

# THE TOWLINE

**November  
2023**



**Normandy Park  
United Church  
of Christ**

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)

**Office Manager:**

Vernadette Lapena  
[vernadette@npucc.org](mailto:vernadette@npucc.org)

**Office Hours:**

9:15 am – 2:00 pm  
Tuesday – Friday  
(subject to change)

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I am writing to you on All Saints Day, which we will celebrate this coming Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, during worship. We will light candles for those in our congregation who have passed on in the last year and there will be a time for you to light candles for your own beloveds who have died. I am also aware of all the heartbreaking news that is to be had whenever and however we source our media—the conflict between Palestine/Israel, the ongoing war in Ukraine, the ongoing gun violence in our communities, the warnings we keep receiving from scientists about climate change. When faced with all of this and more, it is good for us to gather and to pray—like we did at the All Church Retreat last weekend, like we will this Sunday, and in the Sundays to come.

Rev. Karyn Frazier, Pastor at Fauntleroy Church shared this meditation with a clergy group I am in last week, it is written by Unitarian pastor, Rev. David Miller.

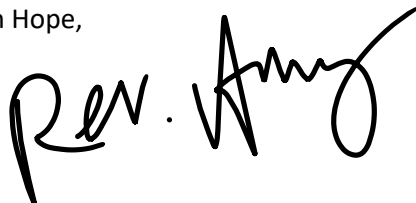
*“Our hearts, so often broken by our inhumanity to each other, already so bruised by the unnecessary brutality of dictators and our own internal conflicts, is now again, still, adding the pain and sorrow of those so brutally damaged in the Middle East by those whose ongoing differences breed such endless and senseless destruction. To assume any clear answer feels foolish, to give up hope feels tempting, to tremble in the midst of horror feels completely understandable, to stop trying to birth love in the world feels unacceptable.”*

I want to pause on that phrase—“to stop trying to birth love in the world feels unacceptable.” That is our work isn’t it? To make sure that love is still born, that this love of God perseveres, despite any personal cost to ourselves. I know we have often said, “love wins” when talking in and amongst ourselves, but right now it feels more imperative than ever—more like “love *must* win” otherwise, why do we even show up for church on a Sunday morning or any other day of the week?

On November 22, our congregation will join with other congregations, including a local Jewish community, for a service of peace and thanksgiving at Southminster Presbyterian Church. We are invited for coffee and pie at 6:30 p.m. and the service will start at 7:00 p.m. Please consider attending. This is another way we can birth love into the world, by adding our prayers for peace, across traditions, across time and space.

And here is my one plug for Stewardship—as a community that prays together, plays together and serves together, let us not forget that we are stewarding peace together, we are stewarding love together and we are stewarding hope together—through our actions, through our financial giving, through our prayer lives.

In Hope,



The page is framed by a decorative border of autumn-themed illustrations. The top-left corner features large, overlapping leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The bottom-left corner is filled with a cluster of pinecones and more autumn leaves. The right side of the page is bordered by a solid orange strip, with some faint leaf illustrations visible behind it.

# *November Calendar of Events*

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 am
- Bibles & Brews: Fridays, November 3 and 17, 7:00 pm
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, November 7, 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
- Parish Care Committee meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, November 15, 12:00 noon, The Class Act at Puget Sound Skills Center (RSVP required by November 7)
- Pledge Sunday: Sunday, November 12, 10:00 am during Worship
- Celebratory Soup and Bread Lunch: Sunday, November 12, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall
- Worship Committee meeting: November 12, following lunch, Church Library
- Book Study Group: Tuesdays, November 7 and 21, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room
- NPUCC Budget Meeting: Sunday, November 19, 10:00 am during Worship
- Enneagram Study Group: Wednesday, November 29, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room





We are so thrilled to introduce our new Office Manager, **Vernadette Lapena**! Vernadette is a current Seattle Pacific University graduate student and a HR/Public Affairs Officer in the Army National Guard. She will be getting her Masters of Science in Marriage and

Family therapy. She recently returned to her faith in Catholicism and is a current RCIA member at Saint Charles Borromeo.

When she graduates, Vernadette wants to commit her therapy practice to combining theological and spiritual approaches to help clients identify problems within their own lives, and/or with their partner(s).

She likes to spend her time reading books on religion, praying the rosary, antiquing, walking her two pugs, finding new and old cafes with her boyfriend, and doing yoga.

Kirsten and Lynn will be training Vernadette in early November. Office hours may differ from Kirsten's due to Vernadette's other commitments so please continue reading your Friday Food for Thought emails for updates.

## November is Stewardship Month!

All year long, congregants offer their time, talents and treasures to NPUCC, our neighbors, the broader community and world.

We thank you! November is the time we are making plans for the next year, 2024.



- ♥ **Pledge Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>.** A pledge card will be mailed to you the first week of November. If you don't receive it by November 7, please call the church office. There are extras in the church office and there will be some available on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Take time to discern the ways you hope and plan to support NPUCC in the coming year.

