

# *The Visitor*

Monthly Newsletter

October 2017

## Together as Community

As a person of faith, the most important thing for me is how I live into my faith, how I act upon those things I believe, and how my faith calls me to act in the world. Recently the news seems too much to handle. Natural disasters are ravaging our world while people still insist on arguing against the effects of climate change. Our government officials continue to argue with each other while at the same time pushing for a healthcare option that seems to do the exact opposite of provide healthcare. And on top of all of this, our President seems to be on the verge of inviting war with North Korea while the country becomes preoccupied with NFL players' protest of our country's injustice and racial bias. It's almost too much to handle.

And while everything happens around us, we as a church had an inconclusive vote on the future of our building on September 10th. Some people left upset, others relieved that at least for now there was not a decision, and others still with questions and uncertainty. Ever since that day, I have seen more stress and strain among members of this congregation. This is not the time to be at odds with one another. Although our future, and the future of our building are important, they are not as important as our faith community and its faithful responses to the world around us. We are more than our building, and we are more than the vote that happened on September 10th.

We are people of the Table, and in October we celebrate World Communion Sunday. This Table that is such a part of who we are represents a community that extends beyond these walls; a community that comes together from a diversity of backgrounds and opinions; a community that comes together and is reminded of the relationship it shares with the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. This same meal that we celebrate each Sunday reminds us of a time when the disciples did not know what Jesus meant when he told them that he was not going to be with them; a time when the disciples wondered who would betray their leader; and more importantly what does it look like to live as a community without Jesus.



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It is at this Table each week that we are reminded of all the meaning that is packed into this powerful symbol. A symbol of community, relationship, grace and healing. As we know, the disciples community did not stop with that table, rather it moved forward into the new thing that God was doing with them in the world. We too must be reminded of the new thing that God is doing in our midst, as we strive to live as a faith community. Our world needs a church that can live into its faith by being a relevant change agent in the world. A church that is part of “a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.” This is a future worth getting excited about!

*“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19*

Shalom,  
Rev. Dr. Adam Harmon

## SEPTEMBER 10 VOTE: MINUTE BY MINUTE

- ✠ Moderator, Laura Robinson, calls the meeting to order with 38 members in attendance.
- ✠ Laura gives review of the purpose of this meeting: to vote on the disposition of the church building.
- ✠ The Transition Team has provided much information on this topic.
- ✠ Laura explains: according to our By-Laws, a quorum, the minimum fraction of members of the congregation that must be present at any meeting to validate the proceedings, must be met in order to vote on changes to property. Quorum is met with more than 20 persons out of our official member census of 97, present today.
- ✠ Proxy Votes did not count towards this quorum, but do count towards the 2/3 vote.
- ✠ Ballots are passed and then collected with the following results:
  - 21 to retain South portion of the Building**
  - 10 to sell the entire building**
  - 7 for Other option**
- ✠ Since the vote does not meet the 2/3 requirement for any one path forward, we will continue to study our options with another congregational meeting and vote in our future.



## 11AM WORSHIP

October 1  
**A STORY OF THE TABLE**  
Luke 22: 7-23  
Rev. Adam Harmon  
& Lynne Armstrong

October 8  
**A STORY OF ABUNDANCE**  
Matthew 14:13-21  
Rev. Adam Harmon  
& Debbie Shuman

October 15  
**A STORY OF COURAGE**  
Joshua 2:1-24  
Rev. Adam Harmon  
& Carl Johnson

October 22  
**A STORY OF GRACE**  
Luke 15:11-32  
Rev. Adam Harmon  
& Laura Robinson

October 29  
**A STORY OF FAITHFULNESS**  
Ruth 1:1-4:22  
Rev. Adam Harmon  
& Marilyn Watkins



## EVENTS AT UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN

**October 1**  
Elder's Meeting//12:30pm

**October 6**  
Transition Team Meeting//1:30pm

**October 11**  
Transition Team Meeting//1:30pm

**October 12**  
UCC Conversation Dinner//5:00pm

**October 15**  
UCC Conversation//12:30pm

**October 17**  
Service & Justice Team Meeting//10:30am

**October 19**  
UCC Conversation Brunch//9:00am

**October 20**  
Transition Team Meeting//1:30pm  
*Deadline to submit for November Visitor*

**October 23**  
Council Meeting//7:00pm

**October 25**  
Facilities Meeting//4:00pm

**October 27**  
Transition Team Meeting//1:30pm

**October 31**  
*Happy Halloween!*

**November 5**  
Congregational Meeting//12:30pm



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## *Murder Mystery Night*

**This October**, you are invited.  
Join University Christian Church  
Keeper of The Keys, Rune Falstich,  
as a character in UCC's first official  
congregational Murder Mystery  
Night. The event's date, time, and  
theme are to be announced. Sign up

for a cerebral adventure in acting  
and detective work. For more  
information, contact Rune Falstich  
by email at [rune.stitch@gmail.com](mailto:rune.stitch@gmail.com)  
or stop by the front office.

