



NORMANDY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TOWLINE

NPUCC's Monthly Newsletter

December 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,

I am writing to you before Thanksgiving, on the day of our interfaith Thanksgiving service, already thinking about the new liturgical year which begins on Sunday, November 30th with the First Sunday of Advent. This year our choir will be singing a cantata separated into four different parts for each Sunday leading up to Christmas Eve. Our sermon theme is **[im]possible**—it's all possible with God. My hope is that we will feel buoyed up during the shortest days and the longest nights of the year—even though unjust things are happening all around us, we can center ourselves in the love and hope of the birth of the Christ Child—born of refugee parents who had no home.

Each week we will be celebrating with music, sermon and fellowship--

Advent I—**HOPE**--we will have an Advent workshop right after church in the fellowship hall

Advent II—**PEACE**--communion Sunday and we will decorate the Christmas trees in the sanctuary and caroling to the homebound.

Advent III—**JOY**--wassail Sunday, complete with Christmas cookies after worship .

Advent IV—**LOVE**--the Christmas Pageant—this time from the animal's point of view! Bring your kids and grandkids.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m. with a setting of the nativity scene, many readings and carols, and a lighting of the Christmas candles at the end of our worship time together. This is a young family friendly service!

As we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child this season, I leave you with a Tolkien poem—for me it captures well the resiliency and fortitude of our faith— in an era where there are more questions than answers, more uncertainty than certainty. With God, we can lean into the unknowns together, as God always makes a way out of no way.

The Riddle of Strider

by J.R.R. Tolkien

All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be king.

In HOPE,

Rm. Amy

December Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, December 9, 7 pm
- Bibles & Brews: Friday, December 5, 7 pm

IN-PERSON:

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- Blessing Bag Assembly w/ The Christmas People: Saturday, November 29, 8:30 am, Highline College
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, December 3, 11:30 am, Fish and Chicken House
- Caroling after Worship: Sunday, December 7, Following Worship
- Wassail Sunday: December 14, Fireside Room
- Mission Mile: Friday, December 19, 5—10 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 21, During Worship
- Christmas Eve Service: Wednesday, December 24, 5 pm
- Knit and Crochet Circle: Sunday, December 28, 2nd Hour, Library

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!

MESSAGE FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Within the first two weeks of December, you will receive a giving statement sent by email letting you know how you stand on your 2025 pledge. If you do not receive it by 11/15, please let me know.

Also, remember for any donations to be counted for giving in 2025, they must be received in the church office and/or postmarked by 12/31.

Please be sure to turn in any 2025 expense reimbursements by 12/31.

Thank you, Lynn

BLESSING BAG ASSEMBLY—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM, HIGHLINE COLLEGE

Join Fred and Ruth, the Christmas People, as we assemble blessing bags this Saturday, November 9th from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Please enter the SOUTH Parking Lot of Highline College off S 240th ST. Building 21, room 116. Come any time to help with the assembly. Lunch will be provided.

POINSETTIA SALE—NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 7

The Worship Committee will be purchasing poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary this Christmas season. If you would like to support this effort, this year we are asking for a \$20 donation for the poinsettia. The sign-up sheet/sale will be Sunday November 30 and December 7. We will purchase the plants in the week of December 8. You can take the plant home after Christmas Eve service.



LUNCH BUNCH - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 @ 11:30 AM AT FISH AND CHICKEN HOUSE



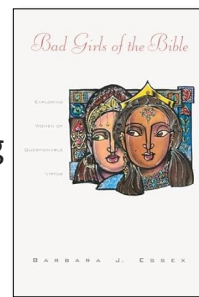
Rodney is hosting our December luncheon at Fish and Chicken House (Indian and American Food) at 21919 Marine View Dr S, Des Moines, WA 98198

(next to All Points Yarn). He's billing it as a two in one excursion – eat your lunch and then go shopping for yarn!

Sign up to host in 2026... see sheet on the kiosk in the narthex.

