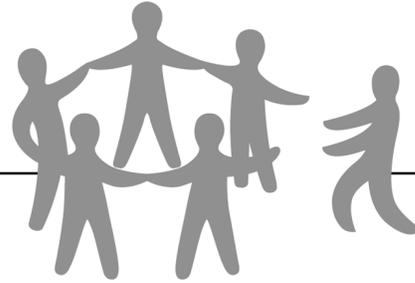


CHURCH AND HOME

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

May 20, UCUCC Annual Meeting

~ David Anderson, Church Administrator

The 127th annual meeting of University Congregational United Church of Christ is on Sunday, May 20, 2018 following worship.

- We will receive reports from some ministry areas, hear from the Imagine Campaign Implementation Committee as their work closes out.
- We will hear an update on our restructuring, which the congregation approved last year as a work-in-progress.
- We will also vote on nominations for officers and committees for the coming year.

Together we will celebrate our legacy, and look to our future. All are welcome, and all UCUCC members will have a vote.

Please plan to be present on May 20 as we talk, dream and move ahead together!

Your Migration Story Returns to You

This Fall, we began a year-long worship series on migration. We explored all it takes to leave home, and the choices about what to take and leave behind. We, as church, explored all that migration can mean physically, emotionally, and spiritually, so that we could be companions of hope, compassion and justice along the way. This month, we conclude our contemplation of migration. We will mail to you the notes you wrote about where you wanted to head this season, and how you would hope to be, as you walk through this season.

In all the journeys we travel as people, church, nation, and world during the coming year, may we remember God's promise of being present with us always. May you know such hope, encouragement, strength and love with you today.

Want to deepen your commitment to University Congregational UCC?

Plan on attending an Inquirers Lunch in May, and/or joining in June

Membership in a church can mean different things to different people. For some, it is a threshold moment in their lives—and opportunity to deepen commitment to their own spirituality and a community of faith. For others, membership may seem an unnecessary formality, of no interest. As we are fond of saying in the United Church of Christ, *"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!"* That applies to membership, too.

If you are interested in membership, and have not attended an Inquirers Lunch, you are invited to join us May 6 at 11:30 in Ostrander Hall. We will serve a light lunch and answer your questions about how to get more deeply involved in our church. This will be our last Inquirers Lunch until September 9.

If you have been attending for a while, and feel you already know us pretty well, you are welcome to bypass the lunch. If you are considering deepening your commitment or joining, it is helpful to sit down with a pastor and discuss what this means to you. All three of our pastors welcome this opportunity to get to know you better.

If the idea of membership appeals to you, we want you to know that you have an open invitation to join. Membership means that you are stating your commitment to be part of this church community. It also means you get to vote at congregational meetings!

We will receive new members on Sunday, June 10.

Let us know if you're interested in joining or have questions. Virginia Felton, Welcome Committee Chair, at 206-979-7539 or virginiadfelton@gmail.com.

And finally, if you feel that your level of involvement is right for you at this time in your life, that's fine too. You are always welcome here.

Deaths

Burton Smith

Born: March 21, 1941

Died: April 2, 2018

Burton passed away due to a recent struggle with heart disease and a heart attack.

Burton was a member here since 1990. He was a very dedicated and beloved choir member along with his wife Dottie, who passed away in 2015.

Burton was a well-respected pioneer in the supercomputing world, had a great sense of humor, was very giving, and loved singing. He will be missed by many.

Please hold Burton & Dottie's daughters, Julia and Katherine, in your thoughts and prayers during this tender time.

Flowers and Memorial donations can be sent to UCUC.

Memorial Service: Saturday, May 19, at 2pm in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow.

Joan Waldo

Born: August 3, 1926

Died: March 31, 2018

We received news that long time member, Joan Waldo, passed away on Saturday, March 31.

In recent years she was unable to attend worship services here. Joan joined UCUC in 1960 and was active in many ways including being a part of the Social Action Board and Women's Fellowship.

Her husband Bob preceded her in death in 1995. Please hold Joan's family in your thoughts and prayers.

