

# CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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The feminine...is shifting the global paradigm from one of dominance and individualized salvation to one of collective awakening and service to all beings.

~ Mirabai Starr

*"She leadeth me beside the still waters..."*

~ Psalm 23

Does that rendition of a favorite Psalm sound a little different or unexpected? The United Church of Christ has been working to ordain women pastors (since 1853), change the pronouns in our hymns (since 1995) and open pathways of liberation for women in leadership and society. And we continue to work to include those who don't conform to conventional gender categories.

But it's not just about pronouns and gender. What's needed to heal our hearts, our world, and our planet is a spiritual wholeness. After 5,000 years of dominance by the masculine principle (R. Eisler, *The Chalice and the Blade*), humanity's move toward wholeness will require a sacred reclaiming and honoring of the feminine aspect of God(dess), and the feminine energies that live inside us all.

During three sessions at the UCUC Senior Retreat, Pastor Todd and his wife, Allison Conte, will lead us in a deeply reflective and interactive conversation about why we need the Divine Feminine now more than ever. We will explore the Divine Feminine in neglected parts of our Christian Scripture and tradition, in other spiritual traditions, and in a psycho-spiritual framework that can suggest pathways and practices that lead to integration.

As Father Richard Rohr notes, "Like the Christ Mystery itself, the deep feminine often works underground and in the shadows, and—from that position—creates a much more intoxicating message."

We hope you will join Allison and Todd in a brief look into that deep, intoxicating, sacred feminine message.

## Senior Retreat

September 30 – October 1 2019

Would it surprise you to hear that not many years ago, some high school English teachers were told to assign books that featured male heroes, so boys would be encouraged to actually read books?

It's hard to imagine that this practice would be carried forward today, and yet, we still live in a culture that tends to value the masculine more than the feminine.

If we are to realize the full truth and potency of the Christian tradition, attempts to update the gender language in our favorite old hymns, prayer language, and sermon content are necessary but insufficient. We need to uplift and integrate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the feminine principle.

### By the way, what is "Divine Feminine" anyway?

If you are 55 and older, come to the Senior Retreat, where we will demystify what this esoteric term means.

Our bridge pastor, Todd Smiedendorf and his wife Allison Conte, will lead our upcoming Senior Retreat in a series of discussions and interactive conversations about how we, in this time of the evolving church, need to incorporate the Divine Feminine in a way that creates wholeness, a "sacred union" of Divine Feminine with Divine Masculine.

Join us Monday morning, September 30, through Tuesday afternoon, October 1, at the beautiful Rainbow Lodge just outside of North Bend. All meals are included; we can accommodate nearly any food preference or dietary consideration. Come enjoy stimulating conversations with plenty of time to hang out with old and new friends, and enjoy the beautiful setting we will temporarily inhabit.

Watch for an upcoming mailing, and opportunities to sign up for what promises to be an intriguing experience.

# August 2019 Special Offering:



by Jan Von Lehe, [janvonlehe@gmail.com](mailto:janvonlehe@gmail.com)

350 Seattle is an energetic, nonprofit that works toward climate justice by organizing people to make deep systemic change:

- ◆ resisting fossil fuels
- ◆ building momentum for healthy alternatives
- ◆ fostering resilient, just and welcoming communities



The national UCC has a partnership with [350.org](http://350.org), and encourages Greening Congregations such as our own UCUC to affiliate with local chapters like 350 Seattle

Your support will help fund the climate justice work of 350 Seattle which is bold and broad and comprised largely of young adults passionate to make a difference. Thank you for supporting them as they push our leaders to create a better world.

Links:

- ◆ [350.org](http://350.org) (350 Seattle)
- ◆ [Seattlegnd.org](http://Seattlegnd.org) (Seattle and A Green New Deal)

Their newest initiative: **Seattle for a Green New Deal**, launched late this June, by *350 Seattle* and *Got Green*, calls for the Seattle Mayor and City Council to:

- ◆ develop a plan to cut our climate pollution to zero by 2030
- ◆ address historical and current injustices
- ◆ create thousands of good, green, well-paying, unionized jobs

It has been unanimously endorsed by the Seattle City Council.



# Birth

## Catherine Anita Fix

**Born: July 12, 2019**

Welcome to the world Catherine Fix

Hannah and Stephen welcomed baby Catherine (Reny) just before the earthquake on July 12! All are doing well. She joins big brother Ryan.

Hannah is a cousin to Tim Croll. Reny will be baptized here on August 18. We wish the family blessings as they all get acquainted with each other.

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## New Books in the Scheyer Library

Retired primary school teacher, Jeanne Powell, added three new books to our children's collection:

- ♦ *Explore the Salish Seas* (a nature guide for kids) by Gaydos and Benedict
- ♦ *What a Waste* (trash, recycling, protecting our planet) by Jess French
- ♦ *The Children's Garden* (growing food in the city – about a garden in Wallingford) by Carole Schaefer

Check them out, from our Resource Center (Library), open every Sunday. And thank you, Jeanne.

