



NORMANDY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TOWLINE

NPUCC's Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2026

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Seattle, WA

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www.npucc.org

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Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Fall is here! Not only do we welcome in World Communion Sunday, a return of the Blessing of the Animals, and more opportunities during second hours after worship to participate in “getting your house in order”—we also have a wonderful stewardship theme. And our stewardship team is literally putting their hearts into it!

Perhaps you received a little something on your doorstep, maybe something has arrived in the mail. As a stewardship team, the goal is to help our community of faith center their hearts this season on what matters most.

Our theme invites us into a season of deep spiritual alignment—an honest, hopeful exploration of how our practices, priorities, and resources reveal what truly claims our hearts.

Rooted in Jesus’ teaching from Matthew 6, this theme reframes giving not as performance or obligation, but as the quiet, courageous work of placing our hearts in God’s care.

Turning to the breadth of our sacred scripture, we’ll examine what we love, whom we trust, and how we live out our faith.

Ultimately, ***There Our Hearts Will Be*** is an invitation to:

Re-center our lives on God’s quiet, faithful presence.

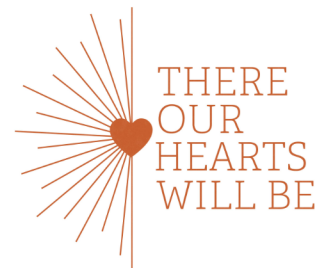
Let our giving reflect our deepest values and commitments.

Align our actions with our confession of Christ.

Allow God to transform, heal, and renew our hearts.

Practice a generosity that is not performative, but rooted, joyful, and Spirit-led.

Through this journey, we will discover again that faithful stewardship is



not primarily about money—it is about placing our hearts in God’s hands, trusting that where our hearts go, our lives, choices, and resources will follow. Together, as a community shaped by grace, we will ask: Where is our treasure? How can our hearts more fully align with God’s? In this season, we commit to making our answer clear. There our hearts will be.

And please, be sure to vote. There is initiative information ready for you to digest in this newsletter.

In Hope,



October Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Bibles & Brews: Fridays, October 2, 18, & 30 @ 7 pm
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 7pm
- Fall Christian Education Committee Meeting: Wednesday, October 21, 7 pm

IN-PERSON:

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- World Communion Sunday: October 4, 10 am
- UCC Neighbors in Need Special Offering: Sunday, October 4
- Blessing of the Animals: Tuesday, October 6, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, NPUCC Patio
- Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, October 7, 11:30 am, Royal Indian Grill
- Hygiene & Period Pack Assembly: Sunday, October 11, 2nd Hour, Fellowship Hall
- Des Moines Area Food Bank Volunteering: Wednesday, October 14, 6:15 pm
- Mission Mile: Friday, October 16, 5-10 pm, Fellowship Hall
- *On Being Mortal* video & conversation with Cindy D.: Sunday, October 18, 2nd Hour
- NPUCC Fiction Readers Group: Wednesday, October 21, noon
- NPUCC's Des Moines Area Food Bank Donation Day: Sunday, October 25
- Planned Giving Conversation: Sunday, October 25, 2nd Hour
- Enneagram: Wednesday, October 28, 1 pm, Fireside Room

RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUPS (*Fellowship Hall*):

- Mondays: Yoga Recovery Group 6:30 pm, sharing then yoga
- Tuesdays: Normandy Park Perspective - Alanon 7 pm
- Saturday Big Book Step Study - AA, 10 am

THE POWER OF ASKING by Rev. Jonna Jensen

Ask. I've been thinking and praying about asking for some hundreds of miles. God is pulling me into 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 "okay." 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.

**This was originally posted in 2022. Rev. Jonna Jensen was the Pacific Northwest Conference Acting Conference Minister at the time.*

BIBLE & BREWS – FRIDAYS, OCTOBER 2, 16, 30, NOVEMBER 6

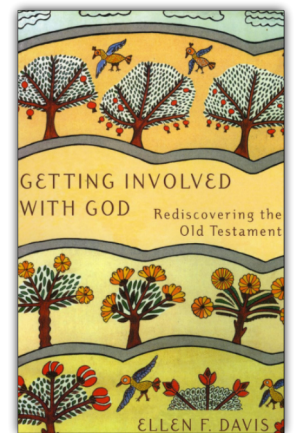
We will be starting the fall with four sessions utilizing chapters from the book *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament* by Ellen F Davis.

October 2: The introduction (very short) plus Chapter 5: "I've Got to Turn Aside: The Burning Bush" a conversation about Moses in Exodus

October 16: Chapter 6 "Take Your Son: the Binding of Isaac" a conversation from Genesis (Shannon will be gone so Pastor Amy will lead solo)

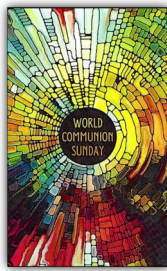
October 30 & November 6: Chapter 10 - 2 weeks on the Book of Job "The Sufferers Wisdom"

If you'd like Lynn to purchase you a book, let her know. It is not available at the King County Library.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY - OCTOBER 4

We will join other Christians around the world in sharing communion on Sunday, October 4.