At this time we do not have information regarding a Memorial Service.

May News

A simple and appreciated gift for families with young children

Help nurture our Young Families Group, which meets every 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.

May Special Offering:

Strengthen the Church

The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. ~ Ephesians 4: 11 – 12

Half of our Strengthen the Church offering is received by our own conference, which counts on it to provide support for the ministries of smaller churches.

The second half introduces innovative programs such as the Adese Fellowship which just launched its first year-long class of 14 future church leaders.

Your giving to Strengthen the Church will continue small church support and innovative program development. Thank you for your giving!

Meagan McLeod

Adese Fellow residing in Philadelphia, PA. Through this program, she hopes to provide a place where single mothers can feel significant, secure, and supported through her organization, Healing Streams Center.



Monthly Vigil for the Common Good

The monthly vigils *Calling for the Common Good* will continue on first Sundays of the month, 12pm – 1pm, **May 6 and June 3.**

Meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus...and on the corner of 45th and 15th.

Join us at the Mariners

We are going to fireworks night at the Mariners with UCUC and our friends on June 15 at 7pm. Every year, we have great fun. This year on our night, the Mariners are playing the Boston Red Sox.

Tickets will go on sale in the Turner Narthex, April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27. Each ticket will cost \$13. Questions? Contact Nancy Hannah, nlhannah@earthlink.net

May 28 Building closed to observe of Memorial Day

Thank You! to the UCUCG community.

The Mwanzo Board in Seattle and our Kenyan partners in Rabuor wish to express deep gratitude to the over 140 attendees at our recent UCUCG presentations on March 25 and April 8. This was by far the largest audience we've had at our annual events, and we so appreciated the opportunity to share stories about how lives in Rabuor and surrounding communities are being uplifted through your support this past year.

With many first-time faces, and conversation between Loyce and attendees, Mwanzo is energized by the growing and deepening relationship of the UCUCG community with our partners in Nyanza Province. We look forward to nurturing this relationship with you over the coming years, as one manifestation of Christ's call to "love your neighbor."

Be sure to view our "Red Wall" display, before the end of April. The pictures and stories are there for your inspiration, and represent a way that Mwanzo says "Thank You!" to everyone who walks this journey of hope and love with us.

~ Mwanzo Board: Liz Gilbert, Loyce Ong'udi, Margaux Kendall, Mark Peterson, and Terry Moore

Giving Reminder

~ Wendy Blight, Interim Administrator
The first quarter of the year at UCUCG has been full of great worship, education and justice work in our community and beyond. Our church continues to be a source of hope and inspiration in a world that so desperately needs to hear good news. Your contributions to the church are essential to making our ministry possible.

Our pledge receipts are slightly behind budget for the first quarter. If you've missed a contribution or two because of travel or other commitments, will you please consider making a "catch up" gift? As always, we invite you to give online, with credit cards or stock donations, or checks or cash.

Online: just click the "**Give**" button on the church website universityucc.org. You'll find more information about giving options, as well as the link to set up one-time or ongoing contributions.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact me at 206-524-2322 or interimadmin@ucucc.org.



March 2018 Council Meeting Summary

~ submitted by Wendy Blight, Interim Administrator
The University Congregational United Church of Christ Council met on March 21, 2018.

Leadership Reports:

Missional Priorities - Jan von Lehe

Council approved a revised AIR form last year that authorizes a Missional Priorities Task Force that will report back to the Council in Spring 2019.

Racial Justice Initiative – Peter Ilgenfritz

Led a conversation with the Council on their questions and thoughts about racial justice, as we look toward the October Council retreat focusing on this issue.

Behavioral Covenant

Discussed the UCC Board of Director's Behavioral Covenant, and considered whether to adopt it for the Council's use. Comments were favorable. Catherine will augment the Bible references that are part of the Covenant for the next Council meeting.

