before the February Council meeting.

Stewardship line addition to our Covenant:

- Change from "To live responsibly *with* your creation, sharing with gratitude the gifts *you have* given" to "To live responsibly *within* your creation, sharing with gratitude the gifts *we are* given",
- and move the line to follow "welcoming everyone".

At large representatives:

- We voted to add two at-large members to the Council, Virginia Felton & Beth Bartholomew. Their terms will end as of the Annual Meeting in May 2018.
- It was suggested that in the future at-large members serve two year, overlapping terms.

Time Away:

- David Anderson: February 1 to April 30: Sabbatical
- Catherine Foote: January 25-28: UCUC Women's Retreat. Jan 28-30: West Coast UCC Clergy Retreat.

Church Support Enables \$57,000 for Child Care/Preschool Scholarships in 2017

~ Liz Wells, Child Care Board Chair

The Child Learning and Care Center, and Trettin Drop-in Preschool are part of our church's Love and Justice Ministry. The mission of both programs includes providing tuition scholarships for children whose parents can not afford the full cost of attending our child care/preschools.

Direct financial support from the church, as well as use of church facilities, helped to provide \$57,000 in scholarships during 2017 for children from low-income families.

This Fall, Trettin Drop in Preschool will be moving from its current space on the first floor to more secure classroom areas in the church's north wing near the Child Learning and Care Center. We are grateful for the support and partnership with the church to continue carrying out our mission.

A simple and appreciated gift for families with young children

Here's an opportunity to nurture the UCUC Young Families Group, which meets on the third Saturday at church for dinner, fellowship, and mutual parenting support. **You're invited to participate in a simple food ministry** by bringing an entrée, salad, or dessert on an occasional basis. Please email Susan Ovens, susan.ovens@comcast.net, to sign up.

March News

Plan ahead for Superfluity

For your benefit and ours!

As we have heard our ministers remind us, donating items to Superfluity is a worthy Lenten practice. Sorting through our “superfluous” stuff helps us to remember what is really important, what we can easily live without, and how attached we sometimes get to our [unimportant] possessions.

So now that we are into Lent, let's get going! Superfluity, starting April 19 and running through April 21, will be here before you know it!

Set aside some time now to go through your basement, garage, attic, extra room, closets – wherever you have stored those things that you keep meaning to sort through. A successful Superfluity depends on both the quality and the quantity of donations. And the more successful the sale, the more we have to provide for vital nonprofits that need our assistance.

Not sure what to donate?

Here are a few basic guidelines:

Pick up a “Quick Reference Guide” at the Superfluity table in the narthex any Sunday morning. This provides all the do's and don'ts for donations. This information is also available on the Superfluity page:

universityucc.org/what-we-do/superfluity/

If you are trying to decide if a particular item should be donated, think for a minute whether you would want to buy this item at a garage sale. Is it clean, functional, and attractive to you? If the answer is yes, then it will make a great donation.

The sooner you start sorting through your possible donations, the easier the process will be for you, and for the crew of Superfluity volunteers who do all the sorting. This is a big job, and volunteers meet every Wednesday morning to sort through the things that have been brought in. And if we get our donations in early, rather than procrastinating until the last minute (not me!), then the work is much easier for them as the sale gets nearer.

And of course, you are welcome to become a Superfluity volunteer. It is a great way to get to know people, have some fun, and contribute to a successful sale. Check in at the table on Sunday mornings to learn more or email superfluity@universityucc.org.

An update from Mwanzo in Kenya We're busy indeed!

We are in the sixth week of our 2018 school year. Our new teachers, Alphone and Mika, are settling in. I can see improvements to the general day-to-day MEC operations. Our biggest challenge is finding sufficient staff office space: right now, several teachers use the shaded space under a tree to meet and discuss school plans.

The ongoing construction - though a big distraction to the students — proceeds quickly, with the installation of classroom doors and windows on the second story. We are grateful that so far no student has come into any harm — thanks to the orderliness of all our staff and the contractor's team.

It is heartwarming to watch the new student leaders take charge during the week especially when serving the little ones during lunch breaks. This past week, Grade 4 lead the assembly in close tandem with grade 3. They sang Kenya's national anthem with so much gusto — off tune at times, but the words “...may we dwell in unity, peace and liberty...” rang true for all.

Last week, I met with individuals who may be partners in an effort to address the community water problems. Additionally, Mwanzo sponsored agriculture training led by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture for close to 100 farmers in Rabuor.

