

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

<b>Moderator:</b>	Vicki Nichols
<b>Vice-Moderator:</b>	Barbara Gregg
<b>Clerk:</b>	Sue Janke
<b>Budget and Finance Chair:</b>	Brian Russell
<b>Christian Education Chair:</b>	Lynn Zachow
<b>Facilities Chair:</b>	Lori Comen
<b>Parish Care and Outreach Chair:</b>	Alice McGregor
<b>Worship Chair:</b>	Connie Clark

## **STAFF**

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Amy Hitchens
<b>Director of Music:</b>	Kevin Peterson
<b>Office Manager:</b>	Kirsten Pangelinan
<b>Custodian:</b>	Amalia Mendoza

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**Normandy Park United Church of Christ**  
**2022-2023 Officers, Chairs and Committee Members (current as of 8/15/2022)**  
 (dates note end of term when applicable)

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

***Vicki Nichols...Moderator***

Sue Janke Clerk  
 Brian Russell Budget and Finance Chair  
 Lynn Zachow Christian Education Chair

***Barbara Gregg.....Vice-Moderator***

Lori Comen Facilities Chair  
 Alice McGregor Parish Care and Outreach Chair  
 Connie Clark Worship Chair

***Budget and Finance Committee ~ Chairperson: Brian Russell (9/23)***

Peter Barton Bob George (G.E.M.) Lynn Zachow (Financial Secretary)  
 Jeff Clark Mike Janke

***Christian Education Committee ~ Chairperson: Lynn Zachow (9/23)***

Nancy Allen Kirsten Pangelinan Jill Tiffany  
 Dawn Elwell Susan Sasis Shannon Thomas  
 Cathy Larson

***Facilities Committee ~ Chairperson: Lori Comen (9/23)***

Peter Barton Jeff Clark Shannon Thomas  
 Jon Comen Cathy Larson Madeleine Wasson

***Parish Care and Outreach Committee ~ Chairperson: Alice McGregor (9/23)***

Belinda Allender Cathy Brewer Madeleine Wasson  
 Joan Andresen Barbara Gregg Lee Weber  
 Sue Bailey Dorine Seaquist

***Worship Committee ~ Chairperson: Connie Clark (9/23)***

Mark Buckley Steve Kuntz Kevin Peterson (staff)  
 Mark Hall Stacie Latimer  
 Nancy Knudsen Gaddy Padagdag

***Pastoral Relations Committee***

Cathy Brewer Nancy Knudsen Lee Larson

***Personnel Committee***

Wenden George (9/23) Jill Tiffany (9/23)

***Historian ~ Position Open***

## **NPUCC Annual Meeting Minutes ~ August 15, 2021**

### **Call to Order: Vicki Nichols**

The meeting was opened by Vicki at 10:25 am and was held within the time frame of the regular worship service. This meeting/worship service took place over Zoom.

Annual Reports were available to the congregation on the church website or at the church office.

Vicki opened with a reflection stating that “this church/building was built with love and our generations mission is to continue with its maintenance.” The NPUCC purpose and values were reviewed.

**Our Purpose:** God calls Normandy Park United Church of Christ to make a spiritual difference in people’s lives through fellowship, worship and service.

### **Our Values:**

Relevant worship and learning

Respect, support and working together

Open and Affirming

Genuine Hospitality

Celebrating diversity

Service

Peace and justice

### **Work Completed During the Past Year:**

Vicki briefly reviewed all the church improvements that have taken place this year:

- Care/Share/Repair Fund Drive raised over \$75,000.
- Reroofing of church completed.
- Painting/caulking around church windows/soffits completed.
- Additional painting around church doors.
- Windows above church roof were boarded up and painted to reduce light in sanctuary and improve visibility for church projector.
- Water leak located underground by the patio/bushes was repaired.

**Thank you to Outgoing Committee and Council Members:** Vicki thanked everyone for their support and efforts throughout the past year.

**Quorum:** Sue Janke confirmed that we have a quorum present with 53 members logged onto the zoom meeting with an additional 3 proxy votes for a total of 56 voting members.

(47 members required for a quorum). Voting was completed using a screen shot of members present.

**Approval of August 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and the congregation unanimously approved the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes.

**Election of Officers and Committee Chairs:**

The slate of church officers and committees was displayed over Zoom and questions/comments were taken from membership:

- Sue Janke asked to nominate Jill Erickson-Keeney for the Worship Committee and Shannon Thomas for the Facilities Committee.

**Vote on Council Members and Committee Chairs:**

A motion was made to vote on the following Church Council and Committee Chairs:

Moderator-Vicki Nichols; Vice Moderator- Barb Gregg; Clerk- Sue Janke; Budget/Finance- Brian Russell; Christian Education- Lynn Zachow; Facilities Chair -Lori Comen; Parish Care/Outreach- Alice McGregor and Worship Chair- Connie Clark.

A total of 56 members approved the vote (53 members on zoom and 3 proxy votes).

**Financial Report: Brian Russell**

- Brian thanked everyone for their continued financial support and volunteer work throughout the year. He especially thanked Lynn Zachow for all her work/time as financial secretary.
- Brian reports that in spite of Covid the church's finances have weathered a 2<sup>nd</sup> year and we have come through splendidly as a group and have met our budget.
- The Care/Share/Repair Fund Drive addressed repairs that the church needed. These were not luxury repairs.

