

CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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Sharing the Journey

What an opportunity!

~ Timothy Johnson:

Hello everyone. This is your resident choir-boy Timothy Johnson writing on behalf of the Children's Ministries Committee, of which I'm a member. **Do we have an opportunity for you!** We have some fantastic young children who could use YOU as the leader of their Sunday Children's Group (*formerly known as Sunday School*). We have a multitude of opportunities with varying ages, ensuring there will be a spot at the table for you. But wait, there's more! You get to CHOOSE which Sunday mornings you'd like to be with these kiddos! How lucky you are!

On a more serious note, the timing of this article's composition couldn't be more appropriate in my opinion. I'm writing just two days after the passing of fellow UCUC chorister John Lewis. I sang next to John for five years, and in that time, I knew him to be the utmost in character and compassion. On Sunday mornings over the last six months or so, John would give my son Apollo rides on his slick red electric wheelchair and let Apollo honk the horn. The joy on Apollo's face when he would see John every Sunday melted my heart and inspired me to be more compassionate and engaging with the children of our church. John, who will be sorely missed and forever treasured, reminds me that we are called as the church to live into enriching the lives of all its children, just as John did with Apollo. This opportunity is, in essence, the wheel that weaves the newly spun threads of the church which will become its cloth for years to come. What could be a more vital role?

You know the best part about leading a Sunday Children's Group? It's a secret so don't spread it: you don't even have to be that good, or think of yourself as a teacher! Betsy Herring gives you a lesson ahead of time. You read it. You think about it. Come Sunday, you talk it over with the kids, and voila! I guarantee you'll learn a thing or two as well. Gosh, you might even have FUN.

July Calendar

Sundays at 9:00 Discovery Bible Class in room 331

Tuesdays at 10:00 Bible Study in the Turner Lounge

July 4

Building closed for Independence day

Sunday July 7

12:00 Spirit Workshop vigil

2:00 Spirit Workshop: writing group

Sunday, July 7 — Friday, July 12

Seabeck all-church camp

Sunday, July 14

9:00 open house: PSR online courses

11:30 monthly caregiver support group

Sunday, July 21

Middle and High School Mission Trips

11:30 food-packing service project

2:00 Spirit Workshop: digital mindfulness

July Special Offering: Hunger Outreach



UCUCC's Hunger Outreach works to decrease malnutrition and hunger in the Greater Seattle area. The Hunger Outreach is an Action Team of our Love and Justice Board.

Hunger Outreach has supported the Emergency Feeding Program for 42 years, sending 48 bags of non-perishable groceries a month — and \$2,400 a year, which purchases food for special populations, such as babies or diabetics.

Hunger Outreach has also supported North Helpline Food Bank in Lake City since 2017. The \$300-a-month helps to purchase bulk foods to supplement the fresh food they are able to supply in both Lake City and Bitter Lake.



You can make a difference for hungry families and single people in several ways. You can help bag groceries once a month on the third Sunday, and you can also gift the program through the July Special Offering. Please make your check out to UCUCC and write "July Special Offering" on the memo line.

The next opportunity to help bag groceries will be on Sunday, July 21, 11:15 to 11:45 a.m., downstairs in the hallway outside of Ostrander Hall.

Thank you for helping to decrease local malnutrition and hunger.

Finding Your Road to Planning, Protection & Preparation for Life's Decisions.

Regardless of how old you are or where you currently find yourself on life's journey, you may be wondering about how to make sure that your values and commitments to community are reflected in how you practice stewardship in all facets of your life.

Does how you use your time, treasure and talent clearly reflect your commitments?

While we all hope that our plans will develop straight and true, like a strong Sequoia, sometimes they take unexpected twists and turns. That's why we are seeking your advice.

Please use this survey to share what stewardship topics might be of interest to you. You can find the survey here: <https://bit.ly/319Hmut>

A task force of the Stewardship and Finance Committee hopes to offer programs at the church that provide unbiased information on these topics, bringing in expert professionals as appropriate.

Stewardship Task Force:

John Kloess, Jerry Landeen, Cherry Tinker, Kathy Williams, Anne Knapp, David Anderson, UCUCC Staff

Plan Ahead for Share the Harvest

Hello gardeners!

