

CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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Let our
Light shine!

Advent: No Better Time to Let our Light Shine

Many of us light candles to warm our Northwest rainy winter evenings, but lighting the Advent candle somehow seems mystical. The tradition since childhood. The ritual of the prayer. Reflecting on light and dark in our lives. Reflecting on Jesus as the Light of the world.

As we prayerfully reflect on our pledge for 2007, let us be reminded that *we all can be the light of the world* if we seek to act in ways that enlarge the realms of love and justice. Let it be so as we pray:

Litany of Light

When we share another's pain or offer a comforting ear to a friend in need,

We are the light of the world.

When we give bread to the hungry or support ways to house the homeless,

We are the light of the world.

When we fight temptations to wrongdoing within ourselves and treat our neighbors with respect,

We are the light of the world.

When we try to overcome differences with understanding and solve conflict with peaceful means,

We are the light of the world.

When we look for the good in other people and in ourselves,

We are the light of the world.

When we do not stay quiet in the face of prejudice, but speak our minds firmly and gently,

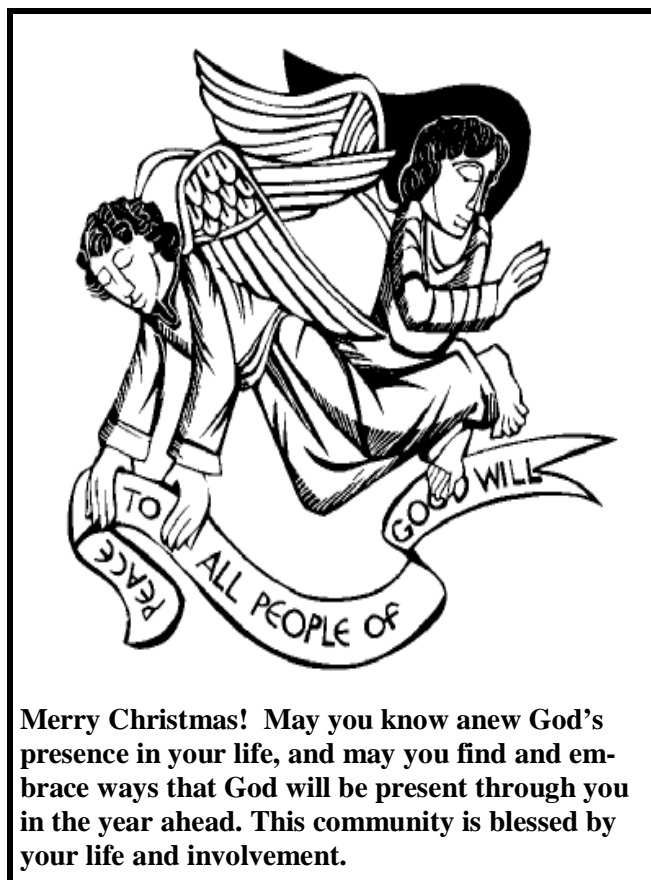
We are the light of the world.

When we use our powers justly and in the service of love for humanity,

We are the light of the world.

We are the light of the world! Amen.

—Adapted from Becky Edmiston



Merry Christmas! May you know anew God's presence in your life, and may you find and embrace ways that God will be present through you in the year ahead. This community is blessed by your life and involvement.

Please join us for Christmas Eve worship

Sunday December 24

10 a.m.

Worship and Christmas Pageant

11 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

There will not be a 5 p.m. worship service

Children and Youth

Preschool News

Thanks to Advent Teacher Volunteers

A special thank you goes to our preschool volunteers who taught during Advent. They were Rebecca Schmidt, Robin and Aaron Turner, Christa Tinker, Tara Mikosz, Dennis O'Brien, Susan Dutro, Will Hultman, Catherine Follett and Brian Turner.

Elementary News

Children Attend Worship on the Last Two Sundays of December

The elementary program invites children to attend worship with their families on the mornings of **Dec. 24** and **Dec 31**. We will not hold any elementary Christian education classes on those mornings. Right after Christmas we will be mailing our elementary pledge information to parents to consider with their child(ren).

Save the Date for Fun Sleepover!

