

## May You Feel Loved

BY Rev. Lara Crutsinger-Perry



This past weekend, my daughter, Caroline came home for the first time since leaving for college. And it was great. Some things felt so familiar. She napped. We cooked. She studied. We played games. But we could also feel how some things are also changing. Her friends are changing. Her interests are expanding. Her tolerance of her moms' constant questions is decreasing. But this is still her home, and it will always be a place of comfort and love for her.

Some of you may be feeling the same way about church.

This has been a big month in the life of our church. A lot has changed. Tammy has only been gone a month! During this time, we have gathered a transition team. We have increased April's hours to help with worship planning and coordinating our worship tech team. We have increased Aisha's hours. She is taking the lead on children's ministry and planned a wonderful Trunk or Treat on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Some things are feeling more familiar. Our cafe service is meeting weekly at 8:30 am and while the 10:30 am sanctuary service is on Zoom for now, we are hopeful by Advent to be able to offer hybrid services each week and are planning an in-person Christmas Eve service which will also be streamed on Zoom for those who want to participate from home.

We have launched a successful stewardship campaign reminding us that we are "Rooted in Love" to each other and to this place. With such a strong foundation, I'm excited about the upcoming year. But this does not negate the need to pause and mark this time in the life of our church.

Many of you may be processing your feelings around Tammy's departure. Some of you may feel like something/someone is missing. Some of you may be comforted by the familiarity of your small group, friendly faces on zoom worship and the ability to pray for each other. Whatever you are feeling, I hope it is accompanied by hope and love. Hope for our future; grounded in our love for each other and this church.

Change is inevitable, for my family and yours, and for our church. But some things will also stay the same. I am reminded this morning of 1 Corinthians 13:13; And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. ~ May you feel loved today!

## MODERATOR MUSINGS

BY Joan E. Knapp, Council Moderator

### Transition Time – Excitement of Possibilities



*Gloria Steinem: “Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lost the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning.”*

Our transition gives us time to take leaps of imagination and dream about all the exciting possibilities that exist now for our congregation! Many exciting possibilities and options have been discussed regarding our building over the past year. You’ll hear more about that at our upcoming Congregational Meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Join us that day!

The Transition Team is imagining the possibilities for our staffing now and into the future. I don’t know what the Transition Team will recommend, nor do I know what you – the congregation – will decide it wants and needs. It’s exciting to be open to new possibilities of what we need with all our staff both pastoral and otherwise.

Personnel and Council have already responded to congregational needs during this transition time. We hired **Rev. Katie Guertin-Anderson** (Presbyterian) part-time as Pastoral Care Coordinator to help with pastoral care. We’ve also expanded two staff job descriptions to better serve our congregational needs. **Aisha Bayness**, Godly Play Coordinator is now Children’s Program Coordinator. She will coordinate and be responsible for the church programming for children from birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She will also supervise the Child Care Assistant. Music director, **April Kuhr’s** title hasn’t changed but her job description reflects more adequately what she has been doing over the past year as well as what needs to be done now. This includes overseeing and expanding our worship technology that is used for our Zoom worship services.

This is very exciting! I hope you’ll join Council, Personnel, and the Transition Team as we imagine the possibilities and plan for our congregation’s future! As Gloria Steinem said: “Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning.”



## MUSIC AT UNITED

BY April Kuhr, Music Director

The Choir began the fall season with 3 outdoor rehearsals in September. We had a wonderful time seeing each other and singing together, carefully following covid protocols and socially distancing. We were so happy and excited to sing for the outdoor service on September 12. We were even able to record an anthem after that service, which was played during the September 26 service. We were beginning to envision a relatively safe way to move indoors for rehearsals when the weather turned cold. We were SO, SO EXCITED. And then, it hit. Following the rehearsal on September 15, one of our members was feeling ill, got a covid test and was notified on Sunday that, although vaccinated, they were covid positive. Luckily, the member had somewhat mild symptoms. The entire choir quarantined until we all received negative tests. Fortunately, no other choir member tested positive. However, this squashed our enthusiasm, and made our dreams of indoor choir rehearsal seem nearly impossible. To make matters worse, the Delta Variant was surging, and numbers were up all over the country and the state. We needed better alternatives for coming indoors. I began to seek other ways for us to be together.



