

CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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August Racial Justice Update

~ Ginger Warfield

So far this Summer, Seabeck has held center stage for the Racial Justice Action Group. Start with the presenters: Diane Schmitz has been our guide and counselor practically from the word “Go!”, and she and Cynthia MacLeod together have held many workshops for (important!) small subsets of the folks who keep the church running. So we were excited to have them engage a much larger collection of church members and friends. And engage they did!

Their opening question was:

“What do you need to put down for a week so that your heart and soul are ready to focus?”

And their final one was:

“What is something that you think the church needs to take on in order to move ourselves toward being anti-racist, and that you are willing to commit to helping with?”

We dug into those, and a large bunch between, with a will. Answers to that final question went on PostIt notes and are currently being typed up — keep your eye on the red wall!

Racial Justice discussions took a number of forms. Barb O’Brien and Elizabeth Dickinson did a variation and extension of their previous workshops on microaggressions, and how to deal with them. David Anderson and Tim Devine showed slides from their trip to the Middle East, and gave insights into troubled areas and the lives of refugees. Becky Errera, of the Northwest Community Bail Fund, gave a powerful presentation about the incredible damage done to the poor, especially those of color, by our system of “Justice” — in particular the bail system.

Going forward we have two clear calls. One is for more talking and deep listening. For that, we are proposing the use of Peace Circles, and offering some workshops. Another is for some more active work —

a number of us feel that collaboration with the Northwest Community Bail Fund would fit. It’s a place where we could have a direct and perceptible impact.

And, we have the exciting call to study all the ideas on those PostIt notes from Seabeck, and braid them together for our next actions. It’s going to be an exciting Autumn!

Peace Circle Workshops coming up.

God calls us to talk about race was the underlying message of Seabeck. One of the things we all realized by the end was that this can be meaningful and inspiring, but it is emphatically also challenging.

With the goal of supporting these and other challenging conversations within our congregation (and beyond), we are offering Peace Circle workshops: a process that enables us to listen deeply to each other, and reach inside ourselves to speak into that listening.

For the introductory workshop pick one:

- ◇ **Fri., Aug. 24, 7 – 9 & Sat., Aug. 25, 9:30 – 4:30.**
- ◇ **Fri., Sept. 28, 7 – 9 & Sat., Sept. 29, 9:30 – 4:30.**

RSVP to Ginger Warfield: vwarfield@mac.com, or 206-525-0175.

Training for future Circle Keepers,
(previous Peace Circle training is required)

- ◇ **Sat., Nov. 3, 9:30 – 4:30 and**
- ◇ **Sat., Nov. 10, 9:30 – 4:30**

RSVP to Ginger or Aileen Pruiksma
aileenspr-biz@yahoo.com

Suggested registration fee:

For the introductory workshop \$50 - \$75.

[Explanation: To cover the entire cost, we would have to set a fee of \$125. We don’t want anyone to miss for financial reasons, so scholarships are freely available.

However much you can comfortably pay will be welcome and well used.]

August Special Offering: Mt. Selinda Hospital, Zimbabwe

Hospital Situation Update:

In early July, Zimbabwe First Lady Auxillia Mnangagwa toured Mt. Selinda Hospital, at the request of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. The hospital superintendent, Dr. Hughes Mhlanga, told the First Lady that most women in his area were being diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer too late for effective treatment. He believes that the cause is lack of knowledge about these killer diseases, and asked the First Lady's intervention to educate people in his area about the symptoms, and encourage them to come in for diagnosis immediately if they note any differences in their health. His hope is to cut back substantially the alarming increase in cancer deaths.

After touring the hospital, the First Lady promised to bring mobile clinics to the area for an awareness campaign. *"I appreciate the work the churches do,"* she said, *"because they are an important pillar in assisting the vulnerable. The hospital here speaks volumes of the role of the church in our society."*

Mt. Selinda hospital serves a wide area geographically—until recently with only one doctor. It has been hard to recruit staff, because the salary provided by the government is minimal. A second doctor has been added, and our giving will go to support salaries high enough to attract the physicians needed for this large medical facility.

For Mt. Selinda Hospital and its many patients, thank you for your giving!



Pictured above: The First Lady also brought along the gift of food for the medical facilities.

June Church Council Summary

~ submitted by Roberta Hollowell

Financial report: Expenses are on track with budget. Pledges continue to lag behind budget. There is no obvious reason for the discrepancy. A gentle reminder of pledges-made will be mailed out to the congregation soon. When we had this situation a few years back, the pledge reminder brought pledges back in line.

