

## EASTER FESTIVITIES AT UNITED



## MODERATOR MUSINGS

BY Kathleen Clark, Council Moderator



Can you feel the energy coming from The United Churches of Olympia? This first quarter of 2023 has been a whirlwind of joyous connections and activities. We had over 250 people participating in-person or via Zoom for Easter Sunday services!! The Body of Christ is alive in our church. We are finding so many ways to engage in serving our church and community. I hope you have found one or more activities that speak to your heart and mind and energize you.

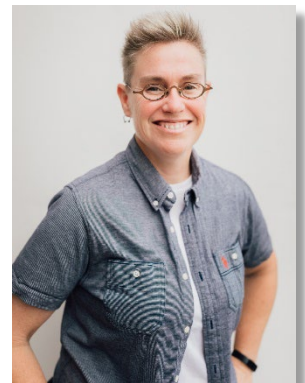
We have two initiatives this year. One is to continue our journey in restorative racial justice and anti-racism. Our Uprooting Racism Team works across all of our programs and activities to support this transformative journey. The second initiative is moving us to consensus about our priorities as a church and what physical improvements need to be done with our building to carry out those priorities.

Our Next Steps Team has completed the prioritization work with the congregation. Our Council will review the costs for basic renovation needs and determine next steps for funding strategies. In addition to the great work by our ministries, we had fourteen participants attend the *Here I am Lord* series led by **Mike Segawa**. This eight-week course provided participants the opportunity to explore the best fit for them to engage in the sacred work we are collectively doing and to create community with each other. This leadership series will be offered again in September for new and not so new members alike.

## NOTES FROM PASTOR LARA

Ashes to ashes and dust to dust is how we started Lent. And now we are in the season of Easter celebrating the joy of resurrection and new life.

On Easter Monday, I went to Pilgrim Firs, our UCC camp in Port Orchard, for a clergy retreat. I was so grateful for the opportunity of going to camp to relax and unwind. I napped, I hiked, I ate meals with other tired and inspiring colleagues. Keeping alive our Lenten theme of This is My Body, I took care of mine. And I took with me the ashes of Mr. Moss.



If you've been around United Churches for more than a couple years, you will remember Mr. Moss. He lived on the front porch of our church for probably five years settling into his sleeping bag underneath the mailbox every night. Mr. Moss didn't want much from us. In fact, he didn't want anything material from us at all. On occasion, he would accept our offerings of food but mostly he just wanted a safe place to sleep. And we gave him that. He was a man of few words, but I will never



forget his kind smile. Mr. Moss changed us and taught us a lot about humanity, dignity, and what it means to be a good neighbor. We lost Mr. Moss in the heat dome of June 2021. His ashes have been in the church office waiting for me to take him to Pilgrim Firs.

So last week amidst the old growth forest on the High Ridge Trail at Pilgrim Firs, I mixed the ashes of Mr. Moss amongst the moss carpeting the earth. It seemed a fitting place for him, under the protective shelter of the trees, on the sacred land of our camp. Ashes to ashes, Dust to Dust, Moss to Moss.

As we continue to celebrate the Easter season, we give witness to how love is greater than hate and life is greater than death. Mr. Moss reminds me once again how the cycle of life and death and rebirth applies to the Earth and to her Church. I believe that we, The United Churches, are in a season of resurrection. We are surrounded by new joy, new energy and new faces who bring new ideas and teach us how to be the Church anew. We are dreaming new dreams and envisioning a new future built on the strong foundation of the teachings of Jesus and the legacy of the Saints gone before. With that nourishment, we are invited to approach Pentecost expecting to see the Church reborn. I hope each of you will continue to find new ways to engage in the life of our congregation, to bring your gifts and talents, your wisdom, and your visions, as we embody the wonder and mystery of God that has brought us together as her Church.

