

CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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A Gentle Reminder – Please Bring Your Pledge Up to Date

The Stewardship and Finance Board is concerned because through Oct., our pledge income is behind budget by over \$43,000. Even taking into account seasonal trends, payment on pledges is lagging significantly. At this time last year, over 400 of our church families pledged to support the operating budget of University Congregational United Church of Christ. These wonderful commitments formed the platform for our church mission and ministry during 2006.

Based on the pledges received last winter, we have retained staff and are actively engaging in our full ministry including mission, parish care, social justice, and Christian education activities. Please know that we've been counting on your pledge. If you are able, please bring your current pledge up to date.

Those of us who listen to NPR have recently been hearing their correspondents suggest to listeners that, "A pledge is a solemn promise." The members of the Stewardship and Finance board ask you to consider this definition. We also know that pledges can sometimes be hard to fulfill. If your circumstances have changed, please communicate your revised pledging plans to Business Administrator, David Anderson. We certainly understand these situations and it helps so much if we hear from you if you must reduce or stop your pledge.

We have asked our church boards to slow spending as much as feasible for the remainder of the year to ensure our revenue and expenses come back in synchrony.

Thank you for fulfilling your 2006 pledge. We are most grateful.

—Joyce F. Jackson
Chair, Stewardship and Finance Board



Christmas Fun for All

Save the date! This year the Advent workshop will be held on **Sunday Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.** in Ostrander Hall. The workshop is an opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy fellowship and a variety of holiday craft projects. Bring some finger food to share for a light potluck lunch.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Diane Zevenbergen at 206-364-0977 or DianeZev@msn.com.

Banners Prepare Us for Advent

A series of seasonal banners will be displayed in the sanctuary this year during Advent. Beginning with the rear set of banner rods, dark blue banners will mark the beginning of the Advent season on **Dec. 3**. The color blue is a more recent Protestant replacement for the royal purple color previously used during this season.

The following two Sundays, blue banners of lighter shades will be mounted on the remaining rods nearer the chancel. By starting with darker shades and adding new colors each week, we hope to bring a visual reminder that we are waiting in darkness for the coming Light. On **Dec. 24**, white banners will be added to the display to mark the coming of the Christ child.

—Worship Board

New at Church? Gather for Fellowship

If you are new here and would like to know more about this church, or meet some folks who've been here a while and ask questions, or just relax and listen to other people's questions, then join us before worship on **Sunday, Nov. 26 at 9 a.m.** in the church lounge. This will be an opportunity for a more personal welcome and to get better acquainted in a friendly, informal setting. Coffee and snacks will be served.

Children and Youth

Preschool News

The preschoolers and kindergartners will conclude their exploration of the Building Block of Faith: "God Loves Me" on **Sunday, Nov. 26**. Thank you to our faithful teachers for this unit: Rebecca Schmidt, Bob Hackman, Beth Crispin, Eric Lock, Dan Mikosz, Lynn Schafer, Donna Guise, Diane and Mike Zevenbergen. Our children will begin the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany unit on **Dec. 3**.

Elementary News

The elementary children led by Steve Hunt will join us in worship on **Nov. 26** to sing Steve's original song, "*Blessed Be You*." This is a wonderful song the children learned in the unit on the Beatitudes.

The elementary Christian education program concludes our study of Jesus' Third Way of Peace on **Sunday, Nov. 26**. We would like to say a special thank you to Steve Hunt, Peter Munro, Donna Guise, Carol and Ed Coleman, Diana Loudon, David Westmoreland and Lynn Willman for sharing their gifts with our children.

Youth News

Dec. 2 Saturday 5 - 7 p.m.

Youth in grades eight through twelve are invited to attend our **Informational Potluck for the Confirmation Class of 2007** in the Pilgrim Room downstairs. We will hear about what we have done, dream about what we will do, and prepare for the journey ahead. You do not need to have decided if you want to take part. This is an *informational* gathering. As this is a potluck, please RSVP to Margaret Iribarra at mirribarra@universityucc.org or 206-524-2322. She will be giving food assignments. Hope to see you there!

Dec. 2-3 Sat.-Sun. 5 p.m. - Sun. morning

December's Pacific Northwest Conference Youth Gathering First Sunday event will be hosted by Eastgate Congregational. It is a dance and lock-in starting at 5 p.m. and will go through Sunday service. Contact Margaret Iribarra for more details at mirribarra@universityucc.org or 206-524-2322

Dec. 3 Sunday 9 a.m.

Join us for an Intergenerational Breakfast in Ostrander Hall. Hope to see you there!

11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us for the Advent workshop! There will be cookie decorating, candle making, old favorite crafts, and new crafts! Hope to see you there!



Slow Down to Enjoy Season of Advent With Family

The season of Advent is about waiting, about preparation, about quiet and mystery. Christmas is a celebration of God incarnate, now accessible, among us. Epiphany is the visit of the magi, Jesus' baptism, and the start of the world learning about him. These seasons of the church year offer a welcome rhythm for family life at a time of year that can so easily be hectic and full of frustrations.

