



NORMANDY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TOWLINE

NPUCC'S Monthly Newsletter

April 2026

19247 1st Ave S
Seattle, WA

(206) 824-1770

www.npucc.org

Pastor:

Rev. Amy Hitchens

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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

“Jesus himself stood among them and said to them ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified and thought that they had seen a ghost.” Luke 24:36

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I am writing to you ahead of time because, well, it is Holy Week and then Easter and then Easter Season in the life of our church. If you have ever wondered which event is the main event for followers of Jesus, it is Holy Week and the Resurrection (sorry Christmas).

The words from Jesus above come after the Resurrection. Jesus has Risen and the disciples just don't know what to do with these sitings—it freaks them out. As followers of Jesus 2000+ years later from this world altering event—we are asked to hold Jesus life, death, resurrection and ascension all of a piece on any given day. I think we are asked to slow down during Holy Week and be really present to Christ's journey to the tomb because we already know the whole story and because we can start to take it for granted. So let's not take Holy Week and Easter for granted this year. Let's bask in the sunny days, let's admire the tulips, let's offer a helping hand for no other reason than to be kind. Let's sing songs of joy, let's celebrate lives well lived, let's stand up for what we believe in and stand in the gap where we are needed.

The good news is alive in the world after all. We just have to look for it.

I have so appreciated the A Sanctified Art series, Tell me Something Good. So good that I am sharing one last poem with you by Rev. Sarah Speed for contemplation:

*Every morning the sun rises,
Majestic and steady.
She is greeted
In all her strength
With the joyous cacophony of birdsong.
I like to believe
This holy chorus
Is the birds telling each other—I'm here.*

*We made it through the night.
You're not alone.
What good, good news.
I think the resurrection is a bit like
that.
God is here.
We made it through the night.
We are not alone.
What good, good news.*

In Hope

Rw. Amy



April Calendar of Events

HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE — APRIL 2, 5 PM (no Zoom)

BIBLE & BREWS – GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 7 PM (Zoom only)

ADORNING OF THE EASTER CROSS— SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 9–11 AM

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP – APRIL 5, 10 AM — WEAR YOUR EASTER BONNET!

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Bibles & Brews: Good Friday, April 3, 7 pm
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 7 pm

IN-PERSON:

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, April Fool's Day, 11:30 am, Anthony's Homeport Des Moines
- Mission Mile: Fridays, April 3 & 17, 5 - 10 pm, Fellowship Hall
- CB's Celebration of Life Service: Saturday, April 4, 2 pm
- Des Moines Area Food Bank Volunteering: Wednesday, April 15, 6:15 pm
- Hospitality House Spring Fling: April 18, 5 pm, Lake Burien Presbyterian Church
- Earth Sunday: April 19, 10 am, Sanctuary
- Enneagram: Wednesday, April 22, 1 – 2 pm, Fireside Room
- UCC Earth Summit: Saturday, April 25, 10 am, Fireside Room
- CE Spring Meeting: Sunday, April 26, 2nd hour, CE Wing

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!*

LUNCH BUNCH - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1



Denene will be hosting this April Fool's Day Lunch Bunch at Anthony's Homeport in Des Moines at 11:30 am.

Sign up on the sheet on the kiosk in the narthex to host our May luncheon.

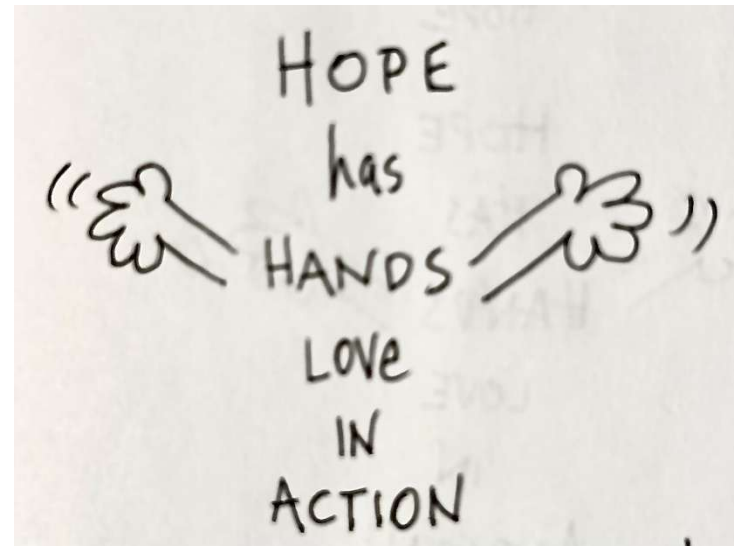
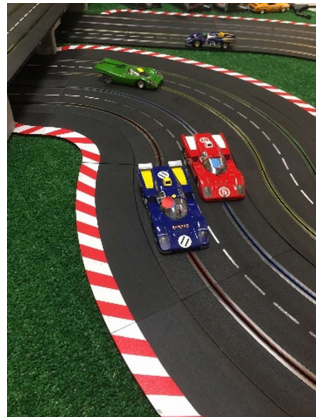
BIBLE & BREWS – GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Via Zoom only we will be meeting up to read and discuss the John 18 and 19 Good Friday story.



