

THE TOWLINE



**October
2023**



**Normandy Park
United Church
of Christ**
19247 1st Ave S
Seattle, WA

(206) 824-1770

www.npucc.org

Pastor:
Rev. Amy Hitchens
amy@npucc.org

**Music Accompanist
and Choir Director:**
Cindy Dow
cindy@npucc.org

Office Manager:
Kirsten Pangelinan
kirsten@npucc.org

Office Hours:
9:15 am – 2:00 pm
Tuesday – Friday

Dear members and friends of Normandy Park United Church of Christ – Pastor Amy is ill so she offers this reflection from our Acting PNC-UCC Conference Minister, Rev. Jonna Jensen:

Ask. I've been thinking and praying about asking for some hundreds of miles. God is pulling me in to conversations about asking, even taking the trouble to come to this morning's oil change, dressed as a woman in work clothes, to start an entirely unbidden conversation with me about asking. What a blessed pest God is!

Ask. Think and pray with me, if you will, about all the holy adventures, all the amazing blessings in your life that began with someone asking.

The holy adventure of ministry began for me when someone asked me to read the scriptures at a Sunday worship service. Someone just asked. God began to seal the deal through my pastor, Russ Fate, who asked me to preach and lead worship for him on the Sunday in a Memorial Day holiday weekend. He just asked.

The ten years I spent traveling around doing comedy began with a question. Glenda told me no one was signed up for the adult talent show at the town doings. Could I help? She just asked.

This holy adventure of service on the staff of the Iowa Conference launched when Jim called me on the phone and asked. I'd experienced the Holy Spirit calling from Jim's phone before and I confess one little whispered barnyard expletive before "O.K.."

Most of the holy adventures of romance in our lives begin with someone asking. "Can I carry your books?" "Would you like to dance?" What was the question that sparked your romance?

Our life's work, our opportunities for service, our travels, our relationships, our risks, our seasons of blossoming and fruit bearing all likely began with someone asking.

I invite you to join me in thanking God this week for wondrous things we've been asked. I invite you to thank God alongside me this week for life-changing questions that shaped our journeys. Let's raise blessings and thanksgivings for the precious souls who asked us, sometimes following a God prompt, sometimes with no idea how their one question might move us, maybe hating to ask folk for things just as much as we do.

I invite you to join me in prayerful paying attention this week. God may well have a question for someone and may well seek our voice to ask it. If you (like me!) don't like asking people for things, draw courage and fuel for asking from the memories you have of folk who pointed your life in holy directions. Just because they asked.

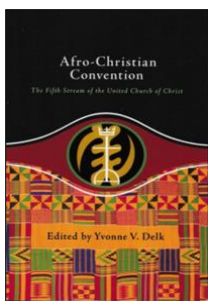
October Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 am
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 pm
- Bibles & Brews: Friday, October 20, 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
- World Communion Sunday: Sunday, October 1, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
- Family First/Painting the Mural: Sunday, October 1, 11:30 am, Sunday School room
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, October 4, 11:00 am, Tuscany Restaurant at Des Moines Creek
- Worship Committee meeting: October 8, 11:30 am, Connie's house
- Parish Care Committee meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room
- Guest Speaker and Food Donation Drive, Kris Van Gasken, Des Moines Area Food Bank: Sunday, October 15, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
- Book Study Group: Tuesday, October 17, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room
- Enneagram Study Group: Wednesday, October 25, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room
- NPUCC All-Persons Retreat: Saturday, October 28, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Guest Speaker, Tascha Johnston, Choose 180: Sunday, October 29, 10:00 am, Sanctuary



FALL BOOK STUDY

Our fall book discussion is The Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ. **The first meeting will be on Tuesday, October 17 at 1 pm in the Fireside Room.** Study guides are

available in the church office.

“The story of the Afro-Christian Convention, one story of many in the history of the independent Black Church, is the story of faith, survival, affirmation, and empowerment in the hostile environment of racism. From 1892 to the 1960s, the Afro-Christian Convention was composed of 150 churches and 25,000 members, located primarily in North Carolina and Virginia. The tradition of the Afro-Christian church, too long ignored and under-celebrated, takes its rightful place in the canon of United Church of Christ history.”

Let Lynn know if you'd like her to purchase this book for you - \$24.95 plus tax for paperback. It is not available in the King County library. You DO NOT need to have a copy of the book to be a part of the discussion.



We have a new name, **LUNCH BUNCH**, but our fun and conversations



continue!
Our next meet up will be
Wednesday,
October 4 at
11:00 am (not

11:30 am) at Tuscany Restaurant at Des Moines Creek.

Mark your calendars for future lunches: The Class Act on November 15 (3rd Wednesday) and January 10 (2nd Wednesday) both at 11:30 am. We will be limited to 20 people at each of those lunches so we will take RSVPs in the two weeks prior to each event.

Contact Malinda with any questions or ideas for where you'd like to meet up for lunch.



- ♥ Kris Van Gasken, Executive Director of the Des Moines Area Food Bank (DMAFB), will be our guest speaker during Worship on Sunday, October 15.
- ♥ We'll also be collecting items for the DMAFB that day.
- ♥ Some much-needed items include:
 - Monetary Donations
 - Canned corn
 - Tuna
 - Peanut Butter
 - Mac'n'cheese
 - Hamburger Helper
 - Ramen
 - Paper bags
- ♥ They also need volunteers on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. If you can help, please speak with Connie or contact the DMAFB directly.



HAWAII WILDFIRES

Thank you everyone who were able to make donations to the UCC Hawaii Conference to help them deal with the wildfires. We collected \$1,550 from individuals and NPUCC put in an additional \$1K which doesn't even count those who used PayPal to send donations directly to the Hawaii conference.

