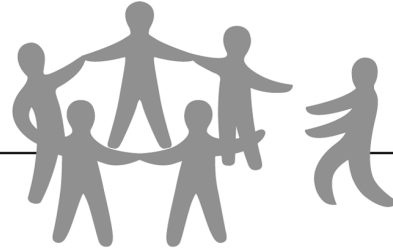


CHURCH AND HOME

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

Love in Action - Giving Campaign 2024 Now is the time!



Thank you to the 89 households who have sent in their 2024 pledge! We have received \$513,019 in pledges towards our goal of \$1,275,000 (a 7% increase from our budgeted pledges in 2023). Please walk by the Red Wall sometime and see all of the wonderful ways that your gift to UCUC has an impact in our community.

Haven't turned in a pledge yet? There's still time! Find more info about how to give on our website: <https://www.universityucc.org/give/campaign/>

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a pledge or one-time gift to support our mission and ministry. Letting us know about your giving plans early helps us make an accurate 2024 budget!

Congregational Meeting and Budget Approval - Sunday, November 19th

Join us both in person and online following our Sunday service for the final piece of our budgeting process—congregational approval. Your participation is an essential part of this process and helps to ensure that our resources are serving the needs of our community. (Link will be in weekly email.)

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the ways we demonstrate Love In Action through our financial contributions as well as your time and talents. Our staff, our programs, our partners, our members, and our community thank you.

October-November Worship Series: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

An exploration of the diversity of spiritual gifts



Worship and Music

Spiritual gifts are often very different from the work we do each day or get paid to do. Likewise, spiritual gifts may or may not be profitable (financially or socially) in the way the world accounts for such things. But in God's reckoning, these "fruits of the spirit" represent our true wealth inside the Kingdom of Heaven, and these gifts are given to us – each of us – to reveal and demonstrate the Way of Jesus in our lives. Yet recognizing these gifts can be difficult. Deep inside our hearts we may all suspect that there is a special treasure waiting to be offered up to our wider community, but how do we discern and activate these spiritual realities in a world that so often conditions us to look past them? How do we recognize these gifts in ourselves and others?

In this series we will explore the diversity of spiritual gifts described in the Bible, and how they can and might show up in the context of our modern lives. But we'll also explore how these gifts emerge out of our authenticity. God's gifts can only be revealed when we are honest with ourselves and take the time to explore our own true nature. In this way we might reflect on the promise and the peril of Gospel of Thomas (#70) speaking to the beloved community: "If you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth will save you. If you do not bring forth what is within you, what you do not

bring forth will destroy you.”

Spiritual Practice: take time this fall to explore what your spiritual gifts really are. Do you know, or could there be more beyond what you’ve always said about yourself, or what others have always said about you? One way of approaching this might be to consider: What is it that I love to do simply for the doing of it? Because something miraculous happens when we accept what these things are and offer them as gifts to others who need them.



Worship and Music

Service of Memory and Hope—November 5th

Please join us at our annual Service of Memory & Hope, we will light candles to remember members of our congregation who have died in the past year, and remember others in our lives as well.

Saints and dates and death:

Lester Brown	November 15, 2022	Sara Stoppels	May 25, 2023
Kevin Fuerstenau	February 19, 2023	Tom Springer	July 10, 2023
Marlys Waller	March 9, 2023	Diane Adam	August 26, 2023
Mary Grafious	April 24, 2023	Jennifer Wright	September 12, 2023
Carolyn Stark	May 2, 2023	Mary Mikkelsen	September 16, 2023
Sally Hill	May 8, 2023	Verbeck Smith	September 20, 2023
Nancy Fox	May 24, 2023		

Music in October Worship Services

November 5 – “New arts shall bloom of loftier mold, and mightier music fill the skies, and every life shall be a song. When every life shall be a song, then all the earth is paradise.” For this *Service of Memory and Hope*, our Chancel Choir is singing a piece by Gwyneth Walker called “Every Life Shall Be a Song.” This piece is a celebration of life, unity, and music.

November 12 – The treble voices of our Chancel Choir will be featured on the anthem this Sunday as they perform a piece called “Truth” by Andrea Ramsey. This piece has poetry written by the composer shortly after her mother had passed, and reflects on advice that she was given by her echoing the sentiment that she should believe she is beautiful and enough.

November 19 – The bass voices of our Chancel Choir will be performing an anthem this Sunday called “In Time of Silver Rain.” This text by Langston Hughes is set by Sarah Quartel to a lush, sweeping melody. This poetry celebrates the ways that ‘silver rain’ brings new life into the world every spring.

November 26 – For this Sunday after Thanksgiving, Holly Eckert and her daughter, Keziah, will be sharing music together. Come hear this mother-daughter duo sharing their musical gifts on the final Sunday of our series, Spiritual Gifts.

Deaths in our Community

Mary Mikkelsen

Born: January 9, 1943

Died: September 16, 2023

Mary was 80 when she passed away. She first attended UCUC as a UW student in the 60’s and after living other places returned to the Seattle area with her husband (predeceased in 2012) and joined our church in 1997. Mary was very active with our Child Care Board, Jesus Study Group, Tuesday Bible Study, and in the life of our church until her health limited her attendance and involvement. A dear friend to



many here. She cared deeply for this community of faith and many cared for her. Please hold her daughters, Ann and Erika and their families in your prayers.