MISSION MILE – FRIDAYS, APRIL 3 & 17

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



Faith during complicated times

2026 NPUCC Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Firs

The retreat is fast approaching!

May 7-9, Thursday - Saturday

During the first night's activities, many of you will remember that we do a white elephant / ice breaker type gift exchange. This year with the theme being **Hope has Hands, Love in Action**, we are hoping that you will bring a handmade item. It can be something you made, own, or something homemade that you bought.

Please have payment in by April 15

Total cost \$186 includes 2 nights, 5 meals, and all costs

(except transportation)

Please let Wenden know if you need a ride and / or if you're willing to drive a passenger

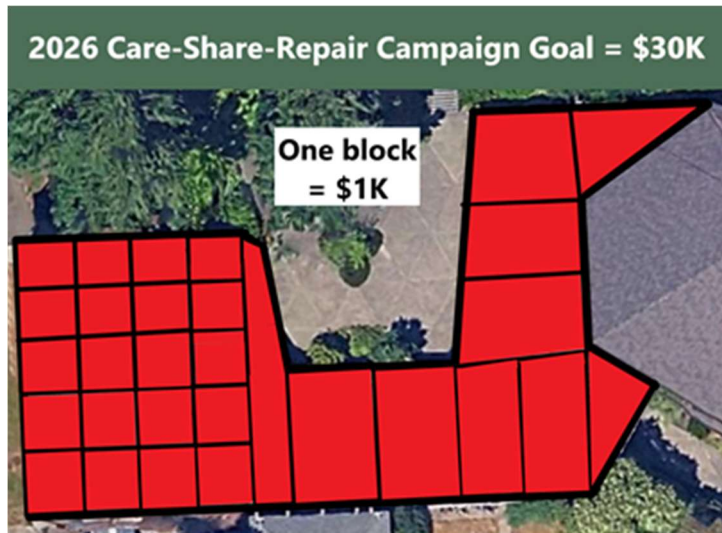
If you'd like to come out on Friday just for the day, the cost is \$45

Check-in is at 4 pm Thursday & check-out is on Saturday at 11 am

pilgrim-firs.org

SHARE-CARE-REPAIR 2026 CAPITAL ROOF CAMPAIGN

It is with a full heart, I can announce that we have met our goal of \$30,000 to repair the Fellowship Hall and flat roofs of our church.



Generous contributions were offered early in the campaign, with the remaining amount left us from Nancy B. in her final days.

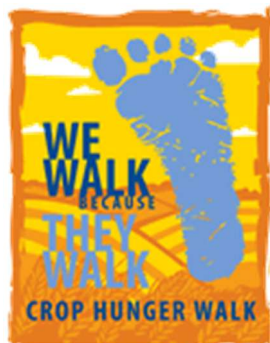
These contributions allow us to continue to be sanctuary - offering warmth and safety in the building itself, and in the love, inclusion, and service found within its walls.

Gratefully,
Stacie L.
Moderator

CROP HUNGER WALK - SUNDAY, MAY 3

Proverbs 11:25 *"A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water."*

On Sunday May 3, the NPUCC team will walk in the 2026 Des Moines/Highline CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger.