The elementary annual fourth and fifth grade sleepover will be held **Friday, Jan. 19, 2007**. The fun will begin at the church with dinner at **6 p.m.**, then on to ice skating at Lynnwood Ice Arena. More details to follow! If you have questions, please contact Susan Dutro at sdutro@comcast.net or 206-784-6540.

Youth News

Dec. 24 Sunday

There will *not* be youth group at 9 a.m. on Dec. 24. Instead, the Christmas pageant (in which many youth are involved) will take place during the 10 a.m. service. Please join us in the celebration of Christmas Eve!

Jan. 7 Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.

First Sunday Pacific Northwest Youth Gathering

University Congregational United Church of Christ will be hosting this event. We will be going ice skating at the Highland Ice Arena in Shoreline. Youth from other churches meet us at UCUC where we will socialize before taking off to the arena. We will skate between **2 - 4 p.m.**, and then have a bit more discussion before everyone goes on their way. We will be back at the church around **5 p.m.** Please bring at least \$10 for the price of admission and skate rentals. Hope you can join us!

A Reminder From Bookkeeping Staff

Here's a reminder from your bookkeeping staff: please help us ensure that your contributions are credited appropriately. You are welcome to combine payments for more than one fund in a single check; we just need to know each time how you would like the donation distributed. Just write the breakdown on the memo line of the check.

As the end of the year approaches, if you would like to check the balance on your pledge, please call the bookkeeping office at the church at 206-524-2322. The Internal Revenue Service requires that for a contribution to be credited in 2006, it must be received in 2006; "received" means either delivered to the church or postmarked by Dec. 31.

You can also contribute stock. This might be a tax benefit to you, and the church can easily accept stock donations. We can also make arrangements for a regular automatic deduction of your contribution from your checking or savings account. For information on either stock donations or autodeuctions, please contact church business administrator, David Anderson, at 206-524-2322 or at danderson@universityucc.org. Thank you for your contributions, and for your help!

—David Anderson



A copy of our pastors' weekly schedule is posted in the church office. **For pastoral emergencies**, please call a minister 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.**

The church building will be closed Monday Dec 25 and Tuesday Dec 26 for the Christmas holiday.

CHURCH AND HOME

Submissions are due before:

Noon, Monday, Jan. 1 (Jan. 14 – 21 issue)

Noon, Monday, Jan. 15 (Jan. 28 – Feb. 4 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.

Our Church Family

The Golden Rule and Daily Life

Our first intergenerational Christian education gathering of the new year will take place at **9 a.m.** on **Jan. 7** in Ostrander Hall. Come hear **Betsy Rose** sing songs of gratitude and family connections from her new CD. Following our opening gathering, we will have a sing-a-long led by Betsy, a discussion group to explore the joys and challenges of applying the Golden Rule to our daily lives, and a craft project on the Golden Rule in six of the world's religions. We also hope to again show contemporary movie clips. Mark your calendar and join us!

—Kris Garrett



We Remember Patricia (Pat) Streeter

Died: December 2, 2006

Pat Streeter, mother of Denis Streeter and a former member of University Congregational United Church of Christ, died on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006. Pat was a member of UCUC from Sept. 28, 1969 until June 20, 1994.

A service of worship in her memory will be held at **3 p.m.** on **Sunday, Jan. 14** at Butterworth – Arthur Wright Chapel, 520 W. Raye Street, Seattle, WA. Condolences may be sent to Denis Streeter, 6266 - 19th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6902.

Congratulations to Frank and Bob

Congratulations to Frank Kelsey who is celebrating his 54th year of ordination, and Robert Fitzgerald who is celebrating his 49th year of ordination.

New Cornerstones Remembrances

Many of you who contributed to the successful New Cornerstones campaign asked that your pledge be made in honor or memory of a friend or family member. In recognition of your request, your name and that of the individual you asked to honor have been recorded, in beautiful calligraphic font, in the *Book of Remembrance*. The book is located under glass on a podium in the narthex.

The list of contributors is several pages long. The book currently is open to the first page of the list of contributors. Every couple of weeks through Jan., a page will be turned to display each subsequent page. Please visit the *Book of Remembrance* and share once again in the celebration of our most successful campaign to restore and renew our house of worship and mission.

—Carl Donovan



Let our
Light shine!

Pledge Sunday: a Celebration of Light, Giving, and Hope!