A Memorial service will be held on November 4th 2:00pm at Skyline in Seattle and livestreamed <https://transformingage.zoom.us/j/89827083758>

Donations in her memory can be made to: The (UCUCC) Child Care Programs and The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research



Verbeck Smith

Born: November 12, 1933

Died: September 20, 2023

We received word from Kevin Smith that his father passed away while sleeping at the age of 89. Verbeck and his wife Kathleen (preceded in death 2003) joined our church in the spring of 1965 bringing along their son's Neil and Kevin. Verbeck was a member of the choir for many years. Even though he hasn't attended in recent years Verbeck will be remembered for his kindness, love of his family, and of music. He was preceded in death by wife Kathleen and their older son Neil.

Verbeck moved to Spokane in 2022 to be near his son Kevin. Please hold Kevin and his family in your prayers.

Events at UCUCC

Zoom links are available in your weekly email or by emailing zoom@universityucc.org.

Men's Supper

November 7, 6:15 pm, Turner Lounge

Please join the men in our community for a simple soup supper every first Tuesday of the month. All those identifying as male are welcome.

AWE (All Women Extraordinary) Dinner

Monday November 27, 6:00 pm on Zoom

AWE's lively dinnertime discussion is a monthly event on 4th Monday evenings. They have decided to continue as an online group, and particularly invite those who are further from Seattle and those who must stay home to join them on Zoom!

How Sweet It Is Café

Saturday, November 4, 7:00pm in Ostrander Hall

Mark you calendars for the second How Sweet It Is Café Plan and musical arrangements are in process, featuring the music and story of Meredith Willson's The Music Man. Sing along with such classics as Seventy-Six Trombones and Till There Was You, and listen to barbershop quartets sing close harmony.

The Café will be a dessert pot-luck. Volunteers will bring dessert for the rest of us to enjoy. If you are willing to be one of the volunteers, indicate that to either Alan Klockars at Klockars@uw.edu or George Naden at naden@comcast.net. As usual there will be a quiz built around the show and its setting.

Come and sing, listen, and be in community with us!

Young Adult Connection Time

Sunday, November 5 9:00am

Join us for some coffee, treats and connection! We'll spend some time getting to know each other and sharing about what's going in our lives. Young Adulthood can



Calling & Engagement

be so tricky. It can feel lonely and there can be a lot of "shoulds" coming at you. Church can offer such a beautiful opportunity for connection. It can make room for all the joys and the hardships of life. We hope you will join us to hang out, make friends, laugh, share and connect!

Gathering Ground Event: Harvest Gathering

Saturday, November 11, 5:30-8:00pm



Let's gather to celebrate the end of the harvest season. Drawing on Buddhist practices for cultivating our good qualities and overcoming difficult habits, and on Gathering Ground's theme this year of Compost and Cultivate, we will reflect on the year behind us. What seeds have we been planting, and what have we been harvesting?

As you are able, please bring a vegetarian potluck dish, snack, or drink to share. Your host will provide dishware and utensils.

We will be meeting at a community member's home (RSVP for address) in north Seattle, close to the E Bus line. Weather permitting, we will gather around an outdoor fire pit for part of the evening and share food inside. Otherwise, this meeting will take place entirely indoors. RSVP to gatheringground.seattle@gmail.com by November 10th.

Spectrum of Color—Rainbow City Concert

Join us **Friday November 17th** at Benaroya Hall for an evening of colors and sounds! The Rainbow City Concert Band and Orchestra will present music inspired by the spectrum of colors that illuminate our lives. Our celebration of 25 years will include the world premiere of **Connections** by composer Caleb Gomes.

Rainbow City Performing Arts is a nonprofit with a mission of increasing equity and visibility of LGBTQIA + people. Their mission to ***Make Music, Make Friends, Make a Difference*** is realized by performing pieces that focus on marginalized composers and themes.

Click the link for more information and to purchase tickets: <https://rainbowcity.org/events/spectrum-of-color/> Discounted tickets for seniors, teachers and students.

Come to our Community Dance

Saturday, November 18, 5:00 - 9:30 pm, O Hall

Do you like dancing at Seabeck? No need to wait till July! Get your dancing shoes dusted off and come on over to O Hall for an evening of contra and square dancing for all ages. And if you think you don't know how to dance, come anyway... You'll learn the steps as we go!

Gather for a pot-luck dinner from 5-6 and then dance from 6-7:30. After dessert at 7:30, we will dance some more, winding down about 9:30. Our caller will be Sherry Nevins, accompanied by a band that will get us in the swing! Come young and come older, come early or later, and come with or without a partner.

Dress comfortably and wear shoes that you can kick up your heels in! Bolo ties, cowboy hats and skirts that twirl are optional. Sponsored by the CEC "Connections" Ministry.

Join the team and decorate the church for Christmas!

November 25, 9:00am—noon, Narthex

Ever wonder how the church gets decorated for Christmas? Every year a group of volunteers helps prepare the church for Advent and Christmas.



Intergenerational

Some members of the team will be climbing ladders, while others pass things up, or assemble the tree or creche. Some may help our liturgical artist change the banners and add decorative elements to sanctuary. There are many more jobs!