*Medify air purifier in the Social Hall*

**Jennifer Molfetta** and I expanded our prior research on the efficacy of air purifiers for safer air flow indoors. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends an HVAC system that provides a full clean air exchange at least 5 times per hour. At United, we do not have duct work for the HVAC system, so adding an air exchange system would be cost prohibitive. The CDC suggests that stand alone air purifiers will also help with cleaning the air. **Frank Westrum**, a newly returning United member, retired epidemiologist, and team member on the Re-Opening Committee assisted us in researching air purifiers, spoke with representatives at two companies, measured the cubic air space of the Social Hall and recommended that we purchase two Medify medical grade air filters. These air purifiers give us “safer air quality” than we would have with no air circulation. The air purifiers, along with additional Covid protocol interventions gave us the confidence to offer indoor choir rehearsals and the Café Service in the Social Hall. Thank you, Jenn and Frank!

For those in discernment regarding their risk tolerance for activities in the time of Covid, please check out this website which Frank recommended: [microCOVID Project](#). It provides a Covid Risk Calculator. Click restart to clear parameters and set your own. You can see the risk change as you change your parameters. This provides helpful information to determine your best risk reduction strategy.

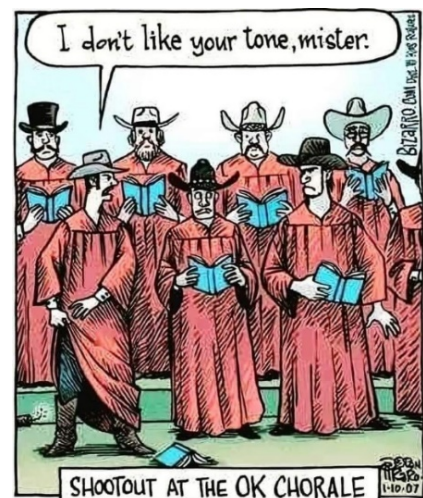
We are now holding hybrid choir rehearsals, so those not feeling comfortable meeting in person can attend via Zoom. Some members attend via Zoom, and some in person in the Social Hall. Some feel ok coming periodically, depending on their other activities that week. Our goal is to record one or two anthems a month until it is safe to sing together again during services.

Café Services returned in person in the Social Hall on October 3, with distancing, protocols and the air purifiers in place. Attendance is growing each week. It has been a real inspiration for both **Pastor Lara** and me to return to in-person Café Services on Sunday mornings. It is invigorating and affirming to worship together again, and so nice to see the conviviality and humor return! We are blessed with and inspired by **Cheri Kelley's** singing. Café Service meets at 8:30 am on Sundays (except the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays which meets at 9:30am), and we are continuing with the sticker system which was instituted on September 12. Everyone receives a colored sticker when they arrive indicating their level of comfort with interaction. Green means: I am fully vaccinated and comfortable with close contact; Yellow means: I am comfortable with some cautious contact; Red is: I am not comfortable with contact, please maintain 6' of distancing. For those not yet comfortable attending church services in person, we continue to offer the 10:30am Zoom service from the Sanctuary.

For United members who participate on Zoom, you may have noticed recent changes, both visually and audibly. Our new camera system was installed by CCI in September, and **Robert Kam**, Video Producer for Thurston Community Media has been advising and training us on running it efficiently. Robert discovered a method for linking our existing sound system into Zoom. This greatly improved the sound. Learning the new system and adapting and incorporating the old system has taken a lot of work, plus trial and error, and we are very grateful for your patience in this process!

**Sierra Grove**, our Media Specialist has run Zoom services and created amazing videos for us for the past 13 months. Sierra is focusing her attention on graduate school applications, so bid us a fond farewell on October 24. We will miss you, Sierra!

Our existing Sound Intern, **Severin Gardner**, will be our new Media and Streaming Technician and will continue running Zoom and the cameras. Robert will continue supervising the tech team for the foreseeable future. It takes a minimum of two people to oversee Zoom and control the cameras during a service, so Robert and Severin are training new volunteers, **Dan Meuse**, **Jane Appling**, **Philip Taron** and **Mike Charlesworth**. **Doug Robb** continues to run the sound system for the Café Service as well as the 10:30 am Service. Thank you all! If you are interested in joining the Tech Team, please contact April.





