



NORMANDY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TOWLINE

NPUCC's Monthly Newsletter

March 2026

19247—1st Ave S
Seattle, WA

(206) 824-1770

www.npucc.org

Pastor:

Rev. Amy Hitchens
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**Music Accompanist and
Choir Director:**

Cindy Dow
cindy@npucc.org

Church Office:

Robbie Gilchrist
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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,

We are firmly on the path to Easter, with our Lenten theme of ***Tell Me Something Good*** along with our Wednesday lunch study with the Book ***Liturgies for Resisting Empire*** by Kat Armas.

Whether you are reading the book for our lunch study group or are reading the devotionals and devotional cards for our Lenten theme, or all the above, we have an opportunity to slow down and ask: Just what kind of world does God want for us? Do we believe only in perpetual gloom and doom? Or does God offer us another way forward? Do we consider ourselves bystanders to our one beloved life, or are we participants and Co-Creators with God? And can we name where the good news is in our lives right now?

Tell me something good, friends!

When the world keeps dishing out the unpredictable, the all too predictable, the horrifying and the terrible, it is our work to find, name and claim all that is good and holy and beautiful, even when life is hard. One of the things I appreciate about ***A Sanctified Art*** is the poetry and art that accompany the series. They capture the good and the beautiful so well. Believe it or not, our Lenten practices—taking time to look for the good and holy, reading and praying and meditating, volunteering and protesting—is the work of being a Christian. You don't have to look too far in our sacred scripture to find the threads that make up the fabric of our faith—prayer, study, good works, grace, loving one's neighbor, hospitality, generosity, looking out for the orphan, the widow and the refugee.

Below is a poem for the fourth week of Lent that really speaks to me as to who we are as people of God, a community in Christ; people who just keep showing up in all the small ways that matter so much--



Unwritten Agreement

We have this unwritten agreement,
us members of humanity.
When the toddler at the coffee shop runs round the corner,
when her mom, at the register, looks up in panic,
we, the adults in the room, will pledge,
with quick smiles and silent head nods, to keep watch.
We will lean out of our seats.
We will put down our phones.
We will stand at the ready
to scoop up,
to offer words of comfort,
to make silly faces,
to keep an eye on the door.
And we will do this,
because we cannot ignore the instinct to care.
We will do this,
because we cannot ignore the child right in front of us.
We will do this,
because love always includes the least of these.

--By Rev. Sarah Speed

In March, we will have guest preacher, Elizabeth Maupin, MDiv. on March 22. She will take the pulpit while my family and I tour Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY with our high school senior. March 29, Palm Sunday we will have special music with Gay Santerre and the choir will sing on Maundy Thursday, April 2. Tell me something good friends! God has an abundance of goodness and joy to share to those who dare to pat attention for it.

In Hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Amy".

March Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 7 pm
- Bibles & Brews: Friday, March 6 & 27, 7 pm

IN-PERSON:

- *NO WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING THIS MONTH!*
- *NO LUNCH BUNCH THIS MONTH!*
- **A Force More Powerful:** Sunday, March 1, 2nd Hour, Fellowship Hall
- Lenten Soup Lunches: Wednesdays, March 4 - 25, Fellowship Hall, Noon – 1:15 pm
- Parish Care Meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 1:15 pm
- De-Escalation Training for Congregations: Saturday, March 14, 10 am—noon
- Breakfast Church: Sunday, March 15 (*no Zoom!*)
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: Sunday, March 15, During Worship
- Mission Mile: Friday, March 20, 5 - 10 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Outdoor Work Party @ NPUCC: Saturday, March 21, 9:30 am—12 pm
- Community Meal: Tuesday, March 24, 4:30 pm
- Palm Sunday: March 29