As Pastor Don said so memorably in worship earlier this month, pledging is one way we affirm hope, one way we say “Yes!” to the future of our ministries. This year Pledge Sunday falls on Epiphany, Jan. 7. Just as the Magi brought their gifts to the baby Jesus, we will all be invited that day to bring our gifts before God—our pledges, yes, but also our prayers for the ministries of our church over the coming year. What dreams and hopes for our church do you wish to see made real over the coming year? During worship we will all have a chance to write these prayers down and bring them before God, celebrating after worship with treats and fellowship in the lounge.

Of course, Pledge Sunday is also the day to bring your pledge card back to church. (Can't find yours? See the office for an extra.) For those who have already pledged—*may you feel the deep gratitude of the church family on that day*. For all who are still considering pledges—we thank you for the prayerful deliberation which has brought you to this day, and for whatever gift reflects both your devotion to the ministries of this church and your ability to give. This year we are aiming for 100% participation. If you think your gift too insignificant—take heart! Remember that one giver pledging \$25 a month makes a very real difference.

Please join us—we need *you* to Let our Light Shine!

—Kathryn Robinson

Sunday, January 7

First Sunday in Epiphany

Sermon: “The Way We Are Together”

This Sunday is Epiphany, a celebration of the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem. These Magi, bringing their gifts, were the first from a wider world to experience God's gift to us all. This is an early indication of the call of the church to all of humanity. The sharing of light on Epiphany is a celebration of this “appearance” or “revelation” (the meaning of Epiphany). On this Sunday, we as a church will feast together, celebrating communion, celebrating light, and celebrating our hopes for the coming year for our church. This is also Pledge Sunday, when we will share our pledges for the 2007 budget.

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Sunday Worship Service
V December 24

10 a.m.

Christmas Pageant

11 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Preacher: Don Mackenzie

10 a.m.

V December 31

Preacher: Peter Ilgenfritz

Scriptures: Matthew 5:17-20

V January 7

Preacher: Catherine Foote

Scriptures: Micah 5:2 4-5

Matthew 5:21-27

Wednesday Service

Taize-style worship, **6 p.m.**

University Congregational Chapel



Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve

Join us for two special worship services on Christmas Eve. Our **Sunday morning worship service at 10 a.m.** will include this year's Christmas pageant, "Light of the World," with special music by our children and youth. This is a joyous service for all.

Our **Sunday evening candlelight service at 11 p.m.** is a contemplative worship service featuring traditional Christmas music by the chancel choir and a special UCUCS orchestra. Don Mackenzie will offer this year's Meditation for Christmas Eve. At both, we will sing favorite Christmas carols and celebrate the gift of Jesus and his way of hope, peace, love and joy. Come join us in the wonder of this day and the celebration that God is with us!

There will not be a 5 p.m. worship service.

The chancel flowers are poinsettias given in memory of or in honor of loved ones by church members and friends.



Sunday, December 31

First Sunday after Christmas Day

"An Old, New Thing"

It's New Year's Eve and on this last Sunday of the year we will gather to look back at the past year and reflect on where we have come from and how it has changed us. And we will look forward to the year ahead and consider commitments that we might make for the coming year. Our scripture from the Sermon on the Mount invites us to do exactly that as Jesus reflects on his relationship to what has gone before him and the new thing that he hears God calling him to do in his life. A special musical liturgy by Marty Haugen will weave our worship service together in this morning of reflection, celebration and prayer.

The chancel flowers are poinsettias given in memory of or in honor of loved ones by church members and friends.

Find worship information for Sunday, Jan. 7 on page 3 of *Church and Home*.

As I See It

A Story of Christmas Eve

By Jim Wallis, of *Sojourners*

V “*Silent Night*,” by Stanley Weintraub, is the story of Christmas Eve, 1914 on the World War I battlefield in Flanders. As the German, British, and French troops facing each other were settling in for the night, a young German soldier began to sing “*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht*.” Others joined in. When they had finished, the British and French responded with other Christmas carols.

Eventually, the men from both sides left their trenches and met in the middle. They shook hands, exchanged gifts, and shared pictures of their families. Informal soccer games began in what had been “no-man’s-land.” And a joint service was held to bury the dead of both sides.

The generals, of course, were not pleased with these events. Men who have come to know each other’s names and seen each other’s families are much less likely to want to kill each other. War seems to require a nameless, faceless “enemy.”

