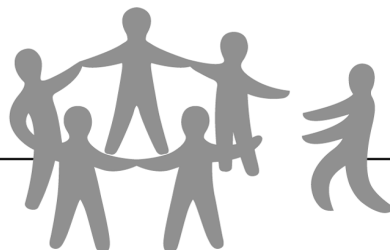


# CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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www.universityucc.org office@universityucc.org

## Epiphanytide 2024

### Worship series: Penumbra: God Revealed in the Shadows



*Worship and Music*

Psalm 24 declares *The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it, for [God] has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers*—or as the poetry of the King James Version frames it—*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof*; This helps us understand that nothing is outside of God's realm—in the light, in the darkness, and in the shadows.

This season we focus on Penumbra - a phenomenon where light forms a partial shadow around the edge of a complete shadow. This is visually experienced with the glow around an eclipsed object. The penumbra—the shadow space—is transition zone, where borders are blurred and interpretations diverge. The penumbra can be a place of both anxiety and intrigue, as it challenges our desire for definitive answers and invites us to explore the nuances of meaning. It also invites contemplation about our inner lives - that which shines, that which is hidden, that which is held as our shadow selves.

As we focus on the cosmic element of Penumbras we are reminded of the multicolor expressions throughout our galaxy. Not all stars burn white. We hold this close, particularly when we remember the way binaries of light and dark are used to reinforce colorism and racism. Shadows, source, and objects—all are holy and all exist beyond binaries.

Liturgically, Epiphany is the season of God's glory revealed—a time when the ordinary and extraordinary cross paths revealing something greater. We will explore traditional Epiphany texts - the magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the transfiguration which focus on the external revelations of Jesus in the world. We'll also spend time in the psalms and stories that help us explore God's inner revelations in our lives.

### Spiritual Practice

This Epiphany season UCUC will once again be sharing star words.

The use of star words, also called “star gifts,” is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade now. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written or printed on paper stars. You are encouraged to trust the word you have drawn and not replace the word—even words that might not resonate in the moment can grow over time. Take your word and place it somewhere you will see it regularly throughout the year. This creates a consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.

Printed star words will be available on-site for the first couple weeks of January. If you are participating remotely, you can go to this online star word generator: <https://perchance.org/starwords2022>. If you have difficulty accessing these, you can reach out to the office, and we will get you a star word.

Sarah Are, writing for *A Sanctified Art*, shares this about star words:

There Are Several Theological Statements Being Made in This Tradition

- ◆ The Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move closer to Jesus.
- ◆ We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight.
- ◆ We trust that it is often easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift.
- ◆ We know that the most common prayer practice for many involves speaking to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. We believe that star words invite a new prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.
- ◆ By not looking or sorting through the star words at their selection, we practice the spiritual task of receiving. It is not we who are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate or control.

For more information, please see the article on our website at: <https://www.universityucc.org/worship-series-january-2024>

## Events at UCUC

*Zoom links are available in your weekly email or by emailing [zoom@universityucc.org](mailto:zoom@universityucc.org).*

### Covenant Class

**First Sundays, 9:00-9:45am, 3rd floor conference room & zoom**

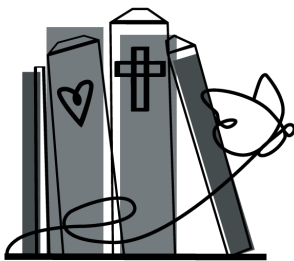
Covenant Class is a new adult ed opportunity that centers around the congregational covenant and our 5 ministries. Each month we will focus on a specific ministry and the theological and scriptural foundations for them. There will also be an opportunity to learn about opportunities to connect with programs and groups engaged in that ministry.

These classes will engage folks that have been with the congregation 50 years or 50 days. It is a great opportunity to learn about the opportunities for service and connection—ideal for new members, folks at a transition point in their lives, or people looking to expand their circle of friends in the church.

The opening session will be led by a pastor and the close of each class will include members of different ministries sharing current opportunities to engage with them.

There are two sets of classes—Jan-May, and Aug-Dec. You may attend all of them or a few.