Management Reports:

Calling & Engagement – Beth Bartholomew and Ed

Coleman asked that all Ministries review the draft of a new church brochure entitled, "*Imagine Love and Justice — Jesus did, we do.*" Copies were handed out to the Ministry Liaisons. Return comments to Carol McRoberts cdmcroberts@quidnunc.net or Parish Care mailbox by the end of April.

South End Action Team (SEAT) – Marne Parry
ROOTS and Teen Feed made a joint proposal to SEAT, and were very interested in occupying the first floor area that Trettin Drop-in Preschool is currently using. SEAT was going to make that recommendation to the Church Council until Marne received notice last week that the Executive Director of ROOTS is leaving the organization. Marne will be following up with both ROOTS and Teen Feed, and report back to the Council when she has more information.

Financial Report - Don Guthrie and Wendy Blight
Expenses are under budget through the end of February with pledge revenue coming in a little under budget as well. No cause for concern at this time.

Time Away:

- David Anderson on Sabbatical, Feb. 1 to April 30
- Peter Ilgenfritz on vacation – April 2 - 10

Along the way

The Mayor and the Lamb

~ Catherine Foote

In January, I wrote a letter to the mayor requesting a meeting to talk about homelessness in Seattle.

Faith leaders from Protestant and Catholic Churches, synagogues and mosques — all communities that have been involved in homelessness ministries, signed with me. It took a while for the mayor to reply, but finally her office contacted the Church Council of Greater Seattle, and suggested we could all get together on the Tuesday morning after Easter.

I got up early Tuesday in order to get through my morning chores in time for the Mayor's meeting. But after I let all the sheep out for their morning meal, I realized there was a newborn lamb left in the barn with no mother in sight. Clearly, one of the ewes had lambed in the night, but in the rush to get to the feeder, she had left her lamb behind.

I went back out to find the negligent ewe. It wasn't hard to spot her. Knowing the time it would take to deal with this unexpected lambing crisis, I was at a choice point. I needed to either stay with the lamb and his mom and help them bond, or I needed to change out of my chore clothes and into my "meeting with the mayor" clothes, and head for the ferry.

That choice, between what can feel like the "big" work of social justice, and the more immediate work of caring for the vulnerable being right in front of me, is a familiar one. It comes up not only in my farm life, but in my ministry, and ultimately in everyone's life. I think of parents faithfully caring for their children while the church invites them to get involved with "big" projects. I think of adult children caring for their aging parents while the church asks them to come to one more committee meeting. I think of all the amazing ways people in this congregation balance all that they have to carry, and I think of the faithful choices they make.

That Tuesday, I chose the vulnerable lamb. I called Amy Roon, and fortunately her "vulnerable" ones were all taken care of, in school or at day care, so she could make the meeting with the mayor. I went back to the barn to care for the lamb and new mom, grateful that this faith journey is as much a community thing as it is an individual one.

I rarely name my lambs, but decided to name this one "Durk" after the mayor. If you come to the farm on Lamb Day on May 5, I'll point him out to you.

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

~ Carol Scott-Kassner, Commissioned Minister

Practicing Presence

One of my favorite ways to meditate is to hold an object such as a flower or leaf or a picture of a loved one and truly focus on it. It is the process of "beholding" - of being fully present to all that I can notice about the beauty and complexity of this object. I become one with it. I like to think that is the way God sees each of us. Here is such an invitation from a favorite book of mine: *Faces of God* by Gordon and Gladis DePree

What would happen
if we set aside one day a week
And called it
Observation Day?

Suppose for one day we would awaken with a sense of
life as a miracle.

We would watch the sun rise with a
sense of awe;

Or listen to the rain strike the roof;
And feel the wonder of the rhythm of
the universe.

Suppose we actually looked at each other;
And saw the beauty of the life force in each other;
Coordinating limb and eye
With that indefinable something called personality.
What if we really looked and saw and felt consciously;
Once a week?

What would that do for our ability to worship?

May Events

May 5, Opus 7 concert

All Northwest concert at 8 pm in the Sanctuary

Celebrate the musical contributions of some of our region's prominent choral composers including Opus 7's Composer-in-Residence John Muehleisen, and Opus 7's Student Choral Composition Award winners.

