

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

Sacred Earth Matters' Climate Justice Resolution



~ Jan von Lehe, SEM member and
Justice Leadership Jubilee volunteer

We of Sacred Earth Matters believe:

- ◆ It's time to change our relationship with the earth.
- ◆ To honor the earth as sacred, and not ours to wreck.
- ◆ To work together to address climate change.
- ◆ As Jim Antal has helped us see, it is our moral imperative as a people of faith for University Congregational UCC to raise its prophetic voice regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth, our sacred home, for the future of all life.
- ◆ To resolve, as a church, and as individual members, to commit to making decisions of integrity in our energy choices. To shift to a sustainable energy plan in a way that is both just and compassionate.

Our Sacred Earth Matters Team, part of the Love and Justice Ministry, is bringing a resolution (*available in the church office or linked to the web version of this article*) to the May Congregational meeting. This resolution will support actions including education, advocacy and example. The warming of our climate has disastrous impacts that affect everyone, and intensifies all forms of injustice.

I know I need to make new choices, individually and as part of this community.

We'll have a forum for further dialogue on the resolution on April 28 — please join us.

Change won't be easy. We know there are many barriers and forces that make us complacent or contribute to inertia.

I've been inspired by the work of our Sacred Earth Matters team, who've been leading the way to be powered by the light, affect legislative efforts, and change our habits.

And I've been inspired by the UCC sponsored Justice Leadership Jubilee program which has supported my learning, and taking action through volunteering with 350 Seattle as well as UCUC good works.

For this precious sacred earth and how it gives life, let's work to heal our climate!

As Rev. Antal says, we follow God's call because we are inspired — filled with the Holy Spirit. It's time to find the courage we need to address the greatest moral challenge humanity has ever faced.

UCUC process for taking political position

(passed by Church Council November 16, 1998)

"In taking political positions as a church we need to respect our role as moral force and provide a method by which the congregation comes to "own" an issue adopted.

Any issue put before the church must have theological relevance as reflected in our local, conference or national covenant.

An issue needs the sponsorship of a "core group" or individual church member who ushers the issue through the stages of discussion and deliberation. To enable the congregation to understand the issue the sponsoring party needs to discuss the issue with the relevant board, conduct forums that enable congregational discussion and inform church members in church literature. Included in any discussion should be a plan for how the church can carry out its mission related to an adopted issue in the greater community. ...

Education of the congregation through at least one forum and one piece in church literature is suggested. Consistent with the Bylaws there should be a prior publication of the proposed resolution along with statements presenting the positive and negative views."

May Special Offering

Strengthen the Church: Vision

As we search for a new vision of ministry for our own congregation, we are called to help others with the same goal!

Half of our giving to Strengthen the Church will be used to help smaller churches in our Northwest Conference strengthen and realize the dreams of themselves and their communities.

The remaining half will be distributed nationally to plant new churches, to awaken new ideas in existing congregations, and to develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Please give to Strengthen the Church to invest in these new ministries to meet the emerging needs of local communities. Thank you for supporting the varied and far-flung United Church of Christ vision!



Future's Task Force Discerning Our Future

On April 14, Todd's sermon "*Band Together: Deepening*" spoke directly to the work of the Future's Task Force (previously the Re-Imagining Task Force). We heard him tell us:

- ◆ Band Together to get us where we need to go.
- ◆ The Challenge of change
- ◆ Do what it takes to keep our dream alive.
- ◆ What are you hungry for?
- ◆ What do we long for?
- ◆ What breaks your heart?

All of this is being explored as we work toward a report for the Church Council in October.

The task force is composed of 17 church members including Catherine Foote from Leadership Staff. Each member works in one of five small teams.

One of the teams will study staffing including our history of staffing, how other churches of our size staff, and what our congregational needs and feelings are regarding current and future staffing.

The Research Team looks at the future church and what the research tells us about churches now and in the next 5-10 years and how that speaks to our staffing needs.

The Worship Attendance/Membership team is looking at trends at UCUC. Why do people come to church and why do they leave? How solid is our membership?

Our Congregation Listening team will survey the congregation for where we see our strengths and weaknesses and where we may see a need for change.

And our last team, Reflections/Consultant will look at how we can use an outside source to discern our specific needs.