We would like to invite you to join us in decorating this year. If interested, please contact Vince Santo Pietro at santobottom@comcast.net. Alternatively, you can just show up! We are also looking for ideas and new things we might add to the decorations. Help us bring in the Advent and Christmas seasons!

Gathering Ground Event: Big Tree Gathering

Saturday, December 2, 11am-12:30pm, East Lynn Street and 26th Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112 (searchable as "Montlake Tot Lot").

Join us for an informal community potluck and chat in a little-known corner of the Arboretum. The community provides beverages, napkins, & plates. If you'd like, bring finger food to share and something to sit on.

Gathering Ground Event: Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 21, 6:30-8:30pm, On Zoom

Welcome the season of darkness and release in this virtual event! We'll reflect on the earth's position during Winter Solstice, then stretch our imaginations and intentions to release into the gifts of this longest night. Please log on with 1-3 candles and matches. This event is suitable for ages 12 and up. Led by Beth Amsbary. RSVP at wintersolstice.bpt.me or by emailing gatheringground.seattle@gmail.com or calling 206-880-3641.

2024 All-Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Firs

Friday – Sunday, Jan 26-28. Silent retreat Thursday, Jan 25

The All-Women's Retreat is a time to "deepen friendships and build community while you knit, hang out, and paint a rock (or not)." Our theme this year is "*It's Another World.*" Activities include small-group conversations facilitated by Chaplain Tamara Roberts, a discussion of Joan Chittister's *The Time is Now* (optional), and a variety of workshops for journal writing, self-care, meditation, movement, arts.... There will be plenty of unstructured time to rest, take in the natural beauty of Pilgrim Firs, and enjoy each other's company.

Watch the weekly emails for information on Registration, which will be online through MyUCUCC. Questions? Visit the table in the Narthex in November, or contact Christina Purdy, pyrdina@yahoo.com

News for Children, Youth and Families

Fall Family Retreat

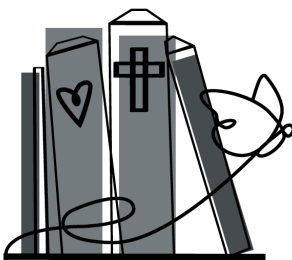
November 9, 10, 11 & 12 at Pilgrim Firs—Register by Nov. 1st!

We are excited to invite families and friends to a Fall Family Retreat at Pilgrim Firs Camp! The whole family is invited! It will be a wonderful weekend to be together in fellowship and community. The weekend will be a mix of offering some structured activities and free time to play outside, rest, and explore. Rachel Brackett will be our camp musician again this year! YAY! We hope parents and kids will leave refreshed, renewed, reconnected and re-grounded in faith and sense of self! We hope you will join us!

Friday is a day off from school and we're taking advantage of that. Folks can choose



Calling & Engagement



Christian Formation

to come over on Thursday afternoon or Friday. We will offer a 3 night and 2 night registration option.

Please contact Margaret Swanson (mswanson@universityucc.org) or Carolyn Johnson Davis (cjdavis@universityucc.org) if you have any questions. Please register by November 1. <https://bit.ly/UCUCCFamilyRetreat23>

Family Registration for 2023 - 2024 Year

To help us in our planning for the coming program year, please register your family if you plan on attending Worship, Sunday School, Youth Group, Fellowship events, Family Retreat and more throughout the coming program year! You can fill out the family registration by using this link: <https://bit.ly/UCUCCFAMREG2023>

Weekly Emails & Communications for Children & Youth

The Children's & Youth Ministry programs send weekly emails to keep families informed of events and programs going on at the church. If you would like to sign-up for these weekly emails, please go to: <https://bit.ly/UCUCCNewsletterSignUp>

Beyond November—for Children & Youth Families:

- ⇒ December 3: Advent Workshop & BLAST monthly gathering
- ⇒ December 8 – 10: Elementary OWL training retreat
- ⇒ December 10 – Children's Ministry Service Project
- ⇒ December (date TBD) - Children's Families Christmas Party
- ⇒ January 20 - Parents Night Out

Children's Ministry News

Sunday School Schedule:

- ⇒ Sunday, November 5 – Children's Chapel for Kindergarten – 5th grade
- ⇒ Sunday, November 12 – YMCA Service Project during Sunday school
- ⇒ Sunday, November 19 – Children's Sunday School program
- ⇒ Sunday, November 26th is Advent Breakfast

Sunday Morning Children's Program

The fall program for Children's Ministry has begun and it has been wonderful to see the elementary children in their new classrooms! It has been wonderful to begin our new digital check-in, and we're grateful for parents' patience as we continue to tweak it and learn the best process.

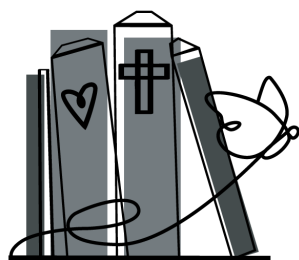
The children are focusing this year on learning about our church covenant, understanding what a 'covenant' is and the stories of these in the Bible, and working on memorizing our covenant! It's a special curriculum that Carolyn and Margaret are working on. The first Sunday of every month the K - 5th grade will have Children's Chapel. Every other second Sunday of the month children will get to participate in a service project in partnership with the YMCA. It's a deeply rich time for our children and families!