Leah S. Francis  
Office Administrator

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONVERSATION

Since these are challenging times for us  
as a congregation, and because there are  
many thoughts and opinions on the  
future direction of UCC, I want to  
provide opportunities for conversation  
in the coming month. This will be a time  
to talk about the different options placed  
before the congregation, to share

personal thoughts, hopes, and dreams. I  
hope you will try to make it to one of  
these open conversations; dialogue is  
important if we are to move forward as a  
community.

Rev. Adam Harmon



Thursday, October 12, 2017  
UCC CONVERSATION DINNER  
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Finn MacCools  
4217 University Way NE,  
Seattle, WA, 98105

Sunday, October 15, 2017  
UCC CONVERSATION  
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm  
Church Upper Lounge

Thursday, October 19, 2017  
UCC CONVERSATION BRUNCH  
9:00 am – 11:00 am  
Costa's Restaurant  
4559 University Way NE,  
Seattle, WA, 98105



## WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

### October has been designated Ministerial Appreciation Month

by our denomination! In response, our Worship Mission Team has selected October 8th as Minister Recognition Sunday for our congregation.

We have five ordained ministers in our congregation, Adam Harmon, Eugene Kidder, Hubert Locke, Tom McCormick and James Stockdale. Some are or were called to minister

to a church, some to do God's work in other ways and capacities. Information about the school of theology or divinity they attended, the churches, organizations, or agencies they served, and their ministry service today, will be shared in the bulletin insert on Minister Recognition Sunday. We hope you will have the opportunity to thank these faith leaders for their service doing God's work.

Nancy Irvin,  
Worship Mission Team



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
Deborah Parker

## Love at the Crossroads: CLIMATE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

REGISTER: [HTTP://FACTCONFERENCE.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM/](http://factconference.brownpapertickets.com/)

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY  
FAITH ACTION CLIMATE TEAM (FACT)



HOW DOES CLIMATE  
CHANGE CAUSE SOCIAL  
INJUSTICE AND HOW  
DOES SOCIAL INJUSTICE  
CAUSE CLIMATE  
CHANGE? WHAT CAN WE  
DO ABOUT IT AND WHAT  
DOES FAITH HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT?