South End Action Team (SEAT) Update: The non-profits that were interested in using the South-end space on the first floor of the church building pulled out for various reasons. The parameters for use of the space have been clarified. SEAT is getting the word out to University District non-profits about the available space. University Christian Church will be closing soon (they are merging with Lake City Christian Church). University Christian has had a wing in their church for non-profits, those groups will be displaced. They have been specifically alerted to our space availability. *Applications are due to the SEAT by July 20*

Justice Intern Update: A team made up of Patty Brandt, Elizabeth Dickinson, Hillary Coleman, Ed Coleman and Peter Ilgenfritz met to discuss and evaluate the program. The Leadership staff also discussed this last week. We don't have capacity to have an intern for this next year. It's our hope to say yes to the Justice Intern in the future, but there are a number of pieces that need to be in place provide a successful environment for the intern. Amy Roon will take the lead in preparing that effort.

Racial Justice Initiative: Training for all UCUCC staff was completed. *The September Leadership Retreat will be the training for lay leadership.* The vision is to have as many key leaders present as possible.

Council Priorities / Goals: Peter noted that Council has had a three-month process to identify goals for the next 18 months (June 2018 to Dec 2019). *Some clear priorities were identified:* Racial Justice, Calling & Engagement, and Christian Education-Intergenerational Village.

For the August Council, meeting members were asked to arrive with suggestions for a purpose statement and goals for each of the priorities.

Ministry New Initiatives: \$1,000 per Ministry in "mini-grants" from the New Initiatives Fund for new special projects was approved.

Family Leave Guidelines were clarified.

Job openings in our church

Position Available:

Facilities Manager

Oversee all aspects of facility maintenance and repair, and the facility budget. Supervise custodial staff, and focus on the health of the building and all who use it.

Qualifications: A depth of experience in facility systems and maintenance. Working knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, electrical work. Familiarity with City and Fire Department codes. Demonstrated ability as a supervisor who builds a team of motivated employees. Comfortable with computers and software, including MS Word, Excel and Outlook. Ability to schedule and manage projects using organizational skills and software tools. Good interpersonal skills with individuals and in small group settings. Ability to stand, sit, bend and walk briskly. Must be able to move about the facility using stairs and ladders. Ability to work in small spaces and on rooftops. Ability to lift approximately 50 pounds.

Compensation: \$48,000/year. Individual health insurance, vacation, holidays. Pension annuity after one year.

More information at: universityucc.org/position-available-facilities-manager/

To apply, send cover letter and resume to FMSearch@universityucc.org

Job opportunity:

Early-childhood Caregiver

Position Purpose: Create a Christian environment that encourages the faith development of the youngest members of our faith family. Provide quality care for children in a welcoming church community. Support parents in their own Christian growth and nurture of their young children

Required Qualifications: High school graduation or equivalent; at least two years prior experience working with young children; pass criminal background check.

Terms of employment: Primarily on Sunday mornings year-round. Rate \$15/hour. Hours: at minimum 1.5 hours on Sundays

Job responsibilities: Provide a quality experience on Sunday mornings for young children in a Sunday school classroom environment, and provide childcare for church events. Support volunteer caregivers, and supervise youth assistants. Set-up and clean-up Sunday school classrooms. Maintain weekly communication with Children's Ministry Director on issues as they arise, ideas for improvement. Work within the letter and spirit of our Safe Child Policy. Assist in the overall Children's Ministry Program as needed.

Contact: Children's Ministry Director Betsy Herring, bherring@universityucc.org, 206-524-2322 x3302

Volunteer opportunity: church office

Monday – Friday from 12:00 to 3:00 we have volunteers help in the office by welcoming visitors, answering the phones, and doing light clerical tasks like preparing the bulletin for Sunday. If you are curious about signing up to help, call the office at 206-524-2322 or email Erin at Communications@universityucc.org

Be a Children's Ministry Sunday

School Teacher

Join our volunteer teaching crew. Adults and high school youth are warmly invited to be a part of this ministry. Each hour-long class needs co-teachers.

You'll be provided with everything you need beforehand to have a blast with the kids.

Summer Sunday School is laid-back, nourishing work.

Contact Betsy Herring - bherring@universityucc.org, 206-524-2322 ext 3302 for the link to *Sign Up Genius*.

