

**February 2025**



**Normandy Park  
United Church of Christ**  
19247 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S  
Seattle, WA

(206) 824-1770

[www.npucc.org](http://www.npucc.org)

**Pastor:**

Rev. Amy Hitchens  
[amy@npucc.org](mailto:amy@npucc.org)

**Music Accompanist and  
Choir Director:**

Cindy Dow  
[cindy@npucc.org](mailto:cindy@npucc.org)

**Church Office:**

Robbie Gilchrist  
[office@npucc.org](mailto: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

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I hope you all have had a chance to watch or read Episcopal Bishop Budde's sermon at the National Cathedral by now. If you haven't, you can read it here: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jan/24/bishop-mariann-edgar-budde-sermon-that-enraged-donald-trump>

I appreciate her courage (it fits so well with our sermon series!) and her prophetic voice. Like many of us seminary trained pastors, she was taught to have the newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other (a teaching of Karl Barthe). As you may guess too, it is no easy thing for a pastor to speak truth to power—whomever that power or principality may be.

I know that every week, just as Bishop Budde does, I work on my sermon diligently—studying, listening to podcasts, trying on conversations with other clergy and with my spouse. I use my daily walk with the dogs to process my thoughts---and all of it is a form of spiritual practice. A sermon doesn't just arrive and yet sometimes it does. A sermon is not easy to write or to give and yet sometimes the words appear, or the segway happens, or the joke emerges just at the right time. For me, the writing, the sharing, the giving, is all Spirit infused. And some weeks, the Spirit is more present than others!

So as the work of reading the newspaper gets harder and the realities of our world feel grimmer, let us not to look away from the realities of our world. Let us stay engaged, stay informed, and lead with love and courage.

Our neighbors and ministry partners can't afford to have us be like ostriches right now. The most vulnerable in our community still need people to volunteer at the severe weather shelter, to support the food bank and Hospitality House, to assist those who might be on the brink of despair. This is a fragile and fraught time for our LGBTQ+ siblings in Christ. This is a challenging time to call ourselves Christians when others would like to co-opt our religion—rejecting

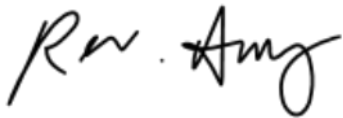
compassion and replacing it with vengeance, replacing God's steadfast love for something that looks a lot like hatred.

Our challenge is to not return hatred with hatred. Hard for us humans, but what Jesus asks, we try to do! In Luke 6:35-36 Jesus says, "Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

This month we have opportunities for you to show up and do good. We get to remember founding member Lee L. this month. We get to stuff and prep hygiene kits and period packs on 2/2. We get to raise money for the Des Moines Area Food Bank with the Souper Bowl of Caring on 2/9. And SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 1 we will be meeting with our Conference Minister, Rev. Phil Hodson for a day of visioning and exploration regarding the future story of our church and the work of the Spirit in and amongst us.

Keep your eyes peeled in your email in box for more survey questions for the visioning event. And let's keep our eyes trained on Jesus. For Jesus is our way, our truth and our life.

Peace,



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## February Calendar of Events

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

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am
- Church Council meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 7 pm
- Bibles & Brews: Friday, February 21, 7 pm

**IN-PERSON:**

- Sunday Worship Services: 10 am, Sanctuary
- Lee Larson Memorial Service, Saturday, February 1, 2 pm
- Worship Committee Meeting, February 9, Following Worship, Library
- Souper Bowl of Caring, February 9
- Book Discussion – Living Resistance: Tuesday, February 11 & 25, 1pm, Fireside Room
- Parish Care Meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 1pm, Fireside Room
- Guest Preacher: Rev. Allysa De Wolf, Sunday, February 16
- Mission Mile: Friday, February 21, 5 - 10 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Enneagram Meeting, February 26, 1pm, Fireside Room

*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!*

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## GIVING STATEMENTS

End-of-the-year giving statements were sent out in January. Please let Lynn know if you didn't receive yours or you need a copy.

