



# NORMANDY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## THE TOWLINE

NPUCC's Monthly Newsletter

**January 2026**

19247—1<sup>st</sup> Ave S  
Seattle, WA

(206) 824-1770

[www.npucc.org](http://www.npucc.org)

**Pastor:**  
Rev. Amy Hitchens  
[amy@npucc.org](mailto:amy@npucc.org)

**Music Accompanist and  
Choir Director:**

Cindy Dow  
[cindy@npucc.org](mailto:cindy@npucc.org)

**Church Office:**  
Robbie Gilchrist  
[office@npucc.org](mailto: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 well before Christmas Day, knowing that by the time the Towline is published, I will be on a much-needed break. You will be well cared for by Rev. Carol S. on the first Sunday of January. I will return to the pulpit on January 11<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, here is a poem for Epiphany which is January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Beckoning God

*Beckoning God—  
who called the rich to travel toward poverty;  
the wise to embrace your folly,  
the powerful to know their own frailty;  
who gave to strangers  
a sense of homecoming in an alien land  
and to stargazers  
true light and vision as they bowed to earth—  
we lay ourselves open to your signs for us.*

*Stir us with holy discontent over a world  
which give its gifts to those  
who have plenty already  
whose talents are obvious  
whose power is recognized;  
and help us  
both to share our resources with those who have little  
and to receive with humility the gifts they bring to us.*

*Rise within us, like a star,  
and make us restless  
till we journey forth  
to seek our rest in you.*

--Kate Compston from *Bread of Tomorrow: Praying with the World's Poor*

I will see you in the New Year of 2026!

New Year's Blessings,

*Rv. Amy*

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## January Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, January 13, 7 pm
- Bibles & Brews: Fridays, January 9, 7 pm
- Church of the Wild Book Discussion: Sunday, January 11, 3 –4:30 pm

### **IN-PERSON:**

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, January 7, 11:30 am, Azteca in Burien
- Mission Mile: Friday, January 16, 5–10 pm, Fellowship Hall
- **A Force More Powerful:** Sunday, January 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour, Fellowship Hall
- Enneagram: Wednesday, January 27, 1 pm, Fireside Room

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*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

I will be sending out your 2025 giving statement via email by the end of January. If you do not receive it, please let me know.

Thank you, Lynn

## LUNCH BUNCH—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 @ 11:30 AM @ AZTECA (BURIEN)

Please join host Stacie Latimer and our lively lunch bunchers Wednesday, January 7 for our first Lunch Bunch of 2026. We will meet at 11:30 AM at Azteca Mexican Restaurant in Burien. (Address: 153 SW 157<sup>th</sup> Street.)



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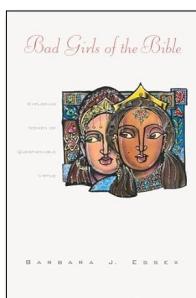
Street.)

There is plenty of parking as Value Village is no longer there. Questions? Call Stacie.

Sign up to host in 2026... see sheet on the kiosk in the narthex. Also, let Lynn know!

## BIBLE & BREWS — FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 @ 7 PM

We will be finishing the study of Bad Girls of the Bible by Barbara Essex by Zoom only by exploring Chapter 12 – “Sapphira: Good Intentions or Bad Ends?” (pages 99 – 104). We are discerning what we should study next, so if you have a subject, section of the Bible, or book you’d like us to consider, please let Lynn know.



## MISSION MILE — FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 5 -10 PM



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

## HYGIENE & PERIOD PACKS

Do you use that toothbrush or toothpaste that you get at the dentist office? Or how about that shampoo and soap from traveling? See a great sale or closeout at the drug store? We are planning to gather again in February to fill packs for our local junior and high schools... see list below.

- Toothbrush – individually packaged
- Toothpaste – travel size
- Hand sanitizer – 2 oz or single-use
- Deodorant – travel size
- Shampoo / conditioner – travel size
- Soap- travel size
- Sanitary napkins – Always brand, size 2, ultra-thin, long super with wings, individually wrapped (or similar)
- Panty liners, individually wrapped
- Flushable wipes – travel size

## MARY'S PLACE GIVING TREE AND GIFT TAGS

Thank you to everyone who purchased hand-

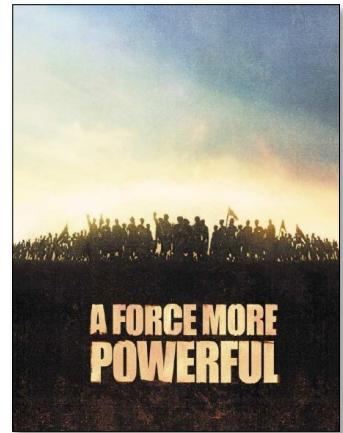


made gift tags from our youth to fund gifts and gift cards for the residents of Mary's Place and also for picking gift card tags from the giving tree. Thanks to your generosity \$364 was spent on gifts for the children 0-12 and 21 gift cards were donated for the teens and adults.