## Our Child Care Programs

**Trettin Drop in Preschool** and the **Child Learning and Care Center**, are both busy places, serving up to 80 children each day Monday through Friday.

**Trettin** has extended its operating hours and is now open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Children two years old to pre-kindergarten can now stay up to 6 hours-a-day on a flexible schedule determined by parents to meet their needs.

**CLCC** continues to be open from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, for children ages 12 months to pre-kindergarten for full-day care.

Trettin and CLCC both now use a new "Art Studio", room 340. This large room is a great place for "messy" creative projects, with a wide variety of materials and supplies to inspire children's creative imaginations.

Church support helps both programs provide tuition scholarships for families who would not otherwise be able to afford tuition costs.

## Invitation to a Stewardship Moment

If you're waiting for an invitation to be a stewardship moment speaker — to share your story of why you give to this church — here it is! Contact Margaret Klockars, [amklock@aol.com](mailto:amklock@aol.com) and we'll get you scheduled.

**Mark your calendars!**

### Sep 15, Homecoming Sunday

After worship around 11:30

Homecoming block party on 16<sup>th</sup> Ave

Ponies, barbeque, activities, and fellowship with the UCUC community!

## Making room for our Bridge Minister

**We are looking for possible home-stay situations for Pastor Todd Smiedendorf late November through December** — 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](mailto:tsmiedendorf@universityucc.org) or 206-524-2322 x3309. Thank you so much!

## NW Regional Women's Retreat

**Nov 1-3, Oregon Gardens, Silverton, OR**

The Central Pacific and Pacific Northwest Conferences of UCC invite all women to come together at our regional retreat.

This year's theme is *Wade in the Water* — to share renewal, spiritual growth, and fellowship.

Join us at The Oregon Garden Resort.

Visit the Northwest Regional Women's Retreat website: [www.nrwr.us](http://www.nrwr.us) for complete details.

# Along the Way

## Church, Dreaming

~ Catherine Foote

What would the University District be like if there were no places of spiritual nurture, vision and compassion here?

What would our spiritual community look like if we were to hear and respond to God's call in our neighborhood and our world?

What would you do if you saw God's vision and dreamed God's dream for University Congregational UCC over the next twenty years?

### **I know it is hard to let our imagination go big.**

Religious institutions in the Pacific Northwest, and across the country have been shrinking over the last several decades. Our church has not been immune to that trend. And yet we are a healthy, vibrant congregation blessed in energy and resources, and clearly called to make a difference in people's lives. We are also at an exciting time in the life of this church. We have an opportunity right now to listen to God's call and to respond, and then to call a pastor to join us here and help move us forward. Our Futures Committee is hard at work and you can find that work described elsewhere in this newsletter.

**But this article is not really about the work of the Futures Team. It is about your specific visions and dreams.** Along the way, I have been excited to hear from the dreamers among us who are already imagining a place where spiritual growth continues to be offered and spiritual practices are deepened, where non-profit justice partners are strengthened and encouraged, where people who are facing loves hardest challenges are cared for and comforted, where people from a variety of faith traditions are welcomed, and where joyous and flourishing worship services give us all "strength for the journey."

**This is my invitation to you.** If you are dreaming about this church, please take some time this month to write up your dreams and to pass them along. I would love to hear about them.

### **Yearnings and Dreams for our Future**

Whether you are a believer, a doubter, a do-er or not, we can all be dreamers! Every voice is important. We want to engage you in dreaming about and building our future.

The "Futures" committee will be hosting a series of sessions after church on a number of Sundays in August and September. We are eager to hear what is important to you as we move into our future.

#### **Dates and times**

11:30 in the Chapel on the following Sundays:

- ◆ August 11, 18, 25
- ◆ September 1, 8

#### **Some things to think about in advance of our time together:**

- ◆ Reflect on your entire time at University Congregational UCC. Remember a time when you felt most excited about your involvement at the church. In a few words, describe what it was about that experience that was so positive for you.
- ◆ What are the most important things that the church has contributed to your life?
- ◆ Has your spiritual life and personal faith grown deeper through your involvement at UCUC? If yes, what has nurtured that growth for you? If no, is there something you wish had been available to you?
- ◆ When you think about UCUC moving into the future, what wishes do you have for the church?