Peter Ilgenfritz's leaving left us sad, but opens us up to new possibilities. We will "band together" to discern the leadership to lead us into the future.

May Death notices

Vevette Cooperstein

Born: July 17, 1914

Died: March 24, 2019

Longtime member, 104-year-old Vevette, died Sunday, March 24. Going to church every Sunday was something she had done since she was a young girl and it meant a lot to her. She was a faithful Sunday attender as well as other events when she was able.

Vevette was involved in UCUCS through Women's Fellowship Circle, support of UCHA (University Congregational Housing Association), Superfluity in housewares years ago, and many other ways.

Vevette also was a big Husky fan and always knew how the teams were doing. She was a grateful and gracious person who will be missed by many.

Please hold Vevette's family in your prayers.

Memorial Service:

- Saturday, May 18 at 9:00am in our Sanctuary with a reception following

Rev. Robert "Bob" Fitzgerald

Born: June 10, 1927

Died: March 28, 2019

Bob died peacefully on March 28.

He has been a member here over 37 years and the UCUCS Community has been blessed with his humor, questions, compassion, and wisdom. He started the Jesus Study Group, the Lecture Series, and having children give the call to worship on Sunday mornings. He also helped lead this congregation through the "Open and Affirming" process, the United Church of Christ's movement to welcome and celebrate LGBTQ people Bob and Helen both have given so much to UCUCS community.

Bob served several UCC churches in California and Seattle. He also served as the Director at Youth Eastside Services from 1975-1992.

Please hold his wife, Helen and their family in your prayers.

Memorial Services:

- Sunday, April 28 at 5:30 at Horizon House
- Saturday, June 22 at 2pm in our Sanctuary with a reception to follow

Memorial donations can be made to *The Bob Fitzgerald Speakers Fund* at UCUCS or Horizon House.

Making room for our Bridge Minister

We are looking for possible home-stay situations for Pastor Todd Smiedendorf in June, July & August — ideally house-sitting while you are away. If you are planning an extended vacation, and willing to share your home, please let Todd know.

He's hoping not to move frequently. Two weeks or more would be ideal, but certainly he will appreciate anything you might have to offer.

If you have other housing options that are relatively low-cost and fairly private, please let him know.

Todd Smiedendorf tsmiedendorf@universityucc.org or 206-524-2322 x3309. Thank you so much!

Parish Care Committee

The Parish Care Committee provides meals for people in need of extra love and support.

- ♦ If you find you have need for meals, contact Parish Care Committee members Carol Coleman at parishcaresupport@universityucc.org, Gini Stimpson at ginis@uw.edu or Star Leonard-Fleckman at starleonardfleckman@gmail.com.

If you can prepare food, deliver it to those in need, or have questions about contributing soup or a casserole, please contact Carol, Gini, or Star (contacts above).

- ♦ Some church members prepare soups and casseroles and deliver them to the church office at their convenience.
- ♦ Other members take items from the church freezer and deliver them as needed.

Council Meeting Summary

March 20, 2019

At the request of the Investment Committee and the Sacred Earth Matters Committee, Council approved a resolution to **revise the UCUC Investment Polity to move all UCUC's endowment funds from United Church Funds Moderate Balanced Fund to UCF's Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund** or equivalent funds with screens, so the investments are free of companies exploring for or producing fossil fuels.

Council approved bringing the resolution "The Earth is Sacred – Not Ours to Wreck. Imperatives for a new moral era" to the UCUC annual meeting (brought forward by Sacred Earth Matters Committee). Council also charged the Sacred Earth Matters group with implementing the process for taking a political stand policy so all steps are completed as outlined and prior to the UCUC annual meeting.

Council voted to **celebrate the additional \$250,000 pledges that have been received to support the New Cornerstones and Imagine campaigns item of air conditioning for the 3rd Floor South offices.** This effort has been reduced in scope from earlier proposals which had been deferred because of lack of funds. Also, we recognize and celebrate previously implemented efforts to reduce energy use - the new windows and shades on the south and west sides of the building and the installation of solar panels on the UCUC roof. Additionally, council recognized and commended facilities staff and the committee for implementation of recommendations which are resulting in additional decreases in UCUC energy use. And committed to continuing to be careful, judicious and creative in ways to decrease our energy use while allowing the building to be used in the variety of ways that move our ministry forward.

