

April 2025



**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

Church Office:

Robbie Gilchrist
office@npucc.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
11:45 am-2:30 pm

Wednesday
8:45 am-2:30 pm

THE TOWLINE

NPUCC's Monthly Newsletter

"Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Lord"

—Psalm 118:26a

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Throughout this Lenten season we have been studying the Psalms, and we heard a good word from our Designated Conference Minister, the Rev. Phil Hodson recently. Now as we approach April we might be wondering, why is it not Easter yet? The trees are blooming, the daffodils are bobbing their heads in the wind, and yet Easter is not here yet. It actually lines up with the Orthodox calendar for once.

Yes, we would often like to just turn the page, jump ahead to the good parts. For us the good parts might mean chocolate egg cremes, Easter flowers and Resurrection. But from my vantage point at the end of March, we are still in Lent, we still have some weary roads to traverse before we arrive at Easter Morning on April 20th.

Rev. Phil Hodson encouraged us in our visioning event and again in worship on March 23rd, to lean into what he sees as the four table legs of the church: Evangelism, Discipleship, Mission, and Care. He noted that we care really well for each other at this church (Amen!) and that we are doing some things that speak to mission and discipleship. The biggest growing edge for all UCC churches though is evangelism. Sharing the good news, inviting friends to be in our worship space or part of our service projects; making sure that our wider community knows who we are and why we are here—it can be hard for us.

I don't have any pat answers how to fix this "evangelism problem" in our denomination, but I can encourage you all to invite a friend to worship, or to our community meal on April 22, or one of our remaining Lenten Lunches (Weds. April 2 & 9, respectively at Noon). If you are in conversation with someone and they are concerned about the times we are living in and if they say they feel

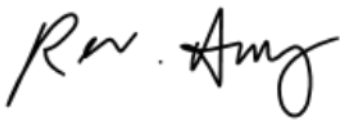
disconnected from community right now, that is your chance to say, “well, why not join me at church?” And then share the reasons why you choose to be here.

My hope is that NPUCC will continue to be a welcoming place for people where the message of hope is found. I hope that we continue to serve our local community (CROP Hunger Walk is coming May 4!), stand up for creation justice, and those sojourners in our midst.

For Holy Week we will have three events unique to this time of year—the first is the Maundy Thursday service with communion on Thursday, April 17th. The second is a Good Friday Bible Study, which will focus on how the 4 different gospels frame the death of Jesus. The third is adorning the cross on Holy Saturday, with fresh flowers from your gardens. Information about all of these gatherings can be found within this newsletter.

I look forward to traveling with you all the way to Easter morning as your pastor.

In Hope,



April Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 7 pm
- Bibles & Brews: Friday, April 18, 7 pm

IN-PERSON:

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- Lenten Soup Lunches: Wednesdays, April 2 & April 9, Noon, Fellowship Hall
- All-Church Outdoor Work Party, Saturday, April 12, 9am to Noon
- Palm/Passion Sunday Service: Sunday, April 13, 10 am
- Adorning of the Easter Cross, Saturday, April 19,
- Mission Mile: Saturday, April 19, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Easter Sunday Service, Sunday, April 20, 10 am
- Community Meal, Tuesday, April 22, 4:30 –6:00 pm
- Enneagram: Tuesday, April 23, 1 pm, Fireside Room
- PNCUCC Annual Meeting, April 25-27, Yakima

We encourage you to wear a mask if you have a cold or cough. If you have symptoms or do not feel well, please stay home and join us on Zoom. Masks are available at church if needed. Thank You!

Holy Week



PALM SUNDAY ~ April 13th

Join us in person or on Zoom at 10 am.

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ April 17th

The service will be at 5 pm in the Sanctuary, in person only.

GOOD FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ April 18th

7:00 pm on Zoom

ADORNING OF THE EASTER CROSS ~ April 19th

EASTER ~ April 20th

Join us in person or on Zoom at 10 am.

Hot-cross buns & cinnamon rolls during coffee hour!

CELEBRATE EARTH!

Because Earth Day is two days after Easter and the same day as our Community Meal, our Green Team has decided to celebrate



God's Creation on Sunday, May 11th. Please join us for Mother Earth Day Sunday in May!

THANK YOU!

Normandy Park United Church of Christ

\$575.00 and 232 items

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 9, 2025

Alison Reese
Alison Reese
Executive Director
Tackle Hunger: Home of the
Souper Bowl of Caring

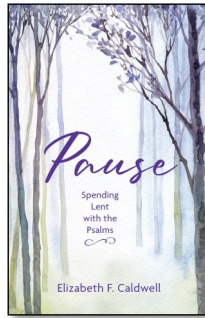
NO LUNCH BUNCH IN APRIL!

We will not be having a Lunch Bunch meet up in April. Instead, you are invited to the Wednesday, April 2 Lenten Soup Lunch at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

LENTEN SOUP LUNCHESES RUNNING WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 2 – APRIL 9 @ NOON

We will continue meeting with a church committee providing soups and bread to share before we start our lesson.

Our reference book is Pause – Spending Lent with the Psalms by Elizabeth F Caldwell.