May 20, NW Girlchoir concert

Everyone is invited to help us celebrate and honor our graduating choristers. Enjoy senior solos, the "senior song," performances by Amore and Ensemble, and a cake reception. Free admission. Concert starts at 5 pm in our Sanctuary.

May 6, Planned Giving Workshop:

Learn the basics of estate planning, wills & trusts

Harrington Chapel after worship.

Snacks/light lunch provided

The Stewardship & Finance Committee invite you to explore your options for leaving a meaningful legacy. Whether or not you have a large estate, planning for what happens after you are gone can insure that your intentions are carried out, and can ease the pain of those left behind.

Jerry Landeen, an experienced attorney in these matters, and Martha Baldwin CPA, will answer your questions. The issues of estate planning go beyond the question of “do you have a will?” There are many options for leaving a meaningful legacy. Our workshop presenters will share facts about wills, trusts, annuities that provide you with an income and other options.

There will be printed resources to take with you, we'll introduce you to the new section on our website devoted to planned giving.

May 9, Mary's Place Spring Luncheon

Seattle Center Exhibition Hall beginning at 11:30.

No cost to attend. There will be fabulous speakers including past and current Mary's Place clients. Learn about new initiatives, and accomplishments over the past year. Our goal is to fill three tables this year. If you'd like to join us, contact Liz Gilbert at

Lisbeth.gilbert@gmail.com or Mary Louise Alving at mlmoonrivertwo@icloud.com.

May 20, Crafting & Connecting

A Spirit Workshop with Love Wins Love

Sunday, May 20, 2pm – 4pm, in O-Hall 2.

The Love Wins Love Project leads May's Spirit Workshop, sharing their process that builds community among people who are unhoused and housed. Together we'll generate ideas for low-cost housing solutions while making strings of flags to beautify existing tent encampments and shelters.

Bring your willingness, make a prayer flag, have good conversations: what do you need to thrive? Thanks to Susan Russell & Denise Henrikson for bringing their gifts.

RSVPs and questions to Beth Amsbary at spiritworkshops@ucucc.org or the office 206-524-2322.

Spirit Workshops are an outreach program of UCUC, gatherings with hands-on activities and meaningful conversations, where all beliefs are welcome.

Children & Youth

May 5, Lamb Day

10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Whidbey Island

Visit Pastor Catherine's farm. Meet the baby lambs, frolic with the dogs, take a gander at the chickens, walk the maze, and share in a potluck picnic lunch. Rain or shine...dress for mud. Please bring a dish to share.

All ages are welcome; a special invitation is extended to children and their parents and grandparents.

RSVP to Catherine Foote, cfoote@ucucc.org, Betsy Herring, childrensministry@ucucc.org or call 206-524-2322, ext 3302.

May 12, Fondue Party for Moms

All mothers of children and youth are invited to a fondue party just for moms from 5:30-8:30 pm at Rebecca Schmidt's home in north Seattle. Rebecca will provide chocolate fondue.

Bring dippers (bread, fruit) or a beverage to share. RSVP Rebecca: 206-679-5619, rebecca_schmidt@comcast.net.

This is a fun annual party... truly a night off for moms! This is not an event for children. Infants are welcome.

Children's Ministry news

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

May 19, Parents of Littles

This is a group for expecting-parents and parents of infants up to 2-years-old (older siblings are welcome). The intent of this group is to allow families time for meaningful connection and reflective dialogue on what it means to be faithful as family. We hope this will give you space to develop supportive relationships at the earliest stages of your kids' lives. Questions – Betsy Herring or Sarah & Jack Marshall 206-251-0620 sarahjeanmarshall@gmail.com

May 27, Food Packing Service Project First Floor Hallway

After worship, bring the kids to pack grocery bags with nonperishable foods for the hungry. This is a fun, easy way to involve the whole family in serving others. It's suitable for preschoolers and older, and lasts about 30 minutes. Give 3 cheers and a thank you to Diane and Steve Adam, who organize this activity.

