Normandy Park United Church of Christ

THE TOWLINE

NPUCC's Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2026

19247 - 1st Ave S
Seattle, WA

(206)824-1770

www.npucc.org

Pastor:
Rev. Amy Hitchens
amy@npucc.org

Music Accompanist & Choir Director:
Cindy Dow
cindy@npucc.org

Office Manager:
Robbie Gilchrist
office@npucc.org

Office Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Within this month, we will have a budget meeting, a final stewardship (pledge) Sunday, a community meal, a Thanksgiving Interfaith Service at Saltwater Unitarian Universalist, the Thanksgiving holiday AND the First Sunday of Advent.

I don't know about you, but that feels like a lot!! I did hear a choir member say during rehearsal on Sunday-- "it's only [gasp] five Sundays until Advent!" I feel your pain, choir, there is a lot to prepare for this coming season.

And I didn't even mention the midterm elections. I checked today that my ballot has been counted. If you have voted, you can do the same! A big thank you to everyone who encouraged friends to vote, who wrote postcards, and just showed up to encourage others to vote. Our voices matter. Our voice will matter too, when we take a look at the budget that is being prepared for this coming church year. As I have mentioned before, a budget is a moral document, and both our council and finance committee have been working diligently and faithfully to anticipate what our needs may be in the next year.

If you don't come from a tradition of pledging—pledging simply means you are prayerfully offering some of your resources to the church—so that the church can have a wider impact in our community. Some people like to use percentages in figuring out what the amount is they give, others combine their financial giving with the time and talent they offer to the church. Still others decide to give to multiple organizations—their hearts are with the church, but also with other social justice concerns.

We all must find our own way in how we give, but the important thing is that we do step outside of ourselves and give in some way. We give as an act of thanksgiving. We give because it provides meaning and purpose. We give because we love God and we love what our church is up to….in ways small and big.

One of the things our church will be up to the first Sunday of the month is our special All Saints Sunday worship with Communion. I invite you to bring photos of loved one or beloved pets that have passed on for our Ofrenda table (small altar table); you will have an opportunity to light candles for your loved ones who have died and also receive communion. It is truly one of the most beautiful services of the year, so please join us. If you are on zoom, be sure to have a candle to light and/or a photo nearby for those you have loved and lost.

November is an important month in the life of the church, I hope you can join us.

Rev. Amy

November Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Bibles & Brews: Fridays, November 6, 13, & 27 @ 7 pm
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 7pm

IN-PERSON:



- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- FALL BACK! -- Set Your Clocks Back!: November 1 -------->
- All Saints Sunday & Communion: November 1, 10 am
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, November 4, 11:30 am, Rose Pho
- NPUCC 2027 Budget Meeting & Soup Lunch: Sunday, November 8
- Stewardship Sunday: November 15
- Des Moines Area Food Bank Volunteering: Wednesday, November 18, 6:15 pm
- Mission Mile: Friday, November 20, 5-10 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Guest Preacher: Rev. Allysa De Wolf: Sunday, November 22
- Craft Fair: Sundays, November 22 & 29, After Worship, Fireside Room
- Community Meal: Tuesday, November 24, 4:30 pm
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: Wednesday, November 25 @ Saltwater UU
- First Sunday of Advent: November 29

RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUPS *(Fellowship Hall)*:

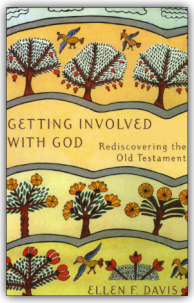
- Mondays: Yoga Recovery Group 6:30 pm, sharing then yoga
- Tuesdays: Normandy Park Perspective - Alanon 7 pm
- Saturday Big Book Step Study - AA, 10 am

ALL SAINTS DAY - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

We will be honoring and remembering loved ones that have passed away, whether recently or years ago. You are invited to bring photos of loved ones or pets to place on the ofrenda (altar).

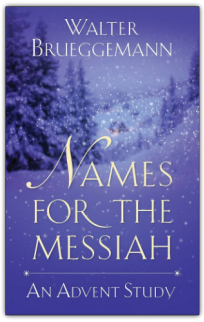


BIBLE & BREWS – FRIDAYS, NOVEMBER 13 & 27 @ 7 PM



On Friday, November 13, we will finish studying from Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament for now by Ellen F Davis by reading Chapter 10 - "The Sufferers Wisdom".

