

THE TOWLINE

**May
2024**



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

(206) 824-1770

www.npucc.org

Pastor:

Rev. Amy Hitchens
amy@npucc.org

Music Accompanist and

Choir Director:

Cindy Dow
cindy@npucc.org

Office Manager:

Weronika Holmes
weronika@npucc.org

Office Hours:

9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Tuesday – Friday
(subject to change)

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I can't believe it but my sabbatical begins in May! Here are some questions and answers about sabbaticals as we all prepare for this sabbatical season-

What is a pastor's sabbatical? How is it different from a vacation?

Sabbath is a gift from God, because rest is as important as work for the health of all of creation. The seventh day was consecrated as a day of rest, and God ordered all of creation to cease from work on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11). Jesus frequently left his followers and his disciples to pray by himself, spending time reflecting on his call, listening to God's voice, and receiving strength and direction for his ongoing ministry. Rooted in these Biblical commands for Sabbath, a sabbatical is a significant time of rest, renewal and refreshment for pastors.

Ministers preserve and recuperate this ancient, holy sense of sabbatical: not as vacation, but as a time of holy rest, attention to God, and dedicated spiritual renewal. The UCC recommends that pastors take a sabbatical of up to 3 months of paid leave paid for those who have served a church for at least six consecutive years. *This will be my first sabbatical.* Before this, I served a hospital which did not offer a sabbatical. I will be ordained for 20 years on July 18, 2024.

A good definition of a minister's sabbatical is to "discern your vocation apart from the input stream." That is, to hear God's call apart from the phone calls, the emails, the worship planning and execution, the committee meetings, and many other details that come up in the course of congregational ministry. It is also a time to explore other gifts, skills, disciplines and areas of knowledge that I don't have time to in the midst of the ordinary demands of congregational life. It's a chance to remember that being a minister is not what I do, it's who I am.

What will you do?

A variety of things! I hope to read lots of books, do some traveling to reconnect with friends and family, go on two retreats, continue enneagram study, meet with my spiritual director, tackle some house projects. We will say farewell to our exchange student Karl during this season, and I know I will be involved in projects with Ian—e.g. working with him on getting a driver's license.

The biggest challenge for my sabbatical is to stop doing and focus on being. I plan to attend at least one Quaker meeting in the U District and also visit a few UCC churches in our conference-so I can hear my friends preach! I will also be holding you and our church in prayer.

When are you actually away?

I am away from Normandy Park UCC from May 23- August 21. The Highline area is like a small town, so when I'm home you might see me around! Feel free to say hi and chat—it's quite alright.

Who will be overseeing things while you are away?



Rev. Bruce Wilson has agreed to be our Sabbatical Pastor. You may have met him before as he has preached at NPUCC several times and is a friend of mine going back several years. Nancy Knudsen is our Moderator, and the rest of the church council will support her and Bruce during this Sabbatical Season. If you have a question and you aren't sure who to ask – start by contacting Weronika Holmes (office manager)

in the church office.

How will you be unavailable?

I will be unavailable by email, phone, text from May 23- August 21. I may be on social media occasionally, I will probably not post or check it consistently, so that is not a reliable way to reach me. (Reminder – I will never, ever send you emails from made up email addresses asking to help me with an urgent situation and then sending you to buy gift cards – delete!!)

How will you be available?

I will be praying for my church community, and the people within it whom I love and cherish.

If there is an emergency of which I need to be made aware, Rev. Bruce Wilson will contact me. He will keep me apprised of critical pastoral care issues: deaths, serious illnesses, and the like. You can let him or our office manager, Weronika Holmes, know if there is an urgent message you wish to convey to me.

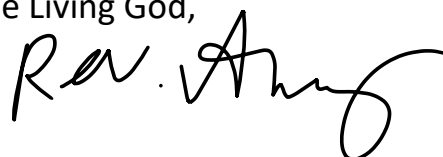
How will this be funded?

We received a generous donation from a long-time supporter of NPUCC and the Council voted to designate some of this money last year to pay for Rev. Bruce's time with us in 2024. The congregation has committed to paying my regular salary as per my call agreement.

Thank you to Pastor Amy's executive coach, Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard in assisting with her Sabbatical Plan. Works consulted include "Planning Sabbaticals: A Guide for Congregations and their Pastors" by Robert C. Saler

May a Season of Refreshment, Rest and Renewal be available to each and every one of you as well.