As you plant your flowers and veggies for summer, please add a row or several plants for the Share the Harvest Table, which will be open from mid July through August.

Your green thumbs will bring freshly grown items to our apartment dwellers.

The proceeds will fund emergency and food bank nourishment for families and people alone who need it so much.

Thank you for planting to make this possible!

July Death notices

Jack Mitchell

Born: October 31, 1934

Died: May 17, 2019

Jack passed away on a Friday morning with Sharon by his side. Jack and Sharon have been members here since October 1961. They raised their daughters here.

Jack was a hardworking and perceptive member of the Facilities Board, and a very dedicated and beloved choir member. He shared his kindness in choir and the UCUC community and will be greatly missed.

Please hold Sharon and daughters, Elizabeth and Angela and families in your thoughts and prayers during this tender time.

Memorial Service:

- ◆ Sunday, June 23 at 2pm in our Sanctuary
Reception to follow

Jerry Montgomery

Born: April 29, 1939

Died: June 13, 2019

We are sad to let you know that Jerry Montgomery passed away the morning of Thursday, June 13.

Ruth and Jerry have been members of our church for 26 years. For over a decade he connected our congregation to people actively experiencing war on behalf of our country through a letter writing program. Many of those soldiers joined us in worship because of the connections that Jerry made.

Jerry was an ordained UCC minister serving as chaplain with police departments, fire departments and members of the military.

Please include Jerry's wife Ruth in your prayers.

Memorial Service:

- ◆ Saturday, August 3 at 2:00 in our Sanctuary
Reception to follow

John Lewis

Born: March 27, 1945

Died: June 9, 2019

John, a beloved leader of our congregation, passed away on an early Monday morning. Although John has been living with ALS for the last several years, his death was sudden and unexpected. He was in church on Sunday, and thoroughly enjoyed the worship service, especially as we celebrated our choir and music ministry here. John was a long time member of the choir. He served on the Stewardship and Finance board and served as moderator of our church council. Most recently John has been very active in our Love and Justice Ministry as an advocate of responsible stewardship and committed involvement. He also helped us in our first hosting of a homeless encampment in our parking lot.

A memorial service will be scheduled.

Paul Wiesner

Born: October 25, 1940

Died: June 1, 2019

Paul and Nancy have been members here since November 2004.

Paul cared deeply for the UCUC community and was grateful to be a part of it. He worked with the Housing Association for a while. Paul served on the LPRC (Leadership staff - Parish Relations Committee) and was wonderfully insightful, thoughtful, and gracious.

No service is being planned.

Nancy asks that those who knew Paul pause for a moment and remember him with gratitude.

Please hold Nancy and their family in your prayers during this tender time.

News & Updates

For those who cannot attend church (and those who can)

~ Carol Scott Kassner

We have begun a long season of Ordinary Time within the church year. This is the time outside of the seasons of Advent, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost that tell so many of the great stories of the Christian faith.

During Ordinary Time we shift our focus to other stories and other practices. One of those practices could be new forms of prayer. You may want to explore some of these possibilities for yourself.

.....
Let this breath be the prayer

Let this resistance and discomfort be the prayer

Let this distraction be the prayer

Let this drinking of tea be the prayer

Let this eating of breakfast be the prayer

Let worrying, and then dropping the worry be the prayer

Let dressing and undressing be the prayer

Let sleeping and rising and sleeping and rising be the prayer

Let missing someone be the prayer
.....

If you let your life be your prayer, what else might you add to this list?

Making room for our Bridge Minister

We are looking for possible home-stay situations for Pastor Todd Smiedendorf in Autumn — 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!

New Books in the Scheyer Library

~ Edith Miller

We have 5 more *Elephant & Piggie* books, written and illustrated by Mo Willems:

Should I Share My Ice Cream?, I Am Going!, I Really Like Slop!, Let's Go for a Drive!, and We Are in a Book!

Some books for adults:

- ◆ *Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow*, by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
- ◆ *Becoming*, by Michelle Obama
- ◆ *Connecting in the Land of Dementia: Creative Activities to Explore Together*, by Deborah Shouse
- ◆ *Read to Me NOW, Grandpa: a Guide for Sharing Books with Grandchildren*, by Larry Welch
- ◆ McCall Smith's #14 & 15 in the *No. 1 Ladies' Detective series*

Come in, take a look, and check out a book (or 2 or 3 or 4 or more!)