If you are interested in volunteering with the Children's program, please be in touch with Carolyn or Margaret.

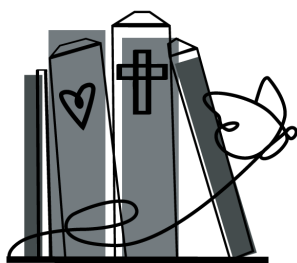
Sunday, November 1: B.L.A.S.T Ministry For 4th and 5th Graders:

4:00-5:00pm at the church

Pastor Steve, Lisa Coleman and Elana Thieme are facilitating a special small group opportunity for our 4th and 5th graders! B.L.A.S.T. stands for *Build, Learn, And Serve Together* - and meets the needs of these upper elementary tweens. Sunday morning Sunday school will focus on Covenants. Then on 1st Sundays from 4-5pm we will meet for special activities and programming. Stay for dinner afterwards. Families are invited to join for that as well.



Christian Formation



Christian Formation

Youth Ministry News

Youth Group Schedule:

Sunday, November 5 – Evening Youth Group (6 – 7:30pm)

Sundays, November 12 & 19: (9am Youth Group)

Sunday, November 26th is Advent Breakfast (9am)

Join us for Youth Group:

Youth Group is for youth in grades 6-12. The first Sunday of November we will gather from 6:00-7:30pm. The rest of the Sundays we will have youth group at 9am in the pilgrimage room. We are so grateful to Linnea Coleman, Hillary De La Cruz, Livio De La Cruz, Trent Siegel & Paige Siegel for offering their leadership this fall with our youth!

OWL info session for parents

Sunday, November 5 6:00pm in room 104 (across from the Youth Room)

Parents of youth in 7th and 8th grade are invited to an info time to talk about the schedule and the plan for class in 2024.

2023 - 2024 Classes & Retreats

- ⇒ Retreats: We are still setting our full retreat dates, but plan for February 9-11-24, for a conference-wide retreat. We hope to plan a spring youth retreat as well.
- ⇒ M.S. OWL Class - This is a M.S. OWL Class year. It's open to students in 7th and 8th grade. We are still working out the details for this.

Parents of Youth & YA Connection Time

Sunday, November 19, Chapel at UCUC

Parents of youth and young adults are invited to join together for a time of sharing wisdom and making connections! Hosted by the Youth Ministry Committee, we'll have some doughnuts and coffee.

Contact info for all Children, Youth and Family Ministries:

Margaret Irribarra Swanson, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
mswanson@universityucc.org

Carolyn Johnson Davis, Children's Ministry Coordinator, cjdavis@universityucc.org

Announcements

Action step for Land Acknowledgement—November

We gather as guests of the Duwamish people on their traditional land that touches the shared waters of other Coast Salish tribes. We understand that their identity and richness of culture are deeply connected with the mountains, valleys, waterways and shorelines that surround us all.

We commit to learning about the Duwamish, other indigenous cultures, and historical and ongoing oppression of indigenous peoples. We strive to nurture our relationship with indigenous peoples, especially our neighbors, by joining their efforts to work for social justice and to care for this land.

A land acknowledgement is a gesture of respect and awareness of the land and its history. It becomes meaningful when coupled with informed action that builds relationships.

Our land acknowledgment challenges us to nurture our relationship with our indigenous neighbors by joining their efforts to care for this land. Here are two opportunities to nurture those relationships:



Racial Justice

Daybreak Star Cultural Center and Na'ah Illahee fund invite residents of Seattle to “nourish our relationship with the Land and with Each Other” by participating in a planting event featuring 3500 medicinal and native plant relatives on November 17, 18, and 22. Registration for this volunteer event can be found on the [Green Seattle Partnership events calendar](#).

Support Native artists and the Duwamish tribe by shopping or volunteering at the [Native Art Market](#) at the Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center Friday through Sunday following Thanksgiving.

Special Offering November 2023:

Safe Parking for Vehicle Residents @ University Heights Center

University Heights Center, just five blocks north of UCUC, is a community hub for connection, creativity, learning and social justice. Among many other programs, they host a Safe Parking program for those living in their passenger vehicles.

They need our gifts to support our houseless neighbors!

The Safe Lot program was begun and funded by the City of Seattle in 2020. Now it is sustained by UHeights, which provides:

- ◆ designated overnight parking spaces for ten vehicles
- ◆ weekly case management meetings to achieve client goals
- ◆ washer, dryer and detergent available by appointment
- ◆ access to a Port-a-Potty and to a Tiny House for meal preparation
- ◆ free participation in all UHeights events and classes
- ◆ community refrigerator stocked with free food

Safe Lot residents also have access to mobile showers provided by the City, meals prepared by community partners, and reduced membership to the U Family YMCA. University Gathering United Methodist Church leases the parking spaces for residents and hosts regular activities for Safe Lot residents. Priority is given to families, students, and elderly people living in their vehicles.

Our financial contributions are needed to help cover utilities, case management, deep cleaning, background checks, a hoped-for plug-in station for cell phones, and little extras like gift cards and Thanksgiving pies. Please give generously!