All gifts, in whatever form, are welcome and appreciated! You may turn your pledge card in during Worship on the 12<sup>th</sup>, mail it or drop it off at church, or you may make your pledge directly on the NPUCC website: Normandy Park UCC | Donate (npucc.org).

- ♥ **Celebratory Soup Lunch November 12<sup>th</sup>.** Following worship please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a soup lunch. We want to gather together and show our gratitude to all of you. You do not need to bring anything but yourself.
- ♥ **Budget Meeting November 19<sup>th</sup>.** The Church Committees and Church Council have developed a budget for 2024 based on our mission, vision, and needs. The budget will be presented for discussion and voted on by church members. If you are a member and you are unsure if you'll be present to vote on the 19<sup>th</sup>, please complete a proxy form. A quorum is essential to vote and to pass the budget. Forms are available in the church office or can be sent to you. If you join the meeting by Zoom, you will be able to participate in the meeting and vote at that time.

The mission and ministry of our congregation engages our hearts - it's why we belong, why we volunteer, and why we give. Let's continue this journey together and invest in our mission so we may change lives.



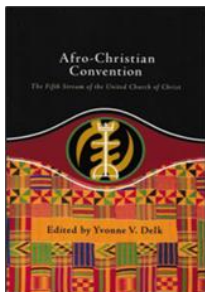
*Pastor Amy and Connie, representing the Deacons, welcome new members, Cindy, Fred and Ruth ~ we're so glad to have you at NPUCC!*



Our next **Zoom only** meet ups will be Fridays, November 3 and 17 at 7 pm to study/discuss from Exodus and Leviticus for Everyone by John Goldingay.

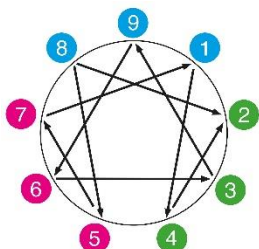
## FALL BOOK DISCUSSION

We continue our book discussion of Afro-Christian Convention | The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ as our resource. In November we will meet up in the Fireside Room on Tuesdays, November 7 and 21 from 1 – 2 pm. We will start each time with a short video of one of the contributors of the book.



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 which can be used with little or no preparation. Please sign up on the board in the Narthex or let Lynn know which Sundays you are available.

Our next meet up will be Wednesday, November 15 at 12 noon at The Class Act Restaurant at the Puget Sound Skills Center. You’ll need to contact Vicki N. to make your choice of entrée/dessert by November 7. Also, mark your calendars for The Class Act again on January 10. Contact Malinda with any questions or ideas for where you’d like to meet up for lunch.



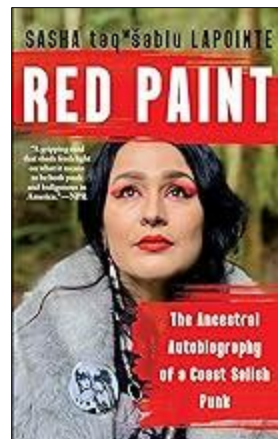
## ENNEAGRAM STUDY

Enneagram continues on the last Wednesday of the month, November 29 at 1 pm in the Fireside Room.

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.

## CONGREGATION BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Red Paint, the Ancestral Autobiography of a Coast Salish Punk by Sasha taqwšebli LaPointe, c. 2022.



"Sasha taqšblu LaPointe, a Coast Salish indigenous woman, has always longed for a sense of home. As a child her family moved around frequently, often staying in barely habitable church attics and trailers, dangerous places for young Sasha. As an adolescent determined to escape the poverty and abuse of her childhood in order to build a better future for herself and her people, Sasha throws herself headlong into the world, with little more to guide her than a passion for the thriving punk scene of the Pacific Northwest and a desire to live up to the responsibility of being the namesake of her beloved great-grandmother, a linguist who helped preserve her indigenous language of Lushootseed and one in a long line of powerful ancestors."

*Do you have a social or environmental justice book that you've read and would like to recommend to others? Send its name to Lynn and she'll include it in the next Towline.*

### A note from Kevin Peterson

NPUC family, I am so excited to announce that my fiancé, Kelly, and I are getting married at NPUC very soon! Unfortunately, due to very limited seating, we politely request that if you did not receive a direct invitation from us, please do not attend the ceremony in-person. I so wish I could have invited each and every one of you. We are offering a live stream of the ceremony via the church's YouTube channel (NOT Zoom), and I'm happy to email you a link to watch. Thank you for your understanding, and for all your support of me and Kelly!



### **Earth Ministry Update: Residential Gas Rates Increase is Unacceptable**

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) wants to raise residential gas rates by 3.45%. This is unacceptable when PSE is already Washington's most expensive utility and many customers are struggling or unable to pay their bills. Instead of focusing on investing in energy efficiency, energy storage, time-varying rates, demand response and other measures that would accelerate the transition to clean energy, as well as improve reliability and lower customer costs, PSE continues to invest in fossil fuels.