**Questions/Comments:**

- One member requested that the annual report be modified to contain more specific information about the Care/Share/Repair Fund Raising Campaign. This could act as a historical document for the church records.

**Closing of Annual Meeting:**

Vicki closed the meeting at 10:50 am with a prayer.

**Submitted by:** Sue Janke, Church Clerk

## **NPUCC Congregational Budget Meeting via Zoom ~ November 7, 2021**

### **Call to Order – Vicki Nichols, Church Moderator**

The meeting was opened by Vicki. A quorum (37 members) was verified with 37 members in attendance on zoom. The Proposed Budget handouts were distributed to church members prior to the meeting either through the church website or by picking up copies at church. Vicki started the meeting by presenting a graphic depiction of last year's budget compared to this year's budget. She spoke about the importance of staying competitive in today's workforce and the differences COVID has made in church planning/spending over the past year. Vicki thanked the church council and church membership for all their support during the year.

### **Budget Report – Brian Russell, Finance Chair**

Brian thanked all members of the church for their continuing financial support. Additionally, Brian thanked the members of the finance committee and specifically recognized Lynn Zachow, Financial Secretary, for her continued work and excellence.

Brian reviewed the figures of the 2022 Budget Proposal. He pointed out differences in the line items between the 2021 and 2022 budget. The 2022 budget includes an overall increase of \$9,064. Brian reiterated that this increase is driven by increases in church insurance and cost of living raises for church employees. Raises of 3.5% each were included for the pastor, music director and church office manager. The finance committee feels this increase is attainable.

Overall, the church is in good financial shape; especially given the last year and parishioners responsiveness during COVID. Brian stated that it continues to be important for everyone get their pledges turned into the church.

### **Comments and Questions**

Vicki opened up the meeting for discussion/questions.

Member #1: Who is currently renting space at NPUCC?

Response: NPUCC is currently renting to the City of Normandy Park Preschool and Malamalama. We are in current negotiations for a rental with an additional church. At this time, we have lost the rental of the church parsonage, but we are in the process of looking for a new renter.

Member #2: Is there a way to decrease postage using electronic messaging?

Response: NPUCC tries to do as much electronically as possible (email/ church website). However due to some of our activities during COVID and members that lived out of the area we needed to do some mailings.

Member #3: Do we see the need for increased spending for technology?

Response: This is highly likely and we are looking at purchasing a new laptop for use in the sanctuary.

**Motion**

The Moderator called for a vote. A motion was made to accept the budget proposal by Dave A. and seconded by Bob G. The 2022 Budget was unanimously approved.

**Submitted by:** Sue Janke, Church Clerk

## **PASTOR'S REFLECTION**

*“Don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” – Howard Thurman*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

What makes us come alive?

In the life of the church, as we emerge from the pandemic, we continue to experiment with what is working and what is not—what we want to continue from the past and what we are leaning into with the future. Like last year, we continue to flex our hope and flexibility muscles. We continue to test and see what makes us come alive.

We continue to utilize zoom for meetings, and we have learned (not surprisingly) that we prefer to worship together in person. Even so, we like supporting a hybrid model—glitches and all—because that means more people can join us who wouldn't be able to otherwise. We have also learned that hybrid worship and worshipping outside do not go so well together.

Nearly all of us at this point have had brushes with COVID or know someone who has. I think we have done a fantastic job of keeping each other safe and we will continue to keep our COVID sub-committee active in the event we need to make some adjustments for the winter months.

Despite all the challenges we have faced as a church, we have persevered and even had some fun along the way. Our animals were blessed on the courtyard for the Feast of St. Francis; our loved ones were remembered for All Saints Day in the Narthex with candles. You may recall Narnia Night last year during our Advent Season and how we provided a magical, free event to families in our community. We enjoyed experiencing Advent in Narnia as a church and we managed to have Christmas Eve in person and a Christmas Eve service on zoom too.

We continued our donation drop offs and stayed connected to our partners in ministry. We had another Lenten Season with a theme from A Sanctified Art and we kept our new to us tradition of adorning the cross for Easter. It was truly a blessing to be together for Ash Wednesday in person, for Maundy Thursday in person, and of course for Easter and the egg hunt that followed it.

I have greatly enjoyed the books studies and service projects we have engaged in in this past year as well—from these studies we have now included a Land Acknowledgement in

our worship services. A group of us continued study of the enneagram, and another group has met faithfully on zoom for Bibles and Brews a few Friday nights a month. Our youth put together Valentine treats for Mary's Place, got backpack inventory ready for school through Mary's Place, and had some fun with Minecraft night, slot cars and the NEKO Cat Café.

I was so impressed with our youth and parents who did planning and fundraising for the Blue Theology Mission Station Trip. A big thank you to everyone who supported our youth and parents for this life changing experience. Our youth have brought us a renewed vision of caring for Creation, work that we will continue intergenerationally together.

In wearing my other hats as an authorized minister, I continue to serve on the Committee on Ministry with Sub Committee A, the group tasked with shepherding members in discernment seeking ordination. I am also taking on a new coordinator role that is starting now—it is a small position within the conference where I will help oversee the Community of Practice groups for clergy. This is a way I can provide pastoral care and support to my fellow clergy members by coordinating this program for pastors and chaplains who meet monthly in support circles.