UCC NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

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



**Neighbors
in Need**

supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. Thank you for your support and generosity!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Pastor Amy will be blessing animals on Tuesday, October 6, from 4:30 – 6:30 PM, on NPUCC's patio (or in the Narthex, if weather doesn't cooperate).



LUNCH BUNCH - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

This month, Rodney is hosting Lunch Bunch at Royal Indian Grill @ 11:30 am. They are in downtown Des Moines at [22341 Marine View Dr S Ste A, Des Moines, WA 98198](https://www.royalindiangrill.com/).



HYGIENE & PERIOD PACK ASSEMBLY – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Join us in this intergenerational activity in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, October 11, to assemble hygiene and period packs for our local middle and high school students.



VOLUNTEERING – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

You are invited to volunteer at the food bank located in the downstairs of the Des Moines United Methodist Church at 6:15 pm.



ALSO....

FOOD BANK SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 25

We'll be collecting kid-friendly foods (juice boxes, fruit snacks, etc.). Monetary donations will also be accepted.

MOM TO MOM VOTING POSTCARDS EVENT - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Wednesday, October 14, after Parish care and Outreach we are going to fill out 100 postcards to mail to moms to remind them to vote. We are working with the group [Mom to Mom](https://www.momtommom.org/) and you can order your own postcards to send from home! No postage necessary. *You don't have to be a mom to participate!*



MISSION MILE – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

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



"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

~ Albert Camus



2nd Hour Events in the Fellowship Hall

ON BEING MORTAL VIDEO - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

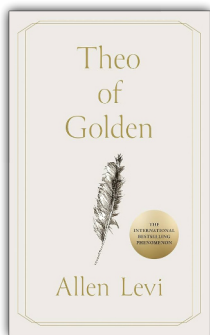
Our own Cindy D. will be showing the video *On Being Mortal* and then facilitating a conversation on end of life decisions. It will also be a time to have DPOA paperwork checked and witnessed.

PLANNED GIVING CONVERSATION - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Join Kelly Larkin, a financial adviser, for a conversation on planned giving.

NPUCC FICTION BOOK CLUB - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Friends! We will meet on October 21 from Noon to 1pm in the Fireside room for our final



discussion of Theo of Golden. It's therefore Not. Too. Late. to start reading Theo and join us! It's simply an incredible novel. Oprah is now besties with the author, Allen Levi, and a movie starring Tom Hanks is in the works. Plus, kindness. We could all use more

kindness inspo. See you there! Contact JenW or JillT with any questions.

FALL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

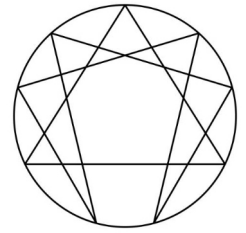


The CE committee will be meeting up for our fall meeting at 7 pm via

Zoom to discuss where we have been and what we want to achieve in the future.

ENNEAGRAM – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Our study of the enneagram and contemplation will continue at 1 pm in the Fireside Room with reading and discussing from *Letting Go, Finding You: Uncover Your Truest Self* through the Enneagram and Contemplation by Hunter Mobley. Your homework this month is to read Chapter 6 “Attention and Inattention” and Chapter 7 “Linking the Tools Together” (pages 139 – 182).



~THE GIVING GARDEN UPDATE~

This month we've been harvesting a lot of red tomatoes



so Lynn canned six pints for later and we also provided a big bowl full fresh for the community meal. We picked and shared kale and lettuce with church members and shared strawberry starts with the attendees of the September community meal. We also planted a couple more rows of spinach and our 2nd planting of lettuce and kale are growing!



~KEEPING YOU INFORMED~

State Officials Confirm First Detection of Emerald Ash Borer in Washington State

The Washington State Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have confirmed a report of emerald ash borer in Vancouver, Washington.



There are no confirmed cases of emerald ash borer in King County.

Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an invasive insect that has proven to be one of the most destructive forest pests in North America. Since its initial detection in the United States two decades ago in Michigan, emerald ash borer has wiped out more than 100 million ash trees throughout the country.

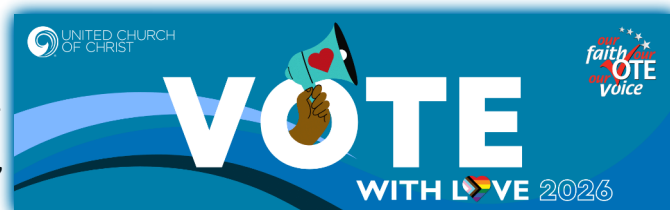
To learn more, click [HERE](#).

