



NORMANDY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TOWLINE

NPUCC's Monthly Newsletter

August 2025

19247—1st Ave S
Seattle, WA

(206) 824-1770

www.npucc.org

Pastor:

Rev. Amy Hitchens

amy@npucc.org

**Music Accompanist and
Choir Director:**

Cindy Dow

cindy@npucc.org

Church Office:

Robbie Gilchrist

office@npucc.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday

11:45 am-2:30 pm

Wednesday

8:45 am-2:30 pm

Dear Siblings in Christ,

A few days ago, I was up in the mountains near I-90 on a nature trail taking in old growth, with the smallest of wild plants and flowers and even some actual purple huckleberries (yes, I ate a few!) As I was walking with my clergy friends, I kept thinking about Robin Wall Kimmerer's short book, The Serviceberry. Many of us have been inspired by this book so much so that it will be a guiding force for us during our upcoming Stewardship season in the fall. So, if you haven't read it yet, I invite you to do so and join us for one more conversation about the book this coming Monday, August 4th on zoom at 7:00 p.m.

As the Body of Christ, we know something about sharing things (time, talent, treasure!) in common and working together as partners in service for the church, for the various ministries we support, for the faith formation we seek to develop. AND much of the sharing in common we do centers around food and meals. This is not new news to anyone who has been here a little while. We had 62 participants in the community meal in July and this month we will have our all-church picnic on August 17th. In talking with Ben P. we are going to have a Palestinian/Mediterranean themed main dish this year—which got me to thinking—it is time for us—as a congregation to take a special offering for a food program (designated by Church Council) that is providing aid to people in Gaza.

People across the world, including Israeli citizens, are calling out for this starvation to stop. As a community of faith situated in the United Church of Christ, we do not support war in general—and certainly not Hamas and not Israel either in what is going on there. Further, we do not support the starvation of children anywhere. This is why the burning of food meant for the least of these by our own government is so terrible. Jesus is pretty clear—"let the little children come to me." For me this means, allow the little ones to not just survive but to thrive. Jesus is including children, especially children in the loving of our

neighbor mandate. And YES, it is so hard to look at what is going on there and in parts of Africa regarding hunger--that many of us just look away because it's overwhelming, scary and beyond our comprehension. We must confess, that as followers of Jesus, it is not always easy to extend our love of neighbor across the world to a people and a place that is enduring more trauma than we can even name.

And that is why we rely on being part of the Body of Christ. We rely on each other and the Holy Spirit, that our few dollars, our few loaves of bread can multiply and make a difference when placed in the hand of the right food program. We rely on each other and the Holy Spirit to have a safe place to share our angst, our joys, our grief, and even our hard-won successes.

What I know to be true is that it is an immense relief when I can get out of my head and get my body moving—whether it is on the nature trail, or moving tables for the community meal. Or perhaps it is packing peppers (must wear gloves and a mask for those spicy ones!) at the Food Bank or assembling more hygiene kits (two different opportunities coming up this month, see the rest of the newsletter for details!). We are a people of prayer and a people of action and what we do together is more than what we ever could do alone. Thanks be to God for our community of faith that loves to feed people—in body, mind and spirit.

Rm. Amy

August Calendar of Events

ONLINE: *invitations/directions for accessing these events will be shared via email:*

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- The Serviceberry Book Discussion: Monday, August 4, 7 pm
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, August 12, 7 pm
- Bibles & Brews: Friday, August 1 & 15, 7 pm

IN-PERSON:

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, August 6, 11:30 am, Potluck on Lynn's deck
- Worship Committee: Sunday, August 10, Following Worship, Fireside Room
- Hygiene & Period Pack Assembly—Sunday, August 10, 2nd hour, Fellowship Hall
- Parish Care Committee: Wednesday, August 13, 1 pm, Fireside Room
- Choir BBQ: Saturday, August 16, Noon, on Lynn's deck. Burgers provided—bring a dish to share
- All-Church Picnic, Sunday, August 17, Following Worship
- Slot Cars: Friday, August 29, 5-10 pm, Fellowship Hall

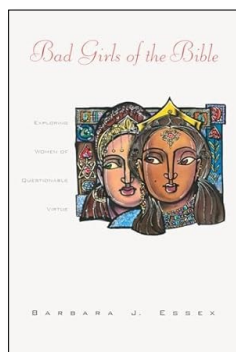
OUT OF OFFICE:

- Pastor Amy will be out of the office August 14 and August 18-25.

We encourage you to wear a mask if you have a cold or cough. If you have symptoms or do not feel well, please stay home and join us on Zoom. Masks are available at church if needed. Thank You!

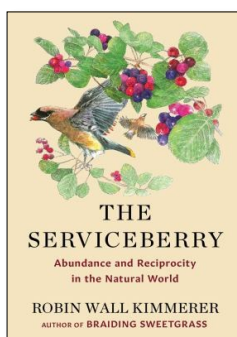
BIBLES & BREWS—FRIDAYS, AUGUST 1 & 15 @ 7 PM

We continue the study of Bad Girls of the Bible by Barbara Essex by Zoom only. On 8/1 we will be exploring Chapter 3 - “Rebekah: Deceptive or Direct?” (pages 22 – 30) and on 8/15 we will be exploring Chapter 4 - “Tamar: Parasite or Persistent?” (pages 31 – 37).