I also continue to meet almost weekly with Pastors Lina Thompson and Jenny Partch in a lectionary study group. It is also a place where we check in and support each other for the work of the larger community and the Ecumenical Leadership Circle which is based through the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

I am grateful to my working partners Kirsten Pangelinan and Kevin Peterson for all that they do and are—they are wonderful teammates. It is a blessing for Kevin to remain with us for this summer and fall season. Kevin has been integral in teaching others to run tech for worship and has been innovative in working with the choir throughout this time. We know that we will begin the search again for a new Music Director in this next year—we met some great candidates in our first search, and I know that we have learned much in that process. We are blessed to have a church community with so many gifts—with personnel and hiring practices being one of those skill sets.

Kirsten continues to keep the office humming and is the glue that keeps the church together during the work week—as a liaison to the Normandy Park City Preschool, to our two renting churches that meet on Sunday afternoons, to the Boy Scouts, AA and others who wish to rent the church. She also puts together our slide show and bulletin every week, plus the Towline. She also makes sure the bills are paid and is ready to troubleshoot any manner of thing that can be going on in the building.

Regarding custodial work, Amalia Mendoza continues to be our custodian one day a week. She has been training to do more work as an aesthetician, a business that she is slowly growing in and amongst her work in environmental services at St. Anne's Hospital. It was also Amalia who introduced our newer parsonage renters to us—Chris and Briana and their family. Chris is Amalia's nephew.

I will close by saying that as a small and mighty church, we have had the courage to try out the community meal again on one of the hottest days of the year—we continue to support recovery housing via Kate's Foundation with a meal provided by Madeleine each week—we have maintained our relationships with Church World Service, Hospitality House, and the Des Moines Area Food Bank.

A big thank you to all of you and to our Church Council for continuing the faithful work of being church together. May we continue to see all that which makes us come alive through Christ Jesus.

**Submitted by:** Rev. Amy Hitchens

## **MODERATOR'S WELCOME AND REPORT**

From the Crowsnest – The Moderator's Report Year 2

We have shown we are a small and mighty group of believers. Further, we have continued to show our nimbleness in our ability to pivot quickly when necessary. Many times we had a plan and it all worked out or we needed to change it to fit what the new twist was in the world. This has not stopped us; it has made us stronger. It has kept the Council agenda full this past year!

We have continued to build on the future in both our programming and building. We need to celebrate the updates in our technology. There is a new camera, new sanctuary computer, and microphones, to enable us to maintain our online presence. Further, we have added new air purifiers and higher-grade furnace filters to the sanctuary for better air quality for worship. We continue to offer a hybrid worship experience which may be the way of the future. We have continued to offer book studies, Bible and Brews, Advent workshop, and Lenten soup suppers. We had a Narnia Night, open to the community, that went along with our Advent study.

We are starting our second year with Normandy Park Preschool renting space from us. Ole Malamalama continues to rent space from us with a new contract redefining the space and usage. We began renting space to the Kosraean Congregational Church in the Fellowship Hall. Our Boy Scout Troop continues to use our facility as they grow. AAA is also continuing to have a time slot with us. To help maintain our campus the council approved that 5% of all building rental monies go into the Capital facilities budget. This help with upkeep of the Church Campus. Further, with the donations from the CARE, SHARE, REPAIR fundraiser we had last year, we completed much needed painting this summer. This year the fellowship hall exterior, parsonage exterior, and brown sign in front of the church were painted. This has drained the capital facilities fund. I foresee future expenditures as this building is aging and has needs for updates.

We continue to serve our wider community with donation drop off days (Des Moines Area Food Bank, Hospitality House, REACH) Easter Egg Hunt, Mission Mile Slot Cars, Mary's Place (giving tree/valentines/backpacks) Kate's Foundation, Earth Ministry, Crop Walk, Inclement Weather shelter, Community Dinner to name a few.

We have seen some signs of growth in welcoming new members. We have lost some members through illness, death, and changes in life. We are also encountering the aging of the congregation which changes how we do life together.

We have actively been looking for a new Director of Music and wish to thank the committee that began this project in February: Wenden, Connie, Steve, and Pastor Amy. The search is on hold for the moment due to a change in the world for Kevin. Other churches are facing the loss of their music directors also.

I wish to give a special thanks to Bob George for being there and helping in so many ways in the life of this church. Additionally, I wish thank Kevin for all he does for the church, including helping me to learn the technology we need in today's church; Kirsten for always being great a Office Manager, behind the scenes worker, and answerer-of-questions no matter how random they might be; and Amy for being a good partner in running and managing church life. Finally, thank you to the Church Council – Connie, Alice, Lynn, Brian, Lori, Sue, and Barbara – for their willingness to take the time to meet regularly, discuss and make decisions about the life of this church.

We have many things to be thankful for and many things to ponder as we move forward as a church in the coming year.

**Submitted by:** Vicki Nichols

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT**

Music ministry continues to be a vital part of our life together as a congregation, and I am grateful for the ways in which our music program has returned to a greater sense of normalcy since the pandemic began.