ALL-CHURCH OUTDOOR WORK PARTY SATURDAY, APRIL 12 FROM 9AM-12PM

We'd love your help for our spring clean-up of our beautiful church grounds! Bring yourself, your tools, your energy and your smiles! Heck, bring a family member, a friend, or a neighbor even. We won't turn any helping hands down. Coffee, water, and healthy snacks will be provided! **Questions?** Call/text Susan Sasis.

We look forward to seeing everyone who can make it! Thank you!

BIBLE & BREWS — GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18 @ 7 PM

ONE NIGHT ONLY!! Our next meet up will be on Good Friday, April 18 at 7 pm. We will be diverging from our book study and instead will be comparing the crucifixion stories in each of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. *You don't need to be a regular Bible & Brews attendee to join this special study!*

ADORNING OF THE EASTER CROSS— SATURDAY, APRIL 19 FROM 10AM-1PM

Enjoy some fellowship and flowers on Holy Saturday, April 19. You are invited to bring your



choice of greenery and flowers (ideally from your yard) to adorn the Easter cross as we have in previous years. You can join us anytime between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Please bring your own clippers and it is suggested that you bring your flowers

MISSION MILE— SATURDAY, APRIL 19 @ 1:30 PM

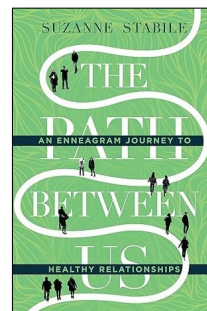
On a special day and time, SATURDAY, April 19 @ 1:30 pm, come and join Bob in racing slot cars in the Fellowship Hall. Fun is had by all!



COMMUNITY MEAL— TUESDAY, APRIL 22 @ 4:30—6:00 PM

Come and help with the Community Meal on Tuesday, April 22 beginning at 4:30 pm.

ENNEAGRAM – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 @ 1 PM



We are using The Path Between Us: An Enneagram Journey to Healthy Relationships by Suzanne Stabile and its study guide to continue our study of the enneagram.

~~~SAVE THE DATE!~~~

2025 DES MOINES/HIGHLINE CROP HUNGER WALK

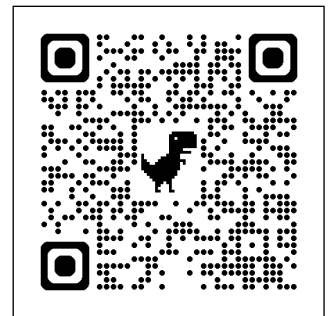
Sunday, May 4 at 1:00 pm starting in the courtyard of Des Moines U Methodist

This will be NPUCC’s 36th CROP Walk—36 years of walking and partnering with CWS and folk all around the world. We partner with communities here and abroad to find sustainable and just ways



to curb hunger, poverty, and displacement. CWS is often the first responder to disasters—whether it be floods, fires, earthquakes. CWS focuses on community needs—clean water, just and sustainable farming practices, schools, and day centers for kids. NPUCC raises funds and hope as we walk alongside our neighbors from Southminster Presbyterian and Des Moines U Methodist. 25% of what we raise goes to our Des Moines Area Food bank. 75% goes to CWS.

Because of cuts to government aid, this year’s Walk is so important. You may donate online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/normandy-park-ucc>, by check made out to CWS/CROP, cash to any walker, or by using this qr code.



Ask Alice or Lynn if you have questions on how to donate or join the NPUCC team. Lynn is happy to help with online questions.

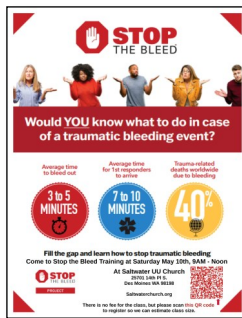
Thank you for fighting hunger here and all over the world.

Alice & Lynn for the Des Moines/Highline CROP Hunger Walk

“STOP THE BLEED” EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

Learn how to recognize and control life-threatening bleeding until professional help arrives! Come to the Stop the Bleed class on Saturday, May 10th, 9 AM to noon at Saltwater UU Church: 25701 14th Pl. South, Des Moines.

Practice techniques with new friends from other congregations.



There is no charge for the class, but please [click here to sign up](#), so we can estimate how many will attend.

“WICKED”

A dozen or so of us, including most choir members, gathered after church on Sunday, March 16 to watch “Wicked” on our big screen in the Fellowship Hall. Christian Education provided sparkling water and popcorn but thank you to everyone else who brought something to share... especially Denene and Cindy for lunch! Now we are looking forward to planning a similar event for the next part of this story. *Pictured are Denene and Cindy – “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”.*



April Birthdays

Cindy Dow	4/2
Shannon Thomas	4/2
Rev. Amy Hitchens	4/11
Barbara Gregg	4/15
Samuel Watson	4/21
Jane Armstrong	4/26
Michael Armstrong	4/26
Azure Allender	4/28

April Anniversaries

Nancy Knudsen & Warren Nedved	4/2
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***If you don't see your April birthday or anniversary
on this list and would like to be included,
please contact the church office at
office@npucc.org or 206-824-1770***