# Ministry Update

## Church Futures Task Force

**“The only constant is change.”**

~ Todd Smiedendorf

And sometimes change and its anticipation comes in more dense periods. We are in one of those periods now. When Pastor Peter announced his coming resignation last Fall, and then completed his ministry in December, it initiated a process whose guiding question is “What’s next?” A smaller question of “Who is next?” might have been the only question asked if the context of change were also smaller. That is, the focus might have been on simply searching for the next settled co-pastor. Yet, what was perceived was an opportunity to discern more widely and deeply amidst currents of change that are wider and deeper than simply personnel. **Simply put, this is an opportunity to survey the ‘landscape’ and discern the path to which God is calling us in this emerging moment.**

And so we have a Church Futures Task Force bringing together various pieces of the discerning puzzle; Research on the context of church and society, Listening to the voices of our congregation, studying church Staffing patterns and possibilities, looking at church Membership data and trends, and synthesizing it all together with a Steering group that will generate a report. The goal is to have our values and visions meet with our present world and cultural situation to help us discern a sense of the next 5-10 year UCUC mission. That mission will guide our priorities and personnel.

**While we have a ways to go yet in this process, much has already been done.** We hired a Bridge Minister (me, Pastor Todd) to continue the previous clergy structure while we are discerning. The Church Futures Task Force has been meeting regularly as well as each subgroup. Each is reading, collecting data, listening, discussing. We hired Rev. Don Hill as a consultant to strengthen the Church Futures process. He has already visited and begun conversations with the Team. Individual and group conversations with members and friends of the congregation have begun and will continue. Your voice is welcome and needed, and more opportunities for input are coming including a congregational survey. The goal is to have an initial status report completed in October that may then outline remaining steps in the next months.

I cannot emphasize enough the large currents of change afoot in relation to church and society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; trends that affect every level of our church and urban community. That does not mean that everything about our church will change, but it does mean that many of the old forms and ways that some of us have known around church must evolve. We can always improve on what we know and do. We can define solutions to these and do them better. And, some change of forms and practices will be required that may be so novel that these changes and what they require are not yet known fully, and will have to be discovered and defined along the way.

Please offer your prayers and blessings to this Church Futures process and to the team members. It is a big task.

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.

### August update from the Future

The Futures Task Force is busy meeting to discuss our church’s future. Several of you have had a chance to meet with a committee member to share your thoughts about where the church is going, and to share your dreams of the future. Seabeck offered a great opportunity to do that for many of you. If you have not had a personal discussion yet, we still seek your input. A survey will be sent out to the congregation later this Summer so we can make sure everyone’s input is heard.

**Our committee is also working on revising and updating our church’s Identity Statement.** It was last written in 2007, and some tweaking is in order to make it relevant to our church today. We look forward to sharing that with you when it is completed.

It was with gratitude that we met with our consultant, Don Hill, on his recent visit to Seattle. He is asking us deep, meaningful questions, and is guiding us to find answers about where we see our church in the next five, ten or more years.

## Council Meeting Summary

### June 19, 2019 Church Council meeting

Council reviewed the Financial Report and reports from Ministries and Leadership.

The Futures Committee reported on their progress and are happy to have hired Don Hill as our consultant for the process.

Beth Amsbury reported on the Spirit Workshops. There is gratitude from Spirit Workshop participants for the gifts UCUCS provides to Spirit Workshops. The leadership for Spirit Workshops is transitioning to involve more participants who are not UCUCS members.

Council voted unanimously to affirm the proposed lease with Community Psychiatric Clinic for their use of the Lin House in order for CPC to provide supported housing for low-income persons with chronic mental illness. This lease is for 1 year.

Council voted unanimously to support Tent City Collective (TCC) of the University of Washington in their efforts to bring Tent City 3 back to the UW Campus. A letter of support will be written and provided (as in the past).

Council reviewed a draft resolution: **Be it resolved the University Congregational UCC is called to be a Racial Justice Church**, and voted unanimously to support the process to bring and recommend adoption of the proposed resolution at a special congregational meeting on August 4, 2019, called for this purpose.

### Aug 4, Congregational Vote

#### After worship in the Sanctuary

All church members are invited to this special congregational meeting for a discussion and vote.

A coalition of the Racial Justice Youth Coalition, the Racial Justice Action Team and the Leadership Team has created a resolution calling for University Congregational UCC to become a *Racial Justice Church*. The complete text of the resolution and additional information can be found at [universityucc.org/on-becoming-a-racial-justice-church/](http://universityucc.org/on-becoming-a-racial-justice-church/)

Questions or comments?

Bring them to Toni Higgs, [tonihiggs@hotmail.com](mailto:tonihiggs@hotmail.com), Ginger Warfield, [vwarfield@mac.com](mailto:vwarfield@mac.com) or Margaret Stine, [marge256@comcast.net](mailto:marge256@comcast.net)

## August Calendar

Sundays, 9:00 Discovery Bible class in room 331  
Tuesdays, 10:00 Bible Study in the Turner Lounge

### August 3

2:00 Memorial for Jerry Montgomery

### Sunday, August 4

11:20 Special Congregational Meeting

12:00 Spirit Workshop: vigil for Common Good

### Sunday, August 11

11:30 Listening Team open forum

11:30 food packing service project

11:30 Caregiver support group

11:30 Sacred Earth Matters meeting

### August 17

Tent City moves out

### Sunday, August 18

11:30 Listening Team open forum

### Sunday, August 25

11:30 Listening Team open forum



# Let us know about opportunities to volunteer with MyUCUCC

## It's time to start thinking about the new program year.

An easy way to help new people get involved in your group is to post your volunteer opportunities on MyUCUCC. Email information to Erin Lovejoy-Guron, [communications@universityucc.org](mailto:communications@universityucc.org)  
We will be updating the MyUCUCC information every August/September to be sure the information and needs are accurate.

