The Visitor

University Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Monthly Newsletter
June 2017

"God's Spirit Unleashed." I don't know about you, but I can't wait for Rev. Dr. Adam Harmon to lead an Adult Forum with that theme on June 4th! There is so much that God is up to in our community, our neighborhood, and our world. What would it look like for God's Spirit, bent on love and justice, to be truly unleashed in and amongst us?

As a mom, I've been asking this question in new ways lately. I want to see God's Spirit unleashed in a way that is contagious and inspires children to dream and act toward a loving and just future fueled by God's Spirit. Some time ago, a conference on Climate Change and Faith was housed in our building. There was a special track for children. It wasn't childcare; it was child education, child inspiration, child empowerment. As I think about unleashing God's Spirit I think about a bright future.

A few weeks ago the Children and Youth Mission Team was blessed with the opportunity to share Worship and Wonder (or Godly Play) with the community at University Christian during Adult Forum. This is a Montessori-inspired, story-telling, imaginative program for children in church. First the children and I welcomed each person by name to our space and time together. Then we shared the story of the Good Shepherd and wondered about Communion and how all people are welcomed at Jesus' table. We then walked down to the new Worship and Wonder room, 226 to bless the space and bless our children. I think we all experienced education, inspiration, and empowerment that morning.

On Pentecost, we'll get another brief taste of this exciting program. We will begin with the Worship and Wonder Pentecost story. Then Adam will lead us in learning about Pentecost and wondering what it means for us in 2017. Then for Theology Pub and Cafe this month, we'll be asking: "What/Who is the Holy Spirit? And what is She up to in 2017?" I hope not just for our children but for all of us that this Pentecost is a time that is educational, inspirational, empowering, and unleashes us along with God's Spirit to pursue love and justice!

-Rev. Rebecca Sumner
Coordinator of Outreach & Community Development

11AM WORSHIP

June 4
GOD'S SPIRIT UNLEASHED
John 7:37-39
Acts 2:1-21
Rev. Adam Harmon

June 11
GO!
2 Cor. 13:11-20
Matthew 28:16-20
Rev. Adam Harmon

June 18
COMPASSION
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Matt. 9:35-10:8, 9-23
Rev. Adam Harmon

June 25
I MUST CRY OUT!
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Jeremiah 20:7-13
Rev. Adam Harmon

WAITING FOR APRIL AND MARCH

ARTIST RECEPTION WITH JENNIFER TOWNER
Sunday, June 24th
during Coffee Hour

WORSHIP UPDATES

Pentecost Sunday, June 4th, will be the last Sunday the choir will be with us before summer vacation. We will be honoring the musicians with a cake at the coffee hour after the service that day. During the summer months we will have a guest soloist who will also provide vocal support for the congregation during the service. The choir will return after labor Day, Sunday September 10th.

-Nancy Irvin for Worship Mission Team

EVENTS AT UCC

June 4
Elders Meeting //12:30pm

June 10
Blessing of the Bikes BBQ//11:00am

June 13
Pub Theology //6-8pm

June 14
Worship Meeting //11am
Facilities Meeting //4pm

June 20
Service & Justice Mtg //10:30am

June 22
Café Theology //9:30am

June 24
Marjorie Thomas Memorial

June 25
Jennifer Towner Art Show //12pm

June 26
Council Meeting //7pm

June 28
July Newsletter Submission Deadline
Facilities Meeting //4pm

SUMMER CAMP

It's that time again!
Contact the office for special scholarship opportunities and registration forms!

BIKE BLESSING AND COMMUNITY BBQ

Summer is upon us - finally! The sun is peaking out a little more. Every once in a while, you can smell neighbors having a cook out in the yard. Neighbors are taking longer walks outside and those of us who are occasional bike riders and dusting them off and getting ready for a fun season of warmth and play!

University Christian is excited to participate in the welcoming and blessing of summer! Join us June 10th from 11am-3pm for a BBQ and blessing of the bikes. Bring your bike for a blessing or just bring yourself and maybe your neighbors for some good food and good community! There will be burgers and veggie burgers, buns and vegan buns, and more! We will also have special gifts for our neighbors on bikes.

We really do need help making this happen! If you would like to volunteer to help, to be a hospitable presence for our neighbors, or to bring food, you can sign up in the office or email me at Rebecca@UChristian.org

Hope to see you there and hope you are enjoying the warmth finally rolling in!