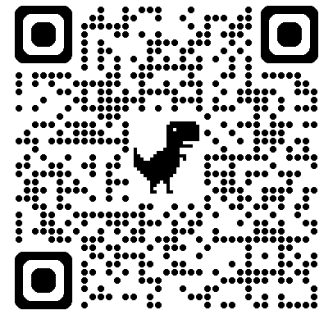


We will start from the courtyard at the Des Moines United Methodist Church at 1:15 pm and walk through the streets of downtown and the marina.

25% of what we raise goes toward the Des Moines Area Food Bank.

The NPUCC team webpage is ready! You can join our team or donate or both:
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/normandy-park-ucc>

Or use this QR code:



You can also donate to our team with a check written to CWS (or donating to NPUCC by PayPal, BillPayer, Zelle, or Venmo) and notating CWS.

A DONATION AMOUNT OF

- \$50 = Two Months of Food
- \$88 = Twenty Chickens
- \$125 = One goat
- \$152 = An Acre of Sweet Potatoes
- \$450 = Home Gardening

If you have any questions, ask Alice or Lynn.



CWS TO VISIT NPUCC – FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Amir Khan, Community Engagement Specialist, will be at NPUCC to visit with us at 10 am in the Fireside Room. Come to find out what's going on with CWS and to answer any questions that you may have about the CROP Walk!

**NPUCC CONGREGATION
WITH CREATION JUSTICE BANNER**



EARTH SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Earth Day is on Wednesday, April 22 but NPUCC will be celebrating it early on Sunday, April 19.

We will have a table set up during coffee hour with lots of resources from **One Home One Future**.



After worship, and coffee and cookies, we will be having a work party in our back acreage to clean up and remove invasive ivy. Bring your favorite gloves and clippers!

~THE GIVING GARDEN~

The Green Team applied for and received a \$800 grant from the King Conservation District to rebuild "The Giving Garden"'s raised beds and to pay for tools, plants, and seeds.

We are excited to be able to grow and supply fresh vegetables and fruits for our Community Meal, church members, and surrounding community. We plan to grow tomatoes, snow peas, beans, lettuce, radishes, spinach, kale, zucchini, cucumbers, blueberries, strawberries, an assortment of herbs, and have plenty of pollinators.

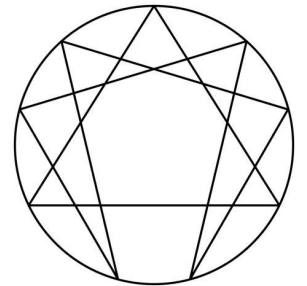
If you'd like to help, please contact any member of the Green Team: Lynn, Alice, Pastor Amy, Connie, Barbara, Jill, and Cathy Br.



*This is the "before" picture...
stayed tuned for the "after" pictures!*

ENNEAGRAM – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Now that we have Lent behind us, we are returning to our study of the enneagram at 1 pm in the Fireside Room.



We will start by reading the Introduction and Chapter 1 of Letting Go, Finding You: Uncover Your Truest Self through the Enneagram and Contemplation by Hunter Mobley.

It is not available at the King County library. On Amazon, a new book is \$16.24 plus tax and there are also several used books for \$15.43 plus tax. Let Lynn know if you want her to purchase a book for you – designate new or used.

AND THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES: MEET CRAIG & JAMIE

Hello UCC Family!

We are so excited to officially join this community on Easter Sunday. Since we'll be seeing more of each other, we wanted to share a little bit of the "adventure" that brought us here.

Our story began 37 years ago in 1989. While Craig is a born-and-raised Washingtonian, Jamie's journey started a bit further away; he moved to the U.S. from the Philippines in 1983 to continue his education, eventually finding his way to the Pacific Northwest—and to Craig.

Professionally, we've both spent our lives in service-oriented careers. Jamie has been in the nursing facility industry since 1985, including a stint in Alaska. After returning from the "Last Frontier," he realized his true passion was helping people, which led him to further his education and take on a management role at his facility, where he has been leading for the last five years.

Craig spent much of his career as a general manager in the tourism industry—a field he has always loved—and still does some consulting for small retail businesses today.

Life also called us both to be caregivers at home. Craig originally stepped away from his career to care for his mother, who wasn't expected to live more than two years. In a wonderful turn of events, she lived for 12 more years, reaching the incredible age of 102! Caring for our mothers was a deeply important and rewarding chapter of our journey together.