### Groups who are looking for new volunteers, Please let me know:

- ◇ 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 meet? Where do you meet? How many people does the group need?
- ◇ Childcare provided? Yes / no

### Discover My UCUCC

Visit [www.universityucc.org](http://www.universityucc.org)

- ◆ Scroll to the blue bar at the bottom for “MyUCUCC Login”
- ◆ Login with your User Name or create one
- ◆ Find “Serving” in the brown bar, for a dropdown menu
- ◆ click on “search opportunities” to check out all ways you can get involved

Click on a group to find out what it does, what would you have to do, and how to contact the point-person.

### Our ministries and some of their volunteer opportunities include...

#### Stewardship & Administration Ministry

Church office volunteer

*Church & Home* newsletter folder

Pledge Campaign committee

#### Love & Justice Ministry

Immigrant Justice Action Team

Racial Justice Action Team

Sacred Earth Matters

Multicultural Circle/Peace Circle

Mwanzo Proud Farmers

Gun Violence Prevention

Superfluity

Childcare Board

#### Christian Education Ministry

Children's Ministry board

Children's Ministry Sunday Group Leader

Youth Ministry board

The Lecture Series

Seabeck Committee

#### Calling, Engagement & Community Ministry

Engagement Committee

Parish Care

Sunday: Greeters, Coffee, Breakfast

Welcome Committee

Communications/PR

MixSups, Senior Lunch, Men's Dinner, All Women  
Extraordinary dinner

Senior retreat, Men's retreat, Women's retreat

Advent Workshop

Good Works Bazaar

#### Worship & Music Ministry

Usher, Communion Server, Liturgist

Creativity Council

Handbell choir

Chamber Orchestra

#### Nov 10, Good Works Bazaar

Another way to connect to people is our annual **Good Works Bazaar. November 10.** After Worship, everyone is invited down to Ostrander Hall to explore all our ministries and opportunities. People from our various groups will be available to chat, food will be served, and our community will continue to grow.

# Spirit Workshops



## Spirit Workshops Grows into a New Name

Did you have a different name when you were young? When I was kid, my family often called me “Bethie”, or my southern-bred mama might sing out “Lily Bet!”

Our names often mature along with us. And that is happening with the Spirit Workshops. As the leadership group talked together about how to describe our work, the phrase “**Gathering Ground**” came up. We paused. “That’s really it,” someone said. It made sense more quickly to the people we tried it out on. After several months of discernment, we are moving to make this our name for the next phase of growing up.

In September, you will begin to see it in our announcements, with a new logo and independent website. I still answer to “Bethie”. We will do our best to be sure that folks looking for Spirit Workshops will easily be able to find Gathering Ground. We are excited to be even more inviting to people of many beliefs who seek to gather, learn, and act together, grounded in the mystery of a greater good.

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## 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?”

## Standing for the Common Good

On Sunday, August 4, from noon – 1pm our monthly Vigil on the corner of 45th & 15th Avenue NE will stand for Racial Justice. This vigil will take place immediately after University Congregational UCC’s vote to become a Racial Justice Church. It should be a chance to immediately take action on the ongoing process of undoing white privilege. Bring a sign, a prayer, or pick up one of our legacy signs. Join us for 10 minutes or an hour of grounding and public witness.

## Writing, Reflection, & Really Good Beverages,

Spirit Workshops’ informal writers group will take a vacation during the month of August, like the rest of Seattle. As we pause, we are taking stock of what’s working and what might need to change.

Please send any comments or ideas to [SpiritWorkshops@ucucc.org](mailto:spiritworkshops@ucucc.org), find us on Facebook or Meetup, or call 206-524-2322.

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## Concert: Carrie Newcomer with Gary Walters Sep 27 at 7:00 in the Sanctuary

Tickets may be purchased through Brown Paper Tickets. \$30 is the suggested admission for the concert

[newcomerseattle.brownpapertickets.com/](http://newcomerseattle.brownpapertickets.com/)

## Workshop: The Beautiful Not Yet Sep 28 from 9am – 12pm in the Turner Lounge

Newcomer is offering a workshop on Saturday titled: *The Beautiful Not Yet -- Living with Hope in Hard Times*. Through poetry, writing, song, & reflection, Newcomer invites us to explore the personal stories and community practices that keep us resilient and able to act. Registration fee for the workshop is on a sliding scale, to assure access for people of all incomes, with full price enrollment at \$65. Enrollment is limited to 30 people on a first-come-first-served basis. workshop on funds.