- ◆ January 7- Christian Formation
- ◆ February 4- Love, Justice & Outreach
- ◆ March 3 - Stewardship & Finance
- ◆ April 7 (Easter Morning) - Calling, Engagement, & Care



*Christian Formation*

- ◆ May 5 - Worship & Music
- ~~~~~
- ◆ Aug 4 - Christian Formation
- ◆ Sept 1 (Labor Day Weekend) - Love, Justice & Outreach
- ◆ Oct 6 - Stewardship & Finance
- ◆ Nov 3 - Calling, Engagement & Care
- ◆ Dec 1 - Worship & Music

## Men's Supper

**January 2nd, 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.

## Racial Justice Retreat

Saturday, January 6, 9:30am-2:00pm, Choir Room

Please plan to join with other folks from UCUCUCC committed to living into our identity as an anti-racist church. Our annual retreat will include a time to celebrate our accomplishments, honor the work, provide bread for the journey, deepen relationships and imagine and plan for the year ahead.

We will gather at 9:30 for coffee, tea, and fellowship and move into the agenda at 10am. Lunch will be a potluck and we will wrap up by 2:00 pm. To help with planning, please sign up in your MyUCUCUCC account, or find the link in the weekly email.



*Racial Justice*

## Gathering Ground—Bless, Release, & Welcome

**Saturday, January 6, 11:00am-12:30pm, Turner Lounge**

Join the Gathering Ground community in a poignant and powerful moment: transition of leadership to a new generation. Beth Amsbary (she/her), our founding Convener will bless and release the community. We will bless and release her. Then we will formally welcome Kiran Frank (they/them), our new Convener. And share sacred snacks. This event will be held at University Congregational in the lounge. No RSVP required. Just join us to celebrate and welcome!

## Seabeck Forum

**January 7, 11:30-1:00 in Ostrander Hall**

The Seabeck Committee is proposing some changes to how we do all church summer camp in 2024. Its Action Team is charged with communicating these proposed changes and giving you a chance to think about them and give us feedback.

Please come to this conversation about what those changes could be, and provide your essential feedback.

## Gathering Ground—Community Gathering

**Saturday, January 20, 11:00am-12:30pm**

Gathering Ground provides community for people of many beliefs – on many journeys – to share and forge meaning. Our shared identity is earth-centered and DIY making of meaning and fun. For the rainy winter season we will be gathering in the homes of community members rather than outdoors. Join us for a light community potluck, conversation, and reflection. If you'd like, bring finger food to share. RSVP to [gatheringground.seattle@gmail.com](mailto:gatheringground.seattle@gmail.com) to receive the address.





*Calling & Engagement*

## **Monthly Senior (Sack) Lunches restarting**

**Monday, January 22nd noon-1:30pm in the Turner Lounge**

We are excited to start up Senior Lunches again with a new twist. All you seniors, 55+ or those who identify as seniors, or who can't wait until they are a senior—come join other seniors in the UCUC community the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month. Please note the first one will be on January 22nd. Bring a lunch for yourself. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. Folks will gather around tables to eat, talk, and connect. Pastor Michael and others will provide discussion topics. Any questions can be directed to Carol Coleman [parishcaresupport@universityucc.org](mailto:parishcaresupport@universityucc.org) Check out your weekly email in January for more information.

## **AWE (All Women Extraordinary) Dinner**

**Monday January 22, 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!

## **Pacific NW Men's Retreat**

**February 2-4, 2024 at Pilgrim Firs, Silent retreat February 1**

All men are invited to the Pacific NW Conference Men's retreat next month. Our speaker will be Dan Stern. Dan is a former pastor and currently an ordained spiritual director. He will be leading discussions on what it means to be a man from a multi-generational perspective. Dan has conducted video interviews of at least 3 men which will be viewed and used to stimulate discussion.

Look for the registration link in the weekly email. Or contact Michael Phipps 206-817-5640 or email [phipps8@gmail.com](mailto:phipps8@gmail.com).

## **Indigenous Perspectives Book Club grows from Seabeck Book Club**

**First and third Monday evenings of the month, 7-8 pm on zoom**

A new name, Indigenous Perspectives Book Club has been chosen to reflect our decision to focus on books pertaining to Indigenous Peoples and their perspectives. We will continue to meet on the Jessie McAbee will be our facilitator and Gay Zwisler will handle communications.

Our first meeting will be Feb. 5th and we will begin with a new book, "Jesintel: Living Wisdom from Coast Salish Elders" (2023) edited by Darrell Hillaire and Natasha Frey and published by Children of the Setting Sun Productions.

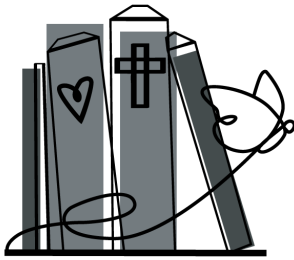