So, following that magical night the men on both sides spent a few days simply firing aimlessly into the sky. Then the war was back in earnest and continued for three more bloody years. Yet the story of that Christmas

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Eve lingered—a night when the angels really did sing of peace on earth.

My prayer for the New Year is for a nation and world where people can come out of their trenches and together sing their hopes for peace....

“*Christmas in the Trenches*”

*There's someone coming towards us!" the front line
sentry cried*

*All sights were fixed on one lone figure coming from
their side*

*His truce flag, like a Christmas star, shone on that plain
so bright*

As he bravely strode unarmed into the night.

*Soon one by one on either side walked into No Man's
land*

*With neither gun nor bayonet we met there hand to hand
We shared some secret brandy and we wished each other
well*

And in a flare-lit soccer game we gave 'em hell.

(Continued on POV page 2)

From the Staff

An Epiphany Celebration of Light

By Catherine Foote

V Well, here we are, right in the midst of our celebrations of Christmas, or at least so well on our way that there is no turning back. Yet in this season of celebration, in this dark time of the year, there is another church calendar event that often gets lost. In fact I say “church calendar” because Epiphany, our *other* celebration of light, does not even show up for most folks in our part of the world, where the time after Christmas is usually thought of as After-Christmas Sale Time.

Epiphany literally means, “appearance,” and refers to the appearance of Jesus to the Magi who came to Bethlehem on the advice of a star. At the darkest time of year, Epiphany serves to echo the themes of Christmas. Epiphany has also come to mean a sudden insight or revelation, when a deeper or truer meaning is realized. Christmas can be overwhelming, and feelings after Christmas sometimes include a sense of let down, as all the promises that day seemed to hold now seem unfulfilled. I remember feelings like that as a child, when either I did not get the gift I had hoped for, or what I had

wished for and did receive did not end up having the transforming effect I had imagined it would.

Epiphany invites us to look deeper at the event we Christians celebrate as central to our faith, the stories which tell us that in Jesus, God is with us. Epiphany reminds us also that as Jesus is light for the world, we too are called to be salt and light. Several years ago, when I realized how tough it is for a minister to prepare herself for Christmas while trying at the same time to prepare her church, I began setting aside the season of Epiphany as my own celebration time, and I invited my family to join me in it. It has helped me avoid some (certainly not all) of the more commercial aspects of Christmas, and has given me room to stretch out my own time of listening for angels and watching for stars, as the season of darkness turns toward the season of light.

This year, our church also is giving special note to Epiphany. On Sunday, Jan. 7, we will celebrate light, we will listen for God’s call, we will share our own hopes, dreams and prayers for our church in the coming year, and we will make pledges about our part in those hopes dreams and prayers. Mostly, we will celebrate light! So in the midst of this season of Merry Christmas, may you also have a blessed Epiphany.

The Wider Community

King County Executive Ron Sims at UCUC to Discuss Homelessness

County Executive Ron Sims will speak in Ostrander Hall at **9 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11** on an exciting public initiative and a special interest of his: the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. Ron Sims is eloquent and inspiring on this subject. Put it on your calendar, tell your friends, and plan to be there!

Pastor Don Featured in Magazine Article and *State of the Possible* Directory

The collaboration of Pastor Don Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted Falcon and Brother Jamal Rahman was featured in the winter, 2007 issue of *Yes!* magazine. They were interviewed about the book they are writing together, *What Really Matters*, the interfaith trip they led to Israel, and their other interfaith activities. This article is posted in the church office or you can read it online at <http://www.yesmagazine.org/article.asp?ID=1552>.

Don is also in the *State of the Possible* directory that lists 201 amazing social change leaders.

Read T.S. Eliot's "Four Quartets"

T.S. Eliot's "Four Quartets" could be considered one of the greatest religious poems of the 20th century. A five-session class on the poem will be taught by Roger Sale, retired University of Washington English professor and author, at **9 a.m. on Sunday mornings** starting on **Jan. 7** and continuing through **Feb. 4**. The location of the class will be announced.

To buy a book, find out more, or sign up for the class, find the "Four Quartets" table in the narthex on the Sunday mornings of **Dec. 24 and 31**. Books are also available for sale in the church office.

