



# THE TOWLINE



## January 2024



**Normandy Park  
United Church  
of Christ**  
19247 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S  
Seattle, WA

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

**Pastor:**  
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**Office Hours:**  
9:15 am – 2:00 pm  
Tuesday – Friday  
(subject to change)

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Happy New Year and I hate to say it but Covid is not done with us yet. I hope you all have done what you could to have a healthy holiday. As many of you know, I have been plagued with never-ending colds and illness this past fall, and I am hoping 2024 will offer a clean slate.

I will be taking some much-needed rest December 25 through January 8. Rev. Bruce Wilson will join you all for the final Sunday in our series, *"How Does A Weary World Rejoice?"* on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Bruce will preside over communion. On the 14<sup>th</sup> I will be back with you for MLK Jr. Sunday.

I write this to you just after the solstice and before Christmas Eve. I am aware of the turning of the year as the sun in this hemisphere now reaches toward longer days, those glorious days and nights we remember from May and June and July.

For now, in the midst of winter, in the midst of the light of the Christ Child and the Magi following that star to him, I leave you with a poem by David Whyte. It is from his collection of poems that were dreamed in Ireland. From *The Seven Streams~An Irish Cycle*:

### *Blessing for the Morning Light*

The blessing of the morning light to you,  
may it find you even in your invisible  
appearances, may you be seen to have risen  
from some other place you know and have known  
in the darkness and that carries all you need.  
May you see what is hidden in you as a place  
of hospitality and shadowed shelter,  
may what is hidden in you become your gift  
to give, may you hold that shadow to the light  
and the silence of that shelter to the word  
of the light, may you join all your previous  
disappearances with this new appearance,  
this new morning, this being seen again,  
new and newly alive.

It is good to say this poem again and again. David Whyte wrote it for John O'Donoghue who was brilliant at writing blessings and rekindling Celtic spirituality for us all. "May you see what is hidden in you as a place of hospitality and shadowed shelter, may what is hidden in you become your gift to give."

May peace prevail this 2024, year of our Lord.

Amen,



# January Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 am
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, January 2, 7:00 pm
- Bibles & Brews: Friday, January 12, 7:00 pm

**IN-PERSON:** we encourage wearing a mask and practicing reasonable physical distancing to keep vulnerable people safe:

- Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 am, Sanctuary
- Sunday School: youth are dismissed to attend class during Worship, except on Communion Sundays and special occasions
- Guest Preacher Rev. Bruce Wilson: Sunday, January 7, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, January 10, 11:30 am, The Class Act (reservations required; please see Vicki for details)
- Parish Care Committee meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room
- Slot Car Racing: Friday, January 19, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Community Dinner: Tuesday, January 23, 4:30-6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Enneagram Study Group: Wednesday, January 31, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room





Sunday School continues with the WHO IS GOD? – Engaging The

Mystery” from the “Generation Why” curriculum. On the Sundays that Pastor Amy is off, we’ll use the “Simple Sundays” curriculum because they can be used with little or no preparation. Please let Lynn know which Sundays you are available to teach or help.



Our next meet-up will be Wednesday, January 10 at 11:30 am at The Class Act. Reservations are

required and needed to be in with Vicki in December. Contact Malinda with any questions or ideas for where you’d like to meet up for lunch.

We’ll be meeting up via **Zoom only** once in January on Friday the 12th at 7 pm to study/discuss from Exodus and Leviticus for Everyone by John Goldingay.



**Enneagram** will be meeting the last Wednesday of January on the 31st at 1 pm in the Fireside Room. Your homework is to read **Type**

**2** in The Enneagram Guide to Waking Up: Find Your Path, Face Your Shadow, Discover Your True Self. Come early and take a walk around the labyrinth to calm your mind and settle in for our talk.

## MARY'S PLACE GIVING TREE

Thanks for your generosity in purchasing hand-made



gift tags from our youth and picking gift cards from our giving tree! Our youth purchased \$391.66 worth of toys for the children 12 and under, and we also donated eighteen \$25 gift cards for the youth and adults.



## GIVING STATEMENTS

2023 giving statements will be emailed to you before the end of January.



**PLEASE SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR A PHOTO MONTAGE OF DECEMBER, 2023 EVENTS**

***ADVENT WORKSHOP FUN***



***FULL HOUSE FOR TAPROOT THEATRE'S PRODUCTION OF "INNKEEPERS CHRISTMAS"  
HOSTED BY NPUCC AND SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***



***SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT***







## January Birthdays

<b>Debbie Meacham</b>	<b>1/2</b>
<b>Peter Barton</b>	<b>1/3</b>
<b>Madeleine Wasson</b>	<b>1/4</b>
<b>Jette Bunch</b>	<b>1/10</b>
<b>Florence McGraw</b>	<b>1/18</b>
<b>Denene Wright</b>	<b>1/18</b>

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