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!

~~~**LOOKING AHEAD**~~~ **HOLY WEEK EVENTS**

PALM SUNDAY—SUNDAY, MARCH 29

MAUNDY THURSDAY—THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Service begins at 5 PM!

ADORNING OF THE EASTER CROSS—

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

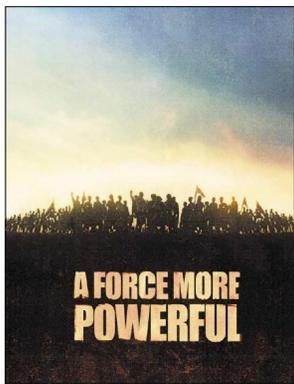
Help add flowers to the cross before Easter!

Join us Saturday, April 4th!

EASTER—SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Worship begins at 10 AM!

"A FORCE MORE POWERFUL" – SUNDAY, MARCH 1



Join us once again after church in the Fellowship Hall to finish watching "A Force More Powerful" a documentary series on some of the 20th century's most important and least-known stories: how

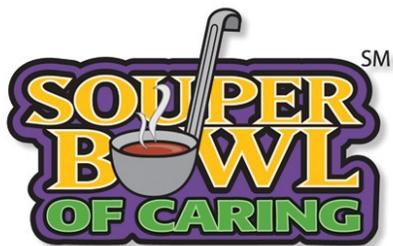
nonviolent power overcame oppression and authoritarian rule. We will view the 3rd two episodes: Poland and Chile. A light lunch will be served.

COME AND SEE - NORMANDY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

For those who didn't get an opportunity to view the video that was requested from all churches for the conference annual meeting or want to watch it again, here is its YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/ajFhUF-bTeg> You can also find this link on our webpage under the ABOUT tab and then clicking on COME AND SEE VIDEO.

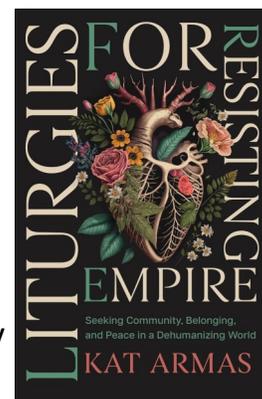
2026 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thanks to our generous congregation, \$585 and 205 non-perishable items, plus lots of paper bags and egg cartons, were donated to the Des Moines Area Food Bank!



LENTEN SOUP LUNCHES – WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 4 - 25

Please join us for this year's Lenten soup lunch series on Wednesdays during Lent in the Fellowship Hall from Noon – 1:15 pm. Each church committee is hosting the lunch with a variety of soups and bread. Pastor Amy is facilitating a discussion using Liturgies For Resisting



Empire by Kat Armas: "A Cuban American writer breaks down the images and idols of empire, showing how the early Christians, and readers today, can resist the lies of empire by building communities of belonging and liberation." You do not need to purchase the book but if you'd like Lynn to purchase one for you just let her know, they cost \$16.95 plus tax. There are also several copies available at the King County Library.



BIBLE & BREWS – FRIDAYS, MARCH 6 & 27

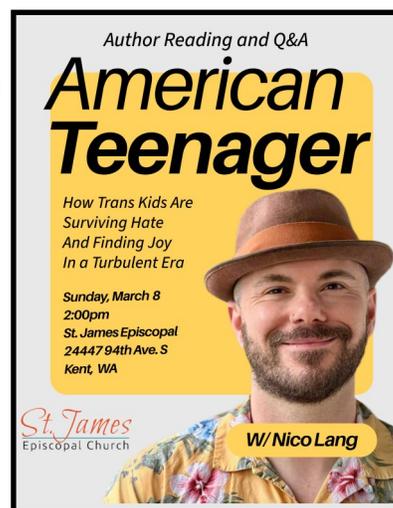
We will next be studying Psalms 95 and 103 - a psalm of praise and a psalm of thanksgiving when we meet up on Friday, March 6 at 7 pm, Zoom only. On March 27 also Zoom only at 7 pm we will be looking at Psalms 9 & 10. In the Septuagint these psalms were all one, there was no break. It goes from a psalm of praise to a psalm of petition.



BOOK READING BY AUTHOR AND Q&A—SATURDAY, MARCH 8 AT 2:00 PM, St. JAMES EPISCOPAL

Nico Lang (they/them) is a nonbinary award-winning journalist with over a decade of experience covering the transgender community’s fight for equality.

On Saturday, March 8, at St. James Episcopal Church in Kent, Nico will be reading from their book, *American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate And Finding Joy in a Turbulent Times*.



Praise from readers of American Teenager:

“American Teenager is a celebration of the raw, real, terrifying, beautiful journey of gender expansive youth in today’s America. It is not only a joy to read, it is an honor. Reading about other families made me feel less alone. Ours is a complicated life, trying to shield our son, and let him be a teenager at the same time. American Teenager is a behind the scenes, all access pass to real life. It’s a peek behind the curtain for those that wish to gain perspective.”

—Amanda, Parent of Trans Teen

ON MARCH 8TH PREPARE TO...



...THE ROOF...THE REST OF IT!

CARE SHARE AND REPAIR NEW ROOF CAMPAIGN

On March 8, during Time, Talent and Treasure we will have a Q&A regarding the roof projects for the Fellowship Hall and the flat roof above the office.

Bob G. was assigned the task of getting bids for Church Council. The best bid came in at \$19,996 for the higher quality shingle for the Fellowship Hall. Bob is still in process of getting bids for the flat roof.

**PNCUCC ANNUAL MEETING—MARCH 13-14,
DOUBLE TREE SUITES IN SOUTHCENTER**

The Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Meeting's theme this year is "Come and