Advent can help us quiet ourselves and our children for a few moments to think about and enjoy these days. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day; every year it is at least three weeks of preparing our hearts and our lives for the Christ child. We are getting ready to celebrate!

We're making and buying gifts, baking good things, anticipating seeing friends and family, enjoying parties. Let's also slow down and enjoy these days of Advent. Talk with your children about getting ready for the Christ child in our homes and in our hearts.

—Barbara Laufweiler on her website,

Faith at Home, www.faithathome.com

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A copy of our pastors' weekly schedule is posted in the church office. **For pastoral emergencies**, please call a pastor at **206-541-7984**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **Please call the church office at 206-524-2322 to report any illness, accident, or other situation of concern in our church family that needs pastoral attention.**

CHURCH AND HOME

Submissions are due before:

Noon, Monday, Nov. 27 (Dec. 10 – 17 issue)

Noon, Monday, Dec. 11 (Dec. 24 – Jan. 7 issue)

Place in *Church and Home* box in the church office, fax to 206-524-0602 or e-mail to:

ChurchandHome@universityucc.org

Guidelines: *Signed* submissions must have a contact phone number and adhere to length guidelines (100 words for notices of events; 350 words for articles). Articles may be edited for length and style.

The Wider Community

Live Interfaith Talk Radio in Our Sanctuary With Don Mackenzie, Ted Falcon and Jamal Rahman

Don't miss the live radio show in our sanctuary at **3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27**. Don, Ted and Jamal will be giving their radio program on interfaith spirituality and social action in our sanctuary in order to have an audience so come be a part of it! We want feedback so please do come to see and hear the show. We'll be recording a program at **3:30 p.m.** to be aired on Christmas day, then at **5 p.m.** we will be live on the air.

Meet Ted Falcon and Jamal Rahman

Rabbi Ted Falcon guides Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue which meets in Bellevue, WA, and celebrates the more spiritual aspects of Jewish ritual and teaching. Rabbi Ted is the Spiritual Director of Lev Shalom.

Rabbi Ted has a passion for "innerfaith" spirituality and has been active in creating and supporting interfaith programs in the Pacific Northwest. He is author of *A Journey of Awakening* and co-author of *Judaism For Dummies*. His teaching and his counseling work bridge the psychological and the spiritual, encouraging deeper integration for more compassionate understanding and action in the world.

Brother Jamal Rahman is Muslim Sufi co-minister at Interfaith Community Church, Director of Sacred Psychology School, and adjunct faculty at Seattle University. His passion lies in interfaith community building. He remains rooted in his Islamic tradition but cultivates a "spaciousness" by being open to the beauty and wisdom of other faiths. He is the author of *The Fragrance of Faith: The Enlightened Heart of Islam*.

(Learn more about this interfaith radio show at www.interfaithtalkradio.com.)

Jesus Study Group to Discuss Essay, "Learning to See God"

Betty Spieth will lead a discussion of the essay, "Learning to See God," by Joe Bessler-Northcutt Ph.D. on **Sunday, Dec. 10 at 7:03 p.m.** Come at **5:32 p.m.** for fellowship and a potluck, organized by Barbara Deppe.

All are welcome. New members may contact George Dvorak at 206-524-4985 to obtain the book, *The Historical Jesus Goes to Church*, in which this essay appears. For more information, contact Roman Michalak (206-789-3614), Roger Miller (206-784-3619), or Michael Clarke (425-885-6079).

Our Church Family



Eat! Sing "Oklahoma!" It All Happens at the "How Sweet It Is" Cafe

The "How Sweet It Is" Cafe (HSII Cafe) will reopen (after an absence of several years) on **Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Ostrander Hall. Many of the old features will be there, including a quiz where everyone at a table pools their information. The theme for the new HSII Cafe will be the state of Oklahoma. A major part of the entertainment will be based on Rodgers and Hammerstein's great musical "Oklahoma!"

Come join members of the choir and Bob Scandrett as we tell the "Oklahoma!" story and sing all the memorable music. Dinner and fellowship starts at **6:30**, and the show at about **7:30**. Come to enjoy a potluck dinner, meet new people, and sing! "*Oh what a beautiful day.*"

Church Thespians in "A Christmas Carol"

Terry and Tallis Moore will be in "A Christmas Carol" at ACT Theatre from **Nov. 24 through Dec. 24**. Terry plays Scrooge (every other day), and Tallis plays Peter Crachit. The full schedule, including which day Terry performs, can be found at acttheatre.org.

Hannah Tinker, UW Student, Awarded Anderson Scholarship

Hannah Tinker has been awarded the Anderson Scholarship that is given every year to a member of University Congregational United Church of Christ attending the University of Washington. Hannah is studying drama, just finished a play, and is auditioning for another. Her picture was recently on the front of the *UW Daily* art section along with a fine review of the play she was in.