SUMMER READ - The Serviceberry – MONDAY, AUGUST 4 @ 7 PM

We are having a second discussion of The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Robin Wall Kimmerer and will meet by Zoom only.



LUNCH BUNCH - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6 @ 11:30 AM AT LYNN'S

Please join our next Lunch Bunch for a potluck on Lynn's deck. Please bring something to share; iced tea and coffee will be provided. Contact her if you need the address.

Mark your calendar - on Wednesday, September 3, Madeleine will be hosting lunch at Rose Pho, 19865 1st Ave S #302, Normandy Park, WA 98148.



HYGIENE & PERIOD PACK ASSEMBLY- SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2ND HOUR, FELLOWSHIP HALL

School will be starting up soon and to help prepare we will be having a hygiene and period pack assembly after worship on Sunday, August 10 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join in on this task that helps the teens in our community have essentials for their personal health.



CHOIR BBQ – SATURDAY, AUGUST 16 @ NOON AT LYNN'S

Interested in joining the choir? Come and have questions answered and enjoy the camaraderie of the NPUCC choir. Can't read music? That's okay. Your love of singing is the only requirement! Burgers will be provided... please bring a side or dessert to share.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP & ALL-CHURCH PICNIC— SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Come celebrate the beautiful summer weather on Sunday, August 17 with outdoor worship and a picnic/potluck.

Ben P will be providing Palestinian/Mediterranean-themed dishes. NPUCC is providing drinks and ice cream treats. We're asking the congregation to please bring side-dishes/salads /dessert.

The picnic/potluck is sponsored by Church Council. All are Welcome! Come and Enjoy!

Our Experience in Romania

Stacie Latimer and Beki Hissam, Guest Speakers for Church August 24

August 24, Stacie and her dear friend Beki Hissam will share the life-altering experience of their joint volunteer experience in Romania in 1991. As roommates in a Romanian home, Beki and Stacie helped each other navigate the heartbreak of volunteering in an orphanage and of a country trying to recover from 42 years of Communism, including Ceausescu's brutal 24 year dictatorship.

Beki and Stacie will discuss the value of Democracy, freedom of religion, and the generosity of Romanians amidst little water, heat, or food.

Beki's life experiences include being a nurse, a prison chaplain for 10 years, a wife and a mom. Stacie would add that Beki is a person of profound faith, insight, and wisdom.

Hope you can join Beki and Stacie August 24th.



CHRISTMAS PEOPLE HYGIENE KIT ASSEMBLY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 8 AM—4:30 PM, HIGHLINE COLLEGE

Help The Christmas People and others assemble hygiene kits for those that are marginalized and/or underserved in our community, Saturday, August 23, from 8 am until 4:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. All ages welcome!

Alice has parking permits for Highline College to share.

ENNEAGRAM GROUP

Still taking a break in August. See everyone back in September!

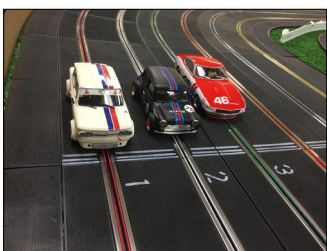
TACOMA RAINIER'S GAME

Fun was had by all Tuesday evening, July 1 at Cheney Stadium as the Tacoma Rainier's bested the Salt Lake City Bees 10-1. What is better than a ballpark hotdog? A bag of chips and bottle of water to go with it!



MISSION MILE – FRIDAY, August 29, 5 - 10 PM

Come and join Bob in racing slot cars in the Fellowship Hall. Fun is had by all! Looking ahead to September, racing will be on 19th.



GIVING STATEMENTS AND OFFERINGS

Mid-year giving statement were emailed during July. If you did not receive yours, please let our Financial Secretary, Lynn, know. Also, please keep up to date on your offerings... remember even though you may be on vacation, NPUCC still has salaries and bills to pay.

Welcome Our Newest Members!

Jennifer W

Jennifer grew up in Portland, Oregon. Now retired from practicing law for 25 years, Jennifer works part time as a Pharmacy Technician.

Jennifer and her wife Mickey live in Burien now, after raising their daughters in Bellingham. They have two Chihuahuas, which occasionally is one too many.

Though raised in the Jewish faith as a child, Jennifer has been on a spiritual journey seeking Christ since high school. She has lots of hobbies: primarily, her horse, Fonzie, sewing, gardening and cooking vegan and vegetarian cuisine. Jennifer and Mickey love to go RVing, cycling and kayaking and SUPing together.



*Jennifer W. & Rita S. joined the church
on Pentecost Sunday!*

Rita S

Rita is relatively new to our community, but has been in churches her whole life. She has a deep passion for the church and the fellowship it provides. Rita's life verse is 2 Tim 1:7. For God has not given a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind. In her spare time Rita likes to connect with her 3 daughters and 11 grandchildren. She also volunteers with the Red Cross.

August Birthdays

Joan Held	8/11
Stacie Latimer	8/18
Pearl Riba	8/18
John Held	8/21
Connie Clark	8/23
Jill Nedved	8/28

August Anniversaries

Jana & Mike Cook	8/1
Susan Andresen & Ruben Sasis	8/6
Belinda & Derek Allender	8/16

***If you don't see your August birthday or anniversary
on this list and would like to be included,
please contact the church office at
office@npucc.org or 206-824-1770***