We look forward to exploring the wealth of literature available now, both non-fiction and fiction, by Indigenous authors. Please come join us! For more information contact Gay at [tgzwis@yahoo.com](mailto:tgzwis@yahoo.com).

Seabeck Book Club will continue as a part of Seabeck All Church Summer Camp and will select books relative to the year's program presenter.



*Racial Justice*

# News for Children, Youth and Families



Christian Formation

## 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>

## Parents Day Out

**January 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm**

Need a day out without the kids? Wish you could hang out at home without being interrupted? Come drop your kids off at Parent's Day Out at University Congregational UCC. Kids (Infant – 5th grade) will play games, do crafts and enjoy yummy food!

Tell your friends, everyone is invited to participate! \$5 suggested donation per child to cover craft and food costs. Register here: <https://bit.ly/PDO24>; Questions? contact Carolyn Johnson Davis, Children's Ministry Coordinator [cjdavis@universityucc.org](mailto:cjdavis@universityucc.org)

## Youth Ministry News

### Youth Group Schedule:

*Youth group on break until January 7.*

Youth Group is for youth in grades 6-12. We gather in the Pilgrimage Room (downstairs) from 9-10am. We are so grateful to Linnea Coleman, Hillary De La Cruz, Livio De La Cruz, Trent Siegel & Paige Siegel for offering their leadership.

## 2024 Retreats

**February 9-11, UCC Mid-Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Firs** – This is a retreat for youth from the broader Pacific Northwest Conference. It's a special time to gather as a group and to see that there are other youth attending other UCC churches in the area.

**April 19-21, Youth Retreat at Pilgrim Firs** – This is a retreat for youth from our own church. I am still deciding whether this will just be for high school or all youth.

### Contact info for all Children, Youth and Family Ministries:

Margaret Irribarra Swanson, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries  
[mwsanson@universityucc.org](mailto:mwsanson@universityucc.org)

Carolyn Johnson Davis, Children's Ministry Coordinator, [cjdavis@universityucc.org](mailto:cjdavis@universityucc.org)  
Paige Siegel, Youth Ministry Intern, [youthministry@universityucc.org](mailto:youthministry@universityucc.org)

## Announcements

### 2024 Seabeck Speaker

The Seabeck Committee is excited to share that Dr. Amy Oden has agreed to be our speaker for the 2024 All Church Camp at Seabeck Conference Center. Her time with us will focus on different spiritual practices, including practices for justice seeking lives, ancient practices for contemporary life, and plenty of time to try out the practices she will introduce.

After several years of developing our outward expressions of faith, both the adult ed and the Seabeck committees wanted this summer to engage our inward journey. As we recognize that life is beyond a binary, there will be practical and outward expressions even as we lean into our spirituality and spiritual practices.

Dr. Oden was with us back in the spring as she led our African Roots of Christianity class, with support from the Calvin Institute grant. If you would like to find out more about her, you can go to her website at <https://www.amyoden.com>.

## Parish Care Needs in our UCUC Community

### Meals for people in need

One of the ministries the Parish Care Committee coordinates is finding people who would like to help provide a meal for someone or a family who may be experiencing a trial of the spirit or time of joy as we say in our covenant together. This is one way to give a little extra care and support.

If you are interested in being on our list to help with a meal from time to time, make one for the freezer, deliver a meal to those in need, or have questions about contributing soup, a casserole, or can provide containers to freeze food in please contact Star Leonard-Fleckman [starleonardfleckman@gmail.com](mailto:starleonardfleckman@gmail.com) or Erin Johnson [ejohnsonslp@comcast.net](mailto:ejohnsonslp@comcast.net)

### Drivers needed

At times we have members & friends in our church community who need rides on Sunday mornings to church. Please consider if this is something you could help with whether once in a while or on a regular basis. Contact Carol Coleman, Parish Care Assistant, at [parishcaresupport@universityucc.org](mailto:parishcaresupport@universityucc.org) or call 206-524-2322 ext 3311. Currently we are in need of drivers in the North Seattle area NE 130<sup>th</sup> St