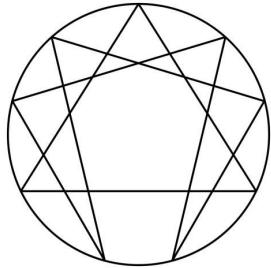


## A FORCE MORE POWERFUL – SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

- Join us after church in the Fellowship Hall to watch “A Force More Powerful” a documentary series on one of the 20th century’s most important and least-known stories: how nonviolent power overcame oppression and authoritarian rule.
- We will view the 1<sup>st</sup> episode: India, Nashville, and South Africa.
- On Sunday, February 1, we will view the 2<sup>nd</sup> episode: Denmark, Poland, Chile.
- A light lunch and beverages will be served at both viewings.



## ENNEAGRAM — WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27



We are starting the new year with 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 a couple of used books for \$15.43 plus tax. Let Lynn know if you want her to purchase a book for you – designate new or used.

## ANTI-ICE WHISTLE KITS

A few Sundays ago, Rob W. brought a couple anti-ICE “whistle kits” to church. He was asked to share more information on how to get more and to that end, he shared this email from Seniors for the Constitution & Des Moines Indivisible:

*"If you are looking for a way to support your neighbors, please join us on January 6th and 20th, from 5 to 7:30 PM, at the Des Moines United Methodist Church (22225 9th Ave. S.) for a whistle kit assembly party. The small packets include a whistle, a small zine with instructions, and Know Your Rights cards. The kits are shared with community members. The purpose is to give people a non-violent, legal way to use their voices. If someone sees ICE activity in the neighborhood, blowing the whistle alerts others to be aware, stay safe, and if possible, stay loud and form a crowd. It's a form of community protection rooted in free speech, solidarity, and rapid communication. Please bring a pair of scissors. There will be a donation box for whistle kit supplies if you would like to help with the costs."*

For more information on Seniors for the Constitution & Des Moines Indivisible, please visit: (<https://sftc-dmi.org/>)

## THE CHRISTMAS FUND

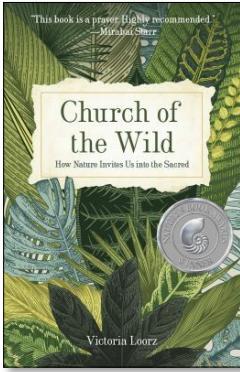
Thanks to your generosity, **NPUCC collected \$1377 for the UCC Christmas Fund** that has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years. This fund has been providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.



## CONFERENCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TEAM BOOK READ: SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

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. For the Zoom registration link, contact Pastor Amy or Lynn.



“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.”

## OUR CHURCH’S WIDER MISSION (OCWM) BASIC SUPPORT EQUIPS OUR NATIONAL WITNESS

In 2025, as a \$4,600 budgeted item, besides supporting the Pacific Northwest Conference, NPUCC helped the UCC support the following with OCWM:

- Celebrated the United Church of Christ with over 1800 people at General Synod in Kansas City
- Gathered over 20 Conference Ministers through the Washington D.C. Office of Public Policy and Advocacy for prayer, training, and advocacy
- Shared weekly Worship Ways and Sermon Seeds for free local congregational use
- Collected and published stories of hope for *Love is Louder: The Book of Love* to honor National Coming Out Day

## CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH

We formed a Green Team here at NPUCC a few years back and started collecting data to be able to submit an application to be a Creation Justice church. Last summer at a breakfast church, we gathered ideas and thoughts from our members and wrote a Creation Justice covenant that was approved by the congregation on September 14. Then the Green Team set to work coming up with words for the application and submitted it. On December 17, 2025, we were notified that we are now officially a UCC Creation Justice church! **Congratulations!**



# January Birthdays

Debra Meacham	1/2
Peter Barton	1/3
Madeline Wasson	1/4
Jette Bunch	1/10
Florence McGraw	1/18
Denene Wright	1/18

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