Come to the forum on **October 29** after worship to learn more about the many social justice activities of the U Heights Center with Shirin Subhani. You're invited to bring warm clothing, blankets or hygiene items for their Warm Winter Drive taking place **November 5**. * Please note that the FAQs about the Safe Lot on the University Heights web page are outdated.

Visit the Scheyer Library before or after church!

~Edith Miller and Jessie McAbee

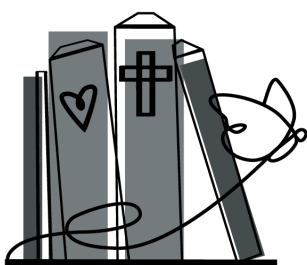
Many people don't know or think about this gem of a book collection and peaceful place in the church, past the lounge. Come check it out and check out some books or magazines while you're there!

We subscribe to several magazines, including *Sojourners* and *Yes!*. In addition, we often receive donations of other magazines.

With Thanksgiving coming up, it is a great opportunity to educate yourself about the first Thanksgiving and traditions of Thanksgiving among Native American peoples. We have 3 children's books in the library that cover this topic.



Love and Justice



Christian Formation

We have recently acquired several new books including the novel *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry (thank you, Leslie Noson), *Victory, Stand!* a graphic autobiography of Tommie Smith (thank you, Susan Everett) and *Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults* by Monique Gray Smith with Robin Wall Kimmerer.

New acquisitions can be found on the librarian desk, on the cart directly opposite, or on display. Currently on display are books giving historical context to and personal stories of the relationship between Israel and Palestine, books with Indigenous perspectives, and parenting books. We are happy to help you find books you may be seeking on other topics, as well. Hope to see you in the library!

Lunch Packing Project in Partnership with YMCA

~Lisa Klingler

The UCUC Hunger Outreach Action Team is excited to be collaborating with the Children's Ministry team in a bi-monthly service project to address hunger in our community.

Started as a pilot after Easter in 2023, lunch packing continues this fall and beyond with financial support from Hunger Outreach. I spoke with Children's Ministry Coordinator, Carolyn Johnson-Davis to learn more about the project.

Can you tell me about how this project began?

Carolyn explained that the parents were interested in having their children involved in hands-on service as part of the curriculum. This year they are "learning and living our covenant", and the project reinforces many aspects, including "sharing with gratitude the gifts we are given", "to care for and pray for each other", and "to promote your reign of justice and peace, meeting hate with reconciling love".

Carolyn connected with the University YMCA and they identified a need for help preparing 40 lunches for their Sunday food distribution program.

What is involved on a packing Sunday?

Sandwich prep begins in our church kitchen at 9a. Children join once they are dismissed from the service around 10:15. The kids decorate lunch bags and messages of love from UCUC to put inside. They set up an assembly line to fill the bags, and the lunches are delivered or picked up by YMCA staff.

How can we get involved?

The entire congregation is welcome to participate and we would love to see this grow as an intergenerational event. Here are a few options for how you might get involved:

- ⇒ Donate items (suggestion: prepackaged protein bars and healthy snacks) (donation tub in church lounge)
- ⇒ Have a food handlers permit or interested in getting one? The YMCA will sponsor anyone wanting to do the short online training to obtain a permit.
- ⇒ Help with preparing sandwiches & assembling lunches—just show up!

If you have any questions about how to get involved, please contact Carolyn Johnson-Davis, Children's Ministry Coordinator, at cjdavis@universityucc.org. Thank you for all the ways you support our Children's Ministry and UCUC Hunger Outreach!

John G. Lewis Endowment Fund for Social Justice

Do you feel called by the work of a non-profit committed to social justice? Have you served on a non-profit board or volunteered in support of an organization doing the important work of creating a more just world? Please consider completing an



Love and Justice



Intergenerational



Love and Justice

application for funding from the John G. Lewis Endowment. John Lewis was a long time UCUC member, choir member, Love and Justice committee leader, and past church moderator who was passionate about social justice.

Projects funded will typically be partnerships with an outside organization that deliver services or advocate for systemic change for social justice. Funding proposals could be for seed money for a new project, or a new endeavor of an existing organization or team that increases the ability of the organization to carry out its mission. Projects that encourage active participation by our congregation are desirable, but benefits to the church should only be incidental. In 2022, the grant was awarded to a project at the Elizabeth Gregory Home Day Center. In 2023, approximately \$3,275 will be awarded to one organization.

Applications for funding will be due December 1, and awards will be made not later than January 1. The application form and prospectus for the endowment will be available on the UCUC website or by contacting Carol Nelson (cjnspinel@seanet.com) or Dan and Erin Johnson (danielanderin@comcast.net). You may also contact if you have questions about the application or an idea that you would like to explore with us. We are excited to share with you information about how YOU can be part of this new UCUC social justice initiative!

~John L. Lewis Endowment Committee (Marty Curry, Dan Johnson, Erin Johnson, Carol Nelson, Mark Peterson)

A Revival for Racial Reconciliation – what does it mean, and what did it do?

~by Ginger Warfield

In August of 2019 our church voted very solidly to pass a resolution to become a Racial Justice Church. Efforts since then have been varied and have met with a variety of responses. October 3-6 of this year (2023) marked an effort that met with a strong positive response among those who participated and that should, it is to be hoped, have a good, positive impact for the congregation as a whole and beyond. It was entitled Reclaiming the Welfare of the City: A Revival for Racial Reconciliation.