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## REPORT OF THE REOPENING COMMITTEE

BY Therese Sprunger, Chair



The Reopening Task Force has been watching the Covid numbers and has met once in September (in my absence). Since our county is still experiencing relatively high case numbers, the recommendations for meeting in person at the Church have not changed. Masks are required by everyone indoors regardless of vaccination status. The first service at 8:30am has started meeting in person and the second service at 10:30am continues to meet on Zoom. We will continue to monitor how the situation develops and adapt accordingly.

Your faithful committee members: **Therese Sprunger, Scott Andrews, Peggy Charlesworth, Frank Westrum** and Staff Member **April Kuhr**.

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## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

2022 Stewardship Committee Members:

**Joanne Conner, Jennifer Carmer-Hall, Jean Fuller, and Rev. Lara Crutsinger-Perry**

Thank you for all of your generous pledges to the 2022 operating budget at United Churches. Remember that 10% of your total donations go to our benevolences.

If you haven't pledged yet, here are some easy ways to do so:

1. Use your phone to take a picture of your pledge card and email it to the church office: [admin@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:admin@theunitedchurches.org)
2. Download the pledge card from the latest E-blast, fill it in online and email it to us
3. Mail the pledge card we sent you or drop it off at the church
4. Call the office and Jennifer will take your information down over the phone
5. Send a text with the amount of your pledge to **Jean Fuller**, our church treasurer.



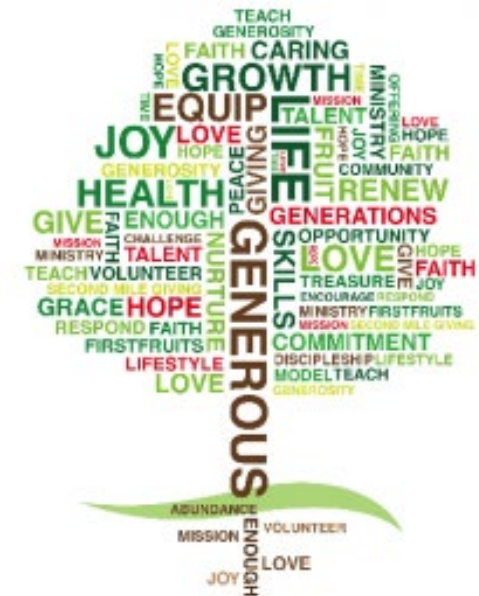
Thank you to everyone who participated in our Dedication Sunday as we strive to fulfill our budget needs for 2022. As of Monday, November 1, 2021 we have received 96 pledges for a total of \$318,860 toward our goal of \$395,000 or 81% of our budget needs for 2022.

## A MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

BY Betsy Loyer, Co-Chair CCM

### Betsy's Take on "What Roots Me in Our Congregation?"

- \* **Dan Anderson's** snarky humor, but amazing willing attitude. **Pat Anderson's** zucchini break, and efficient, loving way of coaxing people to help.
- \* Painting beside **Lynnette** and **Mark Hunter**. Serving coffee with **Pam** and **Alan Anderson**, and before that, with **Renette Gillihan**, for how many years?
- \* Pondering with **Leslie Cushman**. Listening to **Ruth Shearer**. Giggling and pondering with the **Robbs**, **Eunice** and **Steve** and **Doug**.
- \* The steadfast faith of **Liz** and **Gary Foote**.
- \* Communion and prayer candles with my **brother Tom**. **Scott** and **Paula** never missing a greeting for Tom.
- \* **Julie Clark's** faith - refusal to give up.
- \* My small group, and their honesty and vulnerability.
- \* Dancing with **Jinny Beekmann** at the retreat. Music with **Lynne Palmer** and so much more.
- \* **Peter Cook** and all the incredible stuff he has dragged me into.
- \* Community Connections Ministry and all those amazing people who just keep showing up.
- \* **Jon Hubbell**, **Dave Carmer-Hall**, **Dee Corwin** jumping in to help.
- \* All those people who help where they can to build microshelters, maintain the church grounds and building, provide food, write cards.
- \* Cooking with **Therese Sprunger** and **Terry** and others.
- \* The **Bishops** – we miss you **Trina!!** **The Mitchells**. **Lee Johnson**. **The Lehmans**.
- \* April's music that lifts us every week. **Cheri Kelley's** voice.
- \* Fantastic sermons that challenge and change me, that surround me but don't promise too much.



