



NORMANDY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TOWLINE

NPUCC'S Monthly Newsletter

July 2026

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Seattle, WA

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www.npucc.org

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Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
11:45 am-2:30 pm
Wednesday
8:45 am-2:30 pm

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As we embark on celebrating 250 years of our country and 65 years of a community of faith together, I invite you to do two things: 1) spend some time re-acquainting yourselves with the First Amendment, especially the parts about the Separation of Church and State, and 2) Continue to find ways to practice kindness and look for kindness wherever you may go. Because we are celebrating a Summer of Kindness!



About a year ago, I purchased a short book of essays titled "America's Best Idea: The Separation of Church and State" by Randall Balmer. Balmer is a professor of Religion at Dartmouth College. In reading the short essays it affirmed that we have ALWAYS been a religiously diverse nation, from the very beginning. Of course, the Indigenous Peoples had their belief systems, but then add in the Church of England, the Quakers, the Puritans, the Catholics, the religions of the African Continent, and of course, Judaism and it gets more diverse quickly. And this is even before we add the Baptists and the Methodists and all the other Protestant sects in between. Benjamin Franklin, a founding father, was a Deist. And Thomas Jefferson created his own Bible because there were sections he didn't agree with.

He wrote in 1802, "I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church & State."

We would have no Pennsylvania without the Quaker William Penn. And we need to thank the Baptists of the past for fiercely guarding the separation of Church and State, it was what they used to be known for—which is hard to believe in our current era—but it's true

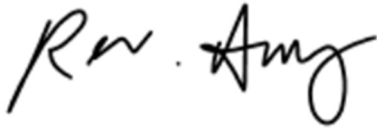
(just ask our friends who were raised Swedish Baptist, we have two in our congregation!—extra points if you know who they are). Though the Church of England couldn't stand the Roman Catholics, it was easier for the Scots to practice their faith here than at home. Though the enslaved were punished for carrying their African belief systems with them, they persisted and are part of Christian tradition today. And later on, on this soil, Joseph Smith had some interesting dreams and created a whole new version of Christianity, and with a missionary further recruits were made in England and also as they trekked west, first to Missouri and then Utah.

This is all to say, while some people want us to believe there are only two types of Christians—Evangelicals and Roman Catholics—there is much more diversity—in Christianity alone. But let's also mention those who had a rational approach like Franklin, or the Jewish immigrants that found home here in the Diaspora. All you have to do is take a tour of New York City, Boston, or Philadelphia and you will see that religious diversity has been a part of our fabric for much longer than we have been a country. So, let's not let a certain group of people wash out our history and make it boring. Because when we are all the same, things get pretty mundane.

Let's instead celebrate the religious diversity that is here, knowing well that we come from a stream of the faith that is more than 250 years old, and also, we are not the only or most important stream!

Practicing kindness can look like many things, and appreciating and accepting the differing faith of another person is one of those ways we can be kind. I invite you to be intentional this 4th of July. Read the Declaration of Independence or listen to it on audio. And brush up on your First Amendment understanding. It will serve you well.

In Hope,



July Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 7 pm

IN-PERSON:

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- Lunch Bunch Potluck: Wednesday, July 1, 11:30 am, Fireside Room
- Guest Preacher – Rev. Kelsey Beebe: Sunday, July 5
- Des Moines Area Food Bank Volunteering: Wednesday, July 8, 6:15 pm
- Better Ways to Read the Bible: Thursdays, July 9, 16, 23, 30 & August 6, 13, 6 pm
- Outdoor Work Party: Saturday, July 11, 9 am (or earlier)
- Worship Committee Meeting: Sunday, July 12, After worship
- Enneagram: Wednesday, July 22, 1 pm, Fireside Room
- Mission Mile: Friday, July 24, 5 - 10 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Campfire Outdoor Worship - Rachael Teigen Brackett: Sunday, July 26 (no Zoom)