The idea for a revival originated in conversations between Pastor Steve and Reverend Yolanda Norton when she was our theologian in residence. It was originally going to be quite simple, but as they talked to other churches and social enterprises, group after group said “We want to be part of it!” In the end there were ten groups sponsoring the event, mostly but not all churches. It was a terrific foundational exercise in community building.

Tuesday, October 3 was the opening night. The service was at **Mt Zion Baptist Church** in the Central District. Mt Zion is one of the largest and most long-standing African American congregations in the state, and the building is magnificent. Rev Yolanda used her own sharply focused lens to bring out content in a couple of verses in Numbers that some of us definitely had not seen. There are women in that chapter who really understood the importance of community. The perfect opening message for this series. And with a musical through-line, The Black Girl Magic Ensemble from Rev Yolanda’s Global Arts and Theology Experience provided some of the music every evening, and all of it on Wednesday.

Wednesday, Oct. 4 we had a very different experience. The service was at **Quest Church** in Ballard and the bulk of it was in the hands of Acts on Stage, a theater dedicated to centering the creative talents, works and initiatives of People of Color and People of Faith. They offered us The Story of an Off-Brand Band, followed by a facilitated discussion. Those of us from UCUC (and there were many of us all four nights, which was inspiring) benefitted more from listening than we would have



Worship and Music

from discussing. A large percentage of the audience was African American, and the consistency of the response of “*I never thought to see my experience represented on stage*” was overwhelming. I was also very much struck by an observation made later by one of our members: “*What a great deal of energy it takes being Black. It is always in the unconscious...and sometimes in the very conscious. It takes up so much bandwidth, but also fuels a lot of creativity.*”

Thursday the 5th things got a bit more familiar in that we were at **Plymouth UCC**, with our chancel choir supplying part of the music and Pastor Steve giving the sermon. Not too familiar, though—Pastor Steve used the words of Jeremiah to point out that we are actually not represented by the nice (well, relatively) Hebrews, but actually by the conquering Babylonians. Oh, dear!

Friday’s venue was our very own **UCUCC**, with many familiar faces, thanks to the number of folks who volunteered to greet and usher and serve communion (thank you, one and all!!!) Other aspects were less familiar. Much of the music was supplied by the Kingdom Family Worship Center, who kept us responding (“Y’all say ALLELUIA! ... say it louder!!”) and moving (they couldn’t quite get us to dance in the aisles.) I particularly liked what I thought of as the benediction, when they all sang at the top of their lungs “You’re AMAZING!!” far more times than I could count, enthusiastically gesturing out to the congregation. A very upbeat bunch. On a more tranquil note, earlier in the service we were all anointed by the assembled multitude of pastors and bishops to go and carry out the work to which this Revival had been building us. Very much to the point.

Friday was also the culmination of a through-line that built up steadily and with tremendous impact. Throughout the series we had offertories, but never accompanied by passing of an offertory plate. Rather, each time we learned about another aspect of one particular organization: **Immanuel Community Services** (www.icsseattle.org), associated with Immanuel Lutheran Church. Pastor Priscilla Austin described with loving enthusiasm the programs they run and the number of people they serve per year with a staff of just five. Each night gifts were solicited to help a specific one of their programs and each night we got more of an impression of all they do, and of how much they need, use and enjoy volunteers. After many years of having UCUCC folks express frustration that too many of our racial justice efforts are turned inward we have here the perfect opportunity to reach out.

Advent and Christmas

Christmas Giving Opportunities

One of our treasured ministries at UCUCC is an annual outpouring of Christmas gifts to our neighbors during Advent. We do this in two ways: **Christmas Families** (folks sign up ahead of time to buy gifts for a specific family or teen referred by our partner agencies) and **Offering of Gifts** (folks bring gifts requested by agencies, who then distribute those as they see fit).

Thank you so much for supporting these giving ministries!

Sign Up for Christmas Families!

Our UCUCC tradition of “Christmas Families” continues this year with the opportunity to share generously with children and youth in our community! We are partnering with two local groups, the [Lake City Holiday Project](#) and [Friends of Youth](#). You can choose to sponsor an individual teen or a family of children this Christmas and you’ll be provided with basic information including a small wish list. This year you may be asked to shop for gifts or gift cards depending on the preference of the



Love and Justice

individuals (budget about \$50 per child). In addition, you may always make a monetary gift to the church designated for “Christmas Families.” It will be used to fund this ministry and serve families or youth who have not been adopted. Donate online by clicking GIVE on our church homepage or by mailing/dropping off a check to the church office. **To be matched with the children and teens or for more information please contact Sarah Marshall smarshall@universityucc.org (206) 251-0620.** You can also sign-up in the Narthex before and after service on Nov 19, Nov 26, and Dec 3rd. **Please bring your gifts directly to Ostrander Hall before church on Sunday, December 10.**

Offering of Gifts –December 10

Eight local agencies will receive Christmas gifts from our congregation. Many of our agencies now prefer to receive gift cards only, while a few are accepting actual presents. Below, you will find information about the agencies, their work, and their wish lists. You are invited to choose one or more of the agencies, shop joyfully (gifts should be new), and help brighten the holiday season for someone in need! **Sunday, December 10, please bring your present(s) or gift card(s) into the worship service with you.** During the time of offering, you will be invited to bring your gifts to the communion table. If you are not currently attending in-person services, you can mail gift cards to UCUC, attention Vicki Farmer and/or contact Susan Ovens (susan.ovens@comcast.net) if you need to drop off a gift on or before Dec. 10. Please help us remove any barriers to your participation!