## MUSIC AT UNITED

BY April Kuhr, Music Director



The United music department continues to be very busy. The Festival Choir and Chancel choir have continued to shine on Sundays, especially at the Advent Festival Service, Christmas and Easter. On Easter, we inaugurated our first annual Congregational Hallelujah Chorus, with **Dan Lundberg** conducting (*picture below right*). Dan also wowed us with his trumpet playing. The music was elevated by Grant Sears, violin and Anne

Botka, cello. But our musicians did not stop there. **Dan Meuse** and **Laura Fairbanks** presented stand-out performances on Humor Sunday, as did the Hallelujah sign chorus—holding up the signs to the words of the song as the Chancel Choir sang behind them. We are so



blessed by all of our wonderful musicians, including the choirs, as well as **Cheri Kelley**, vocalist and song leader, Laura Fairbanks and Dan Meuse who inspire, lead us in worship, and present special music.

In January, we purchased an organ console from Saint Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church in Norwood, Massachusetts. The console was packed up and shipped via PODS to Bond Organ Builders, Inc. in Portland, Oregon, where they are updating some electronics and parts. Bond expects to deliver and install the organ by the end of August.

In November 2022, the Organ Console Fund had \$12,645. We were very grateful to receive three generous donations in November and December. By January 1, 2023, we had \$29,645.00 in the fund, and we set about raising the remaining \$12,355 for our goal of \$42,000.00 Thanks to your generosity, we met that goal the week after Easter with a matching gift campaign. On May 19, we will celebrate this huge undertaking with a Gratitude Concert featuring United and community musicians, followed by a church-wide celebratory Soiree.

Our annual Holy Week Organ Concert, sponsored jointly with the Olympia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, was presented April 3 (*picture right*). We had a full house and raised \$1,266.00 for the organ console fund. The Choir, CLM and the Console Committee ushered, greeted and sponsored a reception following the concert. Please visit our YouTube channel: The United Churches of Olympia, to view the concert.




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## 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

In January, we installed several new council members to serve for a two-year term (those on the left below).

Kathleen Clark – Moderator	(24)	Jean Fuller – Treasurer	(23)
Amanda Hutson – Vice Moderator	(24)	Pam Anderson – Clerk	(23)
Beth Barron	(24) CCM	Dave Carmer-Hall	(23) CLM
R. Peggy Smith	(24) CCM	Jinny Beekmann	(23) CLM
Jenn Wulf	(24) STM	Dana Nojima	(23) MT
Eunice Robb	(24) Personnel	Jude Van Buren	(23) MT
		Vacant	(23) STM

**KEY:** CLM – Congregational Life Ministry; CCM – Community Connections Ministry;  
MTM – Management Team Ministry; STM – Spiritual Transformation Ministry

**Note:** (#) indicates the year when term expires

## Nominating Committee

<sup>1</sup> Deborah Reynolds, Chair (24)  
<sup>1</sup> Cheri Kelley (23)  
<sup>1</sup> Sandee Sennes (23)  
<sup>2</sup> Randy Henderson (24)

<sup>1</sup> elected by congregation  
<sup>2</sup> appointed by Council

## Joint Board

Jim Watts, Chair (25)  
Alan Anderson (26)  
John Edwards (23)  
Amanda Hutson (27)  
Brett Rude (24)  
United Treasurer, *ex officio*



L-R: *(back row)* Dana Nojima, Jinny Beekmann, Jean Fuller, Pastor Lara, Dave Carmer-Hall, R. Peggy Smith, Jude Van Buren, Beth Barron. *(front row)* Jenn Wulf, Kathleen Clark, Amanda Hutson, Eunice Robb, Pam Anderson

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## NEXT STEPS UPDATE

BY Amanda Hutson, Vice Moderator



The Next Steps cottage meetings that took place in February and March were a wonderful opportunity to engage in a welcoming, yet structured process of listening and being heard by one another.

***Thank you to all who participated!***

At the April Council meeting the Next Steps Team shared our report and recommendations. Members of the team were **Jean Fuller, Katrinka Hibler, Amanda Hutson, Dana Leavitt and Char McMullen** and we have worked together on this process since December. The intent of the meetings was to engage the congregation about our direction as a church, for now and the future. About 100 people participated in twelve meetings where each shared thoughts on 1) What excites them about our church; 2) What are our opportunities right now; and 3) What are our possibilities for making a spiritual difference in the world.