The choir is once again meeting and rehearsing before Sunday morning worship, and even sang a few times during the summer. They also continue to meet regularly on Wednesday nights on Zoom, albeit not to rehearse. As always, I am so grateful to the choir members for their adaptability, grit, and their ability to find joy in simply being together in fellowship.

I continue to serve in a hybrid role as music director and tech support/production manager, but I am excited and grateful to have Vicki and Nancy K. step up to learn worship technology to allow me to eventually transition back to simply being the music director—something I believe my successor will also appreciate. Many thanks to Vicki, the Church Council, and the worship committee for supporting the ongoing tech needs of worship, and to all of you, especially those of you on Zoom, for your patience during this time of learning and experimentation.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to Amy and Kirsten, in whom I could not ask for a better team to collaborate with in ministry, and to all of you for gracing me with your voices and support and love and care and generosity and more love week after week. I will continue to relish each remaining Sunday I have with all of you as your music director.

**Submitted by:** Kevin Peterson

## **MINISTER IN FOUR-WAY COVENANT'S REPORT**

As a minister in four-way covenant with the church, I am writing to report what I have been up to since joining the church in February of this year. I continue to work at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle at the First Hill Campus. As a member of the palliative care team, I work alongside medical providers, social workers, and other chaplains. We are a team that provides an extra layer of support to patients and their family who are dealing with the stress and symptoms associated with serious illness. I am also working on my Doctor of Ministry degree with Iliff School of Theology, located in Denver, CO. I completed my coursework in May and am now researching and writing on the topic of how people with serious illness cope with and make meaning out of unfinished life tasks as they complete their lives. I am also working on developing workshops to use with congregations and in other settings where people are interested in exploring the intersection of meaning and end of life.

**Submitted by:** Rev. Lorraine Leist

**CLERK'S REPORT**

**Reporting membership from August 15, 2021-August 15, 2022**

**Total NPUCC Membership as of August 15, 2021** **81**

**Active/Inactive Members who passed away:** **-1**

Dona Costello July 3, 2022

**Non-Members (Friends of NPUCC) who passed away:**

Miriam Curran January 14, 2022

**New Members:**

Mark Hall November 21, 2021

Gaddy Padagdag November 21, 2021

Lorraine Leist February 27, 2022

**+3**

**Baptism:**

Mark Hall November 21, 2021

**Total NPUCC Membership as of August 15, 2022:**

**Active/Inactive Membership** **83**

**Submitted by:** Sue Janke, Church Clerk

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Chairperson:** Brian Russell

**Committee Members:** Peter Barton, Jeff Clark, Bob George, Mike Janke, Lynn Zachow

### **2021-2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

As we now navigate church life in a post pandemic era, we have begun hybrid services incorporating both Zoom and in person services. We are still dealing with the economic impacts of Covid. The big event for 2021 was our Facility Capital Campaign – Care, Share, Repair. To be quite honest, my estimate of what we were likely to receive to make some much needed repairs was, as it turns out, too conservative. Our members greatly exceeded all expectations with their generous support for the care, repair and maintenance of our facilities. While fully funding the pledges to our operating budget, our members additionally funded the facility campaign with \$75,170. We used the funds for:

5/25/21      \$43,929.90 roof repair

8/25/21      \$21,452.99 painting

8/4/22        \$21,623.64 painting

**TOTAL        \$87,006.53**

You will notice we spent about \$12,000 more than the funds received in the campaign. These funds came from our Facilities Capital fund balance.

On the budget side, we again have been blessed to meet or exceed our financial and budget goals for 2021-2022. Through July 2022, our total income exceeds our budget by \$4,282. Our total expenses are over budget by \$92 which means we have income exceeding budgeted expenses by \$4190. This year we have welcomed the Normandy Park Preschool to our church. We receive \$1600/month in income from their use of our CE facilities. We have also welcomed new tenants to our parsonage. Thank you, Vicki Nichols and Bob George, for negotiating the leases for these new income sources. As always, our income and expenses cycle up and down throughout the year. I will keep you advised if any significant changes occur.

Please thank our Financial Secretary, Lynn Zachow, for the work and many hours she puts in overseeing and implementing the finances for our church. Lynn spends many hours doing the daily, weekly, and monthly financial work in accounting for our expenses. Lynn has prepared her financial report which is on the following page.

We are thankful for the financial support we have received from the members of the congregation.

	2020	2021	2022 Thru 7/31	
General Fund	\$ 137,712.69	\$ 140,697.36	\$ 83,933.55	
Room Use	\$ 11,967.50	\$ 23,385.00	\$ 26,681.00	
Facility Capital - Care, Share, Repair		\$ 75,170.00	\$ 322.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$ 149,680.19	\$ 239,252.36	\$ 110,936.55	
Des Moines Food Bank	\$ 1,105.00	\$ 1,276.00	\$ 451.00	<i>Budgeted &amp; Freewill</i>
Hospitality House	\$ 2,204.00	\$ 2,399.00	\$ 1,694.00	<i>Budgeted &amp; Freewill</i>
Mary's Place	\$ 1,359.97	\$ 1,690.00	\$ 850.00	<i>Budgeted &amp; Freewill</i>
Immigration	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	<i>Budgeted</i>
Other Outreach	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 405.00	<i>Freewill</i>
Our Church's Wider Mission*	\$ 4,596.00	\$ 4,596.00	\$ 2,681.00	<i>Budgeted</i>
One Great Hour of Sharing*	\$ 845.00	\$ 1,465.00	\$ 919.00	<i>Easter - Freewill</i>
Strengthen The Church*	\$ 455.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 305.00	<i>Pentecost - Freewill</i>
Neighbors In Need*	\$ 450.00	\$ 3,740.00	\$ -	<i>World Communion - Freewill</i>
Christmas Fund*	\$ 425.00	\$ 289.64	\$ 220.00	<i>Christmas - Freewill</i>
<b>TOTAL OUTREACH</b>	\$ 19,339.97	\$ 18,995.64	\$ 7,825.00	
*NPUCC is "Five for Five", participating in all five national UCC fund drives				