UCUCC Sewing Group

Are you interested in joining a sewing group at church?

There is some space for locking up machines and supplies. Several of us would like to have a regular time to get together — planning to start in the Fall.

ALL levels of ability welcome.

Please email if you want to be involved:

Marcia McCracken - marciamcc@comcast.net

Children's Ministry

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

Middle School Mission Trip

Including Graduating 5th Graders

July 21 – 24, 2019, Pilgrim Firs

It's almost time for the summer Middle School Mission Trip, which includes this year's graduating 5th graders! The group will be staying at Pilgrim Firs and working with the Giving Garden and Sharenet Food Bank during the morning and early afternoon. Later, they'll play and explore.

Christ has no body on earth but yours: these working kids will be God's hands, feet and eyes in the world!

Family Tent-Camping Trip

August 9-11, At Camp Casey on Whidbey Island

Join us for our annual family tent camping trip at Camp Casey! All families with children and youth are invited to attend.

In the past, we've filled all the reserved sites and had to create a waiting list, so please RSVP asap if you're interested to Betsy Herring, bherring@universityucc.org. The cost for two nights is \$60 and financial assistance is available.

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

Save These Dates

- ◆ July 7-12: Seabeck Whole-Church Camp
- ◆ July 21-24: Middle school mission trip, includes current, graduating 5th graders
- ◆ August 9-11: Family Tent Camping Trip, Camp Casey
- ◆ August 11: Food Packing Service Project

Youth Ministry

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

High School Mission Trip

July 21 – 26, 2019, Pilgrim Firs

We are excited for our group of 16 high school youth and 4 adult leaders heading to Pilgrim Firs for their mission trip. The group is participating in a program put on by our UCC Conference called "Common Fire". The group will be working around the Kitsap Peninsula and hope to be doing work around housing (building, renovations, landscaping). Along with the hard work the group will take time to connect and bond over fun activities and evening reflections. We are grateful to our youth and leaders for taking this time away to give of themselves in service. We are grateful to the congregation for their support (monetary and otherwise) that make these trips possible. Please keep both of Middle and High School groups on mission trip in prayer.

Summer 2019

This summer, along with our trips, we will have opportunities for fellowship and fun for youth and families in and around the PNW to soak up the summer! Here's a glimpse into the events we'll be running:

- ◆ Paddleboard Yoga
- ◆ Kayaking outing
- ◆ Family Hike
- ◆ Outdoor Movie Night (August)

Dates and more information to come!

Save The Date For Fall:

November 15 - 17, 2019 - All Families Retreat

Betsy Herring, Amy Roon and I are working together to plan an All Families Retreat for next fall at Pilgrim Firs! Put in on your calendar NOW! We are imaging craft time, free/unstructured time to just play and connect, some structured time for connection and time to be outside!

Council Meeting Summary

The Council of the University Congregational United Church of Christ met on May 15, 2019 in the church library. A quorum was noted just after 7:00 pm and the meeting was called to order by Margaret Stine.

Council received and discussed financial and Ministry and leadership reports focusing on liaisons and communication. Reports on the Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Meeting and Tent City 3 were provided by Ed Coleman. The Futures committee also reported on progress to date.

Minutes from the October 2018 and April 2019 council meetings were approved.

A request from Love & Justice Committee and the Administration and Council Finance for clear identification of resources prior to approval of a new project/program or initiative was discussed and approved.

Some background may be helpful:

New projects originate in a variety of ways, including through a ministry, through church-wide initiatives, through an appeal directed to church council. Some projects may span the goals of multiple ministries. For example: Tent City hosting started out as a congregation-wide project, but now lives under Love & Justice.

A ministry may not have sufficient funding to carry out the work of an innovation or new project. This new process will help ministries to plan and prioritize. A “roadmap” will be developed to facilitate the process of new ideas finding funding. Carol Nelson anticipates bringing the roadmap back to Council for review/approval. A clear path for funding requests, as well as adequate funding, enables the success of these projects, and a “home” under a ministry or ministries, as well as representation on church council.