From the meeting notes, our consultant, Rachel Maxwell, identified broad themes. The Next Steps Team used these themes to identify key congregational priorities, and drafted a set of goals that will guide our work together. Council members reviewed the priorities and goals and approved the following:

### **Priorities of The United Churches:**

1. Be a place where spirituality and justice meet.
2. Nurture our interconnectedness.
3. Be known in our neighborhood and our community.

### **Goals:**

1. Intentionally align our finances and budget with our priorities.
2. Improve our building to align with our values and needs.
3. Increase our spiritual development ministries and opportunities.
4. Increase opportunities for interpersonal connection with each other.
5. Increase our opportunities for engagement with the wider community to become known as the place where spirituality and justice meet.

We were particularly inspired by the responses to our first question; you can see just some of the comments on the slides in the Next Steps Report. [Please call/email the church office if you would like a copy of the report.] There is so much love and excitement for The United Churches among our members and friends.

**What's next?** One recurring theme from the cottage meetings was that our building as a resource is vitally important. We will continue to move forward on the need to maintain and renovate our building. Toward that goal the Building Futures Group will deliver a report of costs for basic renovations at the May Council meeting. The Council will identify next steps for determining what renovations should happen and how we will pay for those renovations.

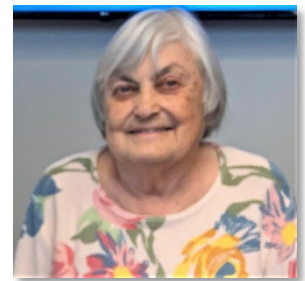
As well, the Council and ministry chairs will meet in June to determine which goals we will prioritize in the next year and a half. We will develop an action plan, and measures of success.

**Questions or Comments?** Contact the church office – [admin@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:admin@theunitedchurches.org)

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY (CLM)

BY Jacky Crow, Chair

I am pleased to report that the Congregational Life team of volunteers has been busy serving the congregation. I have never before worked with a group of more willing volunteers. Everyone serving on the ministry has been more than willing to take on new tasks. It has made being a part of the ministry very rewarding and fulfilling.



Joanne Conner served as Chair of CLM for the past 1 ½ years but stepped down at the end of March. She will be moving to California and will be missed by so many. I agreed to take on the role of Chair while Dave Carmer-Hall and Jinny Beekmann are serving as Council representatives for CLM.

We have hosted potlucks and are now conducting new member orientations quarterly to welcome new people to the church and help them become informed about what our church is doing. We make sure that every Sunday there are greeters to welcome people. A team of volunteers makes sure we have coffee and snacks for all services.

Willing volunteers decorate the Sanctuary, Chapel and Fireside Room for special occasions. We now have a wonderful volunteer who creates very special center pieces for the tables so that special events feel welcoming.

Congregational Life Ministry plans the church retreat in August, and there will also be a winter retreat at Pilgrim Firs next February. In July, we have reserved space for weekday overnight camping, or just come for visiting time, at Schafer State Park in Elma. The ministry Assisted in organizing small groups which met on Zoom during the Covid crisis. We are now working on establishing new small groups, to meet on Zoom or in person, so that people will have connection with each other.



Thursdays Together is great fun – we meet every Thursday in the Fireside Room from 1 - 3pm and play games, eat snacks, enjoy conversation and laugh. The picture on the left shows a sampling of our group. Anyone is welcome to join us!

A volunteer keeps the Fire Side Room supplies stocked; we are involved with planning and providing supplies for church picnics. Meals from heaven are supplied by volunteers to people and families dealing with difficult things like surgery or loss of

family members. Congregational Life is responsible for providing snacks and meals for special occasions including musical presentations and special events.

Through it all, we celebrate the great congregation that we have the privilege of serving.

If you would like to help us plan and organize events, please join us. Our Ministry meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.