Council reviewed the **New Initiatives fund and approved a motion to restate the purpose and parameters of the New Initiatives Fund, AND added a provision to allow continuation of grants into a second year.** This fund is currently utilized for ongoing work on the Racial Justice Initiative.

Council reviewed the status of the **Interim Task Force** which is in final planning stages and will launch soon. Additional members were added to the committee and more young people are invited to join this group.

Get to know our newest residents: Youth Care GED program

~ Alex Berry, Assistant Teacher of Creative Arts

Youth without a high school diploma or GED have a 346% higher risk of experiencing homelessness.

We at YouthCare are so excited to be partnering with UCUC to open a new GED program for the U-District, located in room 105. Our services are available to young people staying in YouthCare's transitional living programs, and we offer small class sizes with specialized support and instruction.

More than obtaining a GED, we aim to empower students to become informed learners beyond the classroom. Through a specialized lesson plan rooted in art and social justice, students are taught to be active participants in their learning by using critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The curriculum supports UCUC and YouthCare's values of social justice by challenging students to think about social systems and injustices in their own lives—and encouraging them to develop their voice to affect change.

We feel so lucky to have our large downstairs space. We have plenty of room to lay out painting supplies, project education videos on the wall, and whiteboard area for math problems. Our location opens us up to field trips to museums at UW and downtown, as well as visits from guest lecturers and community members. The quiet, light-filled room allows youth to focus on learning and creating without the noise and distractions present in many other settings in their lives.

The class is taught by Maggie Meshnick and Alex Berry. Maggie is a certified teacher with a primary and Special Education background. She believes that everyone is a lifelong learner, and that the goal in the classroom is to build confidence and find the things that spark each person's passion.

Alex teaches the social justice and arts programming, and is involved in activist-art education through the POC Street Arts program at YouthCare, too. She has her Master's in Fine Arts and has been working with young people for many years.

Our hours are 1-5pm on Monday through Thursday.

Thank you so much for welcoming us into your space, and please come by and say hi before or after class!

Support & Engagement with wider UCC

-David Anderson, our Church Administrator, and General Synod Staff to the Resolution & Committee Process

Every two years the United Church of Christ meets in a General Synod, with delegates from each of the UCC conferences and others gathering for worship, workshops, and the business of the church. It's five days of exciting, energizing, interesting, and sometimes a little tedious meetings and gathering. (June 21-25, 2019)

My current title is: *General Synod Staff to the Committee and Resolution Process*. I help the process that provides Synod to speak to the issues of the day, with Prudential Resolutions for structural issues, or Resolutions of Witness to articulate Synod's perspective to UCC and the world.

Some of the key functions for my role:

- ◆ Work with resolution submitters to meet General Synod Rules for content and actions. Thus far, we have 24 resolutions to consider.
- ◆ Work with the Committee on Disposition (CoD) to ensure the resolutions meet the requirements of the Standing Rules, and recommend resolutions to go: to committee, implementing bodies, a plenary, or the UCC Board of Directors.
- ◆ Work with the Wisconsin Conference to line up presenters for Educational Intensives: background to help committees understand the context of the resolution(s) assigned to them.
- ◆ Identify and secure committee chairs for 14 committees this time. We ask for nominations from Conferences and try to have diversity in those chosen and who agree to serve.
- ◆ Lead the Committee Process Team (CPT). An intensive training for committee chairs. CPT works with chairs after committee meetings with decisions and prepping them for their presentation.
- ◆ Train Technical Support Volunteers for committees. They note edits made and submits the final resolution for delegates to see changes.
- ◆ Line up a UCC Board Liaison for each committee. That person helps the committee chair with structure and polity, and reports a summary of the Educational Intensive, and acts as a resource.
- ◆ Member of the General Synod Agenda Committee to finalize where report fit into the agenda. If Synod runs out of time, remaining resolutions go to the UCC Board of Directors at their Fall meeting.

- ◆ After Synod we debrief and come up with action items to incorporate before the next Synod.

For me this is all interesting and engaging. I like the work, and the people. Thank you for the support to carry this out. We're partners with the wider UCC and this is one way we live into that.