Children's Ministry news

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

Family Tent Camping Trip

August 10-12, at Camp Casey, Whidbey Island

Sites are filling up for our annual family tent camping trip at Camp Casey (Whidbey Island) on Friday, August 10 through Sunday, August 12. All families with children and youth are invited to attend.

Two nights is \$60. Financial assistance available.

Group camping is great! We all help each other out—it's perfect for parents on solo duty, or for families with only some members who want to camp.

Contact Betsy Herring, bherring@universityucc.org for information and to sign up. In the past, we've filled all the reserved sites and created a waiting list, so please RSVP ASAP if you're interested.

Many dates are set for next year

- ♦ **September 9:** Start of 2018 Preschool and Elementary Sunday School
- ♦ **September 16:** Homecoming Sunday
- ♦ **October 13:** Apple Day, Pastor Catherine's Farm
- ♦ **November 25:** Advent Breakfast
- ♦ **December 2:** Advent Workshop

Stay up-to-date on our Children & Youth events

...by subscribing to Betsy or Margaret's weekly email. Go to universityucc.org, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "*subscribe to email newsletters*". Fill out the form with the information your family wants, and you will receive weekly reminders of all the events on the horizon.

Youth Ministry news

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

Summer Ministry & Fun Fellowship:

It has been a wonderful summer! We have had some fabulous trips – High School Mission Trip, Youth Programming at Seabeck and Middle School Mission Trip! We are working on planning a few fellowship things this summer, so please stay tuned to Margaret's emails. Thanks to our leaders: Erik Wallen, Mike Zevenbergen, Hillary Coleman, Rachel Brackett, Ben Jones, Cara Helmer, David Heritage, Peter Ilgenfritz and Emma Fjermedal for being such an important part of these summer trips!

August 29: Teen Feed

5pm – 8:30pm

Youth, their families and friends are invited to join us for an evening of service with Teen Feed. We will prepare, cook and serve a meal together for homeless teens and young adults in the University District. Sign up to volunteer by emailing mswanson@ucucc.org.

August: Youth Families Outdoor Movie Night

Soak up one of these last summer evenings with BBQ and an outdoor movie! Family and friends are invited! Thanks to Carol and Ed Coleman for hosting us again this year! We will gather for dinner and games. Then, after sunset, we'll hunker down in our camp chairs or on our blankets and watch for our movie.

The exact date and movie are yet to be determined, but know that towards the end of August we will gather for our annual movie night.

Looking ahead at the Fall:

9am Youth Group:

We will begin our 9am Youth Group programming again on Sunday, September 9.

Sept 21 – 23: All Youth Retreat

Mark your calendars for our All-Youth Retreat at Pilgrim Firs. It's going to be a great way to kick off our program year!

The full 2018-2019 Youth Ministry Program year schedule is online at: <http://bit.ly/2018-2019YouthMin>. You can also search our website for "*save the dates*".

The Lecture Series News

August 26, 11:30, after worship Lecture Series Volunteer Thank You, and New Program Launch!

All are welcome to a cake reception and thank you to Lecture Series Volunteers who make this program possible year after year.

The Lecture Series is an all-volunteer program of UCUC that has brought nationally and internationally recognized speakers to the Seattle-area, and audience members from throughout the Pacific Northwest region and beyond since 2007. We couldn't do it without volunteers – thank you all!

The Lecture Series has earned its own reputation over the years, and now speakers often reach out to us to come speak at UCUC. New and exciting changes to The Lecture Series are underway for 2018/2019! On August 26, come hear more about how our new collaboration with Pacific School of Religion will offer expanded learning opportunities at UCUC through PSR programming.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

One night: September 14 | Glennon Doyle

Glennon Doyle is an author, activist, philanthropist, creator of the online community Momastery, and founder and president of Together Rising, a nonprofit for women and children in crisis. Her works include *Love Warrior*, a No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling memoir and Oprah Book Club Pick; and *New York Times* Bestselling memoir, *Carry On, Warrior*. Watch for ticket information online. This event likely to sell-out quickly.

Oct 5, 6, 7 | Passion and the Prophets: with Pacific School of Religion professors Drs. Sharon Fennema and Sharon Jacob.

Explore Biblical roots and current issues around race and social justice. More information to come.

June 7-9, 2019 | ColumbaFest, Glasgow Scotland
We're looking at organizing a pilgrimage to Glasgow to participate in the annual ColumbaFest hosted by the Iona Community. ColumbaFest is a seasonal celebration of faith, culture, politics and creativity.