**Submitted by:** Brian Russell

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

**Chairperson:** Lynn Zachow

**Committee Members:** Nancy Allen, Dawn Elwell, Wenden George, Cathy Larson, Kirsten Pangelinan, Susan Sasis, Jill Tiffany

### 2021-2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

We started in-person Sunday school back up in March 2022 and used Holy Troublemakers written by Daneen Akers to finish off the school year. Our youth along with their teachers were excused from regular church service after the intergenerational moment.

#### BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi  
“Homegoing follows the parallel paths of two sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi’s extraordinary novel illuminates slavery’s troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.”
- Advent in Narnia by Heidi Haverkamp  
We met for four Wednesdays in December for a study based on The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. It was helpful to read the book or watch one of the movies based on the book to familiarize oneself with the characters, plot, and themes.
- The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd  
“This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved.” Thank you to Alice McG. for leading us in our in-person, with option to Zoom, discussions.
- Dear White Peacemakers by Osheta Moore  
A group met on our church patio to discuss and learn how to dismantle racism with “grit and grace”. “Written in the wake of George Floyd’s death, Dear White Peacemakers draws on the Sermon on the Mount, Spirituals, and personal stories from author Osheta Moore’s work as a pastor in St. Paul, Minnesota. Enter into this story of shalom and join in the urgent work of anti-racism peacemaking.”

#### ENNEAGRAM

- We finished *The Enneagram Journey - A DVD Curriculum for Exploration, Growth, and Transformation* presented by Suzanne Stabile, with Pastor Amy leading a group monthly in discussing each DVD and either discovering our enneagram number and/or learning how to shape ourselves within it.
- In August we started to focus on Suzanne Stabile’s newest book The Journey Toward Wholeness. We are meeting in person, with Pastor Amy, using a white board to

make notations and individual copies of the enneagram for participants to take their own notes.

### **BLUE THEOLOGY MISSION TRIP TO MONTEREY BAY, CA ~ JULY 2022**

Three youth and three adults participated in a Blue Theology mission trip to Monterey Bay, California! One of the aims of Blue Theology is to build partnerships between faith and science and encourage faith communities to use creation care theology to address climate change. The group did projects like counting sea life, replanting shorelines, and beach cleanups. There was time for reflection, prayer, art, whale watching and kayaking as well. The congregational helped support them in fundraising by purchasing/donating plants for a plant sale, purchasing postcards, and eating yummy frozen yogurt with toppings. \*Sadly, the Hitchens/Thomas family was unable to attend due to COVID.

### **FRIDAY FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

We contributed coloring pages to download and color, Sunday school lessons to ponder, and stimulating articles to read on climate change, black lives, and indigenous peoples.

### **BIBLE & BREWS**

- Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy-Jill Levine  
We finished our study/discussion of this book. “The renowned biblical scholar, author of The Misunderstood Jew and general editor for The Jewish Annotated New Testament, interweaves history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus' most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers.”
- A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year W by Wilda C. Gafney  
We have started to discuss Gafney's personal translations of the lectionaries. This more expansive, more inclusive lectionary remedies hearing only androcentric, male-focused stories by introducing readers and hearers of scripture to “women's stories” in the scriptures.
- Thank you to Pastor Amy and Shannon T. in helping us dig deep as we studied stories of the Bible.

### **MISSION MILE SLOT CAR RACING**

Thank you to Bob G. for building a slot car racetrack in the Fellowship Hall that stores in the ceiling when not in use. Races are open to our church and wider community on scheduled Friday evenings. (more details in following report)

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- **Youth Advent Angels ~ December 2021**  
Our youth exchanged Advent Angel gifts (think Secret Santa) every week leading up to Christmas – themed pictures/paintings, ornaments, cookies, and hot chocolate mixes. On Epiphany, January 6, Advent angels met up on Zoom for their reveal.