Stay tuned for a follow-up report from me after Synod about the work we did and the ways the Holy Spirit was alive and at work in the gathering.



Seabeck All-Church Camp, July 7-12

~ submitted by the Seabeck Committee

Summer is coming! Come to Seabeck July 7-12, 2019

It is not too late to register for Seabeck! While the priority housing date has passed, there is still plenty of room for you to join your church friends and family at Seabeck this summer. We are excited to welcome new and returning faces to Seabeck this year! Registration forms are available in the Narthex and in or just outside the church office.

Seabeck is the place where you can spend time with your family and friends without worrying about travel, meals, or clean-up. There is a quality of timelessness during Seabeck as outside demands fall away. Seabeck is the place where you can try something new and enjoy your old favorites like swimming in the salty lagoon, playing Scrabble in the Inn, finding a puzzle piece, walking across the street for ice cream, watching the sun set from in front of Pines, tossing a Frisbee, practicing yoga, slipping and sliding down the hill, telling a joke, sharing your talents at the talent show, dancing to folk music, parenting together, singing together, praying together.

This summer, we welcome Betsy Rose as camp musician and Ali Mian as the morning presenter. We will learn something about Islam and our own faith tradition as we explore our theme of **Challenging Faiths: Islam and Christianity**. If you attended his presentation in March or even if you didn't, Ali would very much like your feedback about which topics you are looking forward to exploring in more depth. Please email him at miana@seattleu.edu.

At Seabeck, Beth Bartholomew will lead a discussion of the book, *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding*.

If you have any questions about Seabeck, please email us at seabeck@universityucc.org.

May Racial Justice News

~ Toni Higgs

Visit with American Muslim Women

UCUCC congregants showed up in a big way for racial justice in the last month. Over 40 of us travelled to Redmond and spent much of a Saturday at a mosque to hear American Muslim women tell stories about their faith, what the hijab means to them if they choose to wear it, and their experiences with hate and persecution. A fabulous lunch was served and we were able to tour the mosque and participate in prayers. Thanks to Aneelah Afzali, Executive Director of MAPS-AMEN (Muslim Association of Puget Sound) and our own Professor Kimberly Segall of Seattle Pacific University for coordinating such an informative, love-filled event.

Book Circles

In addition to the mosque visit, 8 groups (including two online groups and one men's group) participated in the Lenten book study of Drew Hart's "Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism." Harts' provocative book has prompted many of us to question whether true Christianity has been subverted by white supremacy, and challenges us to live up to our faith by allying ourselves with the oppressed.

The work continues this month:

Let's Hear From You

The Racial Justice Action Team has been working together for three years to raise awareness of issues of racial justice among the members of our community. Congregants were trained to become racial justice facilitators, and then hosted many workshops; staff and lay leaders received training, and race issues were the focus of two of our last three years at Seabeck.

Now we would like to hear from our church community about how you feel about the work of becoming an anti-racist church. *Please check the Thursday weekly email for a link to the survey, or visit our table in the Narthex through May 12.* We'd love to hear from as many people as possible!

Peace Circles

See event listing in this issue.

Basic Peace Circle Workshop

May 31 7:00-9:00 and June 1, 9:30 – 5:30

We are again offering a Basic Peace Circle Workshop, sponsored by the Racial Justice Action Team and the Multicultural Circle. Those of you who took part in the Lenten Study Discussion Circles, which were rooted in the Peace Circle process, know how that process can open and deepen conversation. A Peace Circle combines that process and a deep philosophy of human relationship to develop communication and trust in community.

Why are we offering another Peace Circle Workshop? Two major reasons:

- ◆ Our congregation (like any congregation that is really alive) needs to carry out tough conversations. This is most notably true as we dig ever further into issues of becoming an anti-racist church. The Peace Circle experience offers valuable tools for taking part in, or even leading, those conversations.
- ◆ In Seattle, there are important developments in restorative justice taking place, and those of us with enough Peace Circle training would be in a position to accept an invitation to help with those developments. *For information about Peace Circles and restorative justice, check the links on the web version of this article.*

This workshop is open to folks who have never taken part in a Peace Circle Workshop, and those who have. If the list overflows, priority will be given to new people. We want to maximize the number of people having access to the Peace Circle *Keeper Training* we are planning for the Fall, and that requires having done the *Basic* one.