Council confirmed our desire to be a participating Church with the Church Council of Greater Seattle. Specifically, we affirm our desire to act faithfully for peace, justice, and reconciliation and engage in trainings, workshops, dialogues, and conferences. The current focus of CCGS is on economic and racial justice and the sanctuary efforts. We already donate funds to CCGS via the Love and Justice Ministry.

Update from the Futures Task Force

~ Pris Kloess

With the retirement of Peter Ilgenfritz last December, our church is looking to the future to see what changes this will bring. The Futures Task Force is organized and digging into the past, present and future of our congregation.

We are asking questions to seek feedback, and individual reflections to provide clarity for this process.

We want to know what motivates you and excites you about your church involvement.

- ◆ How has the church contributed to your life?
- ◆ Who or what personal connections, and/or spiritual experiences have made a difference for you?
- ◆ What makes our church unique?
- ◆ And lastly, so important, is what are wishes you have for our church going forward?

Your thoughts are important as we make plans for the future of our church.

A thoughtful and talented consultant, Don Hill, has been hired to advise the committee. He will help guide the process that will ultimately be recommended to the Church Council.

The Futures Task Force includes Tim Croll, Ellen Naden, Bart Klingler, Joan Davis, Margaret Stine, Mary Jean Phipps, Mary Kollar, Mary Sue Galvin, Carol Bryant, Denis Streeter, Tim Johnson, Becca McMullen, Emily Morishema, co-chairs Kathy Kripps and Pris Kloess, and Catherine Foote, the staff liaison.

June 19 Council meeting

~ Margaret Stine, church council moderator

At our June 19 church council meeting, the resolution to work towards becoming a Racial Justice Church, and hanging a Black Lives Matter banner outside our building passed.

We will proceed with getting congregational involvement, and a congregational vote on Sunday, Aug 4.

(See Leadership Letter on next page for more information, and page 9 for results from a recent Racial Justice Survey.)

Ministry Update: Love and Justice

~ Catherine Foote

New Testament scholar John Dominic Crossan teaches that “In the world of the early church, Love and Justice are two sides of the same coin.”

Here at UCUC, our Love and Justice Outreach Ministry helps put that truth into action. We are hosting Tent City 3, moving forward in our racial justice work, and developing work plans to love out our proclamation that “the Earth is sacred and not ours to wreck.” Our Jubilee Justice intern Jan Von Lehe has worked all year with Seattle350.

You can learn about all of this good work and learn how you can get involved by reading through this Love and Justice section of our newsletter.

Gratitude for and blessings on this good work.

Letter from our Leadership Staff on becoming a Racial Justice Congregation

June 6, 2019

Last week two of our high school seniors, Emma Browning and Graham George, approached us with a question: **What would it take to have a “Black Lives Matter” banner displayed at our church?** They also challenged the congregation with their sermons on Sunday (June 2, 2019). We called a meeting with those two youth, our moderator, and the Racial Justice Taskforce and had a good conversation about our ongoing racial justice work.

We know that we are called to dismantle racism and establish justice as followers of Jesus, as companion workers for the kin-dom of God. As a congregation, we have held forums and engaged in study and conversations about white privilege and racism as it shows up in our lives, our church and the world. We have held racial justice trainings for our lay leaders, our staff, and our Leadership Team. Our annual church camp at Seabeck has focused on racial justice twice in the last few years. During Lent this year, we had study circles using Drew Hart’s book, *Trouble I’ve Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*. These have been good, eye-opening, engaging and challenging conversations, learnings and growth.

At the leadership meeting with Graham and Emma, we all agreed that the conversations we’ve had, and even hanging a banner, is not enough. Racism is a deep and persistent problem that requires ongoing engagement. As a result, we would like to commit ourselves, as a congregation, to ongoing work for racial justice.

This Summer, we will be developing a plan to continue, deepen and sustain our racial justice work. It will include Emma and Graham’s call that we display a “Black Lives Matter” banner on our church building. It will also call us to more. We will schedule forums and feedback sessions, invite action, and ultimately a congregational meeting to officially declare ourselves a Racial Justice Congregation. We believe this is holy and sacred work. “Black Lives Matter” is an important statement, and it is important for the congregation to have the chance to embrace this public statement and message.

The entire congregation will be invited to participate in this process.