There's so much more. I'll stop here though. I know I've forgotten some of you or lumped you into a group when I want to celebrate each wonderful thing you've done. Thank you all!

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## TREASURER REPORT

BY Jean Fuller, Church Treasurer

It has been a privilege to serve the United Churches congregation as Treasurer for almost 2 years. I am proud of the generosity of this church, not only in the financial support, but also in the efforts of our community through our continuing support of Nickerson Camp, building microshelters, and renting our extra space to non-profit organizations. We are a congregation that is very willing to share our resources with our neighbors and surrounding community. I thank God for all that we can support through our church operating budget and also how our contributions serve to improve our surrounding community.




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## SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION MINISTRY

BY Char McMullen & Jen Laine, Co-Chairs



What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, “my church”? Is it our beautiful building, full of “church family”? Do you hear the organ or piano playing, voices raised in song, the hum of small conversations, children’s laughter as they raid the goodie table? Hugs? Oh, how I miss this form of church.

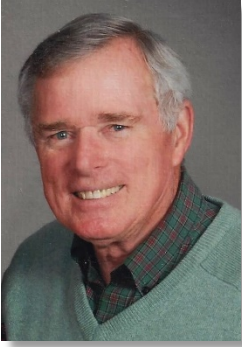
Until around 300 CE, “my church” looked like a home where neighbors, followers of Jesus, came together to support one another, sharing their stories, praying, and (horrors!), sometimes even singing.

At United, we have this kind of “my church”. They are called Small Groups. Here’s mine: We started shortly after Covid hit. People I didn’t really know texted daily, checking in. We eventually moved to meeting in person — sometimes indoors, sometimes outside, and now, we meet on Zoom. We got to know each other quickly using the “I’ve been meaning to ask” cards provided by the church. We became “holders of each other’s stories.” When I had hip replacement surgery, this group quickly helped round up equipment needed for my recovery. They connected me with pastoral care and people who could bring in meals. Most importantly, they prayed. They prayed for my healing and well-being. They held me tight. They are “my church”. Did we sing? Not saying!

Small Groups are open to anyone at United. They come in many flavors and sizes. If you’re looking for this kind of deep dive, call the church office and sign up. There is a “my church” waiting for you.

## ENDOWMENT BOARD REPORT

BY Jim Watts, Chair



The United Churches has five endowments whose total value as of September 30, 2021 was \$706,100. The value of each endowment was:

United Churches General Endowment	\$424,300
Patsy Humphres Children's Endowment	48,300
Madge Raney Endowment	58,200
Social Justice Endowment	84,100
Creative Spiritual Growth Endowment	91,200
Total	\$706,100

During the first nine months of 2021 the endowments have increased just over \$61,300. Part of this increase came from a \$10,000 bequest received in January 2021 from the Ken Mitchell Estate; it was deposited in the General Endowment. In March 2021 the Creative Spiritual Growth Endowment Board withdrew \$2,918 from the endowment and donated \$973.00 to Habitat for Humanity, \$972.50 to Sidewalk, and \$972.50 to Monarch Children's Justice and Advocacy Center. In June it withdrew an additional \$2,500 and donated it to Hagar's Community Church which ministers to women in prison. After adjusting for this deposit and two withdrawals, the endowments had net growth from market performance of about \$58,800, an increase of about 9.1 percent during the nine months.

Each year the Board and the Creative Spiritual Growth Endowment Board determine how much can be distributed from each endowment. Any unused spending authority approved by the Boards in previous years is carried forward and available for future distribution. Presently, \$85,037 is available.