- **Mary's Place Christmas Giving Tree ~ December 2021**  
 We again used the Christmas tree painted by Shannon T. on the Fireside Room window to hang Mary's Place giving tree tags for our congregation to pick. Dawn E. took our youth shopping for gifts for the Mary's Place Holly Jolly party with the monies donated.
- **Narnia Night ~ December 11, 2021**  
 Visitors experienced an interactive whimsical walking tour through Narnia on our church grounds as they walked through the enchanted world of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. They met Mr. Tumnus (Luka P.), Mrs. Beaver (Stacie L.), the White Witch (Nancy A.), and Father Christmas (Steve A.), and enjoyed music, treats and activities. Thank you for putting this together, Kirsten P.!
- **Christmas Pageant ~ December 19, 2021**  
 This year we had an in-person intergenerational interactive pageant again - "Breaking News from Bethlehem – LIVE!". Thank you to all for bringing the Christmas story to life and to Kirsten P. for organizing.
- **Mary's Place Valentines ~ February 2022**  
 An intergenerational group assembled craft and treat packets for the kids and families of Mary's Place for their inhouse Valentine's Day party.
- **Lenten Soup Suppers and Book Study via Zoom ~ March-April 2022**  
 We met five evenings to discuss Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times by Bishop Michael Curry.
- **Easter Egg Hunt ~ April 2022**  
 We were able to resume our in-person Easter Egg Hunt after our Easter service inviting not only our own youth and children but the surrounding community. Thank you to Susan S. for organizing!
- **NEKO A Cat Café ~ May 2022**  
 A group of our youth and their parents visited NEKO. It is a sanctuary for rescue cats and humans to relax and enjoy each other's company. Through shelter partnerships NEKO is able to give hard-to adopt cats a place to find their purrrfect match.
- **Mari P.'s Bible Presentation ~ June 2022**  
 NPUCC has a tradition of presenting our high school graduates with a bible engraved with their name and inscribed from us. This year, we presented a bible to Mari.
- **Mary's Place Backpack Inventory ~ August 2022**  
 A group of our youth along with several adults descended upon the SODO warehouse to inventory school supplies for the children of Mary's Place so they'll be ready to start school with the supplies that they need to learn.
- **Olympic View Swim & Tennis Club Pool and Potluck Party ~ Sunday, August 14, 2022**  
 Our youth and their families brought a dish and took a refreshing dip in the pool.

**Submitted by:** Lynn Zachow

## UNIQUE OUTREACH AT THE MISSION MILE RACEWAY

Greetings from the Race Track!

Some of you probably know, we've been hosting slot car racing at NPUCC for many years. What started as a youth event has grown to be more of a community event, attracting young and old alike.

We now have a more permanent installation of a retractable slot car table in the Fellowship Hall. It is stored on the ceiling, and is lowered for events, via electric motor. This has removed hours of time involved to host each event. The Council approved this last fall when Wenden and Bob offered to design, install and fund this effort. It's a scratch-built table and track, from the ground up.

What some of you may not know is this track is one of only three this size in the Pacific Northwest. The table is 12 feet wide and 30 feet long with a four-lane racetrack measuring about 136 feet in length. On a monthly basis this past summer, and planning twice monthly through this coming winter, we host events from 7-10 pm on Friday nights. We could easily plan for other times or days if there are special requests.

We've had as many as 22 racers on any given night, and the combination of people always varies. It's truly a community open house. We've had nights where families come and race, with kids as young as 6 or 7. Sometimes it's just the older kids (Bob's age) or...who knows. To date we've had over 135 different people race on the track, or just come and hang out.

While this is a free event, we've collected over \$400 dollars from donations, given back to the church for the room use. Several people have suggested it might be a fun special event for kids (birthday, school party, etc.). Something like that we would probably set a fee similar to renting the room for any kind of event.

Anyway, we always have a lot of fun. Come check it out and bring a friend. The dates are on the calendar in the office, and when the yellow banner is hanging on our sign outside, it means we're racing on the coming Friday night.

Come on in and join the fun!

**Submitted by:** Bob George

## **FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Chairperson:** Lori Comen

**Committee Members:** Peter Barton, Jon Comen, Jeff Clark, Cathy Larson, Shannon Thomas, Madeleine Wasson

### **2021-2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Ongoing roof maintenance.
- Quarterly cleaning of gutters.
- Ongoing alarm system issues.
- Upgraded to 5G.
- Ongoing furnace filters attention (an additional \$450 for filters due to covid).
- Applied ground clear to overflow parking.
- Ant patrol.
- Painted parsonage trim.
- Painted fellowship hall exterior.
- Filled and painted front entrance sign (might last another 5 years).
- Cleaning of carpets and chairs.
- Updated tech: camera \$530, 4 air purifiers \$1800.
- Indoor work party; organized for return of sanctuary use.
- Outdoor work party; spruce up exterior grounds.
- Misc. repairs to aging facility included: toilets, parsonage furnace, backpack blower, replace florescent lighting, repair blinds in Fellowship Hall.

**Submitted by:** Lori Comen

## PARISH CARE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

**Chairperson:** Alice McGregor

**Committee Members:** Belinda Allender, Joan Andresen, Sue Bailey, Cathy Brewer, Barbara Gregg, Dorine Seaquist, Madeleine Wasson, Lee Weber

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these siblings of mine, you did for me." ~ Matthew 25:40*

### **2021-2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

The Parish Care team, assisted by Pastor Amy and members of our congregation, supports our church family in times of crisis, illness, or bereavement. We send cards, emails, letters and texts, and make phone visits. In-person visits are less problematic now that we are vaccinated and boosted for Covid. We have visited Georgette Valle, Pat McCann, Florence McGraw, Eileen Altenhofer, Yoko Sakai, and others. Each Sunday a Parish Care member connects with those who have lifted up their "Joys & Concerns" during the worship service.