### Christmas Families and Offering of Gifts—thank you!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who sponsored **Christmas Families** this year and/or contributed to Offering of Gifts! Together we bought gifts and grocery gift cards for 95 children through the Lake City Holiday Project and Friends of Youth! Additional funds were used to purchase gift cards for individuals and families in our community who are in need of an extra boost this holiday season. Gratitude to Sarah Puckett, Miranda Meyer, Star Leonard-Fleckman, Erin & Dan Johnson, Lisa & Jeff Coleman, and Sharon D'Amico for their help with sign-ups, gift organization, and delivery!

For **Offering of Gifts**, we contributed more than \$3,300 in gift cards to our nine partner agencies, as well as a generous outpouring of physical gifts. Thank you to Dennis O'Brien and David Ovens for sorting gifts and getting them to our agencies. We are grateful to everyone who contributed physical gifts, gift cards, as well as monetary donations! The generosity of our UCUC family continues to have a positive impact on Seattle. What a privilege it is to share our time, talent, and treasure.

~Sarah Marshall & Susan Ovens

### Action step for Land Acknowledgement—January

As part of our land acknowledgment, we strive to nurture our relationships with indigenous people. It is often difficult to know how to do this!

The Friends Peace Teams has a program called Toward Right Relationship focused on just that. In January and February, they will be offering the interactive Zoom workshop called **“Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relation-**



*Calling & Engagement*



*Love and Justice*



*Racial Justice*



*ship with Native Peoples.”* Also in January and February there is a 4-part webinar series offered by Nia To Go There (Cree) on **Returning to the Land**. These opportunities and many resources can be found on the website (<https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr/>). Pay attention to the start times as they are listed for different time zones.

*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.

## Special Offering for January—Riverton Park UMC

### Who Gave the Holy Family Refuge in Egypt? Who Gives Refuge Today?

*Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt...(Matthew 3, 13-15)*

We’ve often heard this closing of the Bethlehem story, but our focus is on the amazing birth, not this fright-induced departure and relocation. We must now wonder: Who helped the little family fleeing danger? Who welcomed these Jewish strangers in Egypt? Who sheltered and fed them? “Showed them the ropes”? Taught them the local lingo? Helped Joseph find a job? Helped young first time mother, Mary, care for her infant? We just don’t know.

But in our time, we know WE are called to welcome families who, like the Holy Family, have fled from danger and desperate situations in distant lands. In nearby Tukwila, over 500 asylum seekers, mostly families from Angola, Congo, and Venezuela, have found safe haven at the **Riverton Park United Methodist Church** led by Pastor Jan Bolerjack. Her tiny congregation is smaller than one fourth the size of our UCUCS choir. They are rich in spirit and hospitality, but they need our help.

Until recently, the families have been living in tents on the church grounds and receiving meals in the fellowship hall. Winter rain & cold have now caused many to crowd into the fellowship hall to sleep at night. With some recent funding from the County and State patched together, a few rooms have now been found in south end motels. But this temporary housing, plus swollen utility and grocery bills come at considerable cost, and emergency funds for the new 2024 year are, as yet, uncommitted. The families’ needs must be met for blankets, clothing, school supplies, and medical care. We can help with our January Special Offering.

*Please send checks to University Congregational UCC, 4515 16th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105 and designate the name (Riverton Park Refuge) of the Special Offering in the memo. To make a secure online gift, please go to the church’s donation page, choose “Monthly Special Offering” in the dropdown menu and contribute directly, or mail a check to the church office, specifying that the donation goes to the Special Offering for January. If you give online, please consider using a bank account with our secure online website (instead of a credit card), to reduce the fees our church has to pay. Our bookkeeper can set it up for you!*



*Love and Justice*



*Calling & Engagement*

## Mix-Sups Are coming!

Just like last year, we are cautiously returning to the tradition of sharing food together in one another's homes. Participants will be "mixed up" into small groups to spend an evening together in February and again in March (dates are determined by the group). A second round of mixing will provide another pair of gatherings in April and May. If there is sufficient interest, we would be happy to offer an option for some gatherings at UCUC in a well-ventilated space, with or without food. Look for the sign up link in the weekly email!

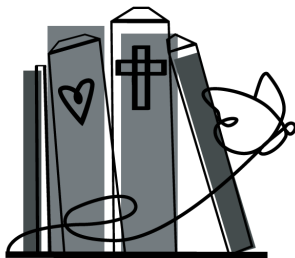
For those of you who have not participated before, Mix-Sups are a "pot-luck" opportunity to share an evening of food and conversation. One person or couple in the group will host and others bring a part of the meal. You will make new connections, as well as strengthen connections with folks you might already know. The goal for these gatherings is to provide an opportunity for conversation that goes deeper than might happen at coffee hour!