United Churches General Endowment	\$29,516
Patsy Humphres Children's Endowment	9,586
Madge Raney Endowment	694
Social Justice Endowment	24,622
Creative Spiritual Growth Endowment	20,619
Total	\$85,037

In addition to the endowments discussed above, the Board also manages two other funds. (1) The McNall Scholarship Fund (\$43,860), which has increased about 11.0 percent during the last nine months and (2) an Invested Cash Account (\$179,900), which is used to invest cash which is excess to our immediate needs. Most of these funds are invested in bonds and short-term fixed income securities which produce interest to support our operating budget.



You may contribute to any of the endowments and the McNall Scholarship Fund in a variety of ways. You may include a bequest in your will or you may purchase a Gift Annuity from either the UCC Foundation or the Presbyterian Foundation. When you purchase a Gift Annuity, you receive a tax-deductible contribution in the year of purchase and a steady stream of income for life; upon death, the residual value of your annuity goes to the endowment or fund you designate. And finally, you may make a contribution at any time.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Watts

## A SUMMER WELL SPENT!

BY Jeff & Betsy Loyer

### *Update on the microshelter project*

The United Churches, Westwood Baptist Church and The Rock teamed up to build 15 more microshelters to replace the tents of some of our houseless friends. We built thirteen 8' X 8' sturdy structures and two 8' X 12's, each with a fold down bed and painted inside and out with mold deterrent paint. Each unit has two windows and a locking door. Attachable 2' X 4' X 8' pods relieve storage issues.



**Eleanor van Noppen** was also on hand with the painting crew.

The United Churches turned out **Jeff Hogan, Jeff Loyer, Scott Bishop, Lisa Carroll, Roma and Ed Smith, Kat Hurd, Dean and Valorie Paulsen, Pat Herrington, Ellen Sweetin, Dave and Jennifer Carmer-Hall, Jinny Beekmann, Danny and Daniel O'Connell, Therese Sprunger, Betsy Loyer, Eleanor van Noppen, Sherry Booth, Samuel Skjervold, Harena Senai, Olivia Clishe, Lucy Kegley, Claudia Horton, Isaac Gomalec, and John Boesenbery.** Many of these folks put in multiple days. Therese handled the volunteer contacting, and with Jinny, provided treats and lunches daily.

The folks from Westwood Baptist and the Rock include Kathy Dreisbach, Greg Creighton, David Rorem, Mark Williams, Mel Lowe, Jack Olson, and 25 young people from the youth group.

At least 15 people will be warmer and safer this winter thanks to this effort.



**Betsy Loyer** takes a break during the build for a selfie with **Valorie Paulsen** looking on!

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**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS MINISTRY (CCM)**

BY Betsy Loyer, Co-Chair

Looking for a way to volunteer or be active in our community? Here are some ideas.

- Help cook meals for the homeless at **The Community Kitchen** once a month. Contact **Therese Sprunger** for more information on how to get involved.
- Another way is to help bring a hot meal one Sunday a month for the residents of the Tiny House **Hope Village** at Westminster Presbyterian.  
Contact **Therese**
- **SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice)**:  
<https://surj.org/chapter/surj-olympia/> or **North Thurston Black/BIPOC (Black Indigenous, Person of Color) Caucus** can show you ways to participate in Racial Justice.
- **The Family Support Center** (<http://fscss.org>) is having a fund raiser and auction to support families and survivors in our community called a Bubble Party – Friday, November 5 from 7-8pm.
- **Interfaith Works** is having an interfaith Thanksgiving/Gratitude event – Resetting our Sacred Table. The event will be broadcast live on Facebook (now Meta) on Sunday, November 21, 2021, at 2PM. <https://www.facebook.com/events/173730888265148/>
- **Thurston County Climate Action** (<https://thurstonclimateaction.org/>) has several projects that can inspire you if the environment is your passion.
- **Shower Power Plus** needs volunteers! We'd love to hear from you!  
We especially need drivers – someone who can pull a 27-foot shower trailer with a ¾ ton, or 1 ton pick-up truck once or twice a month. We provide hot showers to houseless folks in the Capital Christian Center parking lot every Saturday. Mechanical folk are needed too, to help maintain our brand new equipment. Contact **Peter Cook**  
  