Youth Ministry news

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

Youth Group & Worship

9 am Youth Group, Sundays May 6, 13, 20

Youth in grades 6 – 12 are invited to join us Sunday. Youth group is a place where we talk about things that matter, do things that matter and know that we belong. In May we will be planning Youth Worship on June 3. May 20 is our last day of 9am youth group until Fall.

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

May 6 and 13: 5:30-6pm Dinner, 6 - 8pm Class
May 20 – on our schedule in case we need a make-up class or extension.

Junior & Senior Small Group

Wednesday, May 16:

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 in these last years of high school. May will be our final gathering for the school year.

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

Love & Justice News

The Power of the Peacemaking Circle

Peace Circle Basic Workshop **Friday, May 11**, 7 to 9 pm, and **Saturday, May 12**, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, Os-trander Hall.

Two peacemaking principles:
Work on oneself, not to change others
Contribute to the wholeness of the community.

Join members of the Multicultural Circle and Racial Justice action teams to experience the Peace Circle process: learn to apply these principles to deepen one's ability to listen, and strengthen the communications of a community or a congregation.

Participants of the Basic workshop will be eligible for the Peace Circle Keeper Training to facilitate Circles.

The Circle process is an important vehicle for restorative practices. With restorative practices and the Peace Circle process, juvenile and adult offenders have undergone major personal transformations.

A King County judge called restorative practices, "*the most hopeful criminal justice reform that I've ever seen.*"

Pick up information or register on Sundays. Suggested fees are \$30 for adults and \$25 for students; scholarships are available. Registrations accepted through May 7. For information, contact Aileen Pruiksma 206-363-3872, aileenspr-biz@yahoo.com or Ginger Warfield vwarfield@mac.com.

Links to short videos on Peace Circle process and restorative justice at universityucc.org/whats-up-now.

The Earth is the Lord's – not ours to wreck
universityucc.org/imperatives-for-a-new-moral-era-passed-by-31st-general-synod-of-ucc/

Sacred Earth Matters



Initiative 1631

to Deal with Climate Change and Heal Our Earth

The Earth is the Lord's – not ours to wreck resolution adopted in 2017 by our national UCC General Synod states that God's great gift of creation is in crisis because of humanity's increasing use of fossil fuels. "*Never has the earth and the climate changed so quickly.*" The resolution recognizes the urgency of healing the Earth's climate, and asks us to commit to resist all expansion of fossil fuels, and demand new sources of renewable energy.

In part, that is why **Sacred Earth Matters supports I-1631**. Its goal is for the state to use the \$800 million generated annually by a \$15/ton carbon fee (\$2/year increases) to invest in clean energy infrastructures such as wind and solar, as well as healthy forests and clean air and water. 70% of the revenues would go to greenhouse gas emission reductions, 25% to environmental projects benefitting waterways and forests, and 5% to communities disproportionately affected by climate change. At least 3% of project investments must benefit communities most hurt by pollution, poverty, and climate change.

Investment areas include expanding renewable energy, clean transportation, and carbon sequestration. Funds could be used to restore and protect estuaries, fisheries and marine shoreline habitats, increase sustainable supplies of water, improve infrastructures for treating wastewater, and address sea level rise and ocean acidification. A public oversight board will ensure funds are invested wisely to reduce pollution and mitigate climate impacts.

Sacred Earth Matters did not support I-732 which was defeated in the 2016 general election. Unlike the 2016 initiative, I-1631 was created by diverse constituencies across Washington representing working families, communities of color, environmental and clean energy advocates, health professionals, business, and faith organizations.

Petitions signed by 260,000 registered voters must be filed by June 30 for I-1631 to qualify for the 2018 November ballot. Sacred Earth Matters has petitions for people to sign and packets of petitions to enable people to gather signatures in their retirement communities, neighborhoods, etc.

May Racial Justice Update

~ Toni Higgs

On April 4, 1968 a lover of justice who had the temerity to hold Americans to their supposed values was assassinated. The myths and legends that grew around Martin Luther King Jr. make it hard to know the man and what he actually stood for. Fifty years later, I was one of seven people from our church privileged enough to gather in Washington DC to remember the man and, most importantly, figure out how his words and actions apply today.