This class is free of cost and open to all. No expertise on Eliot or poetry is required. This is a great opportunity to read a major poem with a well-known teacher and scholar.

—David McCracken

Pacific NW Conference Men's Retreat

The retreat, "Exploring Spirit: A Guided Tour," will take place on **Feb. 2-4, 2007** at Pilgrim Firs Conference Center. The cost is \$90 if you register before Jan. 1, and \$100 if you register after that. Financial assistance is available.

For more information or to download a registration form, see www.ucc.org/men/exploringspiritretreat.pdf.

As I See It (continued)

We traded chocolates, cigarettes, and photographs from home

These sons and fathers far away from families of their own

Young Sanders played his squeeze box and they had a violin

This curious and unlikely band of men.

Soon daylight stole upon us and France was France once more

*With sad farewells we each began to settle back to war
But the question haunted every heart that lived that wondrous night*

"Whose family have I fixed within my sights?"

'Twas Christmas in the trenches, where the frost so bitter hung

The frozen fields of France were warmed as songs of peace were sung

For the walls they'd kept between us to exact the work of war

Had been crumbled and were gone for evermore."

—Excerpted from "Christmas in the Trenches"
by John McCutcheon

"Christmas" by Sadao Watanabe

On Sundays in Dec., please look for the nativity art print displayed in the narthex. This stencil print called "Christmas," by Japanese Christian artist, Sadao Watanabe, was donated to the church by member, John Lewis, in honor of our openness to different interpretations of Christian traditions. During the week it is hung prominently in the church office.

In the picture, the Christ child is being bathed by an attendant. Notice how everyone and everything focuses on the child. See the protective oval shape that draws our eyes to the caring scene. Although the artist has created movement by his use of repeated shapes, the scene is calm and reverent.

Using a stencil dye process, Watanabe created this picture with a deep, rich red background. On handmade, crumpled rice paper, the artist applied natural dyes containing persimmon tannin. Then Watanabe washed the paper. After putting rice paste on the hand cut stencils, he applied natural color and washed the paper again. The rice paste acts as a resist for the dye, much like wax is used in making batik. Our church is very fortunate to have such a special work of art.

— Tricia Tiano

The Golden Rule, Matthew 7:12

The House on the Rock, Matthew 7:24-27

The Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13

Treasures, Serving Two Masters
Matthew 6:19-21,24

Join us as we continue **A Year With The Sermon on the Mount**



Winter to Spring 2007
Christian Education Hour
January 7 through June 3
Starting at 9 a.m.



UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
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"Deepening faith for transforming Christian discipleship"

Winter to Spring Schedule

Our intergenerational days will continue to be on the first Sunday of each month, "First (gathering of the day) on the First." Themes will be introduced at the beginning of the month, with additional study in age-specific groups the following weeks.

January 7

"First on the First" Intergenerational Sunday Matthew 7:12
The Golden Rule

January 14-28

Regular programming for adults, youth, elementary and k/preschool

February 4

"First on the First" Intergenerational Sunday Matthew 6:19-21,24
Too Much Stuff? Treasures and Serving Two Masters

February 11-25

Regular programming for adults, youth, elementary and k/preschool

March 4

"First on the First" Intergenerational Sunday Matthew 6:9-13
The Lord's Prayer

March 11-25

Regular programming for adults, youth, elementary & k/preschool

April 1

"First on the First" Intergenerational Sunday Matthew 7:1-28
Palm Sunday Honoring One Another

April 8

Easter Sunday. Discovery Bible for adults.

April 15-29

Regular programming for adults, youth, elementary & k/preschool

May 6

“First on the First” Intergenerational Sunday Matthew 7:24-27
The House on the Rock

May 13-20

Regular programming for adults, youth, elementary & k/preschool

May 27

Pentecost Sunday. (Memorial Day Weekend)
Discovery Bible for adults.

June 3

“First on the First” Intergenerational Sunday
Sermon on the Mount Celebration

A note about our
Intergenerational Sundays



All ages are invited to learn together. The morning begins with a 9 a.m. gathering in Ostrander Hall, to include songs, prayer and a story. This gathering time will be followed by “free choice” activities throughout the building. *Children who are able to participate responsibly and independently in activities, and who can also navigate the church building on their own, are invited to make their own activity choices. Younger, less independent children are asked to remain with their parents and choose an activity as a family.*

Class Descriptions Adult Education at 9 a.m.