We also need people who would do laundry at the end of the day, as we generate about 8 loads a week, sometimes more. And people who would help at our scheduling table or help clean showers. These last two positions are 4-hour shifts. Contact **Betsy Loyer** for more information



## INTERFAITH WORKS NEEDS A UNITED DELEGATE

BY Judy Mason

If **YOU** have been missing opportunities to put your faith into action during the pandemic consider becoming the United Churches delegate(s) to the Program Council of Interfaith Works (IFW.) Randy Henderson, who has represented us at the **IFW Program Council's** regular 3rd Tuesday Zoom meetings from 7:00 to 9:00pm, would like to pass the torch. This would be a 2 hour monthly commitment. However, attendance could possibly rotate between several people.

The mission of **Interfaith Works** is "Social justice and peace through interfaith understanding and cooperation." While administration of the organization and management of its big projects are handled by IFW staff and a Board of Directors, the IFW Program Council is where the ecumenical study and sharing about issues affecting our local community occurs. When this diverse group brainstorms intervention options together the seeds for amazing changes are sowed.

Because of the many overlaps in focus between IFW and the United Churches Community Connections Ministry (CCM,) we request that our IFW delegate(s) also join the CCM, which meets each month via Zoom on the 4th Thursday from 6:00 to 7:30pm. By verbally reporting or at least emailing a copy of IFW Program Council minutes, the delegate can keep CCM members up to date about information of common interest.

To learn more or to throw your name into the hat, contact **Peter Cook**. Questions about Interfaith Works and the role of the Program Council may also be addressed to **Rev. Corey Passons** at [corey@interfaith-works.org](mailto:corey@interfaith-works.org).

## COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICES (CYS) ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

BY Judy Mason



*L-R: Anne Fritzel, Jean Fuller, Dan Andersen, Eunice Robb, Steve Robb, Jeff Hogan and Stet Palmer hold coat donations for CYS.*

### What a Success!!

Thanks to our congregation's extraordinary generosity, the 2021 Youth Coat Drive was a huge success. Over 20 large sized yard waste bags of coats (well over 100 coats) were donated to Community Youth Services. CYS's other funding sources don't cover clothing. Because of our support, an estimated 100 to 150 unhoused youth will be warmer and drier this winter. **Gale Hemmann**, from Community Youth Services, wrote this Haiku as part of her thank you to us: "Winter coat drive, Coats protecting youth, Kindness lasts – through – cold."

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## UPROOTING RACISM COMMITTEE

BY Kathleen Clark, Chair

### Developing a Common Language

The Uprooting Racism team led an interactive session at the retreat held in August and repeated the session on Nov 2 with our youth, Council, and congregants. The intent of the session is to establish a shared vocabulary to help us as a congregation to discuss racism and move to an anti-racist church. We have modified the activities of the interactive session so that you and a partner could participate at home.



1. With a partner, share your response to this statement: *'It is difficult to talk about race because.....'*
2. Review the definitions of phrases and words below that help us talk about white supremacy and racial injustice. With your partner, share your answers to these questions:
  - a. What surprises you about the definition?
  - b. What would you add?
  - c. What examples can you think of?
3. Discuss this question with your partner: *Why is it important to talk about race at our church?*

### Uprooting Racism - Common Language

These definitions have been gathered across disciplines and can provide us with a common lexicon as we continue to examine our whiteness and the role of our church in a racist society.

#### **unconscious bias**

Automatic, unnoticed judgements in favor of or against one thing, person, or group, in a way that is usually considered unfair. This happens because of past experiences, background, or propaganda, and may not reflect someone's conscious thoughts or beliefs.

#### **micro aggression**

The everyday slights, indignities, put-downs and insults that people of color, women, LGBTQ populations or those who are marginalized, experience in their day-to-day interactions with people.

#### **antiracism**

A process of actively identifying, challenging, and changing the values, policies, structures, and behaviors that perpetuate racist ideas and actions. It is rooted in action steps to eliminate racism at all levels.