The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and their partners organized the A.C.T. rally in DC to end racism, as a launch for its multi-year **Truth and Racial Justice Initiative**. Thousands of people gathered at 7am to march silently around the MLK memorial to the National Mall. Accustomed as I am to attending marches where I shout myself hoarse, I found the silence among the many to be a potent and powerful force.

At the rally, we heard from many different faith traditions - Muslims, Sikhs, Jews, Zoroastrians, Hindus, Christians. All called for equity: compassion for equity, compassion for all people, and an end to racism. Preachers, singers, actors and activists such as Jim Wallis, Danny Glover, and Bishop Vashti McKenzie gave powerful speeches. Gospel singers and hip-hop

artists entertained us. Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, activists and founders of Ben & Jerry's ice cream, talked about how they became successful businessmen, and how their story would change if they had been born Black.

One of my favorite speakers was DeRay Mckesson, a young man who quit his job as a school administrator in Minneapolis and moved to St. Louis after police shot Michael Brown in Ferguson. Mckesson became a Black Lives Matter activist and organized many months of protests in Ferguson. He has a podcast called "**Pod Save the People**" and is regularly listed on those "top 100" lists of influential thinkers.

Workshops held the following day were even more impactful. There I learned:

It is not necessary to be a hero or a saint to undo racism. Every day people of faith and other activists can be involved in this work. What if every church member committed to 10 anti-racism acts a year?

William Barber has created a moral framework that is non-partisan yet still organizes people of faith against the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation. Churches can organize against these evils in defense of human rights and not be accused of being overtly political. See Poor People's Campaign: www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/

Systemic racism is found in all of our institutions. The National Council of Churches calls for truth telling in churches and policies to transform criminal justice, economic justice, media, civil and human rights, environmental justice, education, immigration, healthcare and voting rights www.unite2endracism.org

The United Nations has named 2015-2024 as the international decade for people of African descent, to recognize the need for recognition, justice and development for those people from the African diaspora www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/.

Local events:

- ◆ **April 22**, 11:30-2:00pm, Seabeck preview: "*Imperfect, Messy & Striving: God Calls Us to Talk About Race*" with Diane Schmitz & Cynthia Macleod. Lunch included.
- ◆ **May 6**, 11:45-1:15: "*Going on a Pilgrimage*" Loyce Ongudi, Audrey Musewe and Audrey Vaughn will discuss what they learned on their pilgrimage through the South and important civil rights people and landmarks.
- ◆ **July 8-13**, Seabeck, see above preview.

Worship and Preaching Calendar—Sunday worship service—10 am

A journey's end may be a pause, and only in retrospect do we realize it was an end. Sometimes it's a clear sense of coming home, or an acknowledgment that we shall never "get home." Sometimes the journey returns to where we started, or we have arrived someplace new. Sometimes we long for a different ending, or are relieved for whatever ending we can get, and sometimes the end is just a noticing that we are no longer moving.

Last Fall, we noticed all we had to leave behind. During Advent and Christmas we noticed the ways God might be calling us to get up and GO. In Epiphany, we noticed what it was to have meaningful experiences in homes and not our own. During Lent we noticed how the words of Jesus are shaped by how we experience them in settings lacking shelter.

In Eastertide, we notice the ways our journeys can end. In the infinite endings, none of them suggest we will never journey again. Our series notes that every ending is also arguably a beginning from another perspective. So our spiritual migration series ends with Pentecost and the building of a new church in a new way.

May 6, 2016

Journeys Ending: Naomi comes home

Preaching: Peter Ilgenfritz

Scripture: Ruth 1:19-22

May 13, 2018

Journeys Ending: empty nest

Preaching: Amy Roon

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

May 20, 2018

Journeys Ending: building with fire

Preaching: Catherine Foote

Scripture: Acts 2:1-13

May 27, 2018

Ordinary Time

Preaching: Peter Ilgenfritz