



NORMANDY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TOWLINE

NPucc's Monthly Newsletter

September 2026

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Seattle, WA

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www.npucc.org

Pastor:

Rev. Amy Hitchens
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**Music Accompanist and
Choir Director:**

Cindy Dow
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Church Office:

Robbie Gilchrist
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Office Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I encourage you to read the Annual Report as evidence of all the ways this church has made a meaningful impact in our wider community this past year. It is long and that is a good thing because it is articulating, line by line the ways in which we care for our neighbors, God's good creation, our church property and each other. Our annual meeting is arriving soon and very soon on September 13. Having as many members in attendance either in person or on zoom is really important for the life of this church and voting in the new panel of officers for our Church Council.

Churches in the United Church of Christ are very democratic. Each member has a vote. If you are not a member, you may have a voice without a vote, which means everyone can be present to and engage in an annual meeting. For us, at NPucc, we do this during our worship service. Because the annual meeting shows another aspect of how we worship and organize for the work of God in the world.

On the church council, the chair of most of the committees has a seat at the table on the church council. There is also a Clerk (the one who takes the minutes and counts the votes at every meeting), a Moderator (Chair of the Board) and Vice Moderator. We follow By-Laws like every other nonprofit organization by mandate of the state of Washington and guess what, we are ready to review them because the last version is from 2016. Can you believe that was ten years ago? I can't either, but then again, I was a hospital chaplain then and hadn't even dreamed I would ever be a pastor one day.

If you would like to know more about church governance (exciting topic, I know!) come to the annual meeting. If you'd like to understand all that we have been up to, read that annual report.

So yes, it is not just Pumpkin Spice Latte season and football season, it is also annual meeting season which then means it is almost time for Stewardship season and this year the team has some fun things up their sleeve for you! (Door dash! Worship activities! 2nd hour conversations!)

In Hope--

Rev. Amy

September Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 7pm

IN-PERSON:

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- Communion Sunday: September 6, 10 am
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, September 2, 11:30 am, Azteca, Burien
- Fiction Readers Group: Wednesday, September 9, noon, Fireside Room
- Des Moines Area Food Bank Volunteering: Wednesday, September 16, 6:15 pm
- **NPUCC Annual Meeting: Sunday, September 13, During Worship**
- Mission Mile: Friday, September 18, 5-10 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Enneagram: Wednesday, September 23, 1 pm, Fireside Room

RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUPS (*Fellowship Hall*):

- Mondays: Yoga Recovery Group 6:30 pm, sharing then yoga
- Tuesdays: Normandy Park Perspective - Alanon 7 pm
- Saturday Big Book Step Study - AA, 10 am

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!*

NPUCC ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, DURING WORSHIP

Please join us on Sunday, September 13, for our church's Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place during the worship service. This will also be a time to look back at our accomplishments. ***Having a quorum is important as we vote in our slate of church officers and committee chairs, so we do hope you will join us!*** If you cannot join us on the 13th, proxy forms are available on Sundays and in the Church Office.

LUNCH BUNCH - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2



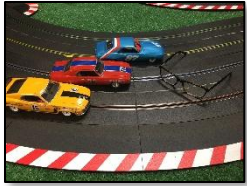
This month, Jen is hosting Lunch Bunch at Azteca, Burien at 11:30 am.

VOLUNTEERTING AT THE FOOD BANK – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 6:15 PM

You are invited to volunteer at the food bank located in the downstairs of the Des Moines united methodist church at 6:15 pm.



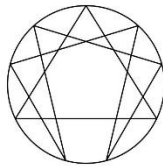
MISSION MILE – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18



Come and join Bob in racing slot cars in the Fellowship Hall from 5 – 10 pm. Fun is had by all!

ENNEAGRAM – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Our study of the enneagram and contemplation will continue at 1 pm in the Fireside Room with reading and discussing from Letting Go, Finding You: Uncover Your Truest Self through the Enneagram and Contemplation by Hunter Mobley.



THE GIVING GARDEN UPDATE

We've been harvesting peas, cucumbers, tomatoes, and chives this past month. We have been freezing the peas, tomatoes, and chives for September's community meal and canned a jar of dill pickles.



The kale and lettuce are coming along with harvest being made available for our church family and will also be used in September's community meal. We are also planting the many runners from the strawberries to be made available for folks to take home to plant.



EGG CARTONS

Thank you everyone for your donating of egg cartons to me but I've stocked piled enough so you can now donate your empty egg cartons to the Des Moines Area Food Bank. Thanks again! ~Lynn



STEWARDSHIP 2026

There Our Hearts Will Be invites us into a season of deep spiritual alignment—an honest, hopeful exploration of how our practices, priorities, and resources reveal what truly claims our hearts. Rooted in Jesus' teaching from Matthew 6, this theme reframes giving not as performance or obligation, but as the quiet, courageous work of placing our hearts in God's care. Turning to the breadth of our sacred scripture, we'll examine what we love, whom we trust, and how we live out our faith.



Ultimately, *There Our Hearts Will Be* is an invitation to:

- ♥ *Re-center our lives on God's quiet, faithful presence.*
- ♥ *Let our giving reflect our deepest values and commitments.*
- ♥ *Align our actions with our confession of Christ.*
- ♥ *Allow God to transform, heal, and renew our hearts. Practice a generosity that is not performative, but rooted, joyful, and Spirit-led.*

Through this journey, we will discover again that faithful stewardship is not primarily about money—it is about placing our hearts in God's hands, trusting that where our hearts go, our lives, choices, and resources will follow.