If you are interested in helping to shape these gatherings, please contact Carol Coleman or Mary Sue Galvin ([marysue.galvin@gmail.com](mailto:marysue.galvin@gmail.com) or 206-718-1494).

## Stop by the Scheyer Library before or after church

If you are cleaning house in the new year, keep an eye out for books you may have checked out from the church library. They are probably the only books around with a pocket in them! Many books were checked out before March 2020 and not returned. It would be a big help to us if you could return books before we have to call you or send you an email. Thanks for your help!

When you return your books, check out our many displays and new books. Hope to see you in the library in 2024!



*Christian Formation*

## The Vinery—an update

For over a year, UCUC has been engaged in a learning cohort called the Vinery (<https://www.thevinery.org>). The mission of the Vinery is Awakening faith and flourishing at the intersection of church and university.

Later this month members of our vinery lead team - Sarah Marshall, Julia Mauro, and Pastor Steve Jerbi - will travel to Fort Worth, TX near the campus of Texas Christian University to prepare us for our second and final year in the Vinery.

As we continue to learn about our own university community and connections, we've created a survey. The survey is open to all, but we are especially interested in folks from what the Vinery calls the 5 constituencies of a university: students, faculty (active & retired), staff, admin, and alum. Here is the link to our survey: <https://forms.gle/zZ8NFcPiDquGiHEK7>

## Plans are alive for another Superfluity Sale! Mark your calendars—April 26-28, 2024!

There is something for everyone in this effort and we welcome your participation however you choose.

Are you a donor? Winter is a great time to go through your closets and clean out things you really don't want or need any longer. Give them a new life through our annual recycling and re-use extravaganza, otherwise known as Superfluity! Your gently used items will be put to good use by someone else, your home will have less "stuff", and the proceeds from the sale help to extend our work for love and justice a little further. Kids can get involved by sorting through toys and sports equipment. Donations will be accepted starting in February. Read more about what to donate



*Intergenerational*



*Love and Justice*



below.

Are you a worker? This sale is an opportunity to make friendships and deepen connections at UCUC. We have fun gathering in small groups, sorting through donations weekly (starting in February) and “curating” for each department. Helping at the sale itself is great fun too!

We also need people to spread the word about the sale by posting on neighborhood groups, social media and more.

Are you a buyer? Save the date and help us spread the word. Early in 2024 we will have posters and postcards and social media posts that you can help to distribute.

Suggested donations: · Gently used books Children’s clothes and toys · Puzzles and games · Linens, towels and craft items and home décor · Housewares, kitchen items, utensils and glassware · Small appliances · Lamps, tools and electronics · Jewelry, belts, scarves, hats, wallets and purses.

Please don’t bring in stained, chipped, cracked, or broken things! Also, please no cookbooks or adult clothing.

Questions? Superfluity@universityucc.org or call Mary Sue Galvin at 206-718-1494.

## **Mwanzo—helping one life at a time**

Mwanzo was started in response to the needs of widows and orphans, but has been extending a helping hand to other less fortunate members of the Rabuor community.

Linnet’s parents have little formal education and struggle to obtain enough food for their seven children. The children are enrolled in a rundown public school with very limited resources, and spend most of their time at home due to the lack of bare minimum fees.

Linnet was forced to drop out of school in grade 7 in 2021. During Loyce’s visit in December 2022, she found Linnet and her mother Jackline weeding at a farm near the MWCEA school. Loyce inquired why Linnet was not in school. Jackline explained that although she really wanted her daughter to be in school like the other kids, she couldn’t pay the school levies due to the extreme poverty of her family. Loyce directed her to bring Linnet to the Mwanzo Educational Center the next day. Jackline and Linnet arrived early the next morning, but they knew they couldn’t afford Mwanzo, and Linnet had low grades due to the irregularity of her attendance and little time to study. Loyce and the head teacher interviewed Linnet and decided to enroll her.

Linnet surprised everybody by working diligently and improving her marks on the National exam from 182 at her previous school to 287. She was accepted at Rae Girls School, a very good county high school. When all the parents came to express their gratitude at Mwanzo, Jackline broke down in bitter sobs with tears rolling down her face. They did not have the money to afford high school, nor any idea how to support Linnet.