If you would like to help lead this process, please contact Toni Higgs, tonihiggs@hotmail.com, or Catherine Foote, cfoote@universityucc.org or 206-524-2322 x3307.

May God bless you on this journey.

~ Catherine Foote, Amy Roon, Todd Smiedendorf, David Anderson

A Journey with UCC Justice Leadership Jubilee Program

~ Jan von Lehe

A year ago I said, *what next?* as I faced my retirement from my 43 year nursing career. I looked, and by Fall accepted Elizabeth Dickinson's call to join the UCC Justice Leadership Jubilee (JLJ) program. University Congregational UCC sponsored me to participate in this program and I thank you! I wanted to give you this overview of what the program entails and what I've learned. Who would know what that journey would bring!

My passion is trying to impact our climate crisis.

I love the wilderness and this beautiful world! It is my refuge and inspiration. My heart cries with woe when I see all the major changes and the whole earth being threatened by climate change. More fires with smoke filling our August skies, more floods destroying homes and interfering with planting new crops, more extreme storms with wild numbers of tornadoes and damage, more glaciers melting and snow levels erratic, our Arctic ice melting, our salmon and orcas dying. The impacts are multiplied all around the world, displacing people with rising sea levels and heat that is intolerable now. It is an over-arching 'umbrella' issue — and the dire predictions are unfortunately easier to see each year and easier to imagine how it could become much worse if we can't change. And here's the real social injustice: those who contributed the least to the rise in greenhouse gases are affected the most.

350 Seattle

So as part of the JLJ program I was eager to volunteer with 350 Seattle, focused on climate justice to make deep system change. Simply put by 350.org: *It's warming, It's us. We're sure. It's Bad. We can fix it.* We need to keep fossil fuels in the ground and move quickly to 100% renewable energy. What an amazing organization well-grounded in social justice, partnering with indigenous people and those oppressed by our racism and other 'isms'. Under the JLJ program I committed to 6-10 hours/week and my focus is two-fold: to support some of the organizational operations and to coordinate some developing 350 Seattle advocacy and activist efforts.

I was also delighted to finally join our UCUCS Sacred Earth Matters as part of my JLJ commitment.

I'm honestly very humbled by the visionary leadership in our UCUCS community to be good stewards as we live on this fragile earth. Sacred Earth Matters acts on many fronts: solar powered energy, reducing waste, political action, education and many sacred works!

Change doesn't come without new ideas, education and training and the JLJ program provides 2-3 hours monthly with some longer workshops as well as readings. For me, this included topics related to community organizing, undoing institutional racism, effective political advocacy, understanding biblical imperatives for justice, understanding homelessness and environmental justice, understanding the differences of our social location, and how to recognize and respond to micro-aggressions. Sobering again to go deep into these social justice issues and try to reckon with my complicity and find a way to live with greater integrity.

The final and key component of the JLJ program is to support each other, reflecting on our learning and service, by sojourning monthly with other Justice Leadership Jubilee volunteers and leaders. Chris Hansen and Elizabeth Dickinson provided a caring and clear support for our growth. We can change, we are adaptable, we need to listen with our quiet hearts and learn new ways. We need to be more aware of our impact on each other and the world.

So why does this matter? Once again UCC and UCUCS leads the way to do what God requires of us: to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God. I am deeply humbled by the injustices I know exist in our world, and so very aware of our white privilege that we honestly take for granted, and so very concerned that we have leaned hard on our earth for our own pleasures and fortunes. Now more than ever we need to be kind to others and to this earth. This is a humbling walk for me and for us, and I hope, I can be a good part of the energy and clarity that helps us as we seek to respond to God's word and will, living responsibly within God's creation and sharing with gratitude the gifts we are given. And remembering to whom much is given much shall be required. We can do this together.

Racial Justice Survey Results:

commitment, questions, nuance

~ Your Racial Justice Action Team

More than 150 congregation members participated in the recent Racial Justice Survey, providing helpful insight into future endeavors, and demonstrating once again the thoughtful and heartfelt reflections of our community.

Almost everyone agreed that University UCC should continue to make racial justice a priority, and most people demonstrated a commitment to working with and taking part in efforts to make us an “anti-racist” church. Respondents strongly support including education about race in our education programs, and most people expressed support for displaying a “Black Lives Matter” banner. (Currently being pursued by Church Council.)