The suggested registration fee is \$50 - \$75. *

* To cover the entire cost, we would have to set a fee of \$125. However much you can comfortably pay will be welcome and well used. We don't want anyone to miss for financial reasons; scholarships are freely available.

For questions, or to register, get in touch with Ginger Warfield, vwarfield@mac.com or Aileen Pruiksma aileenspr-biz@yahoo.com, or come to a narthex table after worship in May.

(See the web version of this post for links to two videos about Peace Circles)

An Update

~ from the Rev. Bill Kirin-Hackett.

“In the spring 2018 our household moved to Auburn, and we now reside 2 miles from our son, his spouse, and 2 grandsons (ages 6 and 2). I transferred my membership to Wayside UCC, Federal Way, where I became a member last winter.

My work directing the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness continues only in King County (and Olympia during Legislative session). The ITFH still leads in directing the efforts to address vehicle residency, and is part of the conversation for a new Consolidated Entity to address homelessness in King County.

I extend genuine thanks to the members, leaders, and staff at UCUCS for the ways I was welcomed in 2009 into membership, fellowship, and mutual service to the Gospel. A special thanks to the Covenant partner team, and my Covenant partners themselves.

Since my contact information is published on the streets of Seattle/King County, feel free to be in touch if you want information about my work and the reality of homelessness. 425.442.5418, itfh@comcast.net. I look forward to seeing some of you as our paths cross following the way of Jesus.”

Immigrant Injustice Experience

~ Susan Cook

Saturday night I was driving home up 15th NE about 9:00. I had just passed 130th when I saw lots of emergency lights flashing ahead. I kept driving to get closer and figure out what I'd need to do, if anything.

Near 160th there was a squad car parked across the lanes, lights blazing, surrounded by traffic cones. There was no getting through. What I found eerie was that there didn't appear to be anyone around, then I noticed the car was labelled ICE. I was scared, so I turned around as did those behind me. Stunned, I followed cars until they turned up 165th not knowing what I would find once we got back to 15th.

What I found was a big roadblock at 165th with a *Road Closed* sign. What was more unsettling was a large, dark parking lot with what must have been 20 ICE cars. It was then that I thought about contacting the WAISN hotline (Washington Immigration Solidarity Network).

To report immigration activity, call: 1-800-724-3737

I can only imagine how this scene affected those to whom it was directed. I believe fear should never be allowed to invade our streets.

(see the May 8 event for more info about Immigrant Justice)

Welcome Tent City 3, May 17 - Aug. 17

Tent City 3 will be staying three months in UCUCS's Parking Lot C (on 45th and 15th), thanks to considerable work from church members, and an approval of the camp's request by the Church Council.

This is the third time we've hosted Tent City 3, and the sixth time we've hosted an encampment overall, but the welcome won't come without a few bumps. The church will assume costs for which we haven't budgeted, and we'll have to deal with some Sunday morning parking challenges.

Our parking lot will be a safe and welcoming patch of land—with electricity, water and port-a-potties for up to 100 men, women, and children who otherwise would be on the street. It's not the solution to homelessness, but it's a needed ministry that provides some comfort, dignity, and community.

There's plenty of work still to be done.

If you're interested in helping, or offering financial support, contact Tim Croll at timcroll@hotmail.com or stop by the table in the narthex after worship. Any donations above the church's costs will go to build up our Encampment Hospitality Revolving Fund for future encampments.

Got questions? Contact Tim at the above email.

Parking Options at UCUCS

As we host Tent City 3, parking will be challenging. For the next three months, we encourage everyone to explore options that allow access to all, and permit us to care for visitors and those who have difficulty walking.

Here are options for parking nearby:

UW Parking (free on Sundays)

- ◆ Access the UW outdoor lot on 17th NE and NE 45th. Park to right or left of toll booth
- ◆ UW Central Plaza Parking Garage (“Meany Garage”) at 15th NE and NE 41st.

Our Parking lots:

- ◆ **Lot A:** on 16th Ave. NE across from the church.
- ◆ **Lot B/Sortun Court:** underground parking on 16th Ave NE across from church. This garage closes and locks at 2 pm.
- ◆ **Reserved Parking:** If you want a close parking spot because of limited mobility, contact Erin Lovejoy-Guron (206-524-2322 or communications@ucucc.org) before noon on Friday.