Together, as a community shaped by grace, we will ask: Where is our treasure? How can our hearts more fully align with God's?

In this season, we commit to making our answer clear.

There our hearts will be.

STEWARDSHIP ISN'T JUST ON SUNDAYS—

As we enter into Stewardship Season at the end of September, I realized a lot of you might not be aware of the buzz and the hum of the church during the other 6 days of the week.

So today I am writing you a snapshot of what our church looks like all the other days of the week that is NOT Sunday—with our partners in the building and our many volunteers that come and go. And I am not listing all the folks that come and go, just many of the usual suspects on any given week.

On Monday, well to us the church office is closed. But the preschool downstairs in the Christian Ed wing begins buzzing before 9:00 a.m. The teachers are setting up, the kids arrive shortly there after and there

is usually a morning class and an afternoon class of littles. Sometimes you will see them playing out back, or waving to the garbage truck on Tuesdays. On Monday evening, a yoga recovery group gathers for meditation, yoga and a recovery meeting in the Fellowship Hall. And also, maybe Alice pops over to the courtyard to refill the hummingbird feeder outside the pastor's window.



Tuesday, yes, the office is open! Robbie is here, I am here, the preschools is buzzing along. It just so happens that Nancy K. stops by with some supplies for the custodian and the kitchen. And in the evening, an Al Anon group meets in the fellowship hall. If it is a community meal night, they will have been in the kitchen and hall for a good chunk of the day getting the meal prepped and ready, and then live music and over 50 people arrive to eat at 4:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, Bob is called in to change out some batteries for an alarm somewhere in the building. Robbie is here working away and so am I. A book study meets at lunch. And maybe it's the Wednesday when Parish Care and Outreach meet in the Fireside Room. Cocoa the dog happens to be here too and Cindy also stops in to say hello and check in with Robbie and myself between her work visits. Max stops in to pick up some items for the Food Bank.

Thursday, well on Thursday, Vicki shows up to sign checks. Lynn comes in after Robbie's workday is done and works on the books. Sometimes I am in the office and sometimes I am out and about visiting people or in pastor meetings elsewhere. Barbara G. stops in to work on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Friday, well, the office is closed. But the preschool has a class on Fridays, I might be here moving chairs with a few helpers, setting up something for the weekend in the Sanctuary. The custodian comes in and cleans the bathrooms, does all the garbage and recycling, spot cleans, sweeps and mops. Bob sets up his slot cars.

And Saturday, the AA group that has been meeting in the CE wing or fellowship hall for years has their morning meeting. Meanwhile the giving garden crew is out back getting a cover crop on the vegetable beds. And a gardener hired by the Facilities committee is out trimming things. In the afternoon a group rents out the hall for a family party. And then, it is Sunday again and you all show up for worship!

NPUCC Fiction Readers Group

Read *Theo of Golden* with us! This [news blast](#) was just released on the Interwebs: Warner Bros Pictures is in negotiations for the feather film rights to Allen Levi's breakout novel *Theo of Golden*, a word-of-mouth juggernaut bestseller that has established the first-time author as a publishing phenomenon as he nears 79. Tom Hanks is in talks to play the title character. *Theo* was self-published in 2023 with little fanfare or promotion. The novel caught on slowly through word of mouth. The book was published wide by Simon & Schuster last October and has sold 3.5 million copies in the US.

Such an interesting backstory to this novel! We will next meet on September 9 at Noon in the Fireside Room. Bring lunch or a snack if you like. There's plenty of time to start reading and join our lively discussions. Contact JenW if you would like a copy, she has one extra. \$16.11 for new paperback, funds to NPUCC. Questions? contact JillT or JenW.

MATHIAS AT N-SID-SEN FAMILY CAMP!



PNCUCC WOMEN'S RETREAT – OCTOBER 9 – 11

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE • UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Just Breath

Women's Retreat

OCTOBER 9-11, 2026
PILGRIM FIRS CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

FULL WEEKEND
Friday - Sunday
lodging & meal included

SATURDAY ONLY
Day guest
meals included

EARLY BIRD
\$20 off
Register by
September 1

VISIT [PILGRIM-FIRS.ORG](https://pilgrim-firs.org)
for all the details & to register!

PILGRIM FIRS
camp & retreat center
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



WHAT TO KNOW

September 25-28

Cabins - Lodge - Primitive Sites Available
Register now to reserve your spot!
Meals provided. 18+ only. More info in registration.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For more information and to register please scan:

Community Activities:
soundbathing/meditation/yoga
hiking/canoeing/yardgames
arts&crafts/poetry and writing workshops

Proudly brought to you by:

Spokane Pride nipa SAN
north idaho pride alliance

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
10AM - 11:30AM**

Join us in the office for a casual training session. During this training, you'll learn:

- Resources available to our volunteers, and how to navigate them
- How to complete phone screens with potential clients
- How to process in-kind donations
- Volunteer expectations
- And more!

LET US KNOW YOU'LL BE THERE
<https://tinyurl.com/voltraining2026>



September Birthdays

Rob Wham	9/1
Rita Sorenson	9/7
Jack Watson	9/7
Bob George	9/10
Ian Thomas	9/20
Nancy Allen	9/26
Dominic Pangelinan	9/27

September Anniversaries

Michael Moser & Siobhan VanBergh	9/14
Nancy & Steve Allen	9/29
Cathy & Peter Barton	9/30

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