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## MANAGEMENT TEAM MINISTRY (MTM)

BY Jude Van Buren, Chair

The first quarter of 2023 has been an active period for the Management Team Ministry which now holds the abbreviation of MTM. Repair/upkeep work has included:

- 1) the addition of another lockable door for the balcony;
- 2) replacement of all interior smoke and carbon monoxide detectors;
- 3) boiler repair parts and labor totaling about \$2,500;

4) repairing, priming and painting of the hallways and stairwells – thanks to **Pat & Dan Andersen, Lisa Carroll, Tim Devine, AnnElise Fishel, Severin Gardner, Jedidiah Haney, Brenda Hatcher, Lynette & Mark Hunter, Amanda & John Hutson, Elaine Lyford-Nojima, Ryan McQuade, Jennifer Molfetta, Dana Nojima, Brett Rude, Sandee Sennes, James Sepulvado, Therese Sprunger, Terry Teigen, Jude Van Buren and Keegan Wulf;**



5) moving church photos from library to hallway; adding a new bulletin board and literature holders for church events, activities and new visitor/member information (across from the nametag holder)



6) multiple repairs of water leaks, addition of seismic gas valve, exterior drain issues, water heater repair;

7) reconfiguring extension cords and surge protectors for safety, weatherstripping office doors, adjusting interior and exterior doors, adding room identification signs;

8) cleaning up the grounds on a very wet and cold Saturday thanks to diligent volunteers (*picture right*)!



*L-R: Terry Teigen, Pat Andersen, Dan Andersen, Kathleen Clark, Mark Clark, Brenda Hatcher and Brett Rude.*

The provision of maintenance/repairs is primarily provided by MTM members and a few volunteers; contractors are called when the work is extensive or requires licensed contractors. Special thanks to **Dan Andersen, Dean Paulsen, Brett Rude** and **Jennifer Molfetta**.

Future work in 2023 will be the development of a 5-year Capital Budget Plan for the Church, after decisions are made on a future capital campaign and potential building remodel. MTM will also be developing a resiliency plan for the church, with support from CLM and United staff to address the safety and security needs of the church. Upgrades include: adding locks to closet doors, purchasing new external doors and locks, upgrading the security system, developing a Facility Maintenance Schedule to enhance upkeep and avoid unscheduled repairs and offering training opportunities for building and security safety. This work will be in coordination with the Security Grant volunteers and United Staff, CLM Ministry and external partners such as Olympia Police, Medic One and the State Department of Emergency Management among others. MTM will also be responsible for overseeing an electrical audit to evaluate the current electrical capacity for future repair and remodeling needs.



*Dean Paulsen showing the old water heater anode rod he replaced so the church had hot water again!*

The MTM is in need of church members to join our 5-person team; at least until the end of 2023. Responsibilities include attending a 2-hour meeting once a month, responding to email questions and/or providing volunteer time for either repairs, painting, projects or special services to the church facility and grounds' needs. If you can help, please contact Jennifer ([jennifer@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:jennifer@theunitedchurches.org)). Thank you!

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## ART COMMITTEE NEWS

BY Jennifer Molfetta, Administrator

From January to April, **Peggy Charlesworth** displayed her beautiful quilts in the Fireside Room. Peggy has been a member of The United Churches since 2016 and has enjoyed serving on Council, singing in the choir and participating in many events, activities and work parties over the years. Peggy learned to sew in junior high school but didn't take up quilting until after she retired. She loves it!

Artwork in the church has been incredibly important over the years from the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary and Chapel to the sculpture near the front entrance of the church. In 2019, an Art Committee was rejuvenated to display artwork in the Fireside Room but as with many other activities, this group went on hiatus through the Covid pandemic. We've started up again and encourage any member or friend to display their art.



Works are hung in the Fireside Room for about 4 months so we can accommodate three artists per year. If you're interested in showing your work, whether your own or a collection you own, please contact one of the members of the Art Committee: **Janet Sears, Brett Rude, Lynette and Mark Hunter, Pat Fountain, Paul McCann, Joan E. Knapp** and **Jennifer Molfetta**.

If you are interested in serving on the Art Committee, please contact me at 360-943-1210 x100 or [jennifer@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:jennifer@theunitedchurches.org).




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## UPROOTING RACISM COMMITTEE

BY Peggy Dreyfus

The Uprooting Racism Team's main objective is to provide a coordinated approach in eliminating racism across United Church's programs, communications, processes, and congregational community.