PASTOR AMY OUT OF OFFICE:

- June 25 - July 6

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!*

LUNCH BUNCH - WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

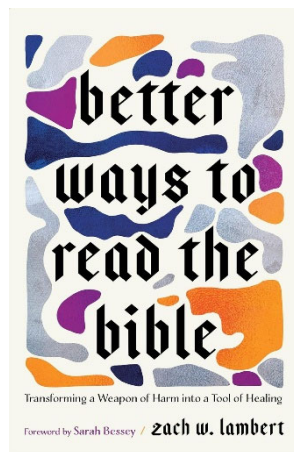
The Outreach & Parish Care Committee will be hosting a potluck at 11:30 am, in the Fireside Room.



Daniel enjoying a huge cinnamon roll at Huckleberry Square

BETTER WAYS TO READ THE BIBLE - THURSDAYS, JULY 9, 16, 23, 30 & AUGUST 6, 13

This summer, we are taking a break from Bible and Brews to offer something a bit different: a book study about ways to read the Bible with a supper potluck (think summer salads!). We will provide sparkling water.



All are invited. The first few sessions we will look at how the Bible has caused harm because of how it has been taught and how the Bible has been weaponized. From there we will look at different perspectives, aka lenses, in which the Bible has been understood. We will cover literalism, apocalyptic interpretation, moralism and authoritarianism. From there we will study ways to read that Bible that promote healing: a Jesus centric lens, a contextual lens, a flourishing lens, and a fruitfulness lens. The goal is for you, as a follower of Jesus, to come away with more understanding of how and why we interpret scripture the way that we do at this church and also for you to be able to name the styles of interpretation that speak the most to you. And then you will be encouraged to pay attention and practice these lenses.

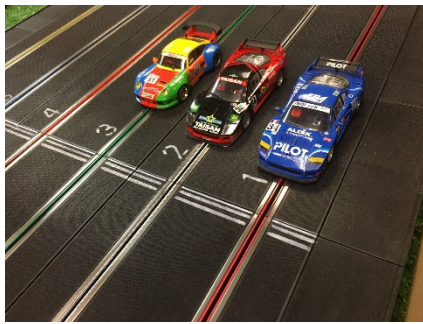
In this cultural moment, a lot of people have a lot to say about what the Bible is and isn't. Therefore, it is more important than ever for you to have clarity why and how you read the Bible. Shannon and Pastor Amy look forward to these conversations!



To sign up to receive the UCC Daily Devotional, click [HERE](#).

**MISSION MILE –
FRIDAY, JULY 24**

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



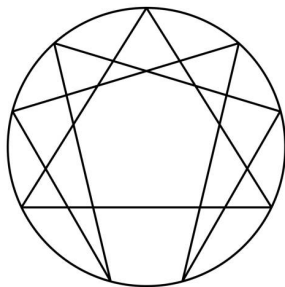
Housekeeping Tip:

If there's laundry and dishes waiting, head out to the garden. Out there, they don't exist.

harvestsavvy.com

ENNEAGRAM – WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

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.



OUTDOOR WORK PARTY – SATURDAY, JULY 11

We need to prune some azaleas and rhododendrons. Please bring your tools and gloves and gather at 9 am (or earlier if it's going to be a hot day). See Lori with any questions.



VOLUNTEERING – WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

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

SUMMER MEALS

School is out and their Summer Meals Team will be serving Free Meals for Kids and Teens at sites around the cities of Des Moines and SeaTac. Information can be found on their website at <http://www.myfoodbank.org>.