Interested in learning more? Email us at lectureseries@universityucc.org.

Support for the UCUC Liturgical Arts Endowment

"I was raised in a conservative religious environment. For me, this meant that as a child I experienced worship services that were somber, cerebral, and sermon-centric. Among other things, this early programming has left me with an appreciation for church that is alive with elements that are designed for the delight of the congregation.

"Liturgical Arts at UCUC is a source for much that makes my experience each week memorable and moving. Using creativity to invite people into an experience of God is a sacred venture, and I hope you will join me in supporting the endowment." ~ Candace Tkachuck

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 by the end of this year, which will provide \$5000 in spendable earnings per year to support visual, kinesthetic, written and spoken-word arts at UCUC. If you appreciate our liturgical art, you can make a pledge over a two-year period, or contribute now with a check payable to **UCUC** marked **"Liturgical Arts Endowment."**

For further information, or to suggest ideas for future liturgical arts projects, please speak to one of us or email liturgicalarts@ucucc.org.

~ Beth Amsbary, Kris Garratt, Debra Jarvis, Betty Spieth-Croll, Carolyn Stark, Lori VanderBilt and Peter Ilgenfritz



Giving Reminder

~ David Anderson, Church Administrator

The first quarter of the year at UCUC 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 danderson@ucucc.org.

Along the way

Stepping Away and Stepping Up

~ Catherine Foote

Summer is, for many, a time of vacation. Families travel together to somewhere new, or perhaps stay home and plan an exciting local adventure. This year, I took my break in June, when my sister and I traveled for three weeks through Great Britain. We began our trip with a triathlon in Wales, and ended it with four days on the Scottish island of Iona. It was a wonderful time away.

June was also a difficult time to leave. As I packed for my trip, the news was full of stories about families who were seeking asylum in our country being separated, with very young children taken away from their parents. People in this congregation were protesting this action, joining rallies at detention centers and in Olympia. My heart was with the separated families, and with those trying to help them.

In our congregation, some families were going through times of grief. Over the course of Spring, several beloved members of our congregation had passed away. Two memorial services were scheduled to take place while I was away. **How could I leave?**

It is often difficult to step away from all of the work we have before us as people of faith. It seems as if weekly, or even daily, there is more to do as we strive to live out our call to be people of love and justice in the world. If anything, the list appears to be growing longer. Yet our faith also calls us to remember to rest. Sabbath reminds us that not everything depends on us as individuals. We are part of a larger community that carries on while we are away, and also a part of a spiritual journey that is not built on our efforts alone. As the story goes, even God, in all of God's creative and redemptive work, took time for rest.

So on June 12, the same day of a U.S.-North Korea meeting in Singapore, my sister and I flew to Glasgow. In Great Britain, all of the news was about ongoing negotiations for the U.K. exit from the European Union. Also, everywhere, there was coverage of the FIFA World Cup, and England's run for the title. About half-way through our trip, I heard about the signing of an executive order in the U.S. restricting the family separation process by ICE. I returned home in time to learn of a court order to reunite families, and to reconnect with this congregation at Seabeck, where we continued our work to become an anti-racist congregation.

There is, of course, always more work to do. During my time away, though, I was able to rest and find renewal, probably most especially in the ancient abbey on Iona. I was reminded of the ongoing rhythm of work and rest that is part of the human experience, and I reconnected with the spiritual nature of the work I do. Now we are moving into the month of August, and I am fully re-engaged in that work. Thank you congregation, for the chance to step away, and for the opportunities you always provide for each of us to step up and make a difference in the world.

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

~ Carol Scott-Kassner, commissioned minister of UCUC to ministries of spiritual direction and of aging

Simplifying

At a recent party, I talked with a friend from church about needing to "release" more of my possessions. She laughed and said, "I call it 'transferring my treasures!'"

I replied that both of those images were easier for me that using the term, "getting rid of," which has harsh overtones for me. We both moaned about how hard, but important, this is to do as we age. When we do, things feel lighter and cleaner. See if this poem helps to encourage you to simplify your life.

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#### Instructions

Give up the world; give up self; finally give up God.  
Find god in rhododendrons, and rocks,  
passers-by, your cat.  
Pare your beliefs, your absolutes.  
Make it simple; make it clean.  
No carry-on luggage allowed.  
Examine all that you have  
with a loving and critical eye, then  
throw away some more.  
Repeat. Repeat.  
Keep this and only this:  
What your heart beats loudly for  
what feels heavy and full in your gut.  
There will only be one or two  
things you will keep,  
and they will fit lightly  
in your pocket.