Our current focus is to awaken anti-racist awareness in our congregation through ‘Sacred Conversations’ Lunch and Learn discussions held at noon on the third Sunday of each month. Check out our 2023 schedule of alternating films and books on the church website or page 18 of this Voice edition. Books we have studied so far are *The Land is Not Empty* by Sarah Augustine, and *The Quaking of America* by Resmaa Menakem. Our first film study was a discussion about *Twelve Years a Slave*. Though our chosen curriculum is not for the faint of heart, we are thrilled with the congregation’s response to these offerings. Please pack your lunch, invite a friend, and join us!

In addition to monthly book and film discussions, on the fifth Sundays of January and April, our ‘Sacred Conversations’ offered the congregation an opportunity to share their reflections on the call to dismantle racism in our hearts and to become racial justice advocates. Anti-racism work asks each of us to perform an inward interrogation of biases, prejudices, internalized white supremacy, internalized racism, and overt racist behaviors. Our hope is to bring restorative racial justice into our lives, our church, and our community. We are walking this path together.



Members of the Uprooting Racism Team, including **Paul McCann, Beth Barron, Dan Meuse, Peggy Dreyfus, Jan Van Pelt, Marcia McLaughlin, R.**

**Peggy Smith, Kathleen Clark, and Pastor Lara**, are digesting the book, *Wait, Is this Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church*. We are grateful that Dr. Velda Love, Minister of Racial Justice, United Church of Christ, National Ministries, facilitator of our Sacred Conversations workshop here in Fall of 2022, continues to act as a valuable resource and sounding board for the team.

## SMALL GROUPS – SIGN UP GROUPS

BY Elaine Lyford-Nojima



Small Groups are alive and well at church! We have “Show Up Groups,” which are groups that you can “show-up” for as your interest and schedule allows. No commitment – just “show up.” For example, we have “Thursdays Together”, who gather each Thursday from 1:00 – 3:00 PM to play games, have coffee, and enjoy conversation. We also have “Sign Up Groups,” which are groups that ask for a more regular commitment of attendance and participation; these can include support, prayer, discussion and social activities. Sign up so the host knows you plan to attend and “check out” the group a few times to see if it’s a fit. Some of these groups are by Zoom.

## Show Up Groups

**Men's Breakfast** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 8 am at IHOP in Olympia.

Leader — Rod Cate

**Thursdays Together** – Every Thursday from 1pm -3pm in the Fireside

Room. Leader —Sue Poler

**Piece Crafters** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month from 10am-Noon in the

Fireside Room. Leader—Sandee Sennes

**Olynnials** – Every other Sunday at 4 pm at the United Churches.

Leader-- Pastor Lara [lara@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:lara@theunitedchurches.org)

**Youth Group** – Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the United Churches.

Leader—AnnElise Fishel [annelise@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:annelise@theunitedchurches.org)

**Centering Prayer** – Thursdays at 8:30 pm on Zoom.

Leader—Char McMullen

**Lively Lectionary** – Wednesdays 10:15 to 11:30 am, in the Fireside Room.

Leader-- Pastor Lara [lara@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:lara@theunitedchurches.org)

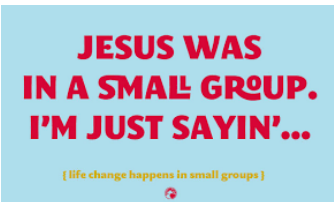
## Sign Up Groups

Caring Friends – meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9-10am via Zoom and groups that meet in person or via Zoom on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the afternoon or evening.

For more information, contact **Lara** at [lara@theunitedchurches.org](mailto:lara@theunitedchurches.org) or **Elaine Lyford-Nojima**. New Small Groups will be added over the spring and summer.



*Joan E. Knapp and Brenda Hatcher discuss one of the Sign Up Groups at the Small Group Fair on April 23.*




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## **ACTIVISM OPPORTUNITY AT UNITED**

BY Julie Clark

Caregivers who work in supported living do not make a livable wage—because of this, supported living clients don't have enough staff to take care of them. This has negative impacts on both clients and staff.