Hannah grew up at UCUC and is an active member. She works in youth ministry, taught at Seabeck, directed Christmas pageants, and blessed us in church and at Seabeck talent shows with her singing. She will be going to South America for Christmas with her sister, Bekah Tinker, and mom, Kay Sneed. As part of the award, Hannah's name will be engraved on the plaque that hangs in the Scheyer Library. This award honors the memory of Dr. Russell Anderson who served in many leadership roles at UCUC, including that of church moderator. Congratulations Hannah!

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Sunday Worship Service

10 a.m.

V November 26

Preacher: Don Mackenzie
Scriptures: Isaiah 61
Matthew 5:11

V December 3

Preacher: Peter Ilgenfritz
Scriptures: Matthew 5:13-16

Wednesday Service

Taize-style worship, 6 p.m.
University Congregational
Chapel



Church and Home is published biweekly by University Congregational UCC. Editor: Barbara Long

Sunday, November 26

Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: "The Homecoming"

Text: "God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations." Isaiah 61:11b

Today we come to the final Beatitude, a blessing that reaches deep into the well of reassurance and courage. For, as Jesus says, walking the path that God encourages us to walk can be dangerous, even fatal. But, fear not, he says, because there will be healing. This final moment of Jesus' blessings holds in its soul the entire spectrum of possibilities and in the power of its message, lifts us and brings us hope.

The chancel flowers are given by Lee Ferreira in loving memory of David Nord.



Sunday, December 3

Thirty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon: "Salt for the Earth, Light for the World"

This is a Sunday of celebration! We celebrate the first Sunday of Advent with lighting the Advent Wreath, sharing communion, and creating and playing at the Advent Workshop following worship. New Advent Banners will mark our way each Sunday through the season. Today we also celebrate Catherine Foote's fifth year in ministry at University Congregational United Church of Christ! Join us so together we can imagine what it means for us all to bear God's light and hope into the world.

The chancel flowers are given in loving remembrance of Phyllis Swanson by her husband, Ralph Swanson, Sr., her sons, Ralph Jr. and Don, her daughters, Carol Coleman and Sandra Skeel and their respective spouses, J'Nell Swanson, Laurie Swanson, Ed Coleman and Jim Skeel, and their grandchildren, Jeremy, Chris, Blake, Jake and Lael Swanson, Hillary, Tyler and Linnea Coleman, and Erik and Karl Skeel.

As I See It

Volunteering and Connections

By Tom Braman

V When Pastor Catherine asked Kathryn and me to join Stephanie Donich and Tim Croll as co-chairs of this year's pledge campaign, I had two reactions. First, I love this church and everything its members do and stand for, so of course, I'd be honored to help keep its financial house in order. But I had questions: Could the 2007 pledge campaign focus as much on gifts of time and talent as on gifts of money? Couldn't time be offered interchangeably with money as part of one's pledge?

Catherine liked the questions, and had some of her own. Apparently, the more one feels connected to a church, the more likely one is to pledge, and to pledge more. Why not raise funds, she asked, by fostering connection?

When the five of us convened, we mulled the question over, and concluded that volunteering and connecting are critical to year-round activities, and not just campaign-season tasks. We decided that our job, until Pledge Sunday Jan. 8, must be raising the \$900,000 in pledges it takes to run our church. But after... what will be our job then? How do we inspire and enhance the connections from which true, ongoing stewardship naturally flows?



So—in the spirit of connections!—we ask you to join us in asking questions and hazarding answers, and sometime after Jan. 8, we'll gather and decide what to do next with these vital questions.

- § What does stewardship look like?
- § Should volunteering be expected of members?
- § How can we create an environment for connections, and really implement the word “community”?
- § How can we help one another aim not simply to give a small percentage of our incomes to a pledge campaign, but to give 100% of ourselves to one another and the broader world?
- § How might we better organize and manage the volunteer efforts of our church?

If you have similar questions, answers, or thoughts, please send them to me at tombraman@speakeasy.net. We'll dig into the issues after Jan. 8. Until then, I'll do my best to stay focused on the pledge campaign. Our goal this year is pretty simple: To broaden our base of givers to 100 percent, and to inspire everyone to pledge more this year. Join us in meeting that goal!

From the Staff

Of Taking Stock, Encouragement, and Building Hope for the Future

By Don Mackenzie

V During the week of Nov. 6, your pastors were on retreat to consider their part of this important interim period, this time of taking stock, of encouragement and of building hope for the future. We were very fortunate to have George Meier's leadership for this effort as well as the use of his home in New Denver, British Columbia.

Our agenda included the work of the mind, the work of the heart, that is the consideration of feelings, and the work of our hands under the tutelage of a master woodworker in New Denver. We spent three hours a day with him in order to complete our project which was the design and building of a table in the shape of a comma to be placed in the space where we sign in for parking here in our building. The comma in the illustration of the important motto of the United Church of Christ: “Never place a period where God has put a comma: God is still speaking.” We hope that the table will be a constant reminder of the privilege of being together within such a vision of hope and expectation.