#### **white supremacy culture**

The ideology that white people and their ideas, thoughts, beliefs, actions, and ways of being are superior to People of Color and their ideas, thoughts, beliefs, actions, and ways of being. It is

reproduced by all the institutions of our society. In particular, the media, the education system, western science and the Christian church have played central roles in reproducing this idea. It is an artificial, historically constructed culture which expresses, justifies and binds together the United States.

**white privilege**

The unquestioned and unearned set of advantages, entitlements, benefits and choices bestowed upon people solely because they are white.

**institutional racism**

Discriminatory treatments, unfair policies, or biased practices based on race, on an organizational level, that result in inequitable outcomes for whites over people of color and extend considerably beyond prejudice. These policies often never mention any racial group, but the intent is to create advantages.

**whiteness**

The way that white people, their customs, culture, and beliefs operate as the standard by which all other groups are compared. This has created a culture where nonwhite persons are seen as inferior or abnormal.

**colonizer**

A person who benefits, directly or indirectly, from behaviors, institutions, policies, and economics that subjugate or exploit Indigenous people, land, or resources.

**reparations**

A system of redress for egregious injustices, often (but not necessarily) in the form of financial payments.

**cultural appropriation**

The unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs, practices, ideas, etc. of one people or society by members of another, and typically more dominant, people or society. This happens in a way that doesn't respect their original meaning, doesn't give credit to their source, reinforces stereotypes, or contributes to oppression.

**TRANSITION TEAM**

BY Keegan Wulf

Through November, the goal of the Transition Team is to gather a diverse picture of the needs and perspectives of our members. Our plan is twofold: (1) our team will be interviewing sub-groups (committees, ministries, etc.), and (2) our team Chair will be gathering questions and comments from individuals. To reach out with questions or comments, please contact Deborah Reynolds.



We have loosely used a framework for discussing our questions of what we want in our pastoral leadership inspired by a passage out of Ephesians 4. In a commentary on growing into maturity as a church community, the writer lists off a handful of distinct leadership expressions in the early church (v11). Below is a list of these types, with brief descriptions of how each may appear and focus their attention.

*"...to equip the people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith ... and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ..."*

- *Apostles (Missionaries) - outreach? - Asks about and casts visions for the church in engaging the broader community - brings the church deeper into the greater community - grows the church (in influence and diversity)*
- *Prophets - works to hear the guidance of the spirit - guides the church - movement is toward justice and reformation - works to warn and correct the church - grows the church (in wisdom and practices of justice)*
- *Evangelists - marketing? - movement toward enjoying and sharing the joy of God - growing the church (in numbers and quality of life)*
- *Shepherds (Pastors) - gathering and caring for the church - togetherness - grows the church (in love and community) - (pastoral care means walking with people through challenging times). How do we bring love into this community?*
- *Teachers - Theological Literacy - empowers the church to process and engage spiritual life, etc - preaching?*

It is our hope that this can help us interpret and organize the contents of the responses from the groups and individuals we engage.

## NEW HIRES & STAFF CHANGES

BY Jennifer Molfetta, Church Admin

We've experienced many changes in the past few months. Here are some of the latest in regard to staffing at United.

We hired **Rev. Katie Guertin-Anderson** (she/her) as our new Pastoral Care Coordinator at the end of September when Pastor Tammy resigned. Katie lives in Olympia, is a PC(USA) minister, a member of the Olympia Presbytery and is a member of the Community for Interfaith Celebration. She has worked as a chaplain for many years, primarily in oncology and palliative care settings. She also recently served as Spiritual Director for a community of adults in Tacoma living with and without disabilities. Katie currently serves locally as a hospice chaplain. Katie and her wife, Cindy, have two young children, Silas (7) and Jude (4). They love sailing, hiking, reading, cooking, and playing board games together. Katie is delighted to be joining the United team.



Rev. Katie  
Guertin-Anderson

**Aisha Bayness** (she/her) has increased her hours at the church after resigning from the Winlock Timberland Library. Her title has changed from Godly Play Coordinator to **Children’s Program Coordinator**. She will manage our Kids Club every month, oversee our new Childcare Assistant and will coordinate and present the “Time for the Children” segment during the 10:30 am worship service.

