

Dear members and friends of Normandy Park United Church of Christ – here is your Friday Food for Thought for March 10th:

SUNDAY, MARCH 12th

- Remember to **SPRING FORWARD** before you go to sleep on Saturday night!
- The Spiritual Travelers
 - The liturgical and musical arts group, The Spiritual Travelers, will join us for Sunday worship and present the gospel story of the Woman at the Well.
 - This would be a great Sunday to attend in person if you are able!
 - There will not be Sunday School so youth can enjoy the performance.
- Grow It Forward
 - NPUC will be growing and babysitting 100 Douglas Fir seedlings for two years as a partner in the Grow It Forward movement.
 - We'll meet near the labyrinth at noon to plant the seedlings.
 - Please bring a trowel and gloves if you have them.
 - It should take about 1 ½ hours to pot the seedlings.
 - These trees will eventually be used to restore forest habitats along rivers and creeks in the Northwest to aid salmon and orcas.
 - If you want to know more about the history of this project, visit their website: www.growitfwd.org.
 - Thank you to Azure for being our “project manager”!

SHINE: LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT

- John 4:4–42: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman.
- Jews and Samaritans avoided each other. What can help enemies become friends?
- Pray prayers of praise. Pour cups of water into a bucket or large container for each thing you praise God for. Then pour the life-giving water onto indoor or outdoor plants.
- Write a list of things you know about Jesus, just like the woman told Jesus things she knew about him.
- The coloring page, “I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come?” can be found on our website: www.npucc.org. Go to Connect, then Worship Resources in the drop-down menu.

LENTEN STUDY

- We are using Original Blessing: Putting Sin in Its Rightful Place by Danielle Shroyer.
- Next Tuesday, March 14 at 1 pm we'll be meeting in the Fireside Room.
- For this meet up, please read all of *Section II: Revisiting the Garden*. The Scripture for reflection is Genesis 2 and 3, Isaiah 61
- Please direct any questions to Pastor Amy or Lynn.

WORSHIP SERVICES ON YOUTUBE AND NPUC WEBSITE

We're so glad some of you enjoy watching Sunday worship services on YouTube and NPUCC's website. Kevin used to upload the services on Sunday afternoons, but now that it's Pastor Amy and Kirsten's job, the uploads will happen on Tuesdays when they are in the office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Thanks to your generosity, NPUCC sent \$827 to the national UCC's Turkey and Syria Relief Fund!

OUTDOOR WORK PARTY ~ APRIL 1st

- No joking! We're having an outdoor work party on April 1, 9 am to noon.
- Come join us for sprucing up the church grounds.
- Bring your gloves, tools and energy.
- We will have coffee and muffins in the Narthex.
- Ruben Sasis is bringing a trailer to haul off debris.
- If you don't have a specific area to work, see Madeleine or Lori for suggestions.

UCC IN SOLIDARITY WITH TRANS AND NON-BINARY YOUTH

Siblings in Christ, we are in the midst of a pivotal moment in our shared story. The well-being of transgender and non-binary youth is being debated in legislative sessions across the United States. As of March 3 there have been [385 anti-LGBTQ bills introduced](#), with 108 of these bills aiming to end gender affirming healthcare for trans and non-binary youth. This places more than [54,000 trans youth actively taking life-saving gender affirming medical care at risk](#).

This is the highest number of anti-LGBTQ bills ever introduced in a single legislative season. The [Indiana-Kentucky Conference UCC](#), host for General Synod in June, faces a collective of 20 anti-LGBTQ bills. No state is left untouched by these attacks on trans siblings' personhood. It is critical that we name the horrific nature of these policies for what they are: violent attempts to disrupt God's creation in bloom.

Trans youth are sacred members of our collective kin-dom. Now more than ever, trans youth need us. And, in this rupturing moment of violence, our Christ-centered response can be one of returning to abundance that God gives us to flourish.

Through tender love and just action, we will continue to be a beacon of love for our trans siblings. The light of Christ, of which we hold dear, will not diminish here. We remain committed to speaking faith-based truth and offering care for trans siblings within our country and globally.

Health and Wholeness Ministries is diligently working to create resources for our congregations who may be wondering how to care for trans siblings. A digital toolkit providing step-by-step guides will be released in April. You can access our current offerings, [right here](#). For our trans and non-binary youth, know the United Church of Christ acts in solidarity with you. You are a beloved child of God, created with vibrant love and intention. Within your body rests a sacred offering of God's multitude. You belong here. We see you. And, we love you!

The love of Christ comes in many forms so if you're wondering how to take action right now, here are a few entry points:

- ♥ Learn who your Legislators are at the State and Federal levels of government – and get to know them! Use this [tool on the UCC website](#) to look up contact information.
- ♥ Review these [Advocacy 101 tips](#), and get involved by emailing, calling, or visiting your legislators asking them to oppose any legislative attacks on trans youth.
- ♥ Call on Congress to oppose any legislative attacks on trans youth such as [H.R. 734](#), a bill that would prevent trans youth from taking part in school sports teams that match their gender identity. [Send a message to your member of Congress here](#) to oppose this bill, and spread the word.
- ♥ Educate others what is transpiring in [your state](#) and attend hearings online or in-person at your state capitol as a presence in solidarity with trans youth and parents.
- ♥ Consider [starting or locating a local trans support group](#) within your congregation or community.
- ♥ Spread the word about the Trans and Nonbinary [toolkit](#) and other resources on the UCC's Health and Wholeness Advocacy [website](#).
- ♥ Join the [UCC's Justice and Peace Action Network](#) to keep up to date and advocate on these and other justice issues.

May we act in love, grace, and justice for our trans and non-binary siblings.

Faithfully yours,

The National Officers of the United Church of Christ:

The Rev. John Dorhauer (he/him), General Minister and President

The Rev. Traci Blackmon (she/her), Associate General Minister, Justice & Local Church Ministries

The Rev. Karen Georgia A. Thompson (she/her), Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive for Global Ministries

UCC Health and Wholeness Advocacy Ministries:

Rachael Ward (they/them), Team Lead & Minister for Gender & Human Sexuality

The Rev. Amy Johnson (she/her), Minister for Sexuality Education and Justice

Sherry Warren (she/her), Minister for Women's and Gender Justice

The Rev. Rhina Ramos (she/her), National Coordinator for Proyecto Encuentros

Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ:

The Rev. Katrina Roseboro-Marsh (she/her), Executive Director