We are pleased too with the ongoing progress with a new catering business that several community members are establishing.

Thank you from the bottom of our heart for the support that allows us to walk hand-in-hand with community members in generating new opportunities and possibilities. I look forward to sharing these stories of accomplishment with you in person in March.

Erokomano,

Loyce Ong'udi

Church & Home is published monthly by University Congregational United Church of Christ. Submissions are due the 15th of the month. Please send submissions to: churchandhome@ucucc.org.

The purpose of our newsletter is to serve as a vehicle for information about UCUCUCC and its activities. It is an instrument of, by and for the congregation; to reflect the church at large; to inform readers of programs & priorities of UCUCUCC.

100 word announcements to 300 word articles are encouraged.

A new way to connect with church members

MyUCUCUCC

At universityucc.org, scroll to the bottom of the homepage, and find the icon for “MyUCUCUCC Login”. This will give you access to a virtual version of our church’s directory.

For everyone’s security, the only way to access people’s contact information is to request a log in. Once we confirm that you are in our database, then you will get a unique user name and password.

Once you establish your log-in, you can manage your church identity, and access our member directory.

Our database software was created by ACS, one of the most reliable software companies used by thousands of churches nationwide. We added this feature to our website for member’s convenience. We believe that your information has the same degree of security in this version of the directory as it does in the paper version.

Want to opt out?

The information currently in our paper phone directory is what those with access will see online. If your information is in the paper directory, but you don’t want it in the online directory, contact the church office 206-524-2322 or office@ucucc.org and we will make all your information private.

Children's Ministry news

Contact Director of Children's Ministry Jermell Witherspoon for more information, childrensministry@ucucc.org, 206-524-2322.

The Children's Ministry values each child whom we are able to care for. We would like to send out a special thank you to each family that continues to trust us with such beautiful, talented, and loving children. We would also like to invite all families who would like to share your little ones with us to check us out. There is a place for your child here. Peace and Grace to you all.
~ Jermell Witherspoon

Childcare and Sunday School

We offer childcare from 8:45 to 9:45 am every Sunday in the Turner Lounge, so adults can take part in meetings or adult educational offerings. Typically we provide childcare after worship until 1:00 pm as well.

Sunday school for toddler, preschool and elementary children takes place during worship.

Please contact Jermell Witherspoon, Children's Ministry Director, for more information, childrensministry@ucucc.org, 206 524-2322.

Parents of Littles

Parents of Littles is a group for expecting parents and parents of infants on up to 2-years-old (older siblings are welcome too). The intent of this group is to allow families to set aside time for meaningful connection and reflective dialogue on what it means to be faithful as family. We hope this coming together will give you space to develop supportive relationships at the earliest stages of your kids' lives.

Questions – Jermell Witherspoon or Sarah & Jack Marshall 206-251-0620
sarahjeanmarshall@gmail.com

Mar 25, Palm Sunday Processional

Children and families are invited to lead our Palm Sunday processional around the block, and down the center aisle to the front of the sanctuary waving "palms" (local greenery) to begin our Palm Sunday worship service on March 25. We'd love to have lots of kids participate in this fun parade!

To take part, please meet me in the narthex at 9:15am to select greenery, get excited, then we will parade around the block at 9:30, and enter the sanctuary together at 10am.

After the processional, families sit in the pews and the service proceeds as usual.

Mar 31, Family Pizza Night & Easter Egg Dyeing

Please join us in Ostrander Hall on **Saturday, March 31 from 5-7pm**. We will eat pizza, play games and dye Easter eggs for our children's Easter egg hunt that takes place the next morning at church. We will provide pizza, eggs and dye.

Please let me know if you plan to come so I know how many people to plan for. If you are able, bring a side dish, beverage or nut-free dessert to share.

RSVP to Jermell Witherspoon at 206-524-2322 or childrensministry@universityucc.org.

Special thanks to the Phyllis and Ralph Swanson Endowment for Children's Ministry for providing funding for the pizza and Easter eggs.

Afterwards, those who wish can attend our 7 pm Easter Vigil Service in the chapel.

Children's Activities on Easter

Come to church on Easter Sunday, April 1.

We will have two services: 9am and 11am.

Directly after the 9am service, we will have a children's Easter egg hunt on our playground. Everything the kids need for hunting will be provided (including bags for collecting eggs).

Nursery care and Sunday school for preschool-kindergarten children and elementary special sermon time will take place at the 9am service only.