On Friday, November 27, we will switch over to Walter Brueggemann's 4-week Advent Study of Isaiah: ***Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study***. That will continue December 4, December 11, and December 18.



NPUCC 2027 BUDGET MEETING & SOUP LUNCHEON - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

On Sunday, November 8, during worship we will be discussing and voting on NPUCC's operating budget for 2027.



Following the meeting, the Stewardship Committee is hosting a soup luncheon. You are encouraged to bring a side!

As a reminder, for all congregational meetings, a quorum is needed!

If you are a member and are not able to attend the meeting either in person or on Zoom, please contact the church office for a proxy form or pick one up on Sunday, November 1.

LUNCH BUNCH - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

We had a small group, but a great time, at Royal Indian Grill hosted by Rodney in October!





This month, Lori is hosting Lunch Bunch at **Rose Pho @ 11:30 am**.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 15

We will be giving our pledges for 2027 on Sunday, November 15.

If you are in need of a pledge card, don't fret -- just contact the church office or ask the Greeter on Sunday morning!



VOLUNTEERING – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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, NOVEMBER 20



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

NPUCC HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR - 11/22, 11/29

Back by popular demand 🙂, the NPUCC holiday craft fair returns November 22 *and* 29 after church. Come ready to shop!



You will find all sorts of offerings made by congregants and friends. Perfect for gift giving and enhancing holiday meals. The Craft Fair is also a lovely way to showcase many talents and skills.



This year's earnings will go to the Concerns Fund Balance.

Questions? See Jeni W or Stacie L

MARY'S PLACE GIVING TREE - BEGINNING NOVEMBER 22



The Gift Tag Giving tree will be located in the center of the Narthex starting on Sunday, November 22. You may pick a tag from the tree and purchase a gift tag yourself or give your donation and tag to the person at the gift tag selling table. The gift tags will be gifts for the adults and teens.

This table will also be selling home-made gift tags to raise monies to purchase gifts for the children thru ages 12. Thank you for your generosity!

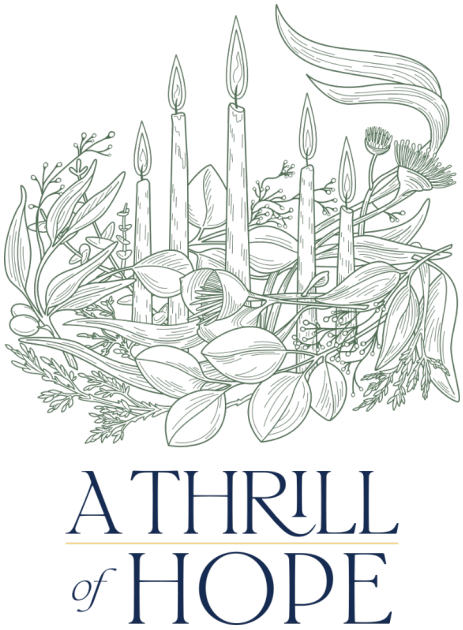
INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 7:00 PM, SALWATER UU

Pastor Amy is participating with area interfaith clergy for an annual Interfaith Prayer and Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 25 and all are welcome!



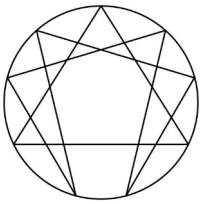
Salwater UU is hosting this year! Please bring cash or shelf-stable food donation for the Des Moines Area Food Bank.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - NOVEMBER 29



ENNEAGRAM – NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER!

We won't be meeting in November but will meet again in December to read and discuss from Letting Go, Finding You: Uncover Your Truest Self through the Enneagram and Contemplation by Hunter Mobley.

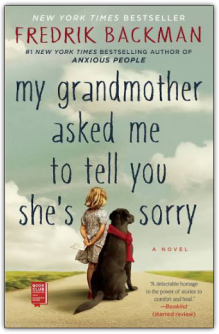


Using what we've learned, in January we will move on to a weekly/bi-weekly prayer practice in the sanctuary.

