

The Visitor



University
Christian
Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Monthly Newsletter
May 2017

WE ARE TRYING SOMETHING DIFFERENT ON SUNDAY, MAY 21ST

The weekend of May 21st is the University District Street Fair. It is also the biggest fundraiser time for UHeights, who sells parking for the Street Fair. As many of you know we have been using UHeights parking for Sunday's while our parking lot is being constructed. Because of this, parking will be a challenge during that weekend. After talking with people and the Council we have decided to make this into an opportunity for our worshiping congregation.

Instead of worshiping at University Christian Church on May 21st. We would like to encourage you to go and try another church. Maybe you would like to see how another church in the UDistrict does things or maybe you would like to check out another Disciples congregation in the area? This is an opportunity for us to experience other churches and to reflect on our experiences. Thanks to Rebecca Sumner who assembled a list of churches you might want to visit on May 21st. This is not an exhaustive list; these are just suggestions. We will also have a lunch discussion following worship on June 11th to talk about our experiences.

On the next page you will find a list of possible church options and some questions to consider while you visit. Thank you all for your understanding during this busy weekend. I really do feel that this is an opportunity to worship with others and to have a new experience.

-Blessings, Adam Harmon and Rebecca Sumner

WE ARE TRYING SOMETHING DIFFERENT ON SUNDAY, MAY 21ST

CHURCHES YOU MIGHT VISIT:

University District Churches:

University Congregational Church:

10am, 4515 16th Ave NE, Seattle, 98105

University Lutheran Church:

9:30am, 1604 NE 50th St, Seattle, 98105

University Temple United Methodist Church:

10:30am, 1415 NE 43rd St Seattle, , 98105

Christ Church Episcopal:

10am, 4548 Brooklyn Ave NE, Seattle, 98105

Area Disciples of Christ Churches:

All Pilgrims Christian Church:

10:30am, 500 Broadway E, Seattle, 98102

Lake City Christian Church:

11am, 1933 NE 125th St, Seattle, 98125

Welcome Table Christian Church:

10:30am, 1322 S Bayview St, Seattle 98144

Queen Anne Christian Church:

10am, 1316 3rd Ave W, Seattle, 98119

Northwest Christian Church:

10:30am, 7503 18th Ave NW, Seattle, 98117

Kent First Christian Church:

10am, 11717 SE 240th St, Kent, 98030

Lake Washington Christian Church:

10am, 343 15th Ave, Kirkland, 98033



As you visit other churches, we'd love for you to entertain these five questions to help us wonder about what we might learn from other worshipping communities:

What was your experience of entering the building and preparing for worship? How was it different or similar to University Christian?

Did you feel welcome or like you belonged? If so, what made you feel that way? If not, what made you feel that way?

How did you feel in the sanctuary? Were there parts of the physical environment that aided your worship? Were there parts of the physical environment that hindered your worship? What was the worship experience like?

If you were new to the neighborhood and looking for a church, what about your experience today would make you want to come back or possibly get involved in the life of the church? What about your experience today would make you hesitant to get involved or to come back to the church?

Also, please bring a bulletin back with you - if they have one. We'd love for you to join us for a conversation about our experiences and a simple lunch after church on June 11th at 12:30pm.



COMMUNITY BBQ *(save the date)*

Save the date, **Saturday June 10th**, for a great celebration with our community and the community that surrounds us. We will be hosting an all church barbeque inviting our neighbors and will be providing for a "bike blessing" honoring the contribution of bikers to the environment. The festivities will start around **11:00am and last to 3:00pm**. You are warmly invited to come and bring your friends.