~ Sheri Hostetler,

*A Cappella: Mennonite Voices in Poetry*

# Future Events

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## Bystander Intervention Training

~ Cassie Emanuel, Sanctuary Action Team

*Have you ever wondered how you'd intervene if you saw someone being harassed in public because of skin color, religious identity or immigration status?*

**On Sunday, September 30**, from 1:00-3:30 in the Turner Lounge, we will host a Bystander Intervention Training co-sponsored by our Sanctuary Action Team and the 8 other congregations in our U-District Sanctuary Hub.

Bystanders can speak up when they witness threatening behavior and thereby foster a community of loving kindness. This training will teach you how to engage in situations of public harassment and violence without escalating the danger. It will provide hands-on strategies for intervening when potentially harmful situations are developing.

### Goals for this training:

- Increase your motivation to help
- Raise awareness of helpful behaviors
- Develop skills and confidence to respond when you see someone being mistreated
- Ensure the safety and well-being of yourself and others.

Space is limited to the first 30 who sign up. Registration is required. Register by emailing your name to [bystanderucucc@gmail.com](mailto:bystanderucucc@gmail.com)

## Save the Date for Good Works Bazaar

There are so many groups around UCUCS who are doing amazing things - it's hard to keep up with it all!

- ◆ *Would you like to show others what your group has been up to?*
- ◆ *Would you like to find out what others are planning?*
- ◆ *Would you like to see all the ways we are "being the church" and perhaps get involved?*

**On Sunday, October 21 after church**, Ostrander Hall will be filled with people for our second annual Good Works Bazaar — the place to catch up with people, activities, ministries, and opportunities to learn about our church. Please plan to join the fun!

Questions? Contact [vickifarmer@hotmail.com](mailto:vickifarmer@hotmail.com).

## Join Us At the Annual Senior Retreat

**October 1-2, 2018**

Once again members and friends of UCUCS are invited to attend our senior retreat at the beautiful Rainbow Lodge near North Bend. We suggest that you be at least 55 to attend, meaning you probably qualify for many "senior discounts". You don't have to be a member of AARP — just someone who enjoys getting to know others and sharing conversations, stories, songs, and laughter.

We begin Monday morning at 10:00 and recommend people arrive by 9:00 am or soon thereafter to unload cars and begin to connect informally with others.

**Our theme this year is:  
Stories of Love, Loss, and Laughter.**

On Monday, our wonderful Terry Moore, who is an actor/director/cellist among other things, will help us understand what constitutes a good story, and then give us ideas for how to tell a good story.

On Tuesday, Catherine will lead us in exploring stories from the Bible related to our theme and we will finish with some storytelling followed by worship and lunch.

The cost for a shared room plus meals is \$125. A single room is \$140. We encourage people to share a room if possible.

You should receive a registration form in the mail in late July. You can send it in along with a minimum payment of \$35.00, or you can register in person in the Narthex on Sunday's beginning on September 2. Final payment is due at the time of the retreat.

Details about lodging, location, and what to bring will be sent to those who register.

We hope to see you there!!

## Iona in 2020

We are in the very early planning stages for a trip to Iona in 2020 - sometime between May and September. If you have any interest in this adventure, please email Cathy Gunstone at [cgunstone@gmail.com](mailto:cgunstone@gmail.com).

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

In August and September, we will deepen our exploration of what it means to *Be the Church* by celebrating what it means to Be *Our Church* and the gifts of engaging in each of our five ministries.

If you have thoughts you'd like to share, or would like to participate in one of these services, please let Amy Roon, [aroon@univeristyucc.org](mailto:aroon@univeristyucc.org), or Peter Ilgenfritz, [pilgenfritz@universityucc.org](mailto:pilgenfritz@universityucc.org), know.

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### August 5, 2018

*Be the Church: forgive often*

preaching: Catherine Foote

scripture: Matthew 6:9-13

### August 12, 2018

*Be Our Church: Shaping Community*

preaching: Guest

scripture: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

### August 19, 2018

*Be Our Church: Wisdom's Birth*

preaching: Peter Ilgenfritz

scripture: Proverbs 8:22-36

### August 26, 2018

*Be Our Church: Speak Boldly*

preaching: Amy Roon

scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20