But the table was only a part of the larger experience of considering topics such as management, leadership, cooperation and the road ahead. Of the many resources that George had recommended to us as background reading, I want especially to recommend to you Parker Palmer's book, *A Hidden Wholeness*. Palmer is a Quaker who has written extensively about social justice and healing. The premise of the book is the reality that most of us lead lives that are not quite whole, lives that contain some element of dividedness. The most obvious is the division between public and private but there are others. I was reminded of Gandhi's conviction that a life of integrity is a life where thought, word and deed, of our thinking, our speaking and our actions. The *integration* of those pieces of our lives becomes the foundation of integrity.

Now as we move forward and as we ask important questions about our identity as a congregation, our bedrock beliefs as a congregation and our vision for the ministry of the church, our prayer for our ministry is that God will make us stronger, increase our imaginations and give us empathy that God's dreams for this world may be realized.

IN MEMORIAM



MARGARET BINGHAM

Died: November 2, 2006

Margaret Bingham, a fifty-two year member of University Congregational United Church of Christ, died very peacefully on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2006. Margaret was the mother of Bob Bingham, and grandmother of Christine and Stephanie Bingham.

A small memorial service will be held after the Thanksgiving holiday. Additional information will be posted as it becomes available. Condolences may be sent to the family in care of Robert Bingham, 4512 NE 40th St., Seattle, WA 98105-5212.

WALTER B. WILLIAMS

Born: 1921

Died: November 9, 2006

Walter B. Williams, a Seattle banker, civic leader and former state legislator died Thursday, Nov. 9, 2006. He was 85. Walt was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Marie, who died in Sept. In addition to his son, Bruce Williams, Walt is survived by daughters Kathryn Williams, Marcia Williams and Wendy Williams, and four grandchildren, all of whom live in Seattle.

Walter Williams was a seventy-two year member of University Congregational United Church of Christ where he was active in a variety of ways including serving as moderator. A memorial service will be held on **Dec. 10, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary at UCUCC.

Condolences may be sent to the family in care of Kathy Williams, 1246 16th Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98112.

DAN REAUGH

BORN: March 24, 1911

DIED: November 8, 2006

Dan Reaugh, a forty-six year member of University Congregational United Church of Christ, died on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2006 at the age of ninety-five. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Nov. 18 in the chapel at UCUC. Condolences may be sent to his daughter, Jean Buse, 3630 92nd Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004.

ALICE HALLIDAY

Born: April 22, 1921

Died: October 29, 2006

Alice Halliday, a member of University Congregational United Church of Christ since May, 1999, died on Oct. 29, 2006. A memorial service in celebration of her life will be held at **1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2007** in the chapel at UCUCC.

Alice is survived by her husband, David, son, David, and daughter-in-law, Jen. Alice was a graduate of Dartmouth College, and during World War II worked on the development of the atomic bomb. She was a skilled photographer and in the words of David, "a very nice person who took good care of me when I was in need of help." David and Alice, married for 62 years, enjoyed traveling together to places such as Antarctica and Africa.

Condolences may be sent to David Halliday, 4550B Village Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226.

DOROTHY HOLLENBECK

Born: December 16, 1915

Died: September 24, 2006

Dorothy Hollenbeck, a twenty-four year member of University Congregational United Church of Christ, died on Sept. 24, 2006. A memorial service in celebration of her life was held on Nov. 14 in the chapel at UCUCC.

Dorothy was born in Seattle, and served in the U.S. Army in Europe from 1943-1945. She worked at Seattle General Hospital as a dietician, and retired as the Director of Food Services at Group Health Hospital. She is survived by three children, Barbara, Douglas and Jan.

Condolences may be sent to the family in care of Barbara Hollenbeck, 1515 NW 136th St., Vancouver, WA 98685.

HERMINA CROASDILL

Died: November 13, 2006

Hermína Croasdill, died on Nov. 13, 2006. She joined University Congregational United Church of Christ on Oct. 7, 1962 and was a forty-four year member.

A memorial service was held on Friday, Nov. 17 in the UCUCC chapel. Condolences may be sent to her husband, Walter Croasdill, 4817 Stanford Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105.



Offering of Gifts



*The Offering of Gifts at University Congregational United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 17, 2006*

It's time for our annual "Offering of Gifts"! The Mission Board has selected ten local agencies to receive Christmas gifts from our congregation. Below, you will find information about the agencies, their work, and their gift "wish lists". You are invited to choose one or more of the agencies, shop joyfully, and help brighten the holiday season for someone in need! Gifts should be **new**, and should be **wrapped** unless otherwise specified. **On Sunday, December 17, bring your gift(s) into the worship service with you.** During the time of offering, gifts will be brought forward and placed at the base of the communion table.

Please be sure that your gift is clearly labeled with the agency name! Clear labeling helps things to flow smoothly when gifts are being sorted following the service, and will ensure that your gift gets where you want it to go. Also specify whether your gift is for a man, woman, boy, girl, or infant, and include any other applicable details such as age or clothing size. Please see each agency's description for additional labeling instructions.