The legislators need to vote to include more money in the budget for caregivers. They must understand that caregivers need to have a living wage. The turnover for residential caregivers is very high. Legislators need to know how important making a living wage is.

Many caregivers must work more than one job to get by. They can't give quality care because caregivers are tired and burnt out. The lower pay

results in fewer staff, which negatively impacts clients and current staff. The caregivers that have already been hired work long hours.

Here is why I am affected by the staffing crisis, I get tired and burned out over the staffing crisis, and sometimes I lose sleep over it. Not being able to go places when I want to can be stressful. I feel somewhat depressed because I can't get out of the house very often. This really impacts my quality of life by not having caregivers showing up at all. The staffing crisis affects me.

Call or email your legislators and tell them to include more money in the budget for caregivers. Thank you for reading this article. It makes a difference in people's lives.

## CAMP COUNSELOR POSITIONS

BY Pam Anderson, Council Clerk

Sound View Camp, operated by Presbytery of Olympia, is seeking young adults who would like to serve as summer staff. Most positions are for program staff to lead a cabin of 7 kids in activities throughout the day. Ideally staff will be 18 and up, but that's not 100% required, if a 17-year old is responsible and comes highly recommended.

Staff will be trained about many aspects of working with youth, including team building, archery, marine education, songs, and skits. They'll also receive CPR/First Aid and Food Handler certifications. There is more information [here](#) on the website. Qualification as a lifeguard is desirable, but not required.

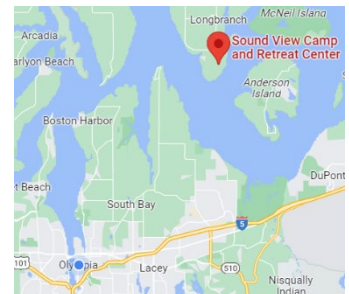
This can be a great job for folks who are headed off to college in August, or who have short summer breaks from employment, as the required dates of work are only in July. Longer terms may be available.



(There are also unpaid weekly positions available for youth entering 11th and 12th grade. They're called Rovers - basically assistant cabin leaders.)

Finally here is the link for [registration for summer camp](#) if you have any kiddos ages 8-14 that you think may be interested.

Soundview Camp is located at 8515 Key Peninsula Hwy SW, Longbranch, WA 98351. It takes about an hour to drive there from Olympia.



## YOUTH SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT

BY AnnElise Fishel, Children & Youth Program Coordinator



This summer our Youth are caravanning down to Pacific Grove, California to engage in Blue Theology's Summer Program. The youth are excited to learn more about the Pacific Ocean, Poetry, Ocean Theology and Coastal life. As a congregation on the Salish sea, we are looking forward to growing our compassion, knowledge and excitement about the beautiful body of water. As a part of this exciting environmental project, the youth led worship on Earth Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Our youth love to engage with

the environment and we were excited to share our thoughts, beliefs and feelings about the earth and this summer opportunity. We are looking to raise \$4,000 to help get us down there and back in one piece. Please donate to make this trip a reality!



Back row: Philip Taron, Vix Grosso, JoJo Scott, AnnElise Fishel

Middle row: Meredith Morgan, Lauren Grosso, Lucas Tucker, Charlie Taron

Front row: Malachai Scott, Cassie Crutsinger-Perry, Pastor Lara, Lauren Jenks

## LUNCH AT PANORAMA

BY Therese Sprunger



The luncheons at Panorama are back!

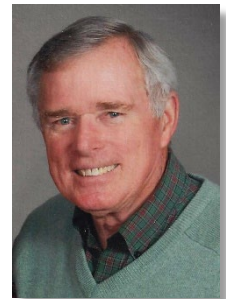
We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month for lunch at the Seventeen51 restaurant at Panorama. This event is open to anyone who wants to join us. We gather at 11:15 am and eat together and talk. Sometimes we have a short program. Many times Pastor Lara joins us and gives an update on happenings at church. The cost of the lunch is \$17.50 and there are usually 4 menu items from which to choose your meal. If you would like to be on the email list for this, please contact the church office.