Through it all, we've loved exploring, visiting over 30 states through various road trips and travels. One of our favorite highlights was our



engagement at Yellowstone; we officially decided to tie the knot right as Old Faithful began to erupt. We like to think a literal force of nature was a pretty good sign of things to come!

In August of 2023, we finally said "I do." It was a global celebration, with loved ones traveling from all across the country and as far away as the Philippines to join us. Our wedding theme was "And the Adventure Continues," a motto we carry into our daily lives and now into our journey with this church.

When we aren't planning our next trip, we are kept busy at home by our two fur-babies, Carmel Latte and Tabby Too.

We are so looking forward to this next chapter as members of the United Church of Christ. We can't wait to meet you all and see where this next adventure leads!

With joy,
Craig & Jamie

Nominee to Lead the National Science Foundation is an “Unacceptable Choice” that Senate Should Reject | The Union of Concerned Scientists | March 17, 2026

Submitted by Barbara G

“[Jim] O’Neill is simply an unacceptable choice to run one of the world’s most important science agencies,” Dr. Julian Reyes, UCS chief of staff, writes in a new blog post.

O’Neill, who has a hedge fund and venture capital background, would be the only NSF director who is not a scientist or engineer.

“If O’Neill is confirmed as NSF’s director, the Trump administration will further tighten its control over an agency created by Congress to be independent in its work to advance science,” writes Dr. Reyes.

To read the full article, click [HERE](#).



for justice in the Atlanta, Georgia area. This two-and half-hour summit will additionally feature a panel discussion of leading voices on issues of energy justice.

At 10 am we will gather in the Fireside Room to watch this summit in community. Coffee and tea will be provided... please bring breakfast finger foods to share.

If you are unable to attend this NPUCC gathering, you can register to watch it on your own by clicking [HERE!](#)

2026 PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE CAMPS FOR ALL AGES

REGISTER TODAY

PILGRIM FIRS
camp & retreat center

You & Me Camp | July 5-8
grades 1-4* with an adult
Kids Camp | July 5-8

REGISTER AT PILGRIM-FIRS.ORG

CAMP IS A PLACE TO LAUGH, SING, PLAY, AND PRAY TOGETHER!

We can't wait to see you there!

N-SID-SEN
Camp & Retreat Center

You & Me Camp | July 19-22
grades 1-4* with an adult
Kids Camp | July 22-25

Intermediate Camp | July 12-18
Junior High Camp | July 12-18
Senior High Camp | July 19-25
Family Camp | July 26-Aug 1
Camp Together | August 2-8
Women's Retreat | May 15-17

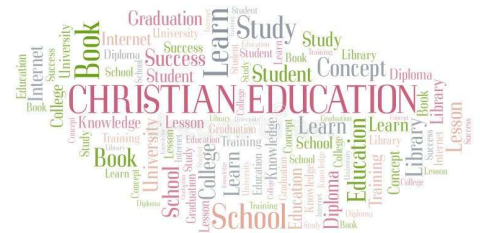
REGISTER AT N-SID-SEN.ORG

*ENTERING GRADES

See Lynn to apply for a \$50 scholarship for our NPUCC campers.

UCC: EARTH SUMMIT - SATURDAY, APRIL 25

To ground and inspire us as people of faith in difficult times, the Jim Antal Keynote Lecture will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Samuel, a renowned advocate and organizer



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE SPRING MEETING – SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Time to meet up this spring to talk about what we’ve done and plan what we want to do. Please mark your calendars to join us downstairs in the CE Wing after worship for a light lunch.

DES MOINES AREA FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING



You are invited to volunteer at the food bank located in the downstairs of the Des Moines United Methodist Church on Wednesday, April 15 at 6 pm.

RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM IS RISING

—JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Religious Nationalism is not only shaping political and religious landscapes in the United States—it is emerging as a powerful force in countries around the world. How is this movement spreading globally? What theological, political, and social dynamics are fueling it? And how are churches called to respond?

The United Church of Christ welcomes Rev. Phillip Peacock, the General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and a leader in global ecumenism, justice advocacy, and reformed theology. Drawing on his

international experience, Rev. Peacock will examine how Religious Nationalism appears in different cultural contexts around the globe. Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson will offer perspective on the impact of Religious and Christian Nationalism in the United States.