For many years, the Earth Ministry/WAIPL community has been opposed to PSE's Tacoma LNG facility in solidarity with the Puyallup Tribe who oppose the project due to its violations of their treaty rights. While the Tribe and several environmental groups continue to fight the project's clean air permit in court, PSE now wants to recover costs associated with Tacoma LNG's construction.

We know that #FrackedGasIsNotFaithful, and that significantly raising energy bills for Washingtonians to pay for more fossil fuel infrastructure does not care for our communities, benefit our shared air and waters, or bring us towards a more just future. Adding insult to injury, nearly all of the gas used by the Tacoma LNG facility will NOT benefit PSE customers and will instead fuel TOTE Maritime's ships. PSE claims the facility will provide cleaner fuel for marine shipping. Studies show that Liquefied Natural Gas is just as bad for climate as other marine bunker fuels when lifecycle emissions are counted.

Even if LNG was cleaner, the cost of cleaning up the shipping industry should not be borne by residential customers. Residential customers would only use approximately 2% of the use of the facility, yet are being asked to pay for 43% of the construction costs.

If you are a PSE customer and are opposed to this rate increase, please let your voice be heard by filling out a public comment at:  
<https://www.utc.wa.gov/consumers/submit-comment>, mentioning Docket UG-230393. Thank you!

### **Helping Asylum Seekers at Highline United Methodist Church**

Many of us have seen the news reports regarding the 300+ asylum seekers currently living in tents at Riverton Park Church in Tukwila, 100 of whom are children or pregnant people. Highline United Methodist Church (that hosts the Severe Weather Shelter NPUCC supports during both cold and hot months) is also currently hosting 30+ people at their facility. As the weather turns colder, HUMC will be faced with the challenge of serving both asylum seekers and other unhoused neighbors needing a warm place to spend the night.

Many government resources that support newly arriving migrants have already been earmarked for the fiscal cycle or cannot be used because of various immigration statuses. So, Church Council of Greater Seattle (CCGS) and the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest are working with 30 other community groups to respond to immediate needs, including supporting HUMC.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please give through the CCGS website:  
<https://thechurchcouncil.ejoinme.org/ChurchCouncilDonation> and choose Immigration Organizing.

Pastor Jenny is also looking for volunteers to help sort clothes. The building is open 24 hours a day now, front door access, if you want to drop off clothes for teenagers or slender men.



### **You're Invited!**



Pastor Amy is participating in Southminster Presbyterian Church's Interfaith Prayer and Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 22 and all are welcome! Coffee and pie will be served at 6:30 pm and the service will begin at 7 pm.

19834 – 8<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Des Moines



## Upcoming Justice Leadership Workshops Open to Everyone!

In spring, 2022, Kirsten participated in a multi-month Jubilee Justice Leadership course on social justice. While that program is still being offered (see below), one-time online workshops that explore some of the same subjects are also being offered. For more information, visit [www.justiceleadership.org](http://www.justiceleadership.org). Check these out!

### Advent Workshop: Embrace the Darkness

November 29, 5:00-6:30pm – cost \$20/person  
In preparation for the Advent season contemplate the slowing down of winter and join conversation about the possibilities of embracing the darkness as both an anti-racist practice as well as space for art, music, and meditation.

### Forms of Social Change

December 5, 4:00-6:00pm – cost \$20/person  
Explore the difference between social service and social justice to the various forms of social change actions. Think strategically about the direction you wish to take in seeking to change the world and understand the methods used to work toward it.

### Introduction to Progressive Christianity

A five-part Lenten series, Tuesdays, February 20 – March 19, 5:00-7:00pm - cost \$75/person for series  
From Exodus to Jesus and beyond, the Bible offers an ancient, enduring and surprisingly relevant story about people living in the light of the love of God. Explore how the lessons and values of our faith tradition can inform our work to build a better world.



JUSTICE  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM  
JUBILEE  
2024

Interested in integrating faith and justice work  
into your life in meaningful and transformative ways?  
Take the leap into Jubilee, a 5-month online program.

Starting in January 2024, accepting applications now.  
[www.justiceleadership.org/jubilee](http://www.justiceleadership.org/jubilee)

*"I know I couldn't do what I'm doing now without this program.  
I'm now on a state steering committee and I never thought  
that people would listen to what I have to say or that my vote mattered.  
But with this program, I know it does and I have confidence I didn't before."*

-Kim, 2023 participant

ADVOCACY  
& ACTIVISM

SOCIAL  
JUSTICE

THE BIBLE &  
PROGRESSIVE  
CHRISTIANITY

ENLIVEN  
CHURCH  
ENGAGEMENT

LEADERSHIP  
SKILLS

COHORT OF  
SOJOURNERS  
LEARNING  
TOGETHER





## *November Birthdays*

Marcie McPherson	11/5
Susan Andresen Sasis	11/7
C.B. Stack	11/7
Gaddy Padagdag	11/8
Mike Janke	11/11
Ruben Sasis	11/14
Jim Vaughan	11/16
Mathias Sasis	11/22
Nancy Knudsen	11/26
Ben Pangelinan	11/30

## *November Anniversaries*

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