More than half acknowledged they sometimes noticed their own anti-racist thoughts, and folks generally disagreed with the statement, “I do not see color when interacting with people of a different race.” People also indicated that UCUC has not yet done enough toward becoming an anti-racist church.

Just under a third indicated that they had participated in at least one racial justice event, ranging from the recent Lenten Book Groups to participation at Seabeck. Awareness of relevant events seems to be reasonably high, although knowledge of some of the one-time smaller workshop events was less.

Ninety percent of those who responded to the survey reported their race as white, Caucasian or European, and five percent reported being Asian, Japanese or Asian-American. Three percent reported being Black or Bi-racial. Not all respondents reported their age. Sixty three said they were over 65; 49 were between age 41 and age 65; 5 were between 25 and 40 reported being under age 25.

The narrative responses to the survey contain many great ideas and considerable subtlety. While reading through them takes a few minutes, it provides a valuable window into our community’s commitment to justice overall, and willingness to wrestle with difficult topics. We invite you to examine the detailed survey responses and see for yourself!

[The full report of the Justice Survey can be found on web-version of this article.]

Thank you for participating. We will take what you have shared to heart as we plan future actions and events.

Pacific School of Religion’s TEL Certificate Programs

Information session

Sunday, July 14, 9 – 9:45, Room 317

The Lecture Series and UCUC have a host agreement with Pacific School of Religion to offer PSR’s two TEL (Theological Education for Leadership) Certificate programs to our members and others. These special courses and seminars provide a rigorous, progressive, accessible, Christian, theological education year-round for clergy, laity, and spiritual seekers from diverse racial/ethnic communities. TEL is multicultural in its design and focus. It may be engaged at the level that works for you—for personal spiritual formation, lay leadership training, professional growth, or continuing education.

Five UCUC members have been enrolled in the program for almost a year. We’d love to tell you what it’s been like and encourage you to join us in this adult education experience!

No RSVP needed for the July 14 session.

Questions? Contact Betty Spieth-Croll,
bettys@seanet.com.

Spirit Workshops

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.

Writing, Reflection, & Beverages

July 7, 2:00 – 4:00, Chocolati Café in Wallingford

Escape the heat in an air conditioned space with amazing iced chocolate!

This month's informal group for writers-of-all-levels will be led by Hannah Merrill. Join us for the final month of exploring the theme of BALANCE.

Grab a chilled chocolate, wine, or beer and find us in the upper back room. RSVPs earnestly desired to secure the space. contact SpiritWorkshops@ucucc.org, find us on Facebook or Meetup, or call 206-524-2322.

Digital Balance: A Spirit Workshop

July 21, 2:00-4:00 in the Turner Lounge

Join psychotherapist Christina Malecka to explore your relationship with technology, and get tips and tools to break free from the social media hamster wheel. Come learn how to find tech-life balance and free yourself from digital overwhelm!

RSVPs appreciated by contacting SpiritWorkshops@ucucc.org or 206-524-2322.



Spirit Workshops are a cooperative, with everyone contributing as they can to meet program costs. All people welcome regardless of ability to contribute financially. Spirit Workshops: where spiritually curious people can earn and act together. With snacks.

Carrie Newcomer concert & workshop

September 27-28

Quaker contemplative, Carrie Newcomer, sings of finding the extraordinary in the ordinary. Newcomer's appearance will feature her recent release, *The Point of Arrival*.

She says it is about "living in times where we are asked to be better people than we ever thought we would need to be...In times like these, where do we find our grounding?"

I've been an activist all my adult life. But anger only gets you so far. And fear only gets you so far—then you burn out or you get immobilized.

What we need to ask is: Where is my true compass? What's true north? As we walk through troubled times together—whether they're politically troubled times or our own personal troubled times—how do we keep walking with a strong center and a spiritual grounding?"

September 27

Newcomer performs in concert with pianist Gary Walters at 7:00 at UCUC.

Tickets

Purchased through Brown Paper Tickets.

- ◆ \$30 is the suggested admission for the concert

September 28

Newcomer leads a workshop on 9am – 12pm.

Tickets

Purchased through Brown Paper Tickets.

- ◆ \$75 for the workshop, with no one turned away for lack of funds.