NPUCC FICTION READERS GROUP - DECEMBER 2

ALL CHURCH READ!

Good people of NPUCC! Our November book read is this lovely story by Fredrik Bachman. The story's primary characters are Elsa, who is seven, and her grandmother, who is very very eccentric.



Buy this book on Amazon and support a billionaire for $10.48. Purchase it from Bookshop.org for $18.64 and support your fav indie bookshop. Or get on the waitlist at KCLS. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 2nd to gather together and discuss. There is great value in a community read. Conversations will pop up throughout the month and this is very much the point. There's plenty of time to read! Questions? JenW or JillT might have answers. At the least, opinions.

MOM TO MOM VOTING POSTCARDS EVENT

Thanks to all of you who showed up on Wednesday, October 14 to add your personal note to 100 postcards that were mailed to moms to remind them to vote.



~THE GIVING GARDEN UPDATE~

At our Saturday, October 10 work party we got a lot done! We cut the tomato plants back so the green tomatoes would get more sun. We finished spreading compost, saving a bucket worth for the tomatoes after they are gone, Jill picked kale and brought down the remainder of the chips to spread around and put under the flower grow pots.



After Craig weeded, removed the cucumber trellis, and spread the compost smooth, Lynn and Craig planted our cover crop of fava beans six inches part. During the fall/winter the fava beans will pull nitrogen out of the air and make it available in the soil to the vegetables that we will plant in the spring.

GROW IT FORWARD PICKUP

Jill helped several volunteers load up our second group of adopted baby trees. They will be among the 10,500 trees that the Tulalip tribe plans to use for several projects they have in 2027!



SNOWBERRIES: The Tribal Life Trail: An Ethnobotanical Garden

To become a certified WSU Extension Master Gardener, I have completed my over six months of online classes and 40+ volunteer hours spending most of my gardening time at the Tribal Life trail which is part of the Lake Wilderness Arboretum in Maple Valley. I have chosen to continue volunteering there to learn about the many native plants and how they were used by the Native Americans who once lived there. As I learn, I want to share with you… this month is about the snowberry.



Snowberry plants are most commonly found in low-to mid elevations, in forests, dry or moist openings, rocky hillsides or near riverbanks and streams. Its berries ripen during fall and last through winter, making it an important winter food source for birds, mammals, and insects. However, the berries are considered poisonous to humans so please don't taste them yourselves.

The snowberry is a popular ornamental shrub in gardens, grown for its decorative white fruit and wildlife gardening. It is also a useful landscaping plant due to its extreme versatility—tolerating sun, shade, heat, cold, drought, and inundation.

Native Americans would rely on the snowberries to tell them whether they should take the long trek to the river to fish… a lot of snowberries, a lot of fish, and vice versa.

~Lynn

WOOD STOVE RECYCLING PROGRAM

1. Do you live in King, Kitsap, Pierce, or Snohomish County?
2. Do you own your home?
3. Do you have an eligible device?

- Free-standing wood stoves that are uncertified or certified stoves that don't meet 2020 EPA standards.
- Wood stove fireplace inserts (wood stoves made to be installed inside an existing fireplace) that are uncertified or certified inserts that don't meet 2020 EPA standards.
- Wood-burning furnaces and coal-burning devices.



Click **HERE** to learn more and enroll.

~KEEPING YOU INFORMED~

Cleaning the Fall Garden with Pollinators in Mind

From an article written by Susan Albert

> *"Rather than cut all the fading perennials to the ground, I leave the stems standing all winter for the benefit of insects and wildlife. I used to cut them down in late spring, but I recently read that spring and summer is when bees are depositing eggs inside the dead, hollow or soft stems. So now in fall, I am trimming hollow-stemmed plants, such as Joe-pye weed, swamp milkweed, and bee balm, back to about 12 inches (30 cm) to allow solitary bees to enter in early spring. The bees will create cells inside the stems, complete with pollen, and lay eggs that mature into larvae and young adults. Some will overwinter and still be inside the following spring, so I won't touch those stems! New foliage should hide them till they naturally degrade."*

To read the full article, click **HERE**.