Because of the scholarship program, Mwanzo staff were able to pay for fees and supplies, and support Linnet as she got settled in high school. When Loyce came back in 2023 and called a meeting of high school students and their parents/guardians, it was powerful to see Linnet and her mother cry tears of gratitude and pride.

Indeed, Mwanzo is a Home of Hope for all the community members.



*Love and Justice*



*Love and Justice*

## Inviting you into the work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.*

~Howard Thurman

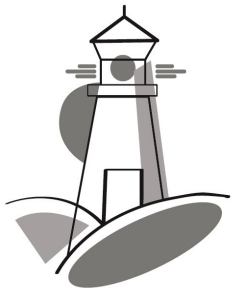
We have the opportunity to begin "the work of Christmas" in January by urging policy changes in Washington State that advance Kingdom values of belonging, justice, equity, hospitality and compassion!

Join the Faith Action Network in person on Interfaith Advocacy Day on **Thursday, Feb. 8, 9-3**. Register at: <https://fanwa.org/interfaith-advocacy-day/> now and we can plan a carpool. You can also sign up to receive action alerts from FAN every week on our central issues of promoting economic and environmental justice, housing and health care for all, food security, police accountability and civil rights. Many actions are short and powerful remote sign-ins yes or no to committee hearings. And look for the Peace & Justice Advocates table in the narthex for opportunities to sign petitions, postcards and emails during this 60-day session.

Some of the exciting bills and budget asks that may become law include:

- **Rent stabilization** at 5%/year--Due to dramatically rising rents, over 136,000 of Washington's households had to move in the first 6 months of 2023.
- **Senior Nutrition Programs** to Promote Health and Stability would invest \$15.2m/year to help low-income seniors and people with disabilities access healthy meal programs.
- **WA Recycling and Packaging Act (WRAP)** would create incentives for packaging manufacturers to invest in more sustainable packaging.
- **Clean School Buses** would further fund the transition of WA's 10,000+ diesel school buses to electricity, helping both climate change and children's health.
- **Support for People Seeking Asylum**, primarily for housing and legal services.
- **Solitary Confinement Reform** would restrict the use of solitary confinement in state correctional facilities and long-term private detention facilities.
- **Attorney General Investigations and Reforms** would empower the Attorney General's office to take action on systemic civil rights violations at law enforcement agencies.
- Increasing availability of **youth mental health services** and wrap-around support.
- **Washington Gift Card Accountability Act** would apply the value of major corporate retail gift cards which are unused after three years, to the State General Fund instead of the corporations. Protections enable customers to recover the value of gift cards, which never expire in WA.

For more information, check out the Faith Action Network website at: [www.fanwa.org](http://www.fanwa.org)



Stewardship

## Upgrading our phone system

At long last, UCUCC is upgrading our phone system in January!

All of the same phone numbers will be in place, but there will be an improved staff directory where you'll type in the first few letters of the staff member's name, or by extension. We will also have a new message system that we hope will improve our ability to share information about church hours and upcoming events.

## 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:

Monday and Tuesday, Dec 25 & 26, Christmas Holiday

Monday, January 1, New Year's Day Holiday

Monday, Jan 15, Martin Luther King jr. Day

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.

**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

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Facebook: @UCUCCSeattle

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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/](http://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](mailto:Churchandhome@universityucc.org).

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## Worship Series

**Dec 31—Generations**—An exploration of how we experience the sacred in different ways in different seasons of our lives.

**January—Penumbra:** God Revealed in the Shadows

**December 31**—Christmastide

Sermon: *Generations—Elders*

Preacher: Rev. Steve Jerbi

Scripture: Luke 2:25-35

**Sunday, Jan 14**—The Baptism of Jesus

*Luminous Love and Revelation*

Preacher: Rev. Steve Jerbi

Mark 1:4-11

**Sunday, Jan 28**

*The Shadow's Gift: Unveiling Hidden Potential*

Preacher: Rev. Michael Ellick

Psalm 19

**Sunday, Jan 7**—The Epiphany of Jesus (transferred)

*Penumbra: Gospel from the Edges*

Preacher: Rev. Michael Ellick

Matthew 2:1-12

**Sunday, Jan 21**

*Embracing the Shadow: Unmasking Our Hidden Depths*

Preacher: Rev. Amy Roon

Psalm 51

### 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.