## ENDOWMENT BOARD UPDATE

BY Jim Watts, Chair

The United Churches has five endowments whose total value as of August 31, 2022 was \$630,600. The value of each endowment was:

United Churches General Endowment	\$401,700
Patsy Humphres Children's Endowment	43,200
Madge Raney Endowment	53,700
Social Justice Endowment	69,800
Creative Spiritual Growth Endowment	75,600
Total	\$644,000



During the first three months of 2023, the market value of these endowments increased by just over \$19,650, an increase 3.1%. This is a welcome change from 2022 during which the endowments decreased by about \$93,800 in market value. The Board is a long-term investor and history shows such a strategy will eventually recoup this loss in market value.

Each year the Joint Board and the Creative Spiritual Growth Endowment Board determine how much can be distributed from each endowment. Because none of the endowments produced earnings in 2022, no new spending authority was approved. However, any unused spending authority approved in previous years is carried forward and available for future distribution. As of March 31, 2023 about \$178,800 was still available for future distribution.

United Churches General Endowment	\$98,300
Patsy Humphres Children's Endowment	9,600
Madge Raney Endowment	10,800
Social Justice Endowment	30,400
Creative Spiritual Growth Endowment	29,700
Total	\$178,800

In addition to the endowments discussed above, the Joint Board also manages two other funds: the McNall Scholarship Fund (\$37,700) and the Invested Cash Account (\$215,200). The latter account is used to invest cash that is excess to church’s immediate needs. Most of this cash is invested in bonds and short-term fixed income securities which produce interest to support our operating budget. Presently \$150,000 is invested in Certificates of Deposits yielding 2.9%, 4.65%, and 4.85%.

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 the church office.

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

BY Jean Fuller, Treasurer

We want to thank everyone who has already met their pledge goals for the year. To date, nine pledging units have already prepaid their entire 2023 pledge. In addition, the church had advocacy groups back in the building this legislative session totaling \$4,960 in rental income this quarter.



*Our finance crew meets in the office every Tuesday: Jean Fuller, Jim Watts and Marilyn Sprague.*

In addition, our security grant team has begun planning for new doors, locks and security hardware throughout the building. This grant allows us to address critical needs of the building outside of our annual budget.

The graph below is a synopsis of our first-quarter income and expenses for 2023. Our congregation has a history of generosity and 2023 is off to a good start.

Annual Budget	Income 1st Quarter	Expenditure 1st Quarter	Net Income 1st Quarter	% of Budget Spent
\$472,600	\$138,459	\$10,786	\$30,673	23%

Our Ministry Committees have been busy during the first quarter:

- Management Team has changed out all of our smoke detectors, added new carbon monoxide monitors, and added a new door with locking hardware to the sanctuary to secure the balcony.



- Congregational Life continues to take care of the congregation by feeding our souls and our bodies including the Holy Week Potluck and Get to Know You Brunch.
- Community Connections sponsored a brunch and purchased gravel for Nickerson Camp. Benevolences of \$9,989 were distributed this quarter.
- Spiritual Transformation supported our Lent season with worship resources and new paraments and has started putting copies of the Sacred Conversations books in the library.
- Lastly, an organ console fund was successfully launched this quarter and a new organ console is on its way to United!

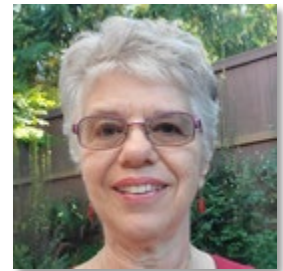
Thank you all for your generous donations and your support of United. Our church continues to make a difference in our lives and the lives of people in our community.

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## OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

BY Mary Olney-Loyd

We have partners in Colombia: Justapaz (Justice and Peace), an organization working with local churches in rural and urban Colombia developing peace and justice; and CEDECOL (Peace Commission for the Protestant Council of Churches in Colombia), also working for peace and justice in Protestant congregations. Both groups work ecumenically.