THE FRYE APARTMENTS, a program of the Archdiocesan Housing Authority, are a large low-income housing building in Pioneer Square which houses about 245 residents. Approximately 80% of the tenants at the Frye have been homeless prior to moving in, many have mental health issues, and most are on some type of public assistance. Some gift suggestions include: rain coats, zip-up jackets and sweatshirts (L, XL, XXL); radios/CD players; jewelry (especially watches); headsets/Walkmans; alarm clocks; board games; pots and pans, dinner plates and dishes, small appliances (toasters, coffee makers, etc.), "kitchen baskets" with utensils, cookware, etc., hand and bath towels; "shower baskets" (soap, shampoo, conditioner, etc), and gift cards to places like Target, Fred Meyer, grocery stores, restaurants, etc. The greatest need is for male or gender-neutral items. Clothing is also needed for three youths: an 18-year-old girl (pants/shirt size 15-16, shoe size 8-9), a 16-year-old boy (shirts 2X-3X, pants 32-34, shoe size 12), and an 11-year-old boy (pants size 10-12, shirt size L, shoe size 5 ½). Please state on the label specifically what the gift is.

THE CHURCH OF MARY MAGDALENE is an ecumenical, worshipping congregation of homeless and formerly homeless women. It also runs a drop-in center called "Mary's Place" which offers numerous essential resources for women in need. This year, they are asking us to focus specifically on gifts for the women. Suggestions include: cosmetics, nail polish and polish remover, coats, gloves, hats, slippers with soles, hair brushes, African American hair care products, and toiletries such as deodorant, lotion, conditioner, mouthwash, floss, and \$15 gift cards to Payless Shoes and/or monetary donations for the purchase of shoes. Gifts do not need to be wrapped; however, they must be clearly labeled with the agency name.

THE FAMILY AND ADULT SERVICE CENTER serves men, women, and children in downtown Seattle as a compassionate "living room" for the city's homeless population. Gifts for both adults and children are needed. Suggestions include: pajamas; bathrobes; socks; gloves; hats; umbrellas; underwear; bras; mittens; bath wash and lotion, 2007 pocket calendars/day planners; small toys and stuffed animals; and gift cards to places such as Payless Shoes, Target, Blockbuster, etc. Please state on the label specifically what the gift is.

Continued on back →

NEW BEGINNINGS provides advocacy, shelter, and transitional housing for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence. Women's needs include: alarm clocks and clock radios; hair brushes; hair dryers; lotion gift sets; underwear, socks, and pajamas (including larger sizes); umbrellas; bakeware/cookware; hats and scarves; day planners; journals; and wall calendars. Children's needs include: underwear, socks, and pajamas; art supplies; large diapers/pull-ups; tubs of building blocks; craft kits; educational toys; gloves, hats and hair barrettes; sports equipment; and nature and science kits. Gift cards and non-perishable food are also welcome. Please label gift as described above.

FARM WORKERS OF WASHINGTON STATE earn, on average, \$6-7000 a year. These “poorest of the poor” have little with which to purchase gifts for their children. Gifts are being collected by Tierra Nueva’s Family Support Center in Skagit County, and will help share the spirit of the holiday with children who are often forgotten. Gifts are needed for all ages, infant to teen. For children in primary and intermediate grades, soccer balls, basketballs, school supplies, and art supplies tend to be the biggest “hits”! Other gift suggestions include: warm coats; mittens; gloves; hats and scarves; toys (none that suggest a violent theme, please); barrettes and hair ribbons; books (Spanish-English if possible); games; and jewelry. Gifts do not need to be wrapped; however, they must be clearly labeled with the agency name.

TEEN FEED is a program of University Street Ministry, and provides meals to street-involved and homeless youth five nights per week. It strives to create a safe and nurturing environment for youth to speak with volunteers trained in advocacy and referrals. Case management is also available to help youth find housing. Gift ideas include: gift cards to music or book stores, grocery stores, or restaurants (maximum value \$30); pre-paid phone cards; Discmans; sleeping bags; backpacks; travel alarm clocks and flashlights; bus tokens; socks, gloves, stocking caps/beanies, scarves, etc. Please label gift as described above.

FREMONT EMERGENCY SHELTER, a program of the Fremont Public Association, provides temporary housing for families in crisis. The agency has a strong need for diapers of all sizes, as well as baby wipes. Other needs include: blankets, bed linens (especially flat sheets for full/double beds), pots and pans, and alarm clocks. Please label gift as described above.

FRIENDS OF YOUTH is a United Way Agency founded in the 1950’s in part by UCC members. Their programs assist youth at risk and families in crisis. Gift ideas for their Griffin Home for Boys: toiletries, books suitable for teens (easy reading), socks, underwear, gloves, knitted hats, sweatshirts, batteries (all sizes), sports equipment, puzzles, games, hand-held calculators, desk lamps, posters, alarm clocks, gym bags, and walkmans. Gift ideas for the Teen Parent Program: receiving blankets, disposable diapers, infant clothing, formula, bottles, infant toys, diaper bags, cloth diapers, rubber pants, crib blankets, umbrella strollers, high chairs, and bibs. Gift ideas for moms: books on parenting, sweatshirts, tapes, nightgowns, robes, slippers, hair care products and other toiletries, stationery, magazine subscriptions to *Seattle Child*, *Working Women*, *Parents*, etc. Please include on the label whether your gift is for the Griffin Home for Boys or for the Teen Parent program.