Four Quartets by T.S. Eliot - January 7-February 4

Instructor: Roger Sale, Retired UW Professor of English

To call Four Quartets the greatest religious poetry of the 20th Century may not mean much--what's the competition?--and may be misleading, since the poems are descriptive/meditative rather than devotional like Donne or Herbert or the poetry of hymns. But they are full of phrases, lines, passages that stick in the memory--one of my favorites is said of a hermitage, "here, where prayer has been valid"--and they are great for groups to discuss. No prior experience required.

Freedom Songs in the Spirit - January 14

Participants in the civil rights movement had a vast repertoire of songs which went far beyond We Shall Overcome and This Little Light. Many of these songs were paraphrased or rewritten traditional spirituals. In honor of Civil Rights Day we will learn some of these songs and have a sing along.



The Phoenix Affirmations - 13 Sundays, beginning January 14
Meighan Pritchard, who walked across the United States last summer in support of the Phoenix Affirmations (statements about what it means to love God, love our neighbors, and love ourselves) will lead us in studying these affirmations and their meaning for our own growth in faith.

A Roof Over Every Bed?

The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness...and Us

More than a Dream? Vision or Pipe Dream? - February 11
Ron Sims, King County Executive, will join us to share his hopeful perspective about the prospects for ending homelessness in King County. A dynamic advocate for the homeless, Sims has also volunteered for Operation Nightwatch in the City of Seattle.

And What Can *We* Do? - February 18

In this forum, we'll brainstorm about how our congregation can be involved in ending homelessness. We hope to be joined by Jo Gustafson, director of the University Churches' Emergency Fund, and members of the University Congregational Housing Association who will describe their current programs and initiatives. Then it will be our turn to dream and plan!

The February 11th and 18th programs are sponsored by the Justice and Outreach Ministries.

"The Tale of Two Christianities" - February 23-25

Marcus Borg will be visiting our congregation the weekend of February 23-25, in celebration of the ten years the Jesus Study Group has been meeting at our church, led by Bob Fitzgerald. Borg will offer a weekend seminar and will also be speaking Sunday morning. Registration forms and fee information for the seminar are available from the church office. Scholarships are available. Dr. Borg will be with us Sunday morning, February 25th, for our 9 a.m. education hour and 10 a.m. worship. Sunday morning activities are free.

Lenten Study Groups—March 4-April 1

During the season of Lent we will be offering opportunities to be a part of a small study group. We will study the book, *The Last Week, A Day by Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem*, by Marcus Borg and John Crossan.



Lenten Study Groups offer opportunities to get to know one another better and to take the journey of Lent together. Groups will be offered a variety of times, including Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Sign ups will be February 18th and 25th after worship. You may also contact Catherine Foote for information about how to participate. Sessions on inter-generational Sundays will meet after the opening gathering.

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer—March 4-April 1

Facilitator: Gail Crouch



As we continue our study of the Sermon on the Mount, we will be spending time during Lent with The Lord's Prayer. Our worship services will include sermons framed by this prayer from Matthew 6. If you would like to explore the prayer further, and consider ways it relates to your own prayer life, join us for this 9 a.m. class. Sessions on intergenerational Sundays will meet after the opening gathering.

Ongoing Sunday Morning Classes

Parenting the Sermon on the Mount - Every Sunday

This is an informal gathering of parents who share together around issues related to what we are learning in our year with the Sermon on the Mount. Drop in folks are welcome, and

preschoolers are also welcome to accompany their parents to this class. (preschool care, elementary and youth education programs are also available at this hour). Toys are available for the preschoolers.

Bible Discovery - Every Sunday

Join this ongoing Bible study group as they look together at scripture, discuss its meaning, and consider its message for everyday life.

Adult Education at Other Times

Jesus Study Group - This group meets the second Sunday of the month in the evening, from 7 to 9 p.m., for lively discussions of current Jesus scholarship. Contact Bob Fitzgerald at (206) 784-4634 for more details.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study - Every Tuesday morning, 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Come and be a part of this ongoing Bible study group as they look together at scripture, discuss its meaning, and "care for and pray for one another." For more information, contact Catherine Foote at (206) 524-2322, ext. 3313.