**Johanna Scott** (she/her) is our new Childcare Assistant who will be working with Aisha Bayness and the Kids Club. Johanna has been a part of United nearly her whole life and currently attends Olympia High School.

Our former Media & Streaming Technician, **Sierra Grove** (she/her), decided to leave United at the end of October, in pursuit of expanding her education. Our existing Sound Intern, **Severin Gardner**, will now assume this staff role. Here’s a little bit about Severin:



*Severin Gardner, our new  
Media & Streaming Technician*

**Severin Gardner** (they/them) is an alumnus of Tumwater High School, having been raised right here in Olympia. They’ve lived everywhere along the West Coast, ranging all the way to San Diego, but returned here in 2016. Living with close friends, they’re helping with their friends’ little one and their dog, who’s only a year old and still very much a puppy. Severin recently acquired their Associates Degree from South Puget Sound Community College and currently attends the Evergreen State College studying audio production and music. Severin is excited to be a part of the United Church’s stellar team and proud to help bring services to your homes!

**April Kuhr** (she/her), our Music Director, is increasing her hours to help with Worship Planning and taking on supervisory responsibilities for audio/video projects.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY (CLM)

BY Jinny Beekmann

CLM supports the life of our community, our Congregation. It has been a difficult task during the Covid pandemic. No hugs, no pie auctions, no potlucks, no brunches, no Dinners for 7, no gatherings of any kind in the social hall or the fireside room.

Ok, we have been doing our best in the past 1 ½ years. Here are some highlights:



- Organized a one-day retreat in August when things were opening up a bit!!!!
- Gave out new visitor bags regularly.
- Made phone calls and scheduled visits by members for members.
- Mailed out Birthday cards each month – signed by a whole lotta people thanks to **Jacky Crow** and **Paula!!!!**
- Started and encouraged people to join a small Zoom group.
- Organized multiple Porch Drops for our less mobile friends including Halloween bags, cookies and gift bags and the famous Poinsettias last Christmas. Seeing people’s smiles on their faces when people actually had someone standing at their front door was so amazing!!

So where does CLM go from here?

- We are working on more porch drops for Advent season, hopefully more Poinsettias this December.
- We will continue the activities listed above.
- We are reviewing the small Zoom groups and the telephoning done by members to make sure that everyone has a way to connect.

Lastly, as of November 2021, CLM has a new Chairperson. **Joanne Connor** has taken over the helm. Please THANK JOANNE!

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## UNITED IN PICTURES

### Trunk or Treat 2021 – October 31



*Guess who this 70s throwback is? See p.18 for answer*



*Lauren Grosso and Aisha Bayness came dressed to impress.*



## **MORE PICTURES OF OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

### Jon Hubbell's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration



*Top: L-R, Bunny Hooper, Therese Sprunger, Sharon Hubbell, Shari Hubbell and Jon*



*Top right: L-R, Kerby Avedovech, Therese, Mary Beth & Jon Jantzen, Janet Sears*



*Bottom right: L-R, Sandee Sennes, Chas & Peggy Dreyfus, Jinny Beekmann, Gail Tracy*

### Gwinwood Retreat, Lacey, WA – August 2021



*Uprooting Racism Workshop*



*Worship service*

# LOVE. HOPE. UNITED.

## The United Churches of Olympia

<http://www.theunitedchurches.org>

Office phone: (360) 943-1210 Email: [admin@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:admin@theunitedchurches.org)

**Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

### Church Staff

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Aisha Bayness, Children's Program Coordinator	<a href="mailto:aisha@theunitedchurches.org">aisha@theunitedchurches.org</a>
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Rev. Paul McCann, Pastor Emeritus	

### Church Council

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Joan E. Knapp – Moderator	Pam Anderson – Clerk
Kathleen Clark – Vice Moderator	Jean Fuller – Treasurer

### Council Members

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Scott Andrews	Jinny Beekmann	Lisa Carroll
Peter Cook	Jeff Hogan	Jen Laine
Char McMullen	Celia Nightingale	Doug Robb



All are welcome at the United Churches regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, ability or finances. We hope you will find an opportunity to join us this week!

**Come Worship with us on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

\* Picture answer: Dana Leavitt