Warm Regards,
Rebecca Sumner
Coordinator of Outreach & Community Development

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION

On May 7th the Adult Education Mission Group met with the Children's Education Group. It was a Forum based on the WORSHIP AND WONDER study which has been adopted by University Christian Church. First there was a video presentation about it. Then Debbie Shuman acted as teacher and sat in front of our children who were seated in hula hoops to define their individual spaces. We sat in chairs around them. This curriculum is adapted from GODLY PLAY which is based on Montessori principles, and involves the handling of tiny figures representing scriptural passages and parables. Then we went to see rooms 225 and 226 which now house the Children's programs. We ended with blessings for the children, the program and the spaces. Thanks go to several people who made all of this possible -- Peggy Johnson, Chair, with Nancy Irvin, Debbie Shuman, Pat Stockdale on the committee;. Yolanda Jackson, the children who were participants and who did much of the "toting"; Rebecca Sumner who did much of the design work and furnishings; Luke Sumner, Debbie Shuman and Lanny Shuman who also worked on the rooms; and Pablo, who did the cleaning and painting.

Many Thanks to Dr. David Harrison, psychiatrist and professor at the University of Washington Medical School and hospital, for his presentation on May 14th on DEMENTIA -- ETIOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT -- AND ITS IMPACT ON THE PATIENT AND FAMILY. He stressed the importance of care for those who have the task of caring. He gave us tips on how to communicate with a person who has cognitive impairment. He distributed a paper for testing memory impairments.

Note: We have copies about WORSHIP AND WONDER in the church office as well as a copy of the power points used by Dr. Harrison.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

May 28: GOING THE SECOND MILE -- A WIDER CONCEPT OF STEWARDSHIP, led by Rev. James Halfacre. He will discuss the art of giving, how we decide what we give, and how we give. This is Stewardship Sunday.

June 4: GOD'S SPIRIT UNLEASHED, led by Pastor Adam Harmon. This is Pentecost Sunday and the last of the Sunday Forums until September. Pentecost is not a time of completion. It is a movement forward despite difficult times -- moving forward into new dimensions of being, whose basic form is clear, and whose fulfillment has yet to be realized. As we celebrate this Day of Pentecost we will be looking at the story of Pentecost and how it relates to our current time.

UPDATE ON U CHRISTIAN IMMIGRANT RAPID RESPONSE PROJECT

With the blessing of our church council, we are continuing to prepare for offering short term shelter or sanctuary to un-documented immigrants or their families in conjunction with other U District churches and the Church Council of Greater Seattle. Hopefully, some of you heard the recent Adult Forum presentation by Michael Ramos, Executive Director of the Church Council, explaining more about the Sanctuary and Rapid Response movement to help our very vulnerable neighbors. One member of our team also attended a workshop on how to be a good ally to undocumented students and faculty at the UW, at which their personal stories were shared.

With money allotted from the CHUCC Funds, we are proceeding with getting estimates and remodeling one of our downstairs bathrooms to put in a shower for anyone our congregation may wish to "house" temporarily or long term in the future. With help from University Congregational Church, who just voted to become a "Sanctuary" church and to support us, we will be refurbishing and furnishing at least one area in our church building to provide shelter, starting with the "upper room" between the basement and the main floor. We will keep you posted on any "work" parties! We hope to offer a workshop and/or an educational session in June for the congregation to understand more about the reality of life for undocumented immigrants and some of the practical and legal issues involved in helping them. Thank you so much for your support of this worthy project!!

-Your Service and Justice Mission Team and Rapid Response Task Group

HOLY RESISTANCE

SEATTLE PRIDE 2017

INTERFAITH CELEBRATION SERVICE

Saturday, June 24th 2:00pm
All Pilgrims Christian Church
500 Broadway East, Seattle, 98102

Every year during LGBTQ+ Pride, people of many different faiths come together to celebrate diversity. This year, there will be speakers from Christian, Jewish, Sufi, Buddhist, New Thought, and Pagan traditions. The Celebration will also be blessed by the SpiritVision Mass Choir! You are welcome to the Seattle Pride Interfaith Celebration just as you are! FREE Admission. For more information call 206-325-2421

PLEDGE CARDS AND 2017 BUDGET WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN JUNE

STEWARDSHIP 2017

In our world today there are so many places that are competing for our time and our resources. At University Christian Church we as so very thankful that you see value in our ministry that you are willing to give of your resources to support our life changing work as a faith community. In the next month you will be receiving your pledge card for this coming budget year. Please prayerfully consider how you contribute to the ministry of University Christian Church.

University Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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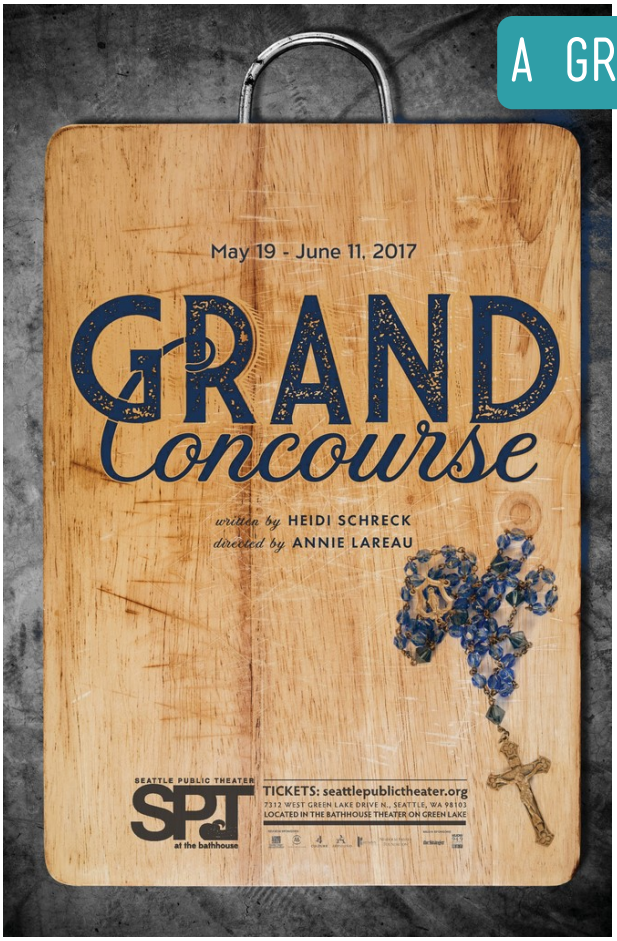
JOHN 17: 20-21a

JULY 8 - 12, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

One of the many reasons Disciples attend the General Assembly is to perform the worshipful work of the Church through business sessions. The General Assembly is the general representative body of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and receives and acts upon proposed policy and program, reports and resolutions, and other items of business presented during business sessions.



A GREAT DEAL AND A GREAT SHOW!

Seattle Pubic Theater, one of the non-profits in our building, would like to extend a special invitation to their current show, "Grand Concourse". SPT has created a special discount code for our U.Christian community. Simply go to seattlepublictheater.org and use the promo code, **FAITH** when purchasing tickets!

GRAND CONCOURSE, by Heidi Schreck, directed by Annie Lareau, May 18 – June 11, 2017
Having dedicated her life to religious service, Shelley runs a Bronx soup kitchen where even the staff is needy, but lately her heart's not quite in it. When Emma – an idealistic but confused college dropout – arrives to volunteer, her reckless mix of generosity and self-involvement pushes Shelley to the breaking point. With keen humor and startling compassion, Shelley and her motley group navigate the mystery of faith, the limits of forgiveness, and how to find a little peace.

Many Thanks!

Thank you so much for your generous gift of $300 to Gwinwood Camp & Conference Center! We'll be using your gift to purchase new rugs and floor mats to keep the floors in the cabins much cleaner! Feel Free to come out and have a look!
-Thank you,
Kate & the
Gwinwood Staff

Your support gives us the hope and encouragement of springtime as we advocate and organize around Washington's legislative session and through the realties of a new administration. Thank you so much for this generous gift and your faithful commitment to justice!
-Elise DeGooyer & Rev. Paul Benz
Co-Directors of
FAITH ACTION NETWORK

Your generosity helps us continue our mission of providing a welcoming and respectful refuge where homeless and at-risk women have access to compassionate care. Your ongoing support means the world to us!
-Ruth Herold,
Executive Director of
ELIZABETH GREGORY HOME

206-522-0169
www.uchristian.org
@univchirstianchurch
@University Christian Church