



NORMANDY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TOWLINE

NPucc's Monthly Newsletter

October 2025

19247—1st Ave S
Seattle, WA

(206) 824-1770

www.npucc.org

Pastor:

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Music Accompanist and Choir Director:

Cindy Dow
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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,

This month, we will begin a new worship and spiritual growth series combining the work of Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *The Serviceberry* and a sermon series called *Counterculture*. During this season of stewardship we will be thinking about how to live generously, love boldly, and embrace our true identity in Christ.

Robin Wall Kimmerer invites readers to live into the idea that abundance and reciprocity is indeed possible in the world we are living in right now. She speaks of a "gift economy" where all might flourish. This is a countercultural message! And because of that, having a sermon series titled *Counterculture* makes a lot of sense.

We live in a world that constantly tells us who we are—often defining our worth by what we have, what we do, or how we compare. But scripture offers a different truth: that we are beloved children of God, created in God's image, and called to live lives of compassion, purpose, and generosity.

To do that, we must sometimes go against the grain—to be countercultural in the best and most faithful sense. Throughout this stewardship season, we will also reflect on how our financial giving is a vital expression of our faith. Our individual giving makes a bigger impact and difference when we pool our resources together. And when we reframe from a transactional mentality of "I give therefore I get" to a framework "I give because all life is a gift" we begin to adopt the abundance mindset that Jesus was always talking about in the kingdom of God.

At the end of our stewardship season, each household will be invited to prayerfully submit an Estimate of Giving Card for 2026 (also known as a pledge)—not as a contract, but as a spiritual commitment, a next step in

growing our faith through intentional and proportional giving.

This is not just about funding a budget. It is about forming a people—disciples who resist the culture of scarcity and self-interest, and instead live into the abundance of God’s grace and the call to love our neighbors as ourselves. Over the next weeks, you’ll hear more through worship, testimonies, mission stories, and materials that will help you engage with this theme in personal and meaningful ways.

I ask you to begin praying now—not just about a number on a card, but about the deeper transformation God might be inviting in your heart and your household. Let us be shaped not by the world, but by the One who made us. Let us step into the freedom of living faithfully and giving generously. Let us walk this countercultural path—together.

With hope and gratitude,

Rev. Amy

October Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 7 pm
- Bibles & Brews: Friday, October 10 & 24, 7 pm

IN-PERSON:

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, October 1, 11:30 am, Hermanos
- World Communion Sunday, October 5, 10 am
- UCC Special Offering: Neighbors in Need: Sunday, October 5, 10 am
- Fall Book Read—Learning to Walk in the Dark: Tuesday, October 14, 1 pm, Fireside Rm
- Enneagram: Wednesday, October 22, 1 pm, Fireside Room
- Mission Mile: Friday, October 24, 5—10 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Laity Sunday, October 26, 10 am
- Learn to Knit/Crochet: Sunday, October 26, 2nd hour
- Community Meal, Tuesday, October 28, 4:30—6:00 pm

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, OCTOBER 1 @ 11:30 AM AT HERMANOS

Please join our next luncheon when Michael will be hosting lunch at Hermanos (Mexican), 10707 SE Carr Road, Renton WA 98055. It's east up the hill from Valley General Hospital.



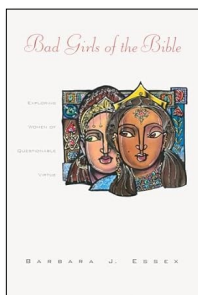
If you would like to host a lunch, please add your name/where on the sign-up sheet on the kiosk.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, DURING WORSHIP

On Sunday, October 5, we'll be collecting the UCC's Special Offering, Neighbors in Need. The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.

BIBLES & BREWS—FRIDAYS, OCTOBER 10 & 24 @ 7 PM

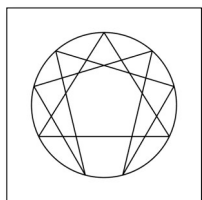
We continue the study of Bad Girls of the Bible



by Barbara Essex by Zoom only. On the 10th, we will be exploring Chapter 7 - "Jezebel: Devious or Diva?" (pages 53 – 64) and then on the 24th we will be exploring Chapter 8 - "Job's Wife: Foe or Foil?" (pages 65 – 74).

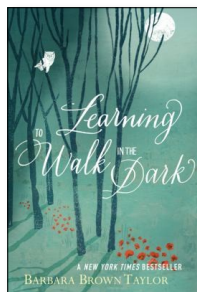
ENNEAGRAM – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 @ 1 PM, FIRESIDE ROOM

At this meet up, we will discuss 6s – QUESTION EVERYTHING (pages 146-164) in Suzanne Stabile's book The Path Between Us: An Enneagram Journey to Healthy Relationships.