May Events

May 4, 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, 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 x3302.

May 8, The Detention Lottery

An Immersive Courtroom Drama

Hosted at Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St, Seattle
6:30pm - Check-in, resource fair & light refreshments
7pm-9pm - Performance & Talk-Back

You are invited to a special event, co-sponsored by our congregational partners in the U-District Sanctuary Hub.

For better or worse, the issue of immigration has been making headlines. Lost sometimes in the conversations about border security are the individuals who are currently detained in a system that is desperately in need of reform.

For many of us, it's hard to comprehend what detainees face in our immigration enforcement system. To educate ourselves, our U-District Sanctuary Hub is sponsoring "*The Detention Lottery*," a dynamic, immersive courtroom drama created by local immigration attorney Margaret O'Donnell. Seattle area immigration attorneys play the roles of attorneys, judges, ICE officers and guards, with randomly selected volunteers from the audience playing the roles of detainees and their family members. After the court proceedings, there will be a talk-back to answer questions about how the detention process works.

There is no charge, but donations will be collected to benefit the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) Fair Fight Bond Fund

www.fairfightbondfund.org.

RSVPs are required. Register at www.EventBrite.com/y4t4buob.

May 10-12, Women's Weekend

Pacific NW conference of UCC at Pilgrim Firs

A joy-filled, nourishing women's weekend of music, creativity, Sabbath and spiritual exploration. During group gatherings, small group discussions and mini-workshops, you will have an opportunity to embrace creativity and playfulness.

Retreat is designed for all who identify as women. Teens 16 and older are welcome, but must be accompanied by a guardian. Cost is \$150. Register at www.pilgrim-firs.org

May 13, Senior Lunch

12:00-2:00 in the Turner Lounge

~ Sally Pritchard

Every second Monday of the month, you are invited to a nice soup lunch and an opportunity to connect with others. We will have a speaker.

We were so happy to have so many people attend the April Senior Lunch with our Bridge Minister Todd Smiedendorf as our speaker.

May 19, UCUC Annual Meeting

Following Worship in the Sanctuary

~ David Anderson, Church Administrator

At the 128th annual meeting for University Congregational United Church of Christ,

- ◆ We will receive reports from ministry areas, hear an update on our restructure, check in on our commitment to racial justice initiative, and hear an update from the Futures Committee.
- ◆ We will vote on nominations for officers and committee members for the coming year.
- ◆ We will also hear and vote on a resolution from Sacred Earth Matters Committee: "*The Earth is Sacred - Not Ours To Wreck: Imperatives for a New Moral Era*". Look elsewhere in this issue of *Church and Home* for more information.

Together we will celebrate our legacy and look to our future.

All are welcome, and all UCUC members will have a vote. Please plan to be present on May 19 as we talk, dream and move into our next years!

May 21, Bread for the World

7:30-9:00, in the office conference room

Third Tuesdays, join our Peace & Justice Advocates. *Bread for the World* is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

May 23, Parish Care Luncheon

12:00 in the Turner Lounge

Are you interested in learning more about the Befrienders, Parish Visitors, Prayer Chain, and/or Meal Providers?

If so, please come to the Parish Care Luncheon.

Let us know if you have dietary considerations when you RSVP to Carol Coleman 206-524-2322 x3311 or email parishcaresupport@universityucc.org.

May 31 is our Mariners game!

7:00 at Safeco Field

We are going to a fireworks night at the Mariners with UCUC and our friends.

- ◆ **May 5, 12, tickets are on sale** in the Turner Narthex. Each ticket costs \$14.

We have great fun with UCUC at the Mariners every year. This year we are scheduled for another fireworks night when the Mariners are playing the Angels. The Mariners have a very new roster this year, so it should be fun to watch.

Questions? Contact Nancy Hannah, nlhannah@earthlink.net

Balance: Spirit Workshops

May – July

Balance. We'll explore ways to recognize, recover & roll with dynamic balance in the coming months. Let's support each other in practices that support healthy balance. By the way, balance should not be confused with being comfortable. In fact, discomfort is needed at times to restore balance.