ELECTION 2026

VOTING ~ YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!

Please vote in the upcoming election on ! In 2024, 63% of Washington state's voting age population voted. Not bad, but often mid-term elections (the halfway point between presidential elections), like this year, see a profound drop in voter participation. But the results will continue to shape the next two years of policy and the direction our country takes. Voting is both a privilege and a responsibility. It is the most consequential way American citizens can make their voices heard.

If you aren't sure if you are registered to vote, need to update any information (new name? new address?), need to find the closest ballot drop box, or want to start reading candidate and issue statements, the best place to start is the Washington Secretary of



State's website: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/>. *A side note: because of the current attempts to restrict mail-in voting, most voter advocacy groups are recommending voting as early as possible and using a ballot drop box rather than the postal system.*

Another way of learning more about candidates and issues is to visit the non-partisan League of Women Voters website: <https://www.lwvwa.org> or the websites of organizations you trust and value. For example, the UCC has a page: <https://www.ucc.org/understanding-the-issues> that lists the various issues that are important to the UCC.

Thank you for voting this year, and encouraging others to vote!

FAITH ACTION NETWORK

A Partnership for the Common Good

FAN is looking towards November, where three critical initiatives will be on the ballot. I-001 and I-638 would harm vulnerable children, and I-645 would strip funding from our schools and communities. Last month, Faith Action Network's board voted to endorse the opposition campaigns for all three initiatives.

As a statewide multifaith organization representing people and communities of faith committed to justice, compassion, and the common good, Faith Action Network opposes Initiatives I-001 and I-638 and endorses the No Hate in Washington State campaign.

Our decision is rooted in a simple moral conviction: every child has sacred worth and deserves safety, dignity, privacy, and belonging.

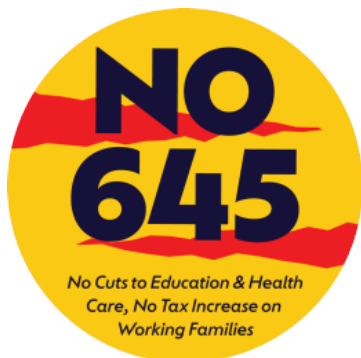
The No Hate in Washington State campaign brings together educators, health professionals, advocates, faith communities, and other Washingtonians who believe these initiatives would remove protections for child-abuse victims and put girls and LGBTQ+ young people at greater risk.

As people of faith, we are called to protect those who are vulnerable, resist discrimination, and affirm the dignity of every person. Faith Action Network urges Washington voters to vote NO on I-001 and NO on I-638.

You can read more about these initiatives and why we as faith communities are encouraging a no vote in [this one-pager](#).



Faith Action Network is also proud to join the statewide NO on 645 Coalition, a broad alliance of faith communities, educators, health care providers, childcare advocates, small businesses, labor organizations, and community groups working to defeat Initiative 645.



Initiative 645 would repeal Washington's newly enacted Millionaires Tax—a modest tax on annual household income above \$1 million that affects only the wealthiest one-half of one percent (0.5%) of Washingtonians. The tax applies only to income earned above the \$1 million threshold, not to the first \$1 million a household earns. FAN, alongside our partners, worked hard to pass this legislation this session.

Learn more, join the coalition, and pledge to vote NO at No645.com.

Save the Date!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 1

Join us for a special worship service in remembrance of those who have returned to God in the past year and our loved ones we want to remember with a lighting of candles.

NPUCC BUDGET MEETING - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, DURING WORSHIP

Our annual Budget Meeting will be held during worship on Sunday, November 11. A soup luncheon, hosted by our Stewardship Team, will commence after worship.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 15

We will bless our commitments to the church on Sunday, November 15!



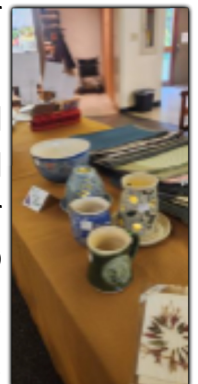
NPUCC HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR RETURNS 11/22



Back by popular demand 😊, the NPUCC holiday craft fair returns November 22 after church. Come ready to shop!

You will find all sorts of offerings made by congregants and friends. Knitted, drawn, crafted, sewn, molded, beaded, and canned. There will be a few new offerings, too. Perfect for gift giving and enhancing holiday meals. The Craft Fair is also a lovely way to showcase many talents and skills.

This year's earnings will go to the Concerns Fund Balance.



New this year! Kirsten's pollinator ponds.

Questions? See Jeni W or Stacie L

October Birthdays

Reed Keeney	10/4
Lynn Zachow	10/7
Wenden George	10/19
Cathy Brewer	10/20
Mike Cook	10/21
Derek Allender	10/23
Sue Janke	10/24
Catherine Larson	10/27

October Anniversaries

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