FALL BOOK READ – LEARNING TO WALK IN THE DARK BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR

This fall we will be reading Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor, which "Offers advice for finding spirituality in times of darkness, questioning the traditional association of darkness with evil and danger, and suggesting that being in the dark may lead to greater spiritual growth."



Our first meet up will be Tuesday, October 14 at 1 pm in the Fireside Room. At that time, we will pick an additional time or two to meet up. If there is interest, we will also schedule a Zoom evening meeting.

Here are a couple of questions to ponder:

1) When you read the word "darkness," what images, feelings, or thoughts come to your mind? Are they positive or negative? How do you think your upbringing affects your response to the idea of darkness?

2) "I cannot remember the last time I heard anyone use 'dark' to describe something good" (p. 54). Can you remember a time when you heard the word "dark" used positively? If not, why might this be? If so, explain how it was used and your reaction to it.

This book is available at the King County library as a book and e-book. If you'd like Lynn to purchase you a new copy at the cost of \$8.94 plus tax, please let her know.

MISSION MILE – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 5 - 10 PM

Come and join Bob in racing slot cars in the Fellowship Hall. Fun is had by all! Looking ahead to November, racing will be on the 21st.



DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO LEARN TO KNIT OR CROCHET?

Sunday, October 26, after worship, is your opportunity! We have several winter scarfs started that you can finish up... or bring your own needle/hook and yarn, and Lynn will get you going on your personal project. Are you already a knitter or crocheter? Please come and help Lynn teach others.



COMMUNITY MEAL AT NPUCC, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 @4:30-6:00 PM

Time is approaching for our next Community Meal. Join us Tuesday, October 28, from 4:30 until 6 pm, for our Community Meal. Chicken Noodle Casserole will be served!



Looking ahead, in 2026 we will be hosting the Community Meal every other month, beginning in January!

FOOD BANK MONTH OF GIVING

October is our Food Bank Month of Giving! In addition to serving the Community Meal on Tuesday, October 28th (see blurb on this page), we're also asking folks to donate items to the Des Moines Area Food Bank. Below is a list of the biggest needs at this time. *Of course, monetary donations are also always helpful and needed.*

Biggest Needs:

- Cup o' Soup
- Easy Mac
- Oatmeal Packets
- Canned corn
- Fruit Cups/Applesauce
- Granola Bars
- Small 100% fruit juice



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? This is an on-going project, so we always welcome donations... 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

CREATION JUSTICE COVENANT APPROVED!

At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 14, we voted to approve our Creation Justice Statement, which is below. A big thank you to our Green Team for wordsmithing the statement so that speaks for NPUCC!

Our next step is to send in the statement and other information to the UCC National Office, so that we're officially recognized as a Creation Justice Church.

For more information on what it means to be a Creation Justice Church, please visit:

https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/efam/environmental-justice/creation_justice_churches/

NORMANDY PARK UCC CREATION JUSTICE COVENANT

Genesis 1:31a ***God saw all that God had made, and it was very good.***

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." –Chief Sealth

Honoring our Creator God,

We at Normandy Park United Church of Christ commit ourselves as a congregation to care for all Creation. We acknowledge that we belong to God and all that God has created.

As stewards of the earth, we continue to inform ourselves of ways to restore, replenish, heal.

As witnesses to apathy for Creation, we seek restorative justice for oppressed people, endangered species and future generations to come.

Our commitment to God's Creation shall extend to all of our church life through stewardship, worship, and actions. It will faithfully guide our hearts and minds.

Every spring and fall, billions of birds migrate across North America, navigating mostly under the cover of darkness. Artificial lights pose a serious threat, attracting and disorienting the birds, leading to dangerous collisions with buildings. The solution is simple: Flip the switch, and turn off the lights.

By reducing unnecessary lighting, the growing international "Lights Out" movement is making an impact, saving birds while conserving energy and lowering costs.

As fall migration gets underway, here are some ways you can keep the skies darker at night and help birds stay out of harm's way:

- Turn off non-essential lights from 11 PM until 6 AM during critical migration periods.
- Turn off or dim lobby and atrium lights.
- Turn off or dim interior home lighting or draw blinds to prevent light escaping.
- Turn off decorative landscape lighting.
- Turn off lights before leaving the home or office.
- Be sure outside lights are aimed down and well shielded.
- Install motion sensors on outside lights to reduce use.



October Birthdays

Lynn Zachow	10/7
Jeff Clark	10/18
Wenden George	10/19
Cathy Brewer	10/20
Mike Cook	10/21
Sue Janke	10/24
Cathy Larson	10/27

October Anniversaries

Michael & Sue Janke	10/6
Ben & Kirsten Pangelinan	10/8
Bob & Wenden George	10/16

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