[newcomerworkshopseattle.brownpapertickets.com/](http://newcomerworkshopseattle.brownpapertickets.com/)

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) 524-2322 or [spiritworkshops@universityucc.org](mailto:spiritworkshops@universityucc.org)

# Sacred Earth Matters

## Sacred Earth Matters Recommends

### UCUCC Endorse Seattle's Green New Deal

~ Jan von Lehe and Nancy Hannah

At our May annual meeting, UCUCC members strongly supported the climate justice resolution "The Earth is Sacred, not ours to Wreck" calling for us to raise our voices regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth.

This UCUCC climate justice resolution included making decisions of integrity in our energy choices individually and as a church. Examples of actions that can be taken consistent with this resolution include: education, advocating for governmental action, committing to resist fossil fuel infrastructure expansion, divestment of UCUCC endowment funds, etc. Finally, the resolution recognizes the disproportionate impact of climate change on those least responsible and recognizes the moral mandate to shift to sustainable energy that is both just and compassionate.

In keeping with this climate justice resolve, in mid-July, Sacred Earth Matters unanimously recommended that UCUCC endorse Seattle for a Green New Deal (GND) - an action now in the hands of our church council and leadership. Despite Seattle's commitments to climate action, climate pollution has been rising; the climate crisis urgently necessitates an all-hands-on-deck mobilization.

**So what is the Seattle GND?** Essentially it is a vision statement, proposed by *350 Seattle* and *Got Green*, calling for the creation of a transformative Green New Deal for Seattle that will eliminate our city's climate pollution by 2030, address historical and current injustices, and create thousands of good, green, well-paying, unionized jobs. We urge our Mayor Durkan and Seattle City Council Members to create a GND investment vehicle and a GND Task Force to decide how investments are made. More information on *Seattle for a Green New Deal* is available at [seattlegnd.org](http://seattlegnd.org).

Seattle City Council unanimously endorsed Seattle for a Green New Deal in late June. There are many organizations and individuals who have already endorsed this in less than a month after launching the effort. You can sign the petition as an individual to call our leaders to make bold steps to address this crisis. As a church we are raising our voices regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth, our sacred home, for the future of all life

## Hydro, Wind, and Solar

### aren't our only Alternative Sources of Energy

~ Lon Dickerson, Sacred Earth Matters

Some of us are old enough to remember hearing our fathers put more coal on the fire in the furnace to warm our house, and seeing the coal dust silhouette of his tie on his shirt when he came home from work.

While the transition to oil and natural gas is cleaner, with the increase in forest fires. It's imperative that we transition even faster to renewable energy and electric vehicles.

The good news is that this Spring, our state legislature mandated that electric utilities stop burning coal by 2025 and greenhouse gas by 2030. But, 43% of Washington's carbon emissions come from motor vehicles, and the legislature failed to pass a clean fuels bill.

### How do we get politicians and others to make dealing with the climate an emergency?

*Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* edited by Paul Hawken discusses a plethora of ways to slow the atmospheric and marine accumulation of greenhouse gases released by burning fossil fuels.

#### Important strides are being made locally.

King County and Puget Sound Energy are using methane produced by garbage buried at the county landfill in Maple Valley to generate electricity.

The Port of Seattle issued an RFP earlier this year to replace Sea-Tac Airport's boilers and bus fueling system, and switch from fossil to renewable natural gas. RNG or biomethane is produced by the decomposition of organic matter. The port hopes to award a contract in late 2019 to make Sea-Tac the nation's first airport heated entirely by renewable natural gas.

The port also intends to power flights fueled at Sea-Tac with at least a 10% blend of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) by 2028. Blended biofuels are virtually identical to the Jet A-1, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 50-80%. SAF is made from renewable sources.

Any truck, bus, or tractor that currently uses fossil diesel fuel can use biodiesel. The Grays Harbor Biodiesel Plant in Hoquiam is the largest biodiesel production facility in the US. The majority of its oil comes from canola and soybean grown in Washington and Canada.

We have a long way to go if we want our grandchildren to be able to inherit our planet. But inch-by-inch, our 50-year goal must be to help heal the damage we've inflicted, and make our sacred earth more sustainable.

# Upcoming Immigrant Justice Events

## Islam, Gender, Islamophobia & faithful action

July 28, 10:00 at Meadowbrook Community Center

Aneelah Afzali will be speaking about Islam, Gender, Islamophobia and faithful action. Aneelah is the Executive Director of the American Muslim Empowerment Network at the Muslim Association of Puget Sound. This event is sponsored by the University Unitarian Church at their temporary meeting space, the Meadowbrook Community Center on 35th Ave. NE, just south of Nathan Hale High School.

## Items drive for Immigrants

Sept 8 and 15 in the Turner Narthex

On September 8th and 15th, the Immigrant Justice Team will again collect items for individuals being released from the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. Often, these folks are released with little more than the clothes on their backs.