Blessings of the Spirit of the Living God,





May Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 am
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, May 14th, 7:00 pm
- Bibles & Brews: Fridays, May 3rd and 17th, 7:00 pm

IN-PERSON: we encourage wearing a mask if you have a cold or cough

- Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 am, Sanctuary
- May 26, Rev. Bruce Wilson begins as our sabbatical pastor, Sundays, 10:00 am.
- Parish Care Committee meeting: Wednesday, May 8th at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room,
- Communion: Sunday, May 5th, 10 am
- Enneagram Group, Wednesday, May 22nd, 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room
- Sunday School: youth are dismissed to attend class during Worship, except on Communion Sundays and special occasions.

PERIOD AND HYGIENE PACKS – CONTINUED

Thank you, Ian, for continuing this activity on the morning of breakfast worship. He filled 12 period and 10 hygiene packs that are ready to be delivered! Thank you, also, to those who continue to sew bags... a



special shout out to Alice as she churns them out like a well-oiled machine! For a total so far, we

have filled 38 period and 12 hygiene packs. As this is an ongoing project, we continue to accept donations... you can find the list on the office counter.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING.

Thank you to everyone who shared their “light” by donating to this special offering. We collected \$455 to help support life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and lives, to empower partners worldwide in their labors to build sustainable futures, and to plant seeds of peace where war has multiplied despair and destruction.

LUNCH BUNCH; WEDNESDAY, MAY 9 @ 11:30 am



We will be meeting up for lunch this month at Rose Pho, 19865 1st Avenue South, Normandy Park at

11:30 am. Contact Malinda with any questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School continues with the WHO IS GOD? – Engaging The Mystery” from the “Generation Why” curriculum. On the Sundays that Pastor Amy is off, we’ll use the “Simple Sundays” curriculum because they can be used with little or no preparation. Please let Lynn know which Sundays you are available to teach or help.



BIBLE & BREWS

We’ll be meeting up in May only once via **Zoom only** at 7 pm on Friday May 3 or 10 to continue our study/discuss from Exodus and Leviticus for Everyone by John Goldingay. If we’ll be meeting during Amy’s sabbatical with Shannon is yet to be determined.



CROP HUNGER WALK MAY 5, 2024 @ 1:15 PM



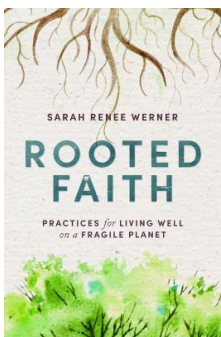
The Normandy Park UCC team is participating in the 2024 Des Moines/Highline CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger.

You are welcome to join us in person or spirit so that we can provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world.



You can donate to our team online by clicking [HERE](#) or by sending a check written to CWS/CROP to our church. If you need help in joining our team to walk, contact Lynn. Blessings and thank you in advance, The Normandy Park UCC Team.

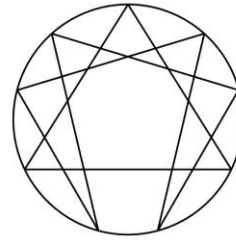
LENTEN LUNCH STUDY BOOK – Rooted Faith, Practices for Living Well on A Fragile Planet



If you didn't purchase the book that we used for the Lenten Lunch Study, but still would like to read it, there are now four copies available at the King County library to check out.

ENNEAGRAM WEDNESDAY MAY 22

@ 1 PM



We are back to meeting on Wednesdays. Come early and take a walk around the labyrinth to calm your mind and settle in for our talk.

From The Enneagram Guide to Waking Up: Find Your Path, Face Your Shadow, Discover Your True Self.

Here's our schedule for the remainder of the book/year:

Wednesday, May 22 @ 1 pm – Type 6

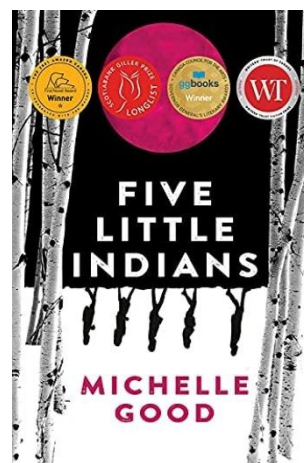
Pastor Amy will be on sabbatical May 23 – Aug 21

Sep – Type 7

Oct – Type 8

Nov – Type 9

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Five Little Indians by Michelle Good, c. 2020; fiction recommended by Lynn

Taken from their families when they are very small and sent to a remote, church-run residential school, Kenny, Lucy, Clara, Howie, and Maisie are barely out of childhood when they are finally released after years of detention.