TRETTIN DROP-IN PRESCHOOL is described by many parents as a “lifesaver”. Between 9am and 4pm each day, a diverse population of children “drop in” to Trettin, which is housed in our church. This activity-filled preschool needs: large toy airplanes (6-12 inches); toy airports; match box cars including toy motorcycles; toy cameras (don’t need to work); stuffed toy cats; colored construction paper; bright colored printer paper; and glue sticks. Please label gift as described above.

THE CHILD LEARNING AND CARE CENTER AT UCUC provides nurturing care in a multi-cultural environment to the children of working parents. The center would be pleased to have: washable markers, children’s scissors (blunt tip), washable paint, construction paper, and stickers; as well as toddler/preschool size socks, underwear, hats, mittens, and gloves. Please label gift as described above.

Christmas Families 2006



Many children and families in our community have little hope at Christmas. You can share the good news of Jesus and bring joy to families by participating in one of the following ways:

1. **Request to be matched with a needy family, child, or senior.** You purchase gifts for a family referred to us by several agencies in Seattle. You will be given family members' names and children's ages. The family provides gift suggestions. You may team up with friends or a group you are a part of. Please request your family by signing up in the narthex no later than Dec. 10th. Packages are due to the church on Sunday, Dec. 17th.
2. **Contribute Money.** Your donation will help needy families referred too late for a family match. Money remaining helps the hungry through the Emergency Feeding Program. Please make your check out to University Congregational UCC and mark it "Christmas Families."
3. **Drivers with vans** or cars with considerable room are needed to transport boxes to distribution points on December 17th or after.

Please mark the form below with how you can help and return it to the church office or sign up at our narthex table on November 26, December 3 or December 10. For questions contact Evelyn Crichton at 206-283-3866 or ecrichton@aol.com.



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

I can help in the following way:

_____ I'd like a family of about _____ people.

_____ I will contribute \$_____ for those needing help during the holidays.

_____ I will be a stand-in shopper/wrapper using Christmas Family Funds.

_____ I can make deliveries on December 17th.



POINSETTIA ORDERING - 2006

IT'S TIME, ONCE AGAIN, TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!

Donations may be made to this year's Poinsettia Fund to honor a friend or loved one or given in memory of one who holds a special place in your heart. *Monday, December 4, 2006, is the deadline for placing your order.*

You may choose to take your plant home or you can leave it for members of the Parish Visitors Board to take to our church family members who have not been able to attend services. If you would like to participate in this meaningful annual tradition, please complete the form, attach your payment, and return it to the church office before the deadline.