A volunteer organization, Advocates for the Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW) provides volunteer assistance to newly released people, and has suggested the following items as among those most in need:

- ◆ Safeway gift cards
- ◆ Zuzume prepaid long-distance calling cards
- ◆ Mens lightweight jackets of fleece hoodies, size medium
- ◆ Men's lightweight sweatpants, sizes small and medium
- ◆ Men's boxer briefs, sizes small or medium
- ◆ Women's basic v-neck tee shirts, black, gray, or navy, size medium
- ◆ Women's panties, size medium
- ◆ Large (25") duffel bags

There will be a table in the narthex on both September 8 and 15 with a box designated to collect these items.

## Emerging Food Program

Watch for more information about an emerging program that plans to provide fresh, healthy, and/or non-perishable foods to immigrant families concerned about leaving their homes to either shop for food or visit food banks during these frightening times. Updated information should be available soon.

## SAVE THE DATE!

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE ACTION TEAM

**David Lynch shares from *The Migration Project*  
Sep 15, at 7:00 in the Sanctuary**

Many of us may have wished we could travel to the Mexican/USA border to bear witness to what is occurring during the horrific crisis at our common border. And yet the obligations of our daily lives may interfere with that desire.

We can vicariously share the experiences of photographer and author David Lynch when he provides a program on Sunday September 15 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. His program will feature photographs and stories from his three most recent trips to Mexico, beginning in late 2018.

To quote David, “thousands of people from Central America have walked away from their homes, some desperately seeking asylum and safety in the US, others searching for economic opportunity. Together they march toward an uncertain future.”

His presentation will be based on his recently published book, **Before the Border, the Caravan Series, A Work in Progress from the Migration Project**. His book, as well as featured photographs, will be available for purchase before and after the program.

The program will be held in the sanctuary of University Congregational United Church of Christ located at the corner of 45th and 16th NE in Seattle. Free parking is available directly opposite the church entrance.

## Immigrant Justice: News from our Action Team

Folks from the congregation have been “showing up” at immigration-related events recently. Here are some reactions, responses and impressions from three such experiences.

**The Immigrant Justice Action Team stresses that your “presence” is a ministry of hope and**

### **One Year in Sanctuary**

**June 29 with the Church Council of Greater Seattle and Gethsemane Lutheran**

~ Molly Ebert

Many from the U District Sanctuary Hub met to mark the one-year anniversary of Jose Robles living in sanctuary. Religious leaders of many faiths spoke to the theme: *Challenges for the Road Ahead* for refugees and all immigrants searching for safety. They pointed out that the concept of their being strangers is false: they are our friends, families, neighbors and coworkers. We have no reason to fear, and many reasons to welcome them.

Jose spoke of how much he appreciated our support during this long year while he was separated from the full life of his family and business in Lakewood. We all hope and pray for Jose’s U visa approval and that all immigrants to be welcomed into full participation in our communities.

Connected with Jose Robles’ case and the local Sanctuary Movement at [sanctuarydowntownseattle.com](http://sanctuarydowntownseattle.com).

**Read the full reports in the web-version**

### **Impressions of a naturalization ceremony**

**July 4 at Seattle Center**

~ Liz Gilbert

When friends invited us to come with them to witness the annual citizenship ceremony at Seattle Center on July 4, I immediately accepted with the hope that some of my lost patriotic pride might be restored. I was not prepared for just how moving this event would be. We were privileged to witness some 500 individuals representing over 80 nations take vows of citizenship after undergoing years of intense study, scrutiny, and significant cost. As an announcer read off the names of each represented nation, and the number of new citizens from these countries, I was particularly struck by what it must have cost some to flee their countries of origin,

**solidarity every time you stand for the fundamental human value that each person has dignity and worth.**

For more information about upcoming opportunities to “welcome the stranger” and demonstrate or witness on their behalf, call: Cassie Emanuel 206-384-6111.

### **“Close the Camps”**

**Protest organized by MoveOn.org on July 2**

~ John Strausz Clement

I had to go to a demonstration today. I’m 85-years-old, and I love my five children and eleven grandchildren. I’m appalled and outraged by how parents and children are being treated by the Trump administration at our southern border. These “Camps” are prisons where parents and children are incarcerated in over-crowded cells and treated inhumanely.

I had to put my body on the line with others who feel the same way. So, I joined the demonstrators at the Federal Building on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

~ Kate Nelson

Standing in front of the Federal Building, I joined the MoveOn protest to “Close the Camps” at our southern border.