Childcare will be available at the 11am service in room 239. The lounge will be set up with children's activities after both services.

Youth Ministry news

Contact Director of Youth Ministry Margaret Swanson for information, mswanson@ucucc.org or (206)524-2322.

9am Youth Group & 10am Worship, Youth Pew

Sundays, March 11, 18, 25

(no youth group on the 4th due to retreats):

Youth Group is open to youth in grades 6 – 12. You are invited to come for discussion, reflection and activities to explore your faith, and to have time to connect with your peers for friendship and support. Throughout the year there will be retreats, service projects and other fellowship events outside of the 9am time-frame.

Girls & Boys Retreats

March 2 - 4: 4:30pm Friday - 2:30pm Sunday

12 boys and 21 girls are headed out on two separate retreats. We hold them and their leaders in our prayers for a good retreat full of discussion, learning, sharing, and fun! If you signed up for one of these retreats, info should be emailed to you with more details.

Our Whole Lives Class

for 7th and 8th grade

March 4: no class due to Girls & Boys Retreats

March 11: Class 6 – 8pm

March 18: Double Session Class 4pm – 8pm

March 25: originally no class, may change this (see emails)

Junior & Senior Small Group

Wednesday, March 21:

7pm – 8:30pm Pilgrim Room, UCUC

Juniors and Seniors in High School are invited to participate in this small group that offers support and encouragement to each other in these last years of high school. We will do a check in and then have different topics for discussion to help in your discernment throughout these years. We meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Save the date:

Moving Mountains

Saturday, April 28

6pm – 9pm

Families, please save the for our annual Moving Mountains Youth Celebration and Fundraising Dinner. Details will be coming out via email and we will have another parent meeting soon to plan.

Further 2018 Dates to Anticipate:

- ◇ April 28: Moving Mountains
- ◇ May 5: Lamb Day, Pastor Catherine's Farm, Whidbey Island
- ◇ May 20: last day of youth group
- ◇ May 30: Teen Feed
- ◇ June 3: Youth Worship
- ◇ June 10: End of year party

In the coming months

Act Now! unite to end racism

The National Council of Churches and the UCC General Minister and President John Dorhauer are inviting all members of the United Church of Christ to **participate in a rally on April 4 in Washington DC.**

On the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, join us on the National Mall.

Commit to finish the work of dismantling racism in: Criminal Justice, Education, Jobs, Health Care, Voting Rights, Environmental Justice

April 3: Service of Worship in the Orthodox Tradition

April 4: Rally on the National Mall, 7 am to 4 pm

April 5: Day of Action in the Capital

rally2endracism.org | [#rally2endracism](https://twitter.com/rally2endracism)

Email Peter Ilgenfritz if you want to go to DC and be a part of this: pilgenfritz@universityucc.org

Midlife Transition Class

Apr 18 - May 16, Wednesdays 7 to 9pm, Turner Lounge

Join others in midlife who are experiencing the invitations and challenges of this time of transitions.

Most of us experience shifts in our roles as children, parents and/or professionals. Some of us feel drawn to make radical changes by quitting jobs, and doing something entirely new. Some feel caught in the middle of the sandwich generation.

Carol Scott-Kassner is a Commissioned Minister of the UCC to a ministry of the Spirituality of Aging, spiritual director, and Certified Sage-ing Leader.

She offers this Mid-life transitions course every other year. Her course provides a rich opportunity to discuss what is coming up for you, and provide support for discerning whatever is next. This five-week course is most appropriate for people aged 45 to 65.

The cost is \$50. Let Carol know if you need scholarship support. Sign up by contacting Carol at: carolkassner@comcast.net or 253-921-1621.

“Take this class! Carol offers warmth; knowledge-base; freedom to discuss difficult subjects with others in similar situations; and gives food for thought for our life-long transitions.”

~ Lorraine Woods

You are invited to

Moving Mountains Youth Celebration and Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, April 28, 6pm – 9pm

You and your family and friends are invited to a lovely evening out! This is a family friendly event and kids are welcome! Enjoy dinner served to you by the youth of UCUC. They will provide entertainment with music and share stories from previous mission trips as you dine with others in the congregation.

Enjoy a silent auction where you can bid on the youth's time and talents (examples from previous years: babysitting, yard work, help around the house, technology help, homemade pies, children's birthday parties, sports training and so much more!).