ELECTION 2026

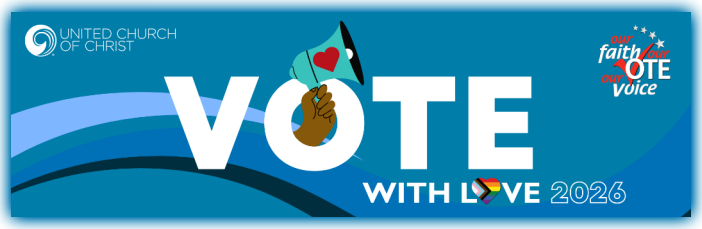
VOTING ~ YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!

Please vote in the upcoming election on November 3! In 2024, 63% of Washington state's voting age population voted. Not bad, but often mid-term elections (the halfway point between presidential elections), like this year, see a profound drop in voter participation. But the results will continue to shape the next two years of policy and the direction our country takes. Voting is both a privilege and a responsibility. It is the most consequential way American citizens can make their voices heard.

You should have received your ballot and the voting guides for the state and for local elections where you can learn about the initiatives and candidates.

Another way of learning more about candidates and issues is to visit the non-partisan League of Women Voters website: **https://www.lwvwa.org** or the websites of organizations you trust and value. For example, the UCC has a page: **https://www.ucc.org/understanding-the-issues** that lists the various issues that are important to the UCC. And, Faither Action Network (FAN) has information about the three initiatives on the ballot this year. You can read about their endorsements on the next page.

Thank you for voting this year, and encouraging others to vote!



FAITH ACTION NETWORK

A Partnership for the Common Good

FAN is looking towards November, where three critical initiatives will be on the ballot. I-001 and I-638 would harm vulnerable children, and I-645 would strip funding from our schools and communities. Last month, Faith Action Network's board voted to endorse the opposition campaigns for all three initiatives.

As a statewide multifaith organization representing people and communities of faith committed to justice, compassion, and the common good, Faith Action Network opposes Initiatives I-001 and I-638 and endorses the No Hate in Washington State campaign.



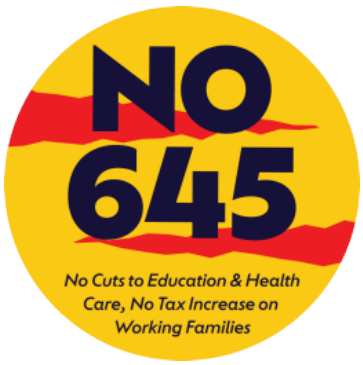
Our decision is rooted in a simple moral conviction: every child has sacred worth and deserves safety, dignity, privacy, and belonging.

The No Hate in Washington State campaign brings together educators, health professionals, advocates, faith communities, and other Washingtonians who believe these initiatives would remove protections for child-abuse victims and put girls and LGBTQ+ young people at greater risk.

As people of faith, we are called to protect those who are vulnerable, resist discrimination, and affirm the dignity of every person. Faith Action Network urges Washington voters to vote NO on I-001 and NO on I-638.

You can read more about these initiatives and why we as faith communities are encouraging a no vote in this one-pager.

Faith Action Network is also proud to join the statewide NO on 645 Coalition, a broad alliance of faith communities, educators, health care providers, childcare advocates, small businesses, labor organizations, and community groups working to defeat Initiative 645.



Initiative 645 would repeal Washington's newly enacted Millionaires Tax—a modest tax on annual household income above $1 million that affects only the wealthiest one-half of one percent (0.5%) of Washingtonians. The tax applies only to income earned above the $1 million threshold, not to the first $1 million a household earns. FAN, alongside our partners, worked hard to pass this legislation this session.

Learn more, join the coalition, and pledge to vote NO at No645.com.

November Birthdays

Marcie McPherson	11/5
Susan Andresen-Sasis	11/7
Michael Janke	11/11
Ruben Sasis	11/14
Mathias Sasis	11/22
Nancy Knudsen	11/26
Ben Pangelinan	11/30

November Anniversaries

Cathy & Roy Brewer	11/11
Ruth Bishop & Fred Hutchinson	11/21

If you don't see your November 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