Please be sure that your present or gift card is clearly labeled with the agency name, and note that most of our agencies prefer unwrapped gifts. Clear labeling helps things to flow smoothly when gifts are being sorted following the service and will ensure that your gift gets where you want it to go. Also include applicable details such as age or clothing size if the gift is wrapped. Please see each agency’s description for specific labeling instructions.



Love and Justice

List of agencies

Bethany United Church of Christ—supports 3 Tiny House Villages and BIPOC neighbors on Beacon Hill.

Compass Housing Alliance—supporting those who experience homeless and housing instability with 20+ locations offering services.

International Rescue Committee—helps people in 40+ countries as well as locally supporting refugees and others who come to Washington.

Mary’s Place—provides safe, inclusive shelter and services for women, children, and families on their journey out of homelessness, and help to keep families in their hard-won homes.

Solid Ground Family Shelter Program—supports homeless families with children while working together to find solutions to permanent housing.

Teen Feed—serves meals to youth and young adults 7 days a week (Tuesdays through Fridays at UCUC!)

Tierra Nueva—supports children and families with a parent in jail.

UCUC Childcare Programs—include a full-day, year-round child care and early learning program with flexible full-time and drop-in care for children 1-5 years old.

You will find more details about each agency’s wish list on our website, and paper copies will be available in the Church office. Or, email office@universityucc.org and we will email you the info.. <https://www.universityucc.org/offering-of-gifts-december-10-2023/>



Stewardship

Summary of September 20, 2023 Council Meeting

The Council of the University Congregational United Church of Christ met on Wednesday September 20, 2023 via Zoom and in-person.

We heard highlights and updates from various Ministry liaisons and then proceeded with reports and follow-up business.

Kyna provided a budget update based on finances at the end of July. Revenue continues to be short of projected, but we have gained some ground. Expenses for Facilities and Equipment are higher than expected. Our investments are doing better. And the budget committee has kicked off planning the budget for 2024 in preparation for the annual budget meeting on November 19.

We also reviewed Council's role in the 2024 budget process—to provide guidance and set priorities, particularly around the amount we may choose to withdraw from our endowments. Kyna asked what information would be helpful for Council to have, to be able to make some of these decisions next month?

She proposed the following assumptions:

It is not sustainable to withdraw from our endowments to the extent that we did last year.

As a church, our budget is 70% personnel costs. And 80% of our income is from individual donations. All churches are faced with this issue. Kyna is also assuming that having 80% of our revenue come from donations is also not sustainable.

Property assets are a lever that we might choose to employ if we want to continue everything that we are doing (versus not funding something that we are currently doing.)

New Business

The full texts of the following agenda item requests (AIR forms) is in the minutes of the Council meeting.

1. Council approved Stephan Gerhardt as the UCUCS Assistant Moderator.
2. At the request of the Asset Enhancement Task Force and Love and Justice Ministry, Council unanimously endorsed ending our lease with Sound Health, with the intention to sell the Lin House property and dividing the proceeds of the sale between the church's operating funds and Love and Justice funds. Council also concurred with the creation of a task force to study options for allocating funding between L&J and the church's other funds. The allocation task force would bring proposals to Council at the October 2023 meeting (prior to the 2024 budget process). The task force should include a representative designated by the AETF, one designated by the Love & Justice Ministry, and one designated by the Stewardship and Finance Committee. We recommend that the task force consist of Tim Croll, Don Guthrie, and Carol Nelson.
3. Council also unanimously approved the following recommendations from the Personnel Committee's report on the Inquiry into UCUCS's Work Environment, dated May 2023:
 - ◆ The Church Council reaffirms the goal of making the church an inclusive and affirming workplace for all identities, beyond its legal obligation to be a discrimination-free employer.
 - ◆ The Personnel Committee is requested to develop options for some structure for addressing microaggressions from congregants toward staff – sort of like an ombudsperson or a structure similar to LPRC which deals with clergy/congregant relations. As part of this, they should consult with the Racial Justice Committee and the church's racial justice consultants.

- ◆ The Personnel Committee is requested to create a summary of the findings and recommendations of this report and a link to the full report, both to be shared generally with the congregation.
- ◆ Prior to distributing this report to the congregation, the Personnel Committee is requested to make its May 2023 report (including these Council actions) available to all staff.

4. The Church Council wishes to consider whether or not to carry out a similar effort focused on the experience of UCUCB BIPOC congregants at this time. The Church Council will consult with the Racial Justice Committee, the church’s racial justice consultants, and a number of BIPOC congregants about the advisability of taking this step. The Church Council may empanel a team to carry out this consultation.

5. Council unanimously approved the transfer of the portion of Sally Pritchard’s bequest that was designated for unrestricted use by the Church Council, into the Church Council Special Projects Fund.