BIBLE & BREWS — FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 @ 7 PM

We continue the study of Bad Girls of the Bible by Barbara Essex by Zoom only by exploring Chapter 11 - "The Woman Caught in Adultery: Fallen or Forgiven" (pages 93 – 98).



IMMIGRATION INTERFAITH SOLIDARITY DAY—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1—3 PM, NW DETENTION CENTER

You are invited to join South Sound Clergy and La Resistencia at the NW Detention Center on Saturday, December 6 from 1-3 p.m. to show your support and care for those who are detained in our midst. Saltwater UU, Southminster Presbyterian and Bet Chaverim members will also be there.

If interested or if you have questions, please speak with Pastor Amy

<https://laresistencianw.org/>

CAROLING TO THE HOMEBOUND - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

After worship on December 7th, we'll be visiting those who are homebound to bring holiday joy!

WASSAIL SUNDAY—DECEMBER 14, FOLLOWING WORSHIP, FIRESIDE ROOM

Join us after worship in the Fireside room for some wassail and other beverages. Please bring your favorite holiday cookies/treats to share.

Wassail is a cozy hot holiday beverage. We make it with apple cider, fresh oranges and lemons and various spices like cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, allspice and cloves.

The word “wassail” has been used as a salutation or toast to good health. In England, it also describes a 12th night of Christmas gathering in fruit orchards where dancing, drinking, and singing encourage spirits to provide a good harvest in the coming year. Wassailing can also simply mean Christmas caroling door to door.



BURIEN SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER COLLECTION—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

As part of NPUCC outreach we collect warm clothing in December to donate to those in need. This year we will be donating to the Burien Severe Weather Shelter located at the Highline United Methodist Church. Please see the list below of items they are requesting currently. Please bring your items December 14 and place them under the tree in the sanctuary.

- Coats
- White/Black crew or tube socks
- Sweatshirts/Hoodies
- Men’s Boxer Briefs S, M, L (*Med is most used*)
- Sweat Pants (S, M, L)
- Women’s Briefs 6-8-10 (S, M)
- Men’s Jeans 32, 34, 36 Waist
- Men’s T-Shirts (M, L, XL)
- Gloves – Heavy Snow Type – M, L, XL

Clothing can be new or gently used, but underwear and socks should be new.

The shelter will request food items when they get closer to opening for overnight stays, but they can use hot chocolate, and hot cider packets any time.

MISSION MILE – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 5 - 10 PM

Come and join Bob in racing slot cars in the Fellowship Hall. Fun is had by all!



THE CHRISTMAS FUND – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United



Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. UCC congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be

especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. NPUCC will be taking this special mission offering on Sunday, December 21 by cash, check, PayPal, or Zelle.

INTERGENERATIONAL INTERACTIVE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 DURING WORSHIP

When you walk into the narthex on Sunday, December 21 you'll be greeted with costumes to pick from to wear for this year's pageant which will have a new twist (Kirsten's imagination at work) with the Christmas story being told from the stable animals' perspective. As in years past, we encourage you to join in on the story as it is told by going up to the front, or staying in your seat if that's where you are more comfortable. There will be a multitude of angels, shepherds, animals, wise people... and, of course, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and the guiding star. If you would like the part of a reader, please contact Kirsten.



KNIT AND CROCHET CIRCLE—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2ND HOUR

Join the circle and come to the library after worship on Sunday, December 28 to work on one of the scarfs that have been started or pull out your half-way completed project and join in on the conversation and fellowship.

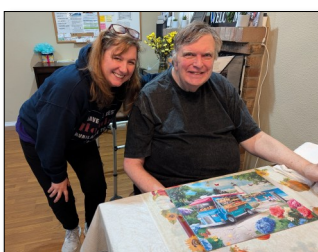


MARY'S PLACE GIVING TREE AND GIFT TAGS

Thank you to everyone who purchased hand-made gift tags from our youth to fund gifts for the children of Mary's Place and also for picking gift tags from the Mary's Place giving tree for gift cards for the teenagers and adult of Mary's Place.