See." *Come and See* what the churches in the PNC have been up to. *Come and See* what the PNC youth of our conference

think and want from church. *Come and See* what the PNC has been up to. You will not want to miss this year's Annual Meeting!
COME AND SEE!

For more information:

<https://pncucc.org/annual-meeting-2026/>

**DE-ESCALATION TRAINING FOR
CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES—
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 10 AM UNTIL NOON,
SALTWATER UU**

Join interfaith partners to learn skills that can help you remain grounded when tensions are running high. We'll practice some techniques that can help, whether you're involved in a social justice action, a tense situation with strangers, or a heated dispute in your family. We'll go through a de-escalation training for churches and use the materials provided to role-play scenarios. Then, we'll break into affinity groups and talk over a provided lunch about how we can apply these skills in our groups and organizations. So we know how much lunch to provide, please complete this registration form by March 3rd: <https://e.onrealm.org/events/874b070b-4586-4991-bd2e-b3da0155e70f/meetings/5724a010-d84f-4636-a764-b3da0155e7fd>

**BREAKFAST CHURCH—SUNDAY, MARCH 15,
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Join us for breakfast and church, *at the same time*, on Sunday, March 15 at 10 AM!



**THE UCC'S SPECIAL OFFERING, ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING—SUNDAY, MARCH 15**

On Sunday, March 15, we'll be collecting the UCC's special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing. The UCC is one of nine denominations that is part of the One Great Hour of Sharing collection each year.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.

MISSION MILE – FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 5-10 PM

Come and join Bob in racing slot cars in the Fellowship Hall from 5-10 pm. Fun is had by all!



COMMUNITY MEAL—TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 4:30-5:30 PM, WITH MUSIC UNTIL 6 PM

Time is approaching for our next Community Meal. Join us Tuesday, March 24, from 4:30pm until 5:30pm, for our Community Meal.

Looking ahead in 2026, we have four more Community Meals planned at NPUCC after the meal in March: May 26th, July 28th, September 22nd, and November 24th!



SPRING CLEANUP AT NPUCC—SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 9:30 AM—NOON

Mark your calendars for March 21 for a work party at NPUCC! Let's clean the front of the church before Easter.



Bring gloves, rakes, and pruners and join in the fun! Starts at 9:30 until noon, refreshments will be available.

HYGIENE & PERIOD PACKS

Thanks to everyone who stayed after church on Sunday, February 15, 35 hygiene packs and 39 period packs were assembled! They were delivered to Tye High School. Many thanks also to Alice and Barbara who have been sewing the bags with fun fabrics and thanks to Ian for his help in setting up the assembly line and providing quality control on the assembled bags!



EGGS, EGGS, EGGS

My four hens - Annie, Ziggy, Tulip, and Shoelace (named by my grandkids) – are all laying eggs now and I have plenty to gift. If you haven't already told me, please let me know if you'd like to be put on my "free" beautiful brown egg distribution list. ~Lynn



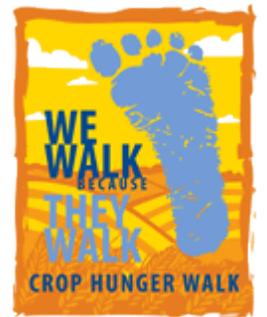
~~~~SAVE THE DATE!~~~~



2026 CWS CROP HUNGER WALK

On Sunday May 3, the NPUCC team will walk in the 2026 Des Moines/Highline CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger.

We will start from the courtyard at the Des Moines United Methodist Church at 1:15 pm and walk through the streets of downtown and the marina.



25% of what we raise goes toward the Des Moines Area Food Bank.

The NPUCC team webpage is ready for you to login and join our team or donate or both: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/normandy-park-ucc> You can also donate to our team with a check written to CWS/ CROP.

If you have any questions, ask Alice or Lynn.

March Birthdays

Lee Weber	3/7
Vicki Nichols	3/13
Ruth Bishop	3/15
Christine Storm	3/20
Fred Hutchinson	3/22
Megan Cook	3/26
Jim Gregg	3/26
Erin Cook	3/28

March Anniversaries

Jane & Michael Armstrong	3/11
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***If you don't see your March 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***