6. Council unanimously approved Rev Steve Jerbi’s request to move to a half time minister position at our church effective November 20, 2023. Pastor Steve will be ½ time focused on L & J and CF, including Children, Youth and Families. Portfolio does not change, but he will not be part of the Leadership Team (giving him more time for work with the ministries), and there is a reduction in preaching time. Some of the FTE savings will likely be needed to fill in gaps.

We heard thoughts from Pastors Michael and Amy regarding this proposed change.

A note from Br. Stephan Gerhardt

Several people have asked me why I have opted to step into the position of co-moderator. Truth be told, when I was approached about the position, I was hesitant but I also know the importance of giving in good faith and that there are times when we need to trust and be open to what another sees as our call to be of service even if we do not yet see it. At the end of the day, trust and a willingness to serve is what will bind us and inspire us to further action as a congregation. Thank you for all the ways you have welcomed me and inspired me to further action. I look forward to serving as your co-moderator and spiritual companion.

Peace and Blessings, Br. Stephan Gerhardt

Church building updates and office hours

Church office hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00 am-4:00 pm,
Sundays 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

Staff Holidays:

Thursday and Friday, November 23 & 24—Thanksgiving holiday

The office staff and program staff and pastors continue to work on a hybrid schedule—some days at home, some days at the church or elsewhere. To access the building during non-Office hours, please contact the custodian on duty at 206-612-2144.

Contact a pastor in an emergency A pastor is always available for pastoral emergencies. Please call or text 206-445-3378, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Stewardship

Church Council endorses sale of Lin House

At the September 20 meeting, our Church Council endorsed ending the lease with South Health with the intention to sell the Lin House property and to divide the proceeds of the sale between the church’s operating funds and Love and Justice funds. In approving this air form, Council also agreed to the formation of a task-force that would recommend an allocation of funding between L&J and the churches other funds. The taskforce (Tim Croll, Don Guthrie, and Carol Nelson) met with members of the Asset Enhancement Task Force (AETF) and L&J and are recommending \$200,000 for the Love & Justice Ministry, \$50,000 to repay the Council endowment loan from 2022 for mid-year wage justice efforts, and the remaining be used to support the church operating budget and short- to medium-term financial health. The anticipated net value of Lin House is \$700,000.

The Lin House was gifted to the church more than 20 years ago with guidance that it be used as the church saw fit. The house was leased to the University Congregation Housing Association (UCHA) for their vital work in addressing issues of homelessness in Seattle. UCHA contracted with the Community Psychiatric Clinic (now SOUND Health) to provide housing and services for three clients there. When UCHA divested their properties in 2019, the L&J Ministry recommended the relationship with SOUND Health continue.

Efforts by AETF included an inspection of Lin House to identify any major maintenance issues, and interviews with the SOUND Health’s CFO who disclosed that SOUND is moving away from the residential property side of their work. They have open rooms in current properties and would assist with moving the three clients to those houses, if the church approves the sale.

Sale of the Lin house represents a shift towards a different kind of potential impact by using the proceeds to partner with other organizations doing meaningful work on issues of housing and behavioral health than in the past. We honor the impact Lin House has had for the past 25 years, the vision and leadership of UCHA’s founding members and all those who have been the hands for God’s work through UCHA, and our Love & Justice Ministry leadership who have made housing and health services a continued justice priority of UCUC.

Sale of any church property requires a vote of the congregation. With the support of Council, AETF, L&J and SOUND Health, the proposed sale of Lin House will be brought to the congregation on November 19th.



Love and Justice

Church and Home is a monthly publication of University Congregational United Church of Christ.

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We are located at 4515 16th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105-4201

Website: www.universityucc.org

Facebook: @UCUCCSeattle

Instagram: @UCUCC_Seattle

YouTube: @UniversityUCC

University Congregational UCC is an open and affirming church, welcoming everyone of every of gender, sexual-orientation, race, ethnicity and ability.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am for worship in-person or via live stream. (Check homepage of website for links to Zoom livestream), or connect with our online worship service on Facebook or YouTube streaming anytime throughout the week after 5:00pm Sundays .

All articles in this printed newsletter can be found on our website. Go to: www.universityucc.org/whats-up-now/

The deadline for submission for **next month’s** issue is the 15th of **this month**.

Email submissions to Churchandhome@universityucc.org.

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Worship Series and Preaching schedule

We continue our series *Let our Talents and Tongues Employ* through the end of November. Look inside for a discussion of the series and spiritual practice to go with it, as well as the music and featured musicians for Sunday services in November.

November 5

Let Our Talents and Tongues Employ:
Fortitude

Preacher: Rev. Michael Ellick

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9

November 19

Let Our Talents and Tongues
Employ: Knowledge

Preacher: Rev. Steve Jerbi

Scripture: Proverbs 1:1-7

November 26

Let Our Talents and Tongues Em-
ploy: Prophecy

Preacher: Rev. Amy Roon

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:1-7

November 12

Let Our Talents and Tongues Employ:
Piety

Preacher: Rev. Amy Roon

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-6

How to contact a Pastor in an emergency:

A pastor is always available for pastoral care in emergencies. Please call or text 206-445-3378, 24 hour/day, seven days/week.