All proceeds of the event help to offset the cost of our summer Mission Trips for both our middle school and high school youth. This allows all youth, no matter financial ability, to attend and be a part of the summer mission trips – sharing Gods love in the world.

The high school youth will travel this summer to Honolulu, Hawaii to attend the UCC Western Regional Youth Event and to participate in service, cultural learning opportunities and do a little sight seeing. We are excited to connect with other UCC youth from the 10 western region states and to be welcomed by the Hawaii UCC Conference.

The middle school youth will travel to the Kitsap Peninsula to work at the Giving Garden and Sharenet. At the giving garden they will help tend to the needs of a community garden. The harvests of the garden go to Sharenet, a local foodbank and thriftstore. They will also get a chance to do some learning of the needs of the kitsap peninsula and do some sightseeing.

Help us Move Mountains and celebrate our young people! See you Saturday, April 28. Tickets will be on sale in the narthex at the end of March and in April.

Pacific NW conference of UCC

update from Peter Ilgenfritz

Our Pacific Northwest Conference is the way our 83 local-area churches coordinate and support our common ministry together. I've been learning a lot about our Conference Ministry as the Conference Moderator the past 2 years, and would welcome talking with you about opportunities to serve on a conference board or committee.

Our Conference Annual Meeting is April 27-29 in Yakima.

We have a great meeting planned as our Conference breaks forth into some new ways to meet and carry out our ministry together. It's an exciting time in our Conference and give me a call or email me if you'd like to learn more or get involved!

Be a part of the Pacific NW UCC

"I love the recklessness of faith," said William Sloane Coffin. "First you leap, and then you grow wings."

Why not leap into a Pacific Northwest Conference UCC committee position and find your wings!

Contact Cindy Bauleke, from the Ministry Resource Committee 360-303-1941 or cindybauleke@gmail.com, and come fly with us.

Leadership Committees Pacific Northwest Conference United Church of Christ

- **Board of Directors (BOD)**

Develops policies, oversees programs, and manages Conference finances.

- **Justice & Witness (JWM)**

Educational and advocacy to promote social justice and peace making. Helps create informational networks to strengthen common passions and programs.

- **Educational Ministries Committee (EMC)**

Three task force coordinate and support: outdoor ministries programs; youth and young adult programs; and adult spiritual formation.

- **Global Ministries Committee (GM)**

Nurtures global partnerships and sister church relationships; supports missionaries from PNC-UCC; hosts visiting missionaries; promotes mission trips.

- **Personnel (PERS)**

Supports, reviews, and evaluates Conference employees.

- **Church Development Committee (CDC)**

Supports funding and mentoring of church renewal and growth within the Conference. Works with faith communities considering UCC affiliation.

- **Committee on Ministry (COM)**

Nurtures pastors and congregations; assists in crisis; authorizes ministers within the Conference; addresses ethical issues of congregations and clergy.

- **Stewardship Committee (STEW)**

Stewardship education and training for local churches. Organizes the budget, investment, property management, and planned giving opportunities.

- **Ministry Resources Committee (MRC)**

Recruits and nominates candidates for leadership positions within PNC-UCC.

- **Annual Meeting Planning Committee**

Plans the Conference Annual Meeting.

Worship and Preaching Calendar—Sunday worship service—10 am

Lenten Worship Series: The Gospel Outside

Many settings of our Jesus stories take place outdoors. In this series, we will take special note of how *where* these words and actions take place informs our understanding. On a migration journey, where we are affects everything. How does noticing where Jesus is help us take meaning from these words?

In keeping with our migration theme, in this series, every story is specifically set under the sky. These settings, more than any other biblical settings, are the ones that largely still exist today. Consider exploring photography and images of the regions mentioned in these stories. What might your body be experiencing in such a place?

The series arc begins with the story of Jesus' baptism, in each of our four Gospels, the clear indicator of the beginning of his ministry. The arc ends with the story of "Palm Sunday", often considered the beginning of the end of his ministry. Join us as we explore "The Gospel Outside."

March 4, 2018

The Gospel Outside: by the Sea of Galilee
Preaching: Catherine Foote
Scripture: Mark 1:16-20

March 11, 2018 — Seabeck Sunday

The Gospel Outside: Healing at the Border
Preaching: David Vasquez Levy
Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

March 18, 2018

The Gospel Outside: storm
Preaching: Amy Roon
Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

March 25, 2018 — Palm Sunday

9:30 parade around block
The Gospel Outside: parade
Preaching: Peter Ilgenfritz
Scripture: Mark 11:1-10