Playing Kindness Bingo on Sunday, June 7

SEPTEMBER 25-28

*Pride Camp
2026*



**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:



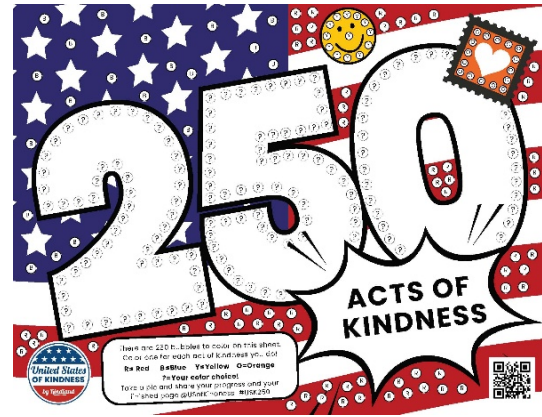
Community Activities:
soundbathing/meditation/yoga
hiking/canoeing/yardgames
arts&crafts/poetry and writing workshops

Proudly brought to you by:



250 ACTS OF KINDNESS

Be sure to track your acts of kindness by coloring in a circle on the poster in the narthex



and by also filling out a slip of paper and putting it in the provided neon green box.

**DECLINE
TO SIGN IP26-500**

Faith Action Network will be offering educational materials and positions on the November ballot initiatives this summer and fall. In the meantime, we follow the lead of the WA League of Women Voters and suggest that you decline to sign proposed Initiative Measure IP26-500. Mirroring the SAVE Act at the federal level, this initiative would require all voters to have an enhanced drivers' license or provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship in person--such as a certified birth certificate with the same name that's on their driver's license or passport. Voters who fail to do so would see their registration put on hold and would not be sent ballots or election materials.

This initiative, if passed, would impact the nearly 3 of 4 Washingtonians without an enhanced driver's license, the 38% without a valid passport, and 1.6 million women whose

current name does not match the one on their birth certificate because they changed their name when they married, and more.

The fact is that noncitizens are not voting. Perhaps the best evidence is the Brennan Center for Justice's finding of only 30 cases of suspected noncitizens voting out of 23.5 million votes cast in 2016—an incidence rate of 0.0001%. The Washington Secretary of State's Office confirms to LWVWA that in November 2024 election, less than 200 ballots were investigated out of almost 5 million voters.

Find more information and whom this will impact from the WA League of Women Voters by clicking [HERE](#), along with flyers in English and Spanish.

~THE GIVING GARDEN UPDATE~

The garden continues to grow. Miranda, from the King Conservation District, stopped by to close out our grant and left us a sign to display.



We ate our garden's first strawberries of the season including a handful at Strawberry Breakfast Church! At our work party on



Saturday, June 20, while Cathy Br., Alice, Craig, and Lynn assembled and installed a trellis, Jill planted an assortment of flowers and herbs.

Then we all planted the cucumbers that Lynn had started from seed in her greenhouse. The plan is to have a pickle party and make a lot of dill pickles for the Community Meal.



If you'd like to be put on our volunteer list, please contact Lynn.

Ask a Master Gardener

STOP BY THE MASTER GARDENER BOOTH – TUESDAYS, JULY 7, 21, 28

Bring your flower, plant, or even tree leaf to have a Master Gardener identify for you why it is sickly to the Renton Farmer's Market. Our answers are research-based and focused on environmentally friendly and sustainable gardening practices. I will be there these Tuesdays from 3 - 7 pm as an intern volunteering alongside a veteran. ~Lynn