-Carl Johnson, *Evangelism Mission Team*



11AM WORSHIP

May 7
GLAD AND
GENEROUS HEARTS
Psalm 23
Acts 2:43-47
Rev. Adam Harmon

May 14
Rev. Rebecca Sumner

May 21
CHURCH VISIT DAY

May 28
HOW EASY IT IS
TO BURY
Luke 16:10-13
Matthew 25:14-30
Rev. Adam Harmon



EVENTS AT UCC

May 3
Global Mission Meeting //12:30pm
Facilities Meeting //4pm

May 7
Elders Meeting //12:30pm

May 8
Evangelism Meeting //1pm
Personnel Meeting //2pm

May 9
Pub Theology //6-8pm

May 14
Congregational Meeting //12pm

May 16
Service & Justice Mtg //10:30am

May 17
June Newsletter Submission Deadline

May 22
Council Meeting //7pm

May 25
Café Theology //9:30

May 29
Memorial Day//UCC Office Closed

FAITH ACTION NETWORK

A Partnership for the Common Good

As a congregation that is part of the Faith Action Network (FAN), we have a special opportunity to make a contribution to FAN that will be matched dollar for dollar by Rick Steves as part of an initiative to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. If you would like to contribute to a congregational gift to FAN that will be matched, please make your contribution to University Christian Church and designated for FAN, by May 5th.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

We celebrate the following:

- Kyle Roper got a job at Mud Bay in University Village! Way to go Kyle!
- Eugene Kidder reported that his bladder cancer has been removed and he is on the road to recovery.
- Lanny Shuman and Rosemary Blakemore were happy to represent UCC at the Science and Climate Change Marches.
- We all appreciated the Forum presentation by Patricia Dix on Sunday. Very interesting, exciting and helpful to our thinking.
- Report received on Sandy Messick, our Regional Minister, says she is recovering and looking forward to getting back to work.
- Congratulations to Yolanda Jackson as she nears graduation and receives her degree in the study of psychology.
- Sarah and Sam are engaged!! They are planning a summer wedding and will eventually settle in Illinois.

Our prayers are offered for:

- Eugene Collias who is presently in respite care at the Kline-Galland home.
- Peggy Johnson asks for prayers for a friend of her daughter who is in the last stages of cancer.
- We offer prayers of support for Kyle Roper's father who has been diagnosed with colon cancer and at the same time lost his job.

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION



Spring Quarter began on Earth Sunday, April 23rd, with an extremely important presentation by Patricia Allen, *THE SPIRIT OF WATER IS THE SPIRIT OF LIFE*. She described her experience at Standing Rock and talked about how the faith of indigenous peoples focus on water. She talked about the 4 R's of their faith: Relationship, Responsibility (of community rights over individual rights, Reciprocity (bringing something as opposed to taking something away), and Redistribution (Potlatch and the giving of gifts). Spirituality and mental health are connected -- with prayer circles led by Elders.

Thanks go to Meredith and Brent Armstrong for their presentation *POETRY RELATING TO LENT WITH MUSIC*, on March 26th. Meredith read a group of poems and between each, Brent played a Lenten hymn; after which Meredith invited discussion about the poem. Appreciation also goes to Fay Griffith, Eugene Kidder and Jennifer Stockdale for suggesting poems. It was a good Lenten experience. Thanks go to Pastor Adam Harmon for the Forum *FROM LENTEN REPENTANCE TO EASTER JOY*. We watched a video presentation from prominent theologians about the meaning of the death of Jesus. Adam then led a very penetrating discussion dealing with our experiences as we go from the darkness of Lent to the joy of Easter.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

April 30: *IMMIGRATION SANCTUARY* will be led by Michael Ramos, Executive Director for the Church Council of Greater Seattle. He will speak about what is currently happening and lead discussion about possible involvement by University Christian Church.

May 7: *WORSHIP AND WONDER* – the curriculum used for our children at University Christian Church. We will start in the Lounge for an explanation of Worship and Wonder, followed by a visit to the new spaces for Children's Education, and end with prayers of blessing.

May 14: *DEMENTIA -- ETIOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT -- AND ITS IMPACT OF THE PATIENT AND FAMILY*, led by Dr. David Harrison, MD, PhD. David is a psychiatrist and he will help us to understand causes and ways to help the patient as well as to help ourselves in the sadness of it all.

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, when we participate in the act of giving.