# SERVICE JUSTICE



## Lummi Totem Pole Journey 2017

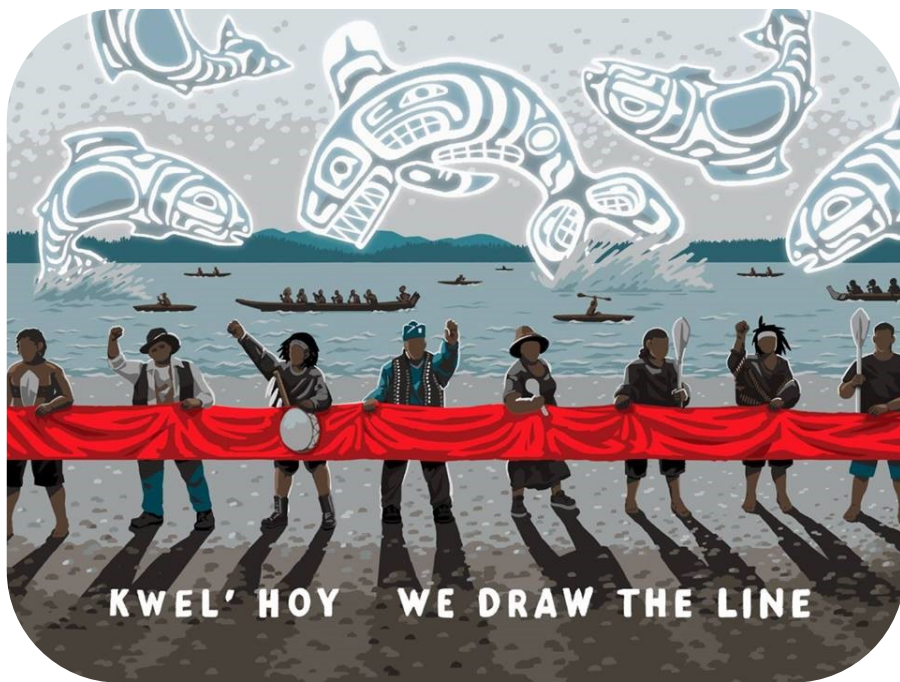
October 14th,

2:00-4:00 pm with 1:30pm blessing

University Congregational Church

(4515 16th Ave NE),

**At the ceremony, the totem pole will be blessed by tribal elders, by community leaders and YOU!**



In the last several years, the Pacific Northwest has been bombarded with first coal and then oil export proposals. Thanks to the hard organizing work around the state, most of those proposals have been stopped. But more dirty proposals have emerged: fracked gas and petrochemicals, which deepen our dependence on fossil fuels. Last year, the Lummi Nation prevailed in its fight to block the largest coal port ever proposed in North America. The proposed Cherry Point coal terminal would have sat on the ancestral lands of the Lummi Nation known as Xwe'chi'eXen. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the agency reviewing permits ruled that the project would be an unacceptable infringement on Lummi treaty fishing rights. We've made progress, but also face a long road to protecting what we love. To draw attention to that this year, members of the Lummi Community will embark on a six-city tour, Kwel'Hoy, We Draw the Line!, to celebrate victories, commemorate alliances, and prepare for the coming battles. A totem pole, created by Master Carver Jewell James of the Lummi Nation House of Tears carvers, will join the journey to remind us of our place within nature, our responsibility to future generations, and our connections to each other and to our communities. Please join us Saturday, October

14th University Congregational Church (2:00-4:00 pm (1:30pm blessing). At the ceremony, the totem pole will be blessed by tribal elders, by community leaders and YOU! Our ultimate success in the Northwest will be the inspiring story and legacy for other communities. At the heart of that is the importance of grassroots, cross-cultural and community-based communication, cooperation, and collaboration to protect the health, well-being, and the spirit of the places we call home. This year's journey will go cross country, ending at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh where it will inaugurate an international gathering at the conference "Humanity in the Age of the Anthropocene." The totem pole and the totem pole journeys exhibit will be at the Museum for 5 months and seen by at least 200,000 people. This journey will connect us all to the local fights we face, with information about how to get involved. Presenters and performers will thread together our hearts and minds because what moves us is also what motivates us. So please join us in this unique, indigenous event that demonstrates we all stand together in the fight against fossil fuels and that we share the responsibility to protect the land, the waters, and the peoples of the Northwest.



# TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION

## Coming Soon:

- 10/1: Jesus, The Temple...and the synagogue: The Changing Worship, Rabbi Anson Layntner  
10/8: The Sanctuary Movement & The Response from UDistrict Churches, Michael Ramos  
10/15: Pilgrimage To Japanese Whale Graves , Dr. Jonathan Stockdale  
10/22: Issues in the Coming November Elections, Marilyn Watkins  
10/29: The Epidemic of Opioid Addiction, Shiloh Murphy



# Many Thanks!



Dear Friends of Elizabeth Gregory Home, I am grateful for your donation of \$700. Thanks to you, Angel, who participates in our transitional housing program, will soon move into permanent housing. Your gift ensures EGH is here for all homeless and at-risk women in need of these and many other services offered here.

*Ruth Harold*  
Executive Director




Dear Friends,  
Thank you for your gift of \$200. We are so grateful for your support of Earth Ministry and our mission. Input, participation, and contributions from our congregational partners are key elements of our continued success in protecting God's creation. You are truly a blessing to our organization. Thank you for joining Earth Ministry in standing up for our shared home and healthy communities.

*In Gratitude,*  
*Jessica Zimmerle*  
Senior Outreach Associate



Dear Friends,  
Thank you for this gift of support! We are grateful for our faithful advocates at University Christian. You make change happen! Summer Blessings from Faith Action Network!

Gratefully,  
*Elise DeGooyer &*  
*Rev. Paul Benz*

206-522-0169 



[www.uchristian.org](http://www.uchristian.org) 

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