The Parish Care and Outreach committees merged their meetings as of September 13, 2017. During Covid our committee meetings were held via Zoom. Our first in-person committee meeting was August 11, 2021 under the shade near the labyrinth. Our first in-person meeting held indoors was in October, 2021. Our usual meeting time is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We usually do not meet in December and July.

We are also called to care for the wider community. We appreciate the support we are given by Amy and the members of NPUCC. This congregation continues to be very compassionate and generous, giving of their time, talent, and treasure. Within our denomination NPUCC supports **five UCC Offerings** each year—Neighbors in Need, the Christmas Fund, One Great Hour of Sharing, Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), and Strengthen the Church. OCWM is a budgeted item.

NPUCC financially supports the Des Moines Area Food Bank, Hospitality House, and Mary's Place. Each quarter the committee supports an **immigrant cause**. Since 2019 we have given to the NW Immigrant Rights Project ([nwirp.org](http://nwirp.org)), Raices ([raicetexas.org](http://raicetexas.org)), UCC Immigrant Justice, WA Immigrant Solidarity Network ([waisn.org](http://waisn.org)), the International Rescue Committee Welcome to WA, and CWS Ukraine Crisis Response. Our annual dues to **Earth Ministry** and the **Church Council of Greater Seattle** are budgeted. Barbara Gregg and Lee Weber alternately attend Earth Ministry's Greening Congregations Zoom discussions the first Thursday of each month.

NPUCC continues to host the Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts and AA (now meeting in the FH).

During Covid we morphed the **Community Meals** into "To Go" Meals and distributed out front as a drive by. We did six "To Go" Meals before stopping after the August, 2020 meal

(Ben's pulled pork). The Church Council organized a July 26, 2022 Community Meal (hamburgers) for the summer and Parish Care and Outreach are planning a fall Community Meal (spaghetti) on October 25, 2022. Right now we are thinking of doing a community meal once each quarter. Our first Community Meal was January, 2013—during Lon's tenure.

Madeleine has graciously taken on Wednesday weekly meals for **Kate's House Foundation**. There are five Kate's House Foundation homes in White Center and Madeleine cooks for 10 people (one house) each week. Shannon stops by Madeleine's home and delivers the meal. Madeleine's first meal was November 11, 2020. She has continued this ministry except for when Shannon is on vacation.

NPUCC cooks for **Hospitality House** five times a year. Alice is our meal coordinator. We are most grateful for our faithful dozen cooks who fill out our week. Thank you for your enthusiastic response to our donation months in February and August. We also appreciate your support of the annual Walk for the Women and the Spring Fling (both virtual the past three years). We are pleased that Connie Clark has joined the HH Board of Directors this year and helps with staffing on some weekends.

Throughout the year NPUCC collects canned food and nonperishable items for the **Des Moines Area Food Bank**. We are pleased to have Connie and Jeff Clark on the DMAFB Board.

**Highline Ecumenical Leadership Circle** (ELC) has started to meet again with new leadership from the Church Council of Greater Seattle. Amy continues to meet weekly with Pastor Jenny from Highline United Methodist Church and Pastor Lina from Lake Burien Presbyterian Church.

August 19, 2021 – **Prayer Circle** put on by Stacie and Gwen in Stacie's backyard. Nine were in attendance

August 22, 2021 – Hospitality House Drive Around after outdoor worship

October 3, 2021 – Amy leads the **Blessing of the Animals** honoring St. Francis (after Zoom worship)

October 31, 2021 – **All Saints Sunday** honoring those who passed this year with members lighting votives in the Narthex after hybrid worship

November 21, 2021 – Donation Drive Around after hybrid worship—DMAFB, Hospitality House, Burien's **REACH Program**. Thanks to Connie, Alice, Nancy K. and Warren for making the deliveries.

February 6, 2022 – **Souper Bowl of Caring** donation drive around (after Zoom church) for the Des Moines Area Food Bank, Hospitality House, **Pioneer Housing** (blankets) and the **Christine Fund**.

February 23, 2022 – Barbara G., Jette, and Amy visit with Georgette and Peter.

March 10-13, 2021 – Many thanks to those who participated in the Hospitality House **Spring Fling**. Thanks also to Lisa and Bill L., Nancy A. and her glass art class, and Alice for their auction donations.

March 11, 2022 – 18 people from the community, including from NPUCC, held signs in solidarity in front of the **Muslim American Youth Foundation** in Burien after they experienced a suspected hate crime.

April 14, 2022 – In-kind and monetary donations to the DMAFB were donated at the Maundy Thursday service.

April 26, 2022 – a day before birthday visit to Pat McCann by Pastor Amy and Barbara G.

May 1, 2022 – NPUCC participates in the **Des Moines/Highline CROP Hunger Walk**. We staggered the groups walking but we all started from the Des Moines Methodist Church courtyard. Our church raised over \$6,000! Our best year yet! We finally met our \$15,000 goal for all 4 groups that participated. Joining NPUCC were members from Southminster Presbyterian, Des Moines United Methodist and Don T. Special kudos to Lynn who sets up our web page for the CROP Hunger Walk each year and Sharon A., our CROP Treasurer.

June 4, 2022 – Pastor Amy, Shannon, Lorraine, Cathy B., Kari, Jeni W., her sister and others set up and staffed the kids' station for **Burien Pride Day**.