PENTECOST OFFERING: NEW CHURCHES CHANGE THE WORLD



On Sunday, June 4th and 11th, we'll be sharing a special offering for Pentecost. Every year the Pentecost offering is shared across North America in Disciples of Christ Churches. The funds collected support new church starts through the region and some through Hope Partnership. In addition to working with you all at University Christian, both Luke and I are church planters up in Everett (visit ourcommontablechurch.org to learn more). We do great work with little resources and stretch every dollar of support we receive to do things like welcome unwelcomed people, ask big theological questions, walk with neighbors experiencing poverty, addiction, and mental (un)health, dream about what the future of church might be, and find ways for individuals

Continued on next page

and families who are disconnected from church to find new ways back. We've seen neighbors come off drugs, get housed, find new faith, take brave stands for justice, and simply settle into a sense of welcome they thought they'd never find. One of our community members recently told us: "I looked for decades for a church where I'd feel welcome and I couldn't find one until you." Another said: "Part of me believes and part of me doesn't. I can bring both parts to Our Common Table."

When you give to the Pentecost offering, you support work like this. You participate in changing the world. Thank you. With a heart brimful of the hope and transformation I've seen because of the support for new churches in the CC(DOC), I need to say it again: Thank you.

-Rev. Rebecca Sumner, *Coordinator of Outreach & Community Development*

THE TRANSITION TEAM HAS BEGUN ITS WORK

The UCC Transition Team was appointed by the church Council following our March 19 Congregational Advisory Vote to possibly sell all or part of our church property. The Transition Team was charged with exploring in practical terms what that might mean for the ongoing life of UCC and its Christian mission. We expect to provide the congregation with an analysis and specific, concrete proposals in the coming months for discussion, refinement, and ultimately authorization.

We are early in our exploration and planning. The Team has been meeting biweekly, most recently, with Jonathan Hartung and David Strauss of SHKS Architects. They had done an analysis of the church's maintenance and repair needs nearly two decades ago and were asked to update that analysis along with a feasibility study of expanding the South Building (our seismically best and newest space, housing the church offices, chapel, and lounge, and church school space downstairs). A consultant from denominational headquarters, an experienced retired builder, spent several days with us in March and will be providing a report. The Team has also met with several consultants with experience in creating church/successor organization collaborations, including a non-profit urban planning group associated with the Bellweather Associates, the builder for the Arbora Court housing project now under construction. An appraiser has been retained to estimate the values of our church properties in the current commercial market. We plan in May to engage in some guided visioning exercises to ensure that future plans for our church are compatible with our Church mission and historical commitments. We are asking the Council to authorize expenditures up to \$50,000 to complete our work, mostly for contracts with professional planners and consultants.

The task ahead of us is daunting but energizing. Progress will require change but also opportunity as our faith guides us into new commitments. The Transition Team will report progress regularly through both regular written updates and more formal presentations. We welcome congregational input as the work progresses.

-Tim Keller



Transition Team Members: Rev. Adam Harmon, Lanny Shuman, Carl Johnson, Tim Keller, Laura Robinson, Marsha Tolon

Bridging the Divide:

Constructive Communication in Difficult Times

Held at Keystone United Church of Christ - 5019 Keystone Place North - Seattle

Wednesday Evening 3-Part Series May 3, 17, & 24

5:30pm: Doors 5:45: Potluck

6:30-8:30pm: Workshop

\$15/evening or \$40/series.

We strongly recommend signing up for the series. Limited financial assistance available.

Pay what you can. Students free.

Childcare 6:30-8:30pm with

registration by May 1st.

Register at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2905829>

or register by phone: 206-632-6021 and pay with check or cash at the door.

For more information call

Keystone UCC: 206-632-6021 or email
lauren.cannon@keystoneatl.org

What to Expect

Learn to confidently engage conflict and have constructive conversations; and specific techniques to assess, initiate and hold difficult conversations.

Who May Attend

People who are feeling stuck, alienated or reactive when talking with loved ones, friends or colleagues who hold different views. People who want to engage constructively with others in respectful dialogue.