The nuances of the immigration issues are not ones I know well. I’m not sure closing the camps entirely makes sense. But today, the raw disgrace of my country’s actions, and the complete failure to design a compassionate and transparent Immigration Process made me feel I needed to do something. So, I held a sign, listened, and stood in opposition.

particularly those emigrating from communist nations and/or countries undergoing internal warfare, often based on ethnic differences and terrorist domination. What courage! I was also stunned to notice that at least 25-30 new citizens were wearing uniforms from various branches of U.S. military service. That these folks could sustain their dedication to such extraordinary requirements speaks to the hope they hold for improved lives for themselves and their families. Despite my more recent cynicism, I recognized there is underlying truth to what these folks believe. I intend to witness this ceremony again next year, hoping that the faith held by our new citizens will continue to inspire me to appreciate the privileges I have enjoyed my entire life.



## A 2019 Seabeck Report

~ Gina Massoni,

Seabeck Committee Co-Chair with Jessie McAbee

Nearly 200 people from our church have just returned from experiencing the special community we create every year for the week of our All-Church Family Camp at the Seabeck Conference Center. As a teacher in the elementary kids program, I am treasuring the memories of their enthusiastic singing — saying yes to Betsy Rose to learn new songs AND to share them with the grownups — and also their confident sharing (with the microphone in front of the adults!) of the things they felt they were learning.

I also loved watching the 17 littlest kids (ages 0-3) be held by the bigger kids and encouraged to grow in independence. I'm in awe of the program preparation, teacher recruiting, and physical space logistics that Betsy Herring pulled off to make the program successful for the 60 kids ages 10 and younger. I heard many positive comments about our speaker Dr. Ali Mian from those who spent time with him in the adult program, and I experienced his skillful sharing with the first and second graders about praying. I even heard that Ali and his family would like to come back again to breathe the amazing fresh air at Seabeck!

If you attended and have not yet filled out an evaluation form, we invite you to do so online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Seabeck2019>. We will also have a few paper copies in the office if preferred. If for any reason you still have a room key or a name tag holder please leave in the Seabeck box in the church office. If you are missing something (maybe your blue shoes found on Cedars porch??) please look in the lost and found box in the church office pickup area.

Please save the date on your calendar for next year: July 5-10, 2020 (with registration starting in mid-March). Our theme will touch on joyful frugality and things related to our sacred earth. We will (of course!) have more specifics as we get closer to camp next year.

And one last thing: if you feel moved to support this special experience, please consider making a donation to support our scholarships. We want to make it possible for everyone to attend our Seabeck camp regardless of financial concerns. You can make a donation in any of the usual church ways, just mark that it's for Seabeck scholarships. Thank you!



### Something on your mind or heart?

#### ~ Leadership Parish Relations Committee

UCUCC is in a time of transition, and transitions can bring up big emotions. That's why we, the members of the Leadership Parish Relations Committee (LPRC), thought now would be a fitting time to remind church members and friends just exactly what the LPRC does.

Essentially a sounding board, LPRC assists the church in maintaining healthy relationships between the leadership team (Catherine Foote, David Anderson, Amy Roon, Todd Smiedendorf) and members of the congregation. Relationships is the key word, for LPRC does not concern itself with job performance or theological matters. Rather, LPRC is who you call if you feel your relationship with one of the church leaders could use some help. Congregants can call any one of our team, and we will listen, help identify potential courses of action, and help arrange a meeting if necessary to bring the parties together. For their part, our pastors/leaders use our monthly meetings to raise questions and concerns that might affect their relationship with the congregation. All is strictly confidential.

We're not mediators, advocates, or therapists. We are simply listeners, occasional advisors—and fellow travelers. And we're available at the emails below.

Mary Kollar, Chair [mary@ajkollar.com](mailto:mary@ajkollar.com)

Bob Perkins [bobcperkins@gmail.com](mailto:bobcperkins@gmail.com)

Kathryn Robinson [thatkathryn@gmail.com](mailto:thatkathryn@gmail.com)

Cara Gray Helmer [caraanngray@gmail.com](mailto:caraanngray@gmail.com)

David Ovens [david.ovens@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:david.ovens@stanfordalumni.org)

## The Art Of The Ask

~ Betsy Herring, Director of Children's Ministry

This article is the last in a series planned by The Children's Ministry Committee (CMC) to generate interest in the opportunity to serve and engage with children and families on Sundays. Hopefully, you read the article written by a frequent classroom volunteer leader, two articles by parents outlining what it means to them to have volunteers in their children's classrooms, and the article last month from CMC member, Tim Johnson. Now it's my turn, as the Director of The Children's Ministries, to finalize the message.

### **Every month, the Church Council asks for a report, and they include the question, "What have been your challenges?"**

I write the same answer every month: Our number one challenge as a committee and as a whole congregation continues to be meeting the growing number of attending children with a growing number of volunteers to co-lead in Sunday groups. No other challenge compares in complexity or immediate need.