Join them for this important dialogue as we seek to better understand the global realities of Religious Nationalism and discern how the church is called to respond.

April 12, 2026 – Sermon at 1 pm PST, Event and Q&A at 2:30am PST

Register by clicking [HERE](#).

WHAT CAN WE (INDIVIDUALLY OR TOGETHER) DO?

Last week, several of our members attended "Lessons from Minneapolis", a multi-faith gathering with clergy who had answered the call to go to Minneapolis during the recent ICE action there.

In answer to the question "what can we (individually or together) DO?" to be ready to answer the call should something like that happen in our community, here are some opportunities that were highlighted at that gathering:

- **Singing Resistance** Inspired by organizers in Minneapolis. West Seattle Indivisible has a playlist of easy-to-learn songs on their website. As in Minneapolis, they participate as a group at demonstrations. NO TALENT REQUIRED - All voices are welcome!
westseattleindivisible.com/singing-resistance.
- **Washington for All Coalition** Organizes aid for those targeted by ICE and CBP around faith communities. You can sign up for mobilization alerts at tinyurl.com/waforall
- **WAISN Rapid Response Trainings** WAISN (Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network) is holding trainings on April 2, April 30, May 14, and May 26. Sign up at waisn.org/events
- **Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Program** Train to accompany immigrants as they attend high-stakes immigration appointments jewishcoalition.org/volunteer
- **Nonviolent Direct Action Training** Training in how to be an effective and confident nonviolent presence at protests and direct actions thechurchcouncil.org/nvda
- **Seniors for the Constitution & Des Moines Indivisible** Organizes regularly scheduled demonstrations at Big Catch Plaza and other activities such as whistle-kit-making. *(See next page for April's events)*

At the end of the day, don't forget the things we ALREADY do - like helping at the Food Bank or Hospitality House. They matter - perhaps more than we realize.

**DES MOINES INDIVISIBLE & SENIORS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION — APRIL EVENTS**

DES MOINES INDIVISIBLE MEETING at Des
Moines United Methodist Church
22225 9th Ave S, Des Moines
How to stop detention centers
Tuesday April 14 6:30 - 8 PM

WHISTLE KIT ASSEMBLY FACTORIES
at Des Moines United Methodist Church
22225 9th Ave S, Des Moines
Tuesdays April 7 & 21 5 - 7:30 PM

SOUTHEND INDIVISIBLE-RESIST TECH
MONOPOLIES
Tech Monopoly Alternatives
Get some tech help for Signal, Proton (email),
and other technology at the Burien Library
Saturday April 25 11 am – 2 pm

RALLIES – DES MOINES BIG CATCH PLAZA
Saturdays April 4 & 18 12 - 2 pm
Wednesdays April 8 & 22 3 – 4:30 pm

FLOCK CAMERAS - Find cameras at deflock.me
Flock cameras are not traffic cameras
Flock cameras track every license plate 24/7
Attend a Des Moines City Council meeting
21630 11th Ave S, Des Moines
Thursdays April 9 & 23 6 pm

Email to get on contact list
desmoineswaindivisible@gmail.com OR
carol@sftc-dmi.org

Website sftc-dmi.org

**UCC ISSUES APPEAL TO SUPPORT RELIEF EFFORTS
AS HISTORIC FLOODING CONTINUES TO IMPACT HAWAII**

The United Church of Christ has issued an appeal to support those who've been impacted by the historic floods in Hawaii.

Reports from those on the ground say at least three UCC churches have been damaged by the storms. Several other UCC churches have made their buildings available as shelters for those who need refuge from the elements.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full appeal, to donate online, and to learn more about how your funds will be used to support relief efforts.

You can also donate by writing a check to NPUCC (or donating directly to NPUCC by PayPal, BillPayer, Zelle, or Venmo) and notating that it is for the 2026 Hawaii Flood Appeal.

April Birthdays

Cindy Dow	4/2
Shannon Thomas	4/2
Amy Hitchens	4/11
Barbara Gregg	4/15
Samuel Watson	4/21
Jane Armstrong	4/26
Michael Armstrong	4/26
Azure Allender	4/28

April Anniversaries

Nancy Knudsen & Warren Nedved 4/2

**If you don't see your April 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**