VISITING WITH CB

CB has moved into Cozy Homes, an Adult Family Home in University Place. On Thursday 10/30, Alice and Lynn brought lunch from Applebee's and played a hand of his favorite card game "Hand



and Foot". Then on Thursday 11/13, Lynn and Pastor Amy visited him... Lynn brought puzzles and Pastor Amy brought chocolates... CB's eyes lit up when he saw those chocolates! Their music volunteer was also there so we all joined in singing songs.

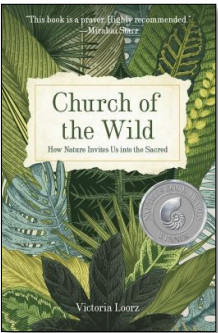
2023 BABY FIRS ON THEIR WAY TO NEW HOMES

Our original 2023 baby fir seedlings from Grow It Forward are no longer babies. Several are 3 feet high by now. On November 12 the Green Team selected the 15 tallest for use in the City of Normandy Park. Normandy Park will also receive cedar and fir volunteers. On November 14 Barb & Jim transported about 30 of the original trees to Grow It Forward headquarters on Phinney Ridge. This first batch of firs were watered over three summers. We were given 50 new fir seedlings this past spring (April 18, 2025, Good Friday) from Grow It Forward to nurse though a couple summers. They are separated from the original group on a platform in an opposite corner of the labyrinth. Good luck, baby firs. May you grow and prosper! The Green Team - Pastor Amy, Barb, Alice, Jill, Lynn, Cathy Brewer, Connie, Tess



CONFERENCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TEAM BOOK READ

The Pacific Northwest Conference Environmental Justice Team is inviting you to join in a book read of Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us into the Sacred, by Victoria Loorz. On Sunday, January 11 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm there will be a discussion with the Rev. Loorz on Zoom. This book is available at the KC library. If you’re interested in signing up, please let Pastor Amy know. There is a registration link that she can send you.



“This book is for those who wish to ‘return to intimate relationship with the living world. More and more of us are taking our place, once again, as full participants in the web of life, which we remember is held together by love’ (from the Prologue). Loorz explores what spiritual life looks like not in a pew inside a building but out under a tree or in a meadow with a doe or sitting beside a creek—or wherever you may be. As she tells her own journey, she also invites the reader to try it.”

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day add an item to a box. On Christmas Eve, donate the contents to the food bank. Or, donate the items on a weekly basis. If you are donating any canned goods that don’t have a pop-top, add a couple of can openers.

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dec 1 Peanut Butter | Dec 13 Applesauce cups |
| Dec 2 Canned chicken | Dec 14 Granola bars |
| Dec 3 Canned tuna or salmon | Dec 15 Baby food |
| Dec 4 Canned beans | Dec 16 Pancake mix |
| Dec 5 Pasta | Dec 17 Jelly/jam |
| Dec 6 Pasta sauce | Dec 18 Individual mac & cheese |
| Dec 7 Canned vegetable | Dec 19 Crackers |
| Dec 8 Bag of flour | Dec 20 Common spices |
| Dec 9 Bag of sugar | Dec 21 Canned fruit |
| Dec 9 Cooking oil | Dec 22 Instant mashed potatoes |
| Dec 10 Boxed cereal | Dec 23 Soup |
| Dec 11 Instant oatmeal | Dec 24 Rice |
| Dec 12 Instant milk | Dec 25 Chili |

THIS YEAR’S ADVENT SERIES—

Prophets are painters. They paint pictures of a time to come when people will be at peace with one another, hope will be made real, and all will shout for joy! Even if that time seems far off, we know it has already begun in Jesus, who is love come down to transform our lives and the world. This Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate how he has made possible what once seemed impossible – *hope, peace, joy and love!*



December Birthdays

Jeni Watson	12/7
Kirsten Pangelinan	12/18
Jen Willner	12/20
Michael McPherson	12/27
Jill Tiffany	12/29
Cathy Barton	12/30

December Anniversaries

Barbara & Jim Gregg	12/21
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***If you don't see your December 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***