Newcomer's appearance is produced by Spirit Workshops, a cooperative of spiritually curious people who learn and act together.

Additional support comes from the Adult Education Endowment of University Congregational United Church of Christ.

For more information, call (206) 525-2322 or spirit-workshops@universityucc.org

Good Works Bazaar & chili cook-off

Mark your calendars: November 10, after worship, our Engagement Committee is hosting our annual *Good Works Bazaar and Chili Cook-off*.

This is a great opportunity for you to highlight your group's good works!

Vicki Farmer will be coordinating tables and our famous chili cookout! Stay tuned for more details...

~ Jan von Lehe, Chair, Engagement Committee and Vicki Farmer, Good Works coordinator

Senior Retreat

Save the date: Sept 30-Oct 1 at the Rainbow Lodge

Members and friends of UCUC 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.

This year's theme is The Divine Feminine.

Many have sensed the need for, and the beginning of a return of, the Divine Feminine to our spiritual lives, communities, and culture. Rev. Todd Smiedendorf and his spouse, Allison Conte, will lead an exploration of various forms of the Divine Feminine: Mary Magdalene, Mother Mary, Sophia, Shekinah, Shakti, and even Kali.

During our two days, there will be three 90-minute program sessions, each with a general presentation and small group interactive time.

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 1. 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!!

Building Community with MyUCUCC

~ Erin Lovejoy-Guron,

Lay ministries & Communications Coordinator

During the Summer months, many of our groups take a break to allow for vacations, and then our program year begins again in September with Homecoming Sunday — this year on September 15.

One way to connect people to opportunities to join our community is MyUCUCC. Among other things, it has a page of serving opportunities, so you can find out "What is Mwanzo Proud Farmers?" or "Whom do I call if I want to be a communion server?"

To find MyUCUCC:

- ◆ Visit our website: universityucc.org.
- ◆ Scroll to the blue bar on the bottom and click **MyUCUCC Login**
- ◆ Log in with your username and password, or create one
- ◆ Click on the **Serving** tab on the top bar
- ◆ Then find **Search Opportunities** from the drop down menu

This is a call to leaders of Ministries, Actions Teams, committees, boards...

Send in information about your group, so that when September comes, people can easily find you, and let you know they want to be a part of what you are doing. Most of the volunteer opportunities currently listed expire in June, so that we can start fresh in September.

If you would like to invite new people to your group or event, email communications@universityucc.org with your answers to these questions:

- ◇ What's the name of your group?
Give a brief description of group. What do you do?
What is the volunteer opportunity?
- ◇ Who is the contact person? Email & phone
- ◇ Timeframe of volunteer opportunity.
September through June?
- ◇ When is volunteer needed? When does group regularly meet? Where do you meet? How many people does the group need?
- ◇ Childcare provided? *Yes / no*

Worship and Preaching Calendar—Sunday worship service—10 am

Summer Worship Series: I love to retell the story

The stories we tell, and how we understand them, define our reality. Humans are meaning-making creatures who have been using stories to interpret our world and shape our lives since the very beginnings of culture. Storytelling is a creative and sacred act when it engages the Mystery of Life to impart a life-giving truth for the benefit of the community.

This summer, our worship series will be centered on retelling Bible stories, with a particular focus on hospitality. Each pastor will preach based on scripture as we tell it aloud, or in the *Illustrated Children's Bibles* found in the pews. Meaning, the text will be heavily adapted to tell what we think the story means, with less concern for precise text translations. We will take particular care to focus on aspects of the story that may show us how to care, love and respect one another in community and the stranger.

We hope this series will help us connect to the stories of faith that shape and form us. And we hope the stories we've chosen will help you deepen an aspect of your faith, hospitality, justice and care.

July 7, 2019

I love to retell the story: Ruth & Naomi

Preaching: Ali Mian

Scripture: Ruth: 1-4

July 21, 2019

I love to retell the story: the flight into Egypt

Preaching: Amy Roon

Scripture: Matthew 2

July 14, 2019

I love to retell the story: Elisha & the woman of Shunem

Preaching: Catherine Foote

Scripture: 2 Kings 4

July 28, 2019

I love to retell the story: Marriage feast at Cana

Preaching: Tamara Roberts

Scripture: John 2