Poinsettia Order - 2006

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

I/We donate _____ plant(s) at \$ 7.00 each

Payment for \$ _____ is enclosed

In memory of _____

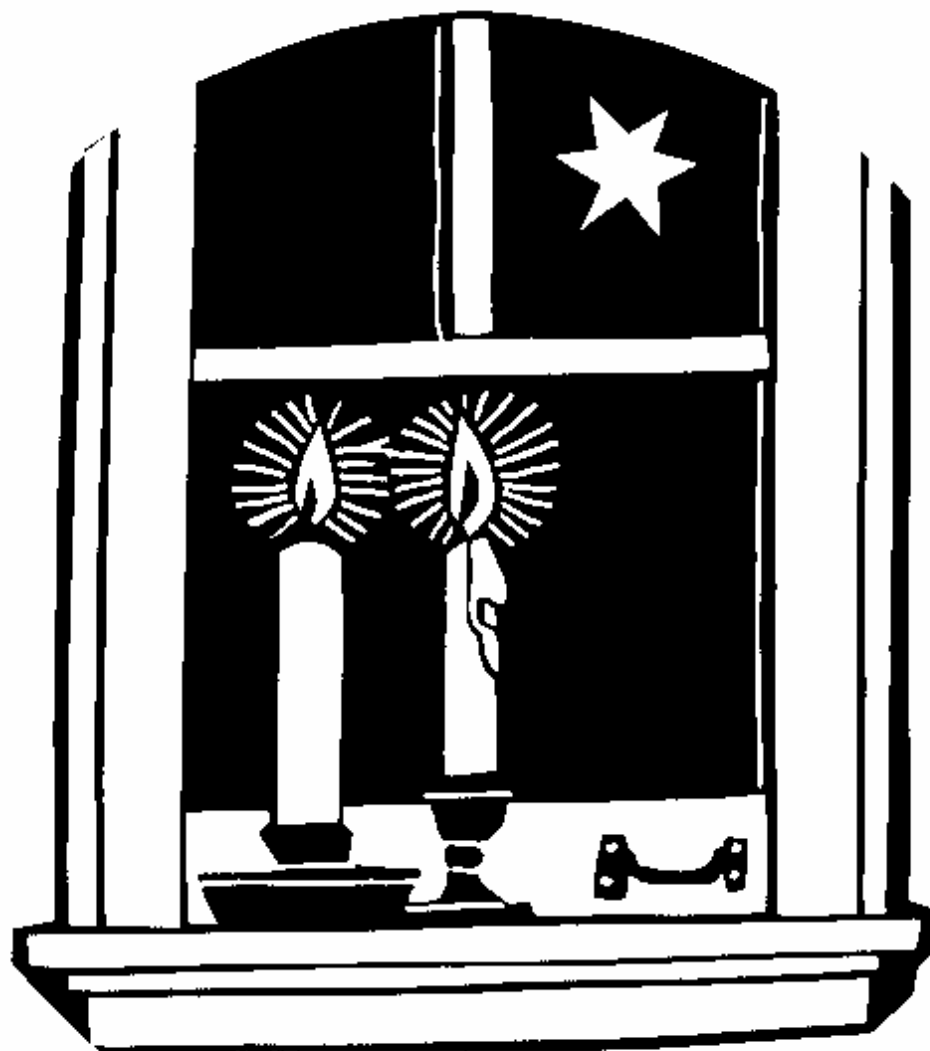
In honor of _____

Family takes plant(s) _____ Parish Visitors take plant(s) _____





UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Once again, we come to a story that we already know. We are invited on a journey to a place we have been to before. Why one more time would we take the journey to Christmas called Advent? At its heart, Advent is a journey to Truth. To hear, experience, a Truth about Life and Faith, Hope and Love. Like all Truths that really matter, we don't "get it" all at once. It takes time. And this year there is a word that we need to hear and experience. What that Truth is for each of us will vary, but the way to its discovery is through taking the trip.

This Advent booklet is designed to take us together on this journey; to hear and remember some of the most important stories in our faith. Stories about truth, about hope, about love. Stories that we need to hear, especially in times like ours. Stories that can strengthen, encourage us, and free us to live boldly, dream extravagantly, and hope courageously.

Let's come together in this season of darkness, to light a light, to dream a new world into being, even within each of us.

This booklet is written so a family or individual can spend a little time each day in spiritual preparation for Christmas. Devotions are provided for Monday through Saturday. On Sunday we encourage you to attend worship for your spiritual preparation. We suggest using an Advent wreath, four candles and a fifth Christ candle, with these devotions. The candles may be part of a wreath of greens or simply placed in holders. It may be helpful to choose the same time each day to share these devotions. Even young children can help light the candles and older children can read scripture. You might want to pray for each other as you use the weekly prayer. Our prayers are with you this Advent season as you move closer to the One who loves us and came to be with us.
Blessings to you all.

- *Catherine, Don, Peter and George*

Hope is a part of the spirit of Advent. Hope looks toward a future in which God is with us. As we light the candle of Hope, we remember people who have lost hope, and we look for the goodness of God to be a part of our world.

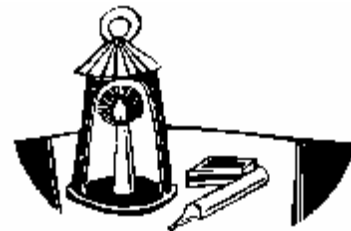
God of Hope, be with those who have lost hope. Be with us when we forget that Your promises are true, and You have told us You are with us. Let the light of hope shine in our hearts and in our world. Amen.

Each day this week we will light the same candle.
Light the candle of Hope.
Scripture: Read Psalm 33:20-22

Reflection: Sometimes we need to be patient and still for hope to be born in us again. Practice being quiet or silent for five minutes today. How was that for you? What did you notice?

Prayer for the week.

Light the candle of Hope.
Scripture: Read Isaiah 2:2, 4



Reflection: Isaiah and other prophets speak of the hope that they have in the day when God's justice and peace will fill the earth. What is one thing you can do today to be a sign of hope and to help bring a little peace, a little justice into God's world?

Prayer for the week.



Light the candle of Hope.

Scripture: Read Isaiah 40:3-5

Reflection: The image of a green shoot growing from a seemingly dead stump is a picture of hope. Can you draw a picture of what hope looks like to you?

Prayer for the week.

Light the candle of Hope.

Scripture: Read Isaiah 40:1-2a

Reflection: All of us feel despair at some times. We wonder if anyone really loves us, if we are really cared for. Sometimes we feel very much alone. Listen to some music today that makes you feel hopeful (like the first part of Handel's Messiah) - music that reminds you that you are loved, cared for, and not alone.

Prayer for the week.



Light the candle of Hope.

Scripture: Read Matthew 24:42

Reflection: The Bible readings for the first week of Advent talk about the importance of keeping awake and watching for the coming of Jesus. When we are awake we notice things we otherwise miss. How can you practice being more awake today? What do you notice?

Prayer for the week.

Light the candle of Hope.

Scripture: Read Exodus 16:2-4a

Reflection: "Hope is the simple trust that God has not forgotten the recipe for manna." After Moses led the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt and into the wilderness, they became frightened. They wondered if God had forgotten them. They wondered if they would have food to eat and water to drink. God provided both. What signs are there around us that show God's presence in the world?