Alone and without any skills, support or families, the teens find their way to the seedy and foreign world of Downtown Eastside Vancouver, where they cling together, striving to find a place of safety and belonging in a world that doesn't want them. The paths of the five friends cross and crisscross over the decades as they struggle to overcome, or at least forget, the trauma they endured during their years at the Mission.

Do you have a social or environmental justice book that you've read and would like to recommend to others? Send its name to Lynn and she'll include it in the next Towline.

MOTHER'S DAY BONNETS

-This is an invitation for all of You to wear hats & bonnets !

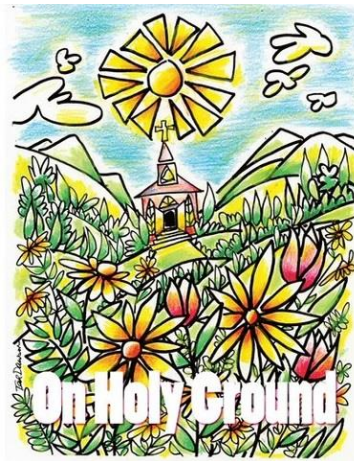
Break out your "bonnets" and wear them on Mother's Day!

BROTHER INK CARTRIDGES



The church no longer has a Brother printer, but we do have some unused cartridges. Please call the church office if you'd like to claim them. LC75M magenta, LC75C cyan, LC75BK black (two)

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING – PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 19



The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will

help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 19

Wear red!

THE EARTH SAYS THANK YOU



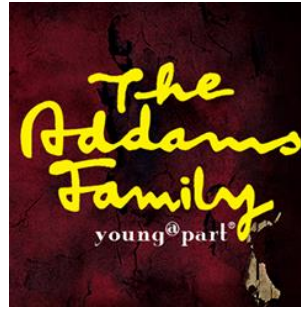
Thank you to everyone who came out after church on Earth Day Sunday, April 21, with gloves and clippers to remove invasive ivy and blackberry vines strangling trees in our back acreage. We hardly put a dent in the task, so the rest is for another day... feel free to continue what we started.



DOWNSTAGE CENTER SPRING 2024 "ADDAMS FAMILY YOUNG AT PART"

Ian is going to perform on a stage! Do not miss that opportunity and get your tickets here:

<https://www.hi-liners.org/tickets.html>



In the kooky, upside-down world of the Addams Family, to be sad is to be happy, to feel pain is to feel joy, and death and suffering are the stuff of their dreams. Nonetheless, this quirky family still has to deal with many of the same

challenges faced by any other family, and the spookiest nightmare faced by every family creates the focus of Lippa, Brickman, and Elice's musical: the Addams kids are growing up. The Addamses have lived by their unique values for hundreds of years, and Gomez and Morticia, the patriarch and matriarch of the clan, would be only too happy to continue living that way. Their dark, macabre, beloved daughter Wednesday, however, is now an eighteen-year-old young woman who is ready for a life of her own. She has fallen in love with Lucas Beineke, a sweet, smart boy from a normal, respectable Ohio family — the most un-Addams sounding person one could be! And to make matters worse, she has invited the Beinekes to their home for dinner. In one fateful, hilarious night, secrets are disclosed, relationships are tested, and the Addams family must face up to the one horrible thing they've managed to avoid for generations: change.

Be aware this script includes morbid/macabre references, mention of animal cruelty, pretend violence, and toxic relationship behavior. These references are generally for comic effect to demonstrate that the Addams are "unusual".

Performance Schedule

- Friday, May 3, 7:00pm
- Saturday, May 4, 7:00pm
- Sunday, May 5, 4:00pm

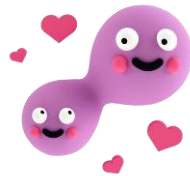
- Friday, May 10, 7:00pm
- Saturday, May 11, 2:00pm
- Saturday, May 11, 7:00pm
- Sunday, May 12, 4:00pm

- Friday, May 17, 7:00pm
- Saturday, May 18, 2:00pm
- Saturday, May 18, 7:00pm
- Sunday, May 19, 4:00pm



May Birthdays

Belinda Allender	05/16
Joan Andresen	05/23
Nancy Barrie	05/25
Dawn Elwell	05/26
Jill Erickson-Keeney	05/29
Madison Forhan	05/22
Luka Pangelinan	05/30
Yoko Sakai	05/05
Megan Sheppard	05/21
Siobhan VanBergh	05/23
Mack Van Wyk	05/02
Janet Watkins	05/25



May Anniversaries

Tomio & Yoko Sakai	05/07
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If you don't see your May birthday or anniversary on this list and would like to be included, please let Weronika know at weronika@npucc.org or 206-824-1770.