Blessings everyone!



Our next Bibles & Brews **Zoom only** meet up will be Friday, October 20 at 7 pm. Hereafter, we plan to meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays but might need to skip some of these due to scheduling

conflicts. We will be studying from Exodus and Leviticus for Everyone by John Goldingay. If you'd like Lynn to purchase you a book, please let her know. On Amazon, a new paperback is \$10.85 plus tax. This book is not available at the King County Library.

ENNEAGRAM STUDY GROUP

Enneagram continues on the last Wednesday of the month, October 25 at 1 pm in the Fireside Room. The book we are using is The Enneagram Guide to Waking Up: Find Your Path, Face Your Shadow, Discover Your True Self – October 1, 2021 by Beatrice Chestnut PhD (Author), Uranio Paes MM (Author), Daniel J. Siegel MD (Foreword).



Read Type 1 – The Path from Anger to Serenity (pages 11 – 35).

Come early and take a walk around the labyrinth to calm your mind and settle in for our talk.

Stacie's Tanzania slide show can be found on our website: www.npucc.org. She is accepting donations for the feeding program at Arusha school.



All Persons Retreat

October 28, 9 AM - 4 PM

YOU are invited!

Saturday, October 28th - come Retreat! This year, we want ALL our congregants, friends, and family (because we all are family) to join for a full and fun day. The retreat is one day, from 9 AM to 4 PM. The theme: Exploration and Connection Across Faith and Cultures.

Look forward to breakfast, snacks, and an international lunch. Look forward to relaxing crafts and time to chat. Look forward to an afternoon with guests sharing their experiences as immigrants (as we all are). Look forward to touches that invite peace and 'orienting' yourself on your own journey.

Details:

- *Cost is \$25. (Scholarships are available).
- *Registration page is now open on NPUCC's website.
- *Lunch will be a buffet of cultural contributions - a sign-up sheet will be available by 10/20. (Not everyone needs to contribute a dish!).
- *Questions: stacielatimer@hotmail.com

We hope you leave the retreat refreshed, with some new insight - and a painted rock or two!



Sunday School continues with “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 sign up on the board in the Narthex or let Lynn know which Sundays you are available.



Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group and Green River Coalition are hosting a **Grow It Forward Planting Event at Fenster Park in Auburn on Saturday, October 28, 10 am – 1 pm**. NPUCC is a Grow It Forward

participant and has a Douglas fir nursery near the labyrinth. All volunteers are welcome to this event!

How do we help salmon? One of the main issues facing salmon in the Green River is that water temperatures in the river get too hot for salmon to thrive. One of the best ways to address that is to plant more trees along the banks of the river that can help create shade and cool the water down. To be able to plant trees we must first remove invasive plants that can outcompete newly planted native trees if left alone. Thriving forests and shorelines can also provide many other benefits to our community like filtering pollution, mitigating erosion and storm damage, and providing places for wildlife to live and for humans to connect with nature.

What to Expect The event will begin with a brief discussion that includes information about the site, the partnering organizations, why this work is important, tool use, and safety. We will provide work gloves, a jug of water, snacks, all instructions, and all tools. Please plan to arrive on time for the start of the event and allow extra time to find parking. We’ll be planting native trees and shrubs, removing invasive blackberry, and spreading woodchips to suppress weeds and help plants survive.

Youth Young people under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. If you are between 16-18 and plan on volunteering without your parent/guardian present, please have a parent/guardian sign the Youth Waiver.

What to Bring

- Layers of warm clothing that can get dirty. Jeans, thick pants or dress/skirt with leggings underneath, any outfit that covers legs is appropriate
- Shorts or capris are not recommended
- We will provide work gloves, but feel free to bring your favorite pair!
- Rain jacket and rain pants
- Closed –toed shoes are essential. Sturdy sneakers, rain boots or hiking boots are ideal.
- Full water bottle and snacks
- Mask

Covid-19 Safety Protocol

- Before arriving at the event please check your temperature. If it is above 100.4 degrees, please stay home.
- Please stay home if you are experiencing any symptoms such as cough, sore throat, loss of taste and/or smell.
- Masks will be worn while in close quarters with each other (we will also have extra single-use masks if needed).
- We will maintain physical distance throughout the day.
- We will provide a hand washing and sanitation station on site.
- We will provide water, but please bring a water bottle to reduce our use of single-use plastics!

Location If you use GPS, please double check against these directions to ensure the GPS is sending you to the correct meeting spot.

Approximate Address: 2027 4th St SE, Auburn, WA 98002

Parking: Park along the road on 4th St before entering the site. There are many No Parking signs around, please check to make sure you are parked legally. Follow signs to the worksite.

By Car:

- From I-5 N/S, take exit 142A, to head down WA-18 towards Auburn.
- Take the Auburn-Black Diamond Rd exit
- Turn Left on SE Auburn-Black Diamond Rd
- Turn Right onto T St SE
- Turn Right onto 4th St SE

By Bus: To check current routes and schedules, go to: tripplanner.kingcounty.gov

Day of Event Contact: Erik Rigaux (240) 425-3837



October Birthdays

Reed Keeney	10/4
Lynn Zachow	10/7
Jeff Clark	10/18
Wenden George	10/19
Cathy Brewer	10/20
Mike Cook	10/21
Derek Allender	10/23
Sue Janke	10/24
Cathy Larson	10/27
Georgette Valle	10/31

October Anniversaries

Debbie McPherson Clark and Drew Clark	10/5
Sue and Mike Janke	10/6
Kirsten and Ben Pangelinan	10/8
Wenden and Bob George	10/16
Jill Erickson-Keeney and Reed Keeney	10/21