Description

This workshop offers a model for building trust in these polarized times, using self-knowledge, purposeful listening, common courtesy and good faith. **Led by Nora Ludviksen and Jim Levy, both certified mediators and conflict engagement specialists**



U CHRISTIAN EXPLORING BEING SANCTUARY CHURCH

At the Council meeting, on April 24, the Church Council affirmed their support to the Service and Justice Mission Team to continue their conversations with other churches in the U District regarding the likelihood of forming a “hub” of churches to offer short term shelter/sanctuary to local immigrants or refugees who may need a time of protection and respite to decide “next steps”. This is in response to significant concerns that our immigrant brothers and sisters continue to suffer as they fear raids, deportation, and seeing their families torn apart and affirming our understanding of God’s call for hospitality for all people.

To quote from the actual resolution approved by the Council: “The UCC Church Council encourages the Service and Justice Mission Team and Rapid Response Task Group to continue exploring the options available in forming a partnership in a University District cluster of congregations as an action response. We understand that congregational participation will likely take the form of providing space or shelter in our church building on a short term basis (few hours to a few months) for immigrants, some of whom may be undocumented; some volunteer and staff assistance, and some material and financial support. We also understand that support in the form of volunteer help, material resources and finances will be expected from other faith communities in the University District, and understand that the Church Council of Greater Seattle will be assisting in the development of this “hub” and coordination of the services. We also understand that training for staff and specified members of the congregation, including legal information, will be provided.”

We recommend that you attend our Adult Forum with Michael Ramos, Executive Director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, on **Sunday, April 30** to learn more about what it would mean for us to provide short term Sanctuary to those that need it. Thank you for your support as we “seek to witness to the love of God revealed in Christ” (from UCC’s Covenant).

-Your Service and Justice Mission Team

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH NOMINATIONS 2017

(New nominees are in white.)

Officers of the Congregation

(Elected for 1-year term + 1 more year, if desired):

Moderator = Laura Robinson

Vice Moderator = Tim Keller

Treasurer = Carl Johnson

Secretary/Communicator = Shirley Towner

Mission Team Facilitators

(No specific term limits):

Worship (Nancy Irvin), Adult Education (Pat Stockdale), Service & Justice (Rosemary Blakemore), Child/Youth Education (Peggy Johnson), Facilities (Lanny Shuman) will continue for another year.

Evangelism and Fellowship will be absorbed into and become a part of all other teams.

Elders (Elected for 3-year terms, staggered):

Term Ending 2018 = Tom McCormick, Rosemary Blakemore, Shirley Towner, Barbara McHargue

Term Ending 2019 = Carl Johnson, Lanny Shuman, Marsha Tolon, Mojuana Tolon, Barbara/Eugene Kidder

Term Ending 2020 = Ed Hausken, Fay Griffin

Endowment Committee

(Elected for 3-year terms, staggered):

Term Ending 2018 = Lanny Shuman

Term Ending 2019 = Tom McCormick,
Tom Stephenson

Term Ending 2020 = Millie Magner,
Marilyn Watkins

Nominating Committee

(Elected for 2-year terms, staggered):

Term Ending 2018 = Tiffany Harmon,
Peggy Johnson

Term Ending 2019 = Lynne Armstrong,
Rosemary Blakemore

Assembly Delegates

(Elected annually, regional in even years, national in odd years):

2017 National = Marilyn Watkins, Adam Harmon,
Marsha Tolon

Note there will be a short congregational meeting for final approval after the 11:00 am service on **May 14th.**

Dear University Christian Church,
On behalf of the board, staff, volunteers, and young people of ROOTS Young Adult Shelter, thank you for your generous gift of \$300 received on March 27th, 2017. Your donation is an investment in ROOTS' commitment to providing a safe place for homeless young adults to sleep and to create change in their lives. It's also the way that you show your confidence in our work. We are deeply appreciative of your continued support, and promise to show you what we can do together!...

Sincerely,

Amy Hanson,

Program Assistant

ROOTS Young Adult Shelter



Dear University
Christian Church,

Thank you for your generous gift to Seattle University. Your gift will support and education rooted in excellence, values and a sense of purpose. Seattle University graduates are known for making a meaningful and measurable difference in the region and the world. As a donor, you can be assured that your investment will support the formation of our students. We are honored by your commitment to Seattle University. Together we are forming leaders for a just and humane world.

Thank you,
Michael Podlin,
Vice President for
University Advancement,
Seattle University



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