Our mission co-workers, Alex Maldonado Lizardi and Xiomara Cintron Garcia (from Puerto Rico) work with Justapaz. Alex documents persons' accounts of violence against them; Xiomara works with women's issues, family concerns and preventing youth from being recruited by para-military groups. Alex and Xiomara were teachers in Puerto Rico and active in their Disciples Congregation. We are invited to assist in their support: go to [northernlightsdisciples.org](http://northernlightsdisciples.org) and click on the header with the photo of Alex and Xiomara smiling to learn more.

Recently Justapaz held a conference in honor of the 30-year anniversary. This organization is respected by both government and militia groups, as shown by both groups' attendance at the conference. The new Colombia President, Gustavo Petro sent a representative. With this new administration Colombians have a renewed hope for true peace after a 6-decade civil war.

Our Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Northern Lights Region of Disciples of Christ have a joint committee for global ministries. I serve on that 12-member committee. See the [northernlightsdisciples.org](http://northernlightsdisciples.org) for more written information; click on the photo of Alex and Xiomara for videos, prayers, and under family and kids: a movie night with "Encanto."

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## SACRED CONVERSATIONS LUNCH & LEARN

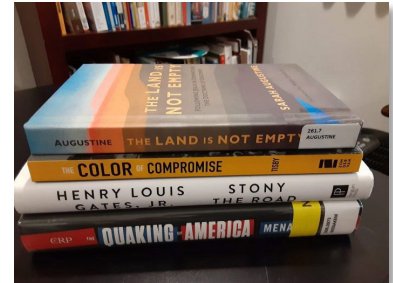
### SCHEDULE FOR THIRD SUNDAY DISCUSSIONS

Read the book or watch the movie. Join us for a lively discussion over lunch after the 10:30 am service on the third Sunday each month. Bring your own lunch. We meet in the chapel.

### FOR A WATCH AND TALK OPTION

The group movie watch begins at noon, followed by discussion, on the listed Saturdays. Bring your own lunch. We watch in the Fireside Room.

- ◆ April 16<sup>th</sup> Book: The Quaking of America by Resmaa Menakem
- ◆ May 21<sup>st</sup> Movie: If Beale Street Could Talk
- ◆ May 27<sup>th</sup>, Saturday Movie: If Beale Street Could Talk
- ◆ June 18<sup>th</sup> Book: Stand Your Ground by Kelly Brown Douglas
- ◆ July 15<sup>th</sup>, Saturday Movie: Selma
- ◆ July 16<sup>th</sup> Movie: Selma
- ◆ August 20<sup>th</sup> Book: God Is a Black Woman by Christena Cleveland
- ◆ September 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday Movie: Do the Right Thing
- ◆ September 17<sup>th</sup> Movie: Do the Right Thing
- ◆ October 15<sup>th</sup> Book: How To Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
- ◆ November 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday Movie: The Hate U Give
- ◆ November 19<sup>th</sup> Movie: The Hate U Give



**Questions?** Contact **Marcia McLaughlin** about the books

Contact **R Peggy Smith** about the movies

## UNITED IN PICTURES



*Left: Lisa Carroll baked a King Cake for Mardi Gras*



*Right: Roma Smith taking care of leaves on a dry day in January.*



*Left: Sandee Sennes painted the stairway in March.*



*Above: Therese Sprunger painted the stairwell in March.*



*Above: Dan Andersen replaced the pole covers in the Social Hall in April.*



*Left: Tim Devine and Elaine Lyford-Nojima painted the wall near the library in March.*

## 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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Rev. Lara Crutsinger-Perry, Pastor	<a href="mailto:lara@theunitedchurches.org">lara@theunitedchurches.org</a>
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#### Church Council

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Kathleen Clark – <i>Moderator</i>	Amanda Hutson – <i>Vice Moderator</i>	
Pam Anderson – <i>Clerk</i>	Jean Fuller – <i>Treasurer</i>	
Beth Barron	Jinny Beekmann	Dave Carmer-Hall
Dana Nojima	Eunice Robb	R. Peggy Smith
Jude Van Buren	Jenn Wulf	{vacant}

#### Volunteer Ministry Chairs:

Jacky Crow, Chair – Congregational Life  
 Betsy Loyer, Co-Chair – Community Connections  
 Peggy Charlesworth, Chair - Personnel



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! Please email or call the church office for more information.

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