For more information or to RSVP for these events, contact SpiritWorkshops@ucucc.org, find us on Facebook or Meetup, or call 206-524-2322.

The schedule for May – July includes

Discovering Balance:

Make Your Own Hanging Mobile Art:

- ◆ **Sunday, May 19, 2pm-4pm**
In the Turner Lounge

Story Night: Balance:

- ◆ **Friday, June 21, 7pm -9pm.**
3 story tellers share real-life tales of losing balance. In the Narthex.

Digital Mindfulness:

- ◆ **Sunday, July 21, 2pm – 4pm.**
Local therapist Christina Malecka leads a session to help us unplug, reconnect, and restore balance to our relationship with the digital world. Location TBD.

Ongoing Programs:

Standing for the Common Good:

- ◆ **First Sundays** from noon – 1pm
We take to the streets, with signs of the change we want to see in the world. May's vigil will especially focus on welcoming & justice for immigrant neighbors.

Writing, Reflection, & Really Good Beverages:

- ◆ **Sundays May 5 and June 2, 2pm – 4pm** at Chocolati Café in Wallingford.
We had such a good time with the initial experiment that the group decided to continue! Grab a hot chocolate, wine, or beer and find us in the upper back room.

Spirit Workshops are gatherings where spiritually curious people learn and act together.



Visit the Scheyer Library

before or after worship

- ♦ **Did you miss out on the Lenten book series?** The library has two copies of Drew Hart's book, *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*. It is a stimulating read and call to action.
- ♦ **Ramadan starts May 6.** Check out the children's book *Moon Watchers: Shirin's Ramadan Miracle* by Reza Jalali.
- ♦ **Get ready for Seabeck** Check out *The Faith Club: A Muslim, a Christian, a Jew- Three Women Search for Understanding* by Ranya Idrisby
- ♦ **No time for a book?** The library subscribes to *Sojourners*, *Christian Century*, and *Yes Magazine*, which are full of short, informative, and inspiring articles.

We look forward to seeing you in the library!

~ Edith Miller and Jessie McAbee

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

~ Carol Scott-Kassner, Commissioned Minister

Moving Inward: As I age, I find myself moving inward more and more: reflecting on my life; reflecting on loss and death; and seeking to simply be more quiet. A close friend gave me a beautiful book of meditations that I've found useful in achieving that quiet.* You might record these words to play as you close your eyes to focus on your breath in order to do this meditation.

Unobtrusively
softly, gently, air enters the body.

For a moment we are expanded,
somehow made more.

Then the air leaves us.
The sound of its leaving
is like the swish of a skirt,
or the distant breaking of a wave.

There is no one who can feel this for us.
Only we can feel the rich gift of it.
No one can live this moment,
or any moment for us.
It is ours alone.

Yet we are not alone.

Every moment Life is there,
infusing us with the
radiant risk and splendor of being.

It is breathtaking.

*Gunilla Norris, *Simple Ways Toward the Sacred*.

Sharing the Journey

Why I love teaching Sunday School

~ Kathie Vitz

Because it's **fun!** And it's actually not about "teaching" very much at all. It's more about **connecting** with the kids. Plus the support & materials provided by (Director of Children's Ministry) Betsy Herring and the ministers make it pretty darn **easy!**

I've been at this for a couple of decades now. Back in the days when I was a mom of young children and quite confused about many things, I was trying to figure out: **what do I believe?** and **how can I help my kids discover their own spiritual path?** Somehow it seemed like "teaching" once in a while on Sunday mornings might contribute something to my own quest. So I signed up. And it did! Just delving into the **stories** and learning alongside "my students" was a bit of a breakthrough for me.

Thinking back to that time, I recall attending a workshop, some kind of training in Christian Education. (John Westerhoff: *Stages of Faith*) Another "ah-HA!" It was very exciting to learn about the stages of faith development. The teenage/young adult stage of questioning, searching, maybe rebelling.... that made total sense to me because I had only recently been through it myself.

But what about elementary school-aged children? I learned in this workshop that when kids are young, **faith is affiliative**. That stuck with me. It's how/why **community** is at the heart of religion. It's how/why Sunday School should not be about getting a certain point across from a lesson plan, but should be about connecting with one another — creating a safe place for kids to discover that they belong.