Lenten Study Groups—March 4-April 1

See related announcement under Sunday morning classes. In addition to a 9a.m. Sunday morning option, other group times and dates will be offered. Sign ups will be February 18th and 25th after worship. You may also contact Catherine Foote for information about how to participate.

Other Classes Being Formed

Adult Education classes are continuing to be formed. Watch our church newsletter, *The Church and Home*, for information about these groups, or visit our website at Universityucc.org.

Inquirer's Classes

We call our classes for those interested in exploring church membership "Inquirer's Classes." These classes meet on Sundays after worship. The first set of classes in the new year will begin March 4. If you would like more information on how to be a part of one of these inquiring groups, contact Margaret Rose at MRose@Universityucc.org or call her at the church: (206) 524-2322.

Understanding Our Gifts and Our Call After Easter, Adult Education will be offering classes on what it means to be called by God, and ways our unique gifts can be expressed in our day-to-day life, as well as in the life of our faith community. Watch *Church and Home* and the website for more information about these classes.



Interim Conversations

Our church is currently in the midst of an "interim" period, a time of assessing our sense of ourselves and God's call to us for the future. The Interim Support Group and our Interim Minister, George Meier, invite folks to gather for ongoing conversations about this process on Sundays at the 9 a.m. hour, as scheduled. Watch *Church and Home* or check the website for information about these gatherings.

Youth Ministry and Education

Throwing Yourself in the Waves: Doing Justice Together

As we begin the new calendar year we are continuing to learn about the CORE of the Jesus Way of Life which is contained in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 –7). We will also have more opportunities to DO justice work together. What would you like to DO together? What would stretch you? What would be exciting for you?



In addition to meeting together on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., with our Justice Sunday outreach activities scheduled for the fourth Sunday of the month, we will also gather on:

1st Sundays: “Intergenerational Sundays.”



On the first Sunday of every month we will join middle school and high school youth at other UCC churches from 2pm-4pm for fellowship and fun. Look for more information in each month’s youth newsletter.

2nd Sundays: “2nd Sunday High School Youth Gathering”

The second Sunday of every month high school youth gather at the home of Carol and Ed Coleman from 5:30-8pm. There is a short program led by members of our youth ministry.

Elementary Education

Join us as we continue our exploration of the Sermon on the Mount. Beginning January 14th, we will focus on The Golden Rule in three of the world's religions. Later in the year we will study the Lord's Prayer, along with other topics in chapters 6 and 7 of the gospel of Matthew. We'll end our school year together with Catacombs on May 13th and 20th.



Each of our sessions starts with an all-elementary community gathering time, which includes storytelling and music. The storytelling continues the theme started by the prior week's intergenerational gathering.

Children spend the remainder of their hour split into four age groups (Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Years 4, 5 combined), engaged in activities reinforcing the Bible story and theme.

We follow both the Workshop Rotation Model and a more traditional Sunday school structure. In the Workshop Rotation Model, children "rotate" amongst a series of teachers, each of whom repeats their lesson to a different group of children each week. When a more traditional structure is used, children remain with the same teacher/shepherd combination for the entire unit. Under both models, we attempt to explore Bible stories using multiple educational methods and tools, realizing that children learn using a variety of senses and skills.



Preschool and Kindergarten Education

9:00 a.m.

During the 9:00am Christian Education Hour one preschool room will be open. This childcare room will serve children between the ages of 2yrs-5yrs/Kindergarten, offering safe place for play.

10:00 a.m.

We continue to introduce our new Building Blocks of Faith Curriculum. This home-grown curriculum is based on six basic "building blocks" of faith which include God Made Me, God Loves Me, God Teaches Me, God Listens to Me, God's Love is for Sharing and God Takes Care of Me. Each block has user-friendly lessons that support the broader concept in ways appropriate for each developmental level (2 years – K/5 years). These concepts will be reinforced with Bible stories, other stories that speak to the theme, prayers, music, crafts, games, activities, worship connections and ideas for parents and families.

Our Building Blocks classes will continue to be held during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour. The preschoolers and kindergarteners will attend the beginning of worship with their families and will be dismissed to their classrooms early in the service.



University Congregational United Church of Christ
Christian Education Staff and Resource People

Catherine Foote, Minister

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