Prayer for the week.



Peace is a gift from God, and a promise of Advent. We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light, there is peace.

God of Peace, help me see the people around me as Your daughters and sons. Help me see myself as Your beloved child. In that way, I might be free of fear and cruelty, and be a person of peace. Amen.

Light the candles of Hope and Peace.

Scripture: Read Micah 4:1-4

Reflection: These words are just like the words we read last week in Isaiah. Why do you think the Bible has these words more than once? Where is violence happening in this world? What is something concrete I can do to respond to it?

Prayer for the week.

Light the candles of Hope and Peace.

Scripture: Read Isaiah 9:6-7a

**Reflection: What can adults learn from children to help bring peace?
What can children learn from adults?**

Prayer for the week.

Light the candles of Hope and Peace.

Scripture: Read Isaiah 11:6-9



**Reflection: Who is someone I am angry with or who is angry with me,
or who is someone I have hurt or someone who has hurt me, that I
might try to make some peace with?**

Prayer for the week.

Light the candles of Hope and Peace.

Scripture: Read Isaiah 55:1-5

**Reflection: Isaiah says some of the things in life that we really need
cannot be bought with money. Can you name some of those things?**

Prayer for the week.



Light the candles of Hope and Peace.

Scripture: John 16:33

Reflection: Read or sing verse 3 of "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" (Hymn #51 in The New Century Hymnal)

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill, of One who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still; for though like waves on Galilee, rough seas of trouble roll, when faith has heard the Savior's word, falls peace upon the soul.

When is a time you truly felt at peace?

Prayer for the week.



Light the candles of Hope and Peace.

Scripture: Read Psalm 23

Reflection: Draw a picture that shows what peace means to you.

Prayer for the week.

God's love is the gift of Christmas. We light this candle to proclaim the love of God for all of creation.

Holy God, You sent Jesus to us to show us what love is all about. Help us to accept that You love us all the time and show us how to love You, each other and those we meet. Amen.

Light the candles of Hope, Peace and Love.

Scripture: Read Isaiah 54:10

Reflection: What makes you feel loved? By God? By others?

Prayer for the week.

Light the candles of Hope, Peace and Love.

Scripture: Read Zephaniah 3:12

Reflection: We may believe that God loves us, but we often find it difficult to love one another. Think of someone you find difficult to love. What first steps do you need to take to see this person as lovable?

Prayer for the week.

Light the candles of Hope, Peace and Love.

Scripture: Read Psalm 139:1-12

Reflection: While listening to some quiet music, think about what it means to be created in God's image; to be created by God in love.

Prayer for the week.

Light the candles of Hope, Peace and Love.

Scripture: Read Luke 1:26-38

Reflection: Although Mary was surprised that she was to bear God's son, she did not say no; she did not say she was too busy. How can

our busyness prevent us from sharing God's love? What one thing can I do this week to genuinely express love for another person?

Prayer for the week.

Light the candles of Hope, Peace and Love.

Scripture: Read Luke 1:46-55

Reflection: Mary sang God's praises. She thanks God for all the gifts of love given to the poor and powerless. If you could receive only one gift, what would you ask for?

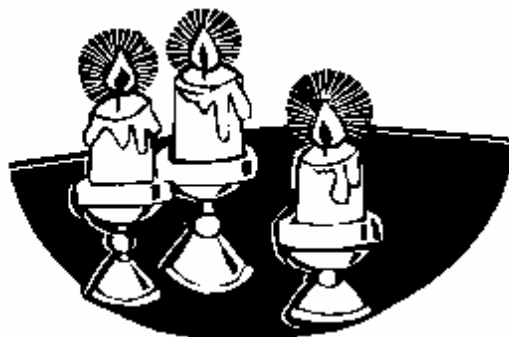
Prayer for the week.

Light the candles of Hope, Peace and Love.

Scripture: Read John 1:1 and 14

Reflection: Jesus came and showed us a God of love. Where do you see the love of God "made flesh" in your family and community? How can you bring the love of God to someone else?

Prayer for the week.



Joy comes to us in many ways. During Advent we know that joy has come from knowing God is with us. We light the candle of Joy and the Christ Candle to proclaim the joy and presence of Emmanuel, God with us.

Light the candles of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. Then light the Christ Candle.

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection: How do I feel about my Advent journey this year? Has it been more of a Sabbath, more a time for healing and preparation? How could it be better?

Dear God, with joy we praise You and thank You for coming to us and for bringing light into our darkest hour. Amen.



Text: Matthew 5:13-16
Preacher: Peter Ilgenfritz

Sharing Our Gifts Sunday
Text: Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 5:13-16
Preacher: George Meier

Text: Matthew 5:13-16, Luke 2:1-20
Preacher: Peter Ilgenfritz

10:00 a.m. Service and Christmas Pageant
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesdays
December 6, 13, 20 and 27

SHARING OUR GIFTS SUNDAY
will be
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