### **The CMC has worked hard this year to "rebrand" what it means to co-lead in a children's class on Sundays.**

We decided to stop calling it Sunday "School," and to stop asking volunteers to "Teach," because we were so often told that persons didn't see themselves as teachers and believed they had no skills in school classrooms. We knew immediately that we needed to change how we as a congregation think about our children's Sunday groups. (Notice how I called it a Sunday group instead of "Sunday School?") Being in a classroom with our congregation's children is an opportunity to play, experience fellowship, and to explore and deepen our own faith, and by so doing, serve as models for them. We never need to go into any children's group believing we have all the knowledge and all the answers. Classroom leaders (not "teachers," but "leaders") have told me that when they looked into whatever the class theme was for the day, they learned so much by being involved in precisely this way. In her Church & Home article last May, Kathie Vitz reminded us that "faith is affiliative."

### **Experience Church in a new way**

Do you sometimes think serving in children's classes means you'll "miss church?" We joyfully respond that church goes on in every single room in the building every Sunday. And co-leaders of elementary children's groups often enjoy the benefit of getting the sermon message early, because I speak with pastors each week

to find out how to adapt their message about scripture for the children. Elementary class plans are frequently created directly from the sermons our pastors plan to give the next Sunday. We strive to have everyone in the church, from young to senior, receive the same message while here, so that conversations can continue throughout the day and week beyond church. Being in a classroom with children is not missing church, but it's experiencing church in a different way.

### **Here's the opportunity**

Those who have ever served as volunteer coordinators share the awkwardness of watching how their relationships change in their communities. The common refrain is "People look so frightened when they see me coming. They all think I'm about to ask them to do something, and they run away!"

Awhile back, Pastor Amy Roon wrote an article with the theme, "Don't Fear The Ask." Her point was that if you're asked to volunteer in any capacity in our church, it's because your qualities have been admired and an opportunity is extended to you. And the most important part is that everyone at church respects a "No" answer as well as a "Yes." Amy always taught us that a genuine "no" is so much better than a fraught "yes." We hold to that. And we extend an ask and an opportunity to you: Please would you consider volunteering as a co-leader in a children's class?



# Children's Ministry

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

## Aug 11, Food-packing service project

11:30 in the first floor hallway

After worship, bring the kids down to pack grocery bags with nonperishable foods for the hungry. This is a fun, easy way to involve the whole family in serving others. It's a thirty-minute project suitable for preschoolers and older. Diane and Steve Adam run this periodic service project. Please contact [childrensministry@ucucc.org](mailto:childrensministry@ucucc.org) or 206-524-2322 with any questions.

# Youth Ministry

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

## Summer Ministry & Fun Fellowship

We are having a wonderful summer! We have had some fabulous trips – Youth Programming at Seabeck, Middle School Mission Trip and High School Mission Trip!

Thank you to our leaders: Rachel Brackett, Ben Jones, Katrina Fitzpatrick, Linnea Coleman, Brian Gregg, Lynn Schafer, Chris deMaagd, Nathan Wallen, Emma Fjermedal, Todd Smiedendorf, Bruce Wilson, Megan Mooney and Vicki Farmer for being such an important part of these summer trips! Thank you too, to the congregation for your financial support of our summer mission trips!

## July 31: Teen Feed

5pm – 8:30pm

Youth, their families and their 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. Please sign up to volunteer by emailing Margaret at [mswanson@ucucc.org](mailto:mswanson@ucucc.org).

## August 9-11, Family tent-camping 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@ucucc.org](mailto:bherring@ucucc.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.

## Aug 4: Family Hike

Details still TBD

Trent Siegel and Brooke Doyle are working on planning a hike for youth families on Sunday, August 4. Details will go out soon via email.

## Aug 21: Backyard Movie Night & BBQ

6pm at Carol & Ed Coleman's home

Both Middle School & High School youth, their families and friends are all invited to a fabulous evening! We will have a BBQ dinner and play some games together. Then, once the sun sets, we will hunker down in the backyard and watch 90's musical comedy, "Sister Act" together! This is a great movie with great music, and good laughs! More details to come as we get closer! We will get an RSVP link out to folks soon via email.

## Looking ahead at the Fall:

### 9am Youth Group:

9am Youth Group continues to be on break for the summer and we will begin our 9am Youth Group programming again on Sunday, September 8th.

### November 15 – 17: All Family Retreat

Mark your calendars now for our All Family Retreat at Pilgrim Firs! It will be a wonderful way to connect! There will be some family oriented programming, youth and parent programming and some crafts and hopefully some fun time outside (weather permitting).

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## 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.

#### **August 4, 2019**

I love to retell the story: feeding of the 5,000  
Preaching: Catherine Foote  
scripture: Matt 14, Mk 6, Lk 9, Jn 6

#### **August 18, 2019**

I love to retell the story: Mary, Martha & Lazarus  
Preaching: Amy Roon  
Scripture: Luke 10, John 11

#### **August 11, 2019**

I love to retell the story: the good Samaritan  
Preaching: Todd Smiedendorf  
scripture: Luke 10

#### **August 25, 2019**

I love to retell the story: prodigal son  
Preaching: Catherine Foote  
scripture: Luke 15