July 20, 2022 – Pastor Amy leads the memorial for Dona Costello at Bonnie Watson. We had a row of five from NPUCC present.

July 26, 2022 – Church Council organized our first Community Meal since the last August, 2020 To-Go Meal. Thanks to chefs Lori and Jon, organizer Connie, shopper Lynn, Cathy Barton flowers, Vicki, Alice, Sue J., Emily H., Cathy Brewer, Lee W., and Lee L. All enjoyed guitarist John Michael and vocalist Beth. We had 32 total participants.

July 31, 2022 – Kris from the DMAFB was our guest speaker during Worship. Connie, our lay leader, collected donations for the food bank.

**Submitted by:** Alice McGregor

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Chairperson:** Connie Clark

**Committee Members:** Nancy Allen, Steve Allen, Jane Armstrong (through May, 2022), Mark Buckley, Jill Erickson-Keeney, Nancy Knudsen, Steve Kuntz and Stacie Latimer. Kevin Peterson (Director of Music) and Pastor Amy Hitchens participated regularly at meetings.

### **2021-2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

I am so grateful for this incredibly creative, nimble, and hardworking worship committee. We have been blessed with two members who don't live in the local area, and with other members who served while balancing employment, selling/buying their home, traveling or other demands. And we still managed to make it work and to provide meaningful and fulfilling worship and time for community.

- To ensure the best outcome for worship service, we continued to exercise patience and flexibility as the format, (e.g. in-person only, hybrid or zoom only), rituals (e.g. communion), technology needs, and worship roles (e.g. usher/deacon) evolved.
- Brought back the volunteer sign-up board for various roles including lay leader, greeter, coffee, flowers, and technology.
- Successfully secured pulpit supply throughout the year with a diverse selection of topics and messages.
- Theme for stewardship season in October was "rooted in love" with a focus on generosity and abundance. October also included World Communion Sunday, Blessings of the animals (in the courtyard) and All Souls Sunday.
- Narnia was the theme woven into Advent this year which led to a very well received "Narnia Night" in early December. Members received advent kits (UCC Advent devotional, candles, etc.).
- Held two separate Christmas Eve services; one in-person only in the late afternoon, followed by a second which was virtual only in the evening. Nancy Allen again interpreted in American Sign Language for Silent Night.
- Ash Wednesday was an in person only service.
- Theme for Lent was "Full to the Brim" from Sanctified Art. Members received packets via door dash or mail.
- Easter service included decorating the chicken wire cross with flowers at the church.
- Incorporated Blue Theology into a worship service in July and also did our first outdoor worship that month.
- August brought another outdoor worship and potluck to honor/celebrate Kevin's contributions as our amazing Director of Music

**Submitted by:** Connie Clark

## **PASTORAL RELATIONS**

**Committee Members:** Cathy Brewer, Nancy Knudsen, Lee Larson, and Rev. Amy Hitchens

**Purpose of Committee, per NPUCC By-Laws:** The Pastoral Relations Committee shall foster a deeper connection between the Minister and the congregation, outside of and beyond the specific roles of policy and personnel. The Pastoral Relations committee shall give both the congregation and the Minister a place to share expectations of each other, and to articulate a vision for the future of the Church. The Pastoral Relations Committee shall also help the Church and Minister to address conflict and disagreements within the Church, and shall advocate for continuing education and just compensation for the Minister and his or her involvement in wider settings of the UCC and ecumenical settings.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Committee Members:** Wenden George, Charlene Salisbury (through spring, 2022), Jill Tiffany, and Rev. Amy Hitchens

**Purpose of Committee, per NPUCC By-Laws:** The Personnel Committee shall handle all personnel matters in the Church in consultation with the Minister. Among its responsibilities is the recommendation of the Council of personnel policies, the number of employees and their job descriptions, the Minister's performance review, salary and benefit recommendations for the budget, hiring and termination for staff other than the Minister, and staff morale and working relationships. The Personnel Committee shall consist of three members of the Church who are preferably not currently serving on the Church Council, and the Minister, serving ex officio.

### **2021-2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Kevin Peterson, our long-time music Director, will be leaving to pursue his other passion: piloting. And as such we will need to replace him. The music search committee is comprised of Pastor Amy, Connie Clark, Steve Kuntz, Vicky Nichols, and Wenden George. After several hopeful first round candidates, we did not find a replacement. Fortunately, Kevin's departure time has been pushed back to late fall or early spring.

**Submitted by:** Wenden George



## **Normandy Park United Church of Christ (NPUCC)**

At Normandy Park United Church of Christ we believe in a God that is still speaking, a God that is all-loving, and a God of extravagant welcome that is inclusive of all people.

We are a church where your mind and soul are nourished through word, music, fellowship, education, and service. We are a community of people seeking to follow Jesus' teaching in our daily lives.

### **Purpose**

God calls Normandy Park United Church of Christ to make a spiritual difference in people's lives through Fellowship, Worship and Service

### **Mission**

To create a vibrant church community that serves our neighborhood and world

### **Vision**

A loving faith community where all are nurtured and people's lives are changed

### **Core Values**

Relevant worship and learning

Respect, support and working together

Open and affirming

Genuine hospitality

Celebrating diversity

Service

Peace and justice