"TALKING CLIMATE" PODCASTS WITH KATHARINE HAYHOE

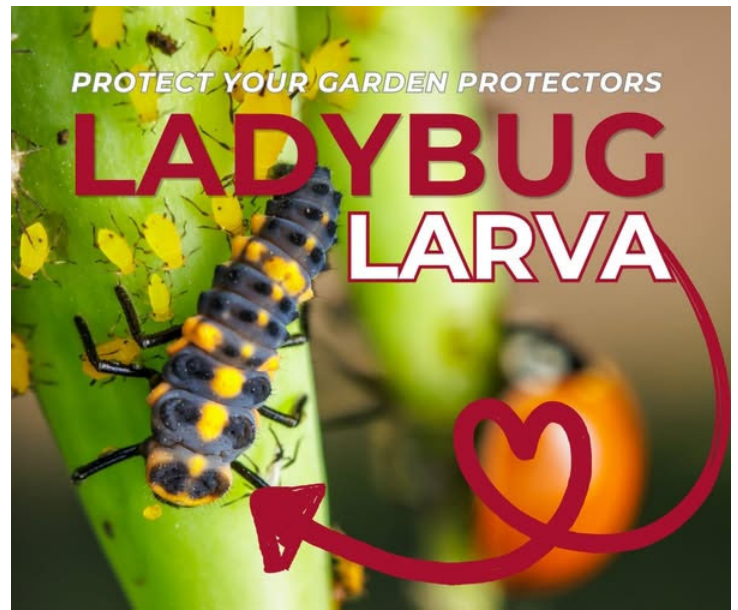
On June 10 Hayhoe invited Climate Scientist Dr. Jonathan Foley to provide information on Climate solutions. He is a contributor to "Project Drawdown", an environmental site

she recommends to readers. His research tells us that croplands and grazing lands cover 38 percent of the Earth's land surface. To put this in perspective, all the world's cities and suburbs cover less than 1 percent of Earth's land. Food, agriculture, and land use accounts for 22-33% of greenhouse emissions. He emphasizes Green Energy and the "Super Power" of Science can guide resources to best solutions.

On June 17 Hayhoe's "Battery Boom" Information focused on "Balcony Storage" or portable solar panels is being introduced. In Australia 1 in 25 homes have residential storage batteries. Regulators in UK have recently approved this concept so units will go on sale there soon. According to Solar Washington (State) legislation was introduced by House and Senate and will come back in 2027.

Subscribe to the **Talking Point** substack to find out more... you can get it for free or as a paid subscription: <https://www.talkingclimate.ca/>

Submitted by Barbara G.



Make sure you know what your garden friends look like! The larva may look scary, but it will turn into the ladybug we all know and love.

**CELEBRATE OUR 65TH ANNIVERSARY
ALL-CHURCH PICNIC & POTLUCK
– SUNDAY, AUGUST 9**

Come celebrate summer, NPUCC's 65th anniversary, and our good cooks at our All Church Picnic on August 9, right after church.

Council will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, vegan options - cold drinks - ice cream bars and cake.

Potluck items: please bring side dishes (salads, beans, veggies, etc.).



**2026 PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
CAMPS FOR ALL AGES**

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



FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR ALL KIDS!

Highline is offering free summer meals to every Highline student and all kids and teens 18 years and younger. Kids do

not need to be Highline students to participate.

Registration is not required. There are no forms to fill out and no names are written down. Just stop by any of these locations for a free meal. The meals are ready-to-eat and must be consumed on-site.

Hazel Valley Elementary

402 SW 132nd St

Burien, WA 98146

Breakfast 9:00-9:30 am

Lunch 12:00-12:30 pm

July 7 - July 30

Tuesday—Thursday

Puget Sound Skills Center

18010 8th Ave S

Burien, WA 98148

Breakfast 7:45-8:00 am

Lunch 11:00-11:30 am

& 11:45 am-12:15 pm

June 29 - July 17 (closed July 3)

Monday—Friday

Sylvester Middle School

16222 Sylvester Road SW

Burien, WA 98166

Breakfast 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

July 6 - July 23

Monday—Thursday

No meal service on Friday, July 3.

Mealtimes are subject to change. Current information will be available at

highlineschools.org.

July Birthdays

Malinda Vaughan	7/14
Dorine Seaquist	7/16
Scott Nedved	7/17
Lori Comen	7/23
Marielle Pangelinan	7/23
Megan Fairweather	7/25
Michael Moser	7/25
Sue Bailey	7/31

July Anniversaries

Amy Hitchens & Shannon Thomas 7/29

If you don't see your July 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.