It made me appreciate even more the depth & breadth of how we worship together here at UCUC. Doubts are fine! Questions are encouraged! Differences are embraced! We're all in this together! And the Love amongst us is God Itself/God Herself made manifest! So I encourage you to consider teaching Sunday School. You don't need to have a background in education to enjoy hanging out with the kids. Partnering up with another adult also lightens the load, and you may discover new insights about your own faith development as you contribute to that of the kids. (Affiliative faith is for grown-ups, too.) **and/or**, just have some FUN!

Children's Ministry

Contact Director of Children's Ministry Betsy Herring for more information, bherring@ucucc.org, or 206-524-2322 x3302

May 4, Lamb Day

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

Visit Pastor Catherine's farm. This is such a fun family getaway! Come meet the baby lambs, frolic with the dogs, take a gander at the chickens, and share in a pot-luck 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 Betsy Herring, or call 206-524-2322, x3302.

Chocolate Fondue Party For Moms

May 11, 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Rebecca Schmidt's home

In honor of Mother's Day, *all mothers of children and youth are invited* to a special chocolate fondue party just for moms on Saturday, May 11, from 5:30-8:30 pm at Rebecca Schmidt's home in north Seattle. Rebecca will provide chocolate fondue. Please bring dippers (such as bread, fruit, etc.) or a beverage to share.

Please RSVP to Rebecca at 206-679-5619, or rebecca_schmidt@comcast.net.

This is a fun annual party... delicious chocolate, great conversation... truly a night off for moms! This is not an event for children, but infants are welcome.

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

Contact Director of Youth Ministry Margaret Swanson for information, MSwanson@ucucc.org or (206)524-2322 x3315.

Youth Group & Worship

Sundays May 5, 12 & 19:

9am Youth Group

During the month of May we will be planning Youth Worship which will be June 2nd. Our last day of 9am youth group before summer break is Sunday, May 19th.

10am Worship & Youth Pew

Youth are invited to worship together in the youth pew or with their families.

Our Whole Lives, Sexuality & our Faith Class

May 5, 6 - 8pm Final Class

Junior & Senior Small Group

May date is TBD

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. May will be our final gathering for the school year and we will celebrate with a BBQ at Trent Siegel's house.

Teen Feed

Wednesday, May 29

The youth program volunteers on the 5th Wednesday of the month at Teen Feed. All youth and their families are encouraged to volunteer to prepare and serve a meal to homeless youth and young adults.

Arrive at 5:00pm and leave by about 8:30pm.

Please let Margaret Swanson know if you would like to volunteer by emailing: mswanson@ucucc.org.

Further 2019 Dates to Anticipate:

- ◆ June 2: Youth Worship
- ◆ June 9: Youth Program End of year party

Worship and Preaching Calendar—Sunday worship service—10 am

Eastertide: Living Resurrection

At the end of all four Gospels, there is a story of Resurrection. The Gospel writers affirm with the Apostle Paul that “*Neither death nor life nor rulers nor powers ... nor anything else in all creation is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Sovereign.*” (Romans 8:38-39).

Our Eastertide worship series, *Living Resurrection*, will equip us to notice, nurture and celebrate new life. We are listening together for resurrection stories. We are watching together for the ways we are “Living Resurrection.” This will be a season to tell our stories of faith to one another and folks outside the church, and discover how we might make our faith visible to others even if in quiet subtle ways.

Our spiritual practice will be telling our resurrection stories. Based on the ancient Christian practice of proclaiming Good News, we invite you to reflect on your own “new life” story. Then, tell it to someone. It could be someone who already knows your story, or someone who has never heard about your faith. You don’t have to have all the answers, or “get it right.” Just share with someone something about your spiritual journey. And if you can, let one of your pastor’s know how it went.

May 5, 2019

Living Resurrection: Recovery
preaching: Catherine Foote
scripture Psalm 121

May 12, 2019

Living Resurrection: Home
preaching: Todd Smiedendorf
scripture: Psalm 84

May 19, 2019

Living Resurrection: Healing
preaching: Amy Roon
scripture: Mark 5:24b-34

May 26, 2019

Living Resurrection: Liberation
preaching: Todd Smiedendorf
scripture: Psalm 146