## CHRISTMAS FUND UPDATE

Thank you to our generous congregation for donating \$830 to this worthwhile fund that has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

## FEBRUARY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR HOSPITALITY HOUSE

February is our month for In-kind donations for HH. Their current needs include headscarves, hairbrushes, hair combs, deodorant, body wash, toothbrushes, accordion folders, vinyl gloves (M,L), HP Office-Jet 902xl ink (*all colors*), bleach, dish soap, sugar, coffee, packaged snacks, Trader Joe's and McDonald's gift cards. The heart baskets will be out to remind you in the Narthex. Lists will be on the welcome table before services. Thank you for supporting the women at Hospitality House!

~~~**SAVE THE DATE!**~~~

### ***Hospitality House's Spring Fling!***

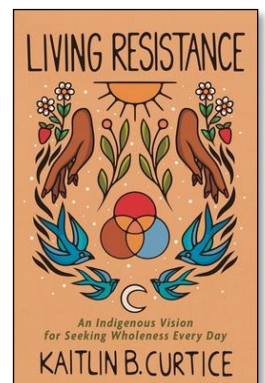


**BOOK DISCUSSION – LIVING RESISTANCE BY KAITLIN CURTICE – TUESDAY, February 11 & 25 @ 1 PM**

We will finish discussing Kaitlin Curtice's most recent book Living

Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking

Wholeness Every Day. Feel free to drop in even though you haven't attended any of the previous meet ups. We will be discussing **Part 4 – The Integral Realm**.



***Following Zoom Worship on Sunday, February 9 (approximately 11:30 am), please come by NPUCC with your donations:***

Souper Bowl of Caring: all food items and monetary donations will benefit the Des Moines Area Food Bank and be part of a nationwide effort to support local food banks (***This will be NPUCC's 30th year!***).

Some ideas for donations: fruit cups, 100% fruit juice, cereal, crackers, hummus, yogurt, trail mix, cheese sticks, clean paper grocery bags.





## EVERDING LECTURE

**Impediments  
to Peace in a  
Wounded Land**

LECTURER  
**REV. DR. RANDY  
WOODLEY**

Distinguished Professor of Faith  
and Culture Emeritus George Fox  
University/Portland Seminary

**TUESDAY  
FEB. 11, 2025  
7:00 – 8:30PM**  
SHATTUCK HALL &  
LIVESTREAM

### IMPEDIMENTS TO PEACE IN A WOUNDED LAND WEBINAR

Randy Woodley (Cherokee, Keetoowah Band) and his wife Edith Woodley (Eastern Shoshone, raised on the Wind River Reservation) founded the [Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice](#) (based in Oregon). They are seedkeepers, educators, and at this point in their life, spiritual elders. They both have a vocation of **supporting people of all races to "decolonize and re-indigenize" through developing relationships to Earth community and the Land.**

**Tuesday, February 11, 7-8:30pm**  
**Iliff School of Theology (in-person + online)**  
**Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley,**  
**"Impediments to Peace in a Wounded Land"**

To Register, please visit:  
<https://www.iliff.edu/sesa/>

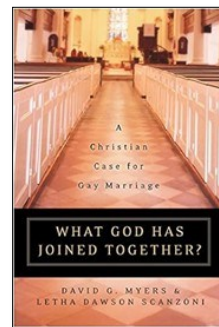
***"Shalom is not a utopian destination;  
it is a constant journey."***

*~ Randy Woodley*

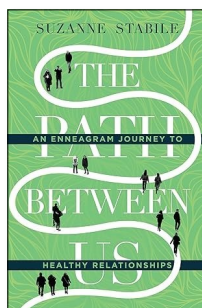
### BIBLE & BREWS — FRIDAY, February 21 @ 7 PM

We have chosen What God Has Joined Together: The Christian Case for Gay Marriage by David G. Myers (Author), Letha Dawson Scanzoni as our next book.

If you wish me to purchase a book for you, please specify hardcopy/paperback and new/used.



### ENNEAGRAM – WEDNESDAY, February 26 @ 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.

### MISSION MILE

On Friday, February 21 from 5 -10 pm, come and join Bob in racing slot cars in the Fellowship Hall. Fun is had by all!



### PEOPLE'S PRAYERS FOR PEACE

The UCC has issued an open invitation for people to offer a prayer to end violence in any manifestation, and to bring about peace. Share your prayers using the [People's Prayers for Peace form](#).



## READING PARTNERS

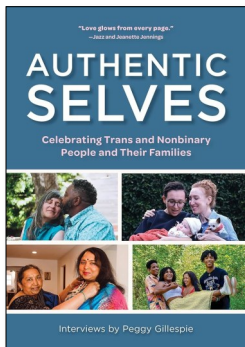
Are you interested in tutoring students K-4<sup>th</sup> grade to help them catch up to their grade level of reading? You can sign up for in-person or online tutoring and pick whether you'd like to do so twice a week with the same student or be a substitute that gives you leeway in scheduling according to your calendar. There are positions available in Des Moines and Seattle. Go to their website at <https://readingpartners.org> to sign up and for more information about the program. If you have questions, contact Sara Albertson, Community Engagement Manager, at [sara.albertson@readingpartners.org](mailto:sara.albertson@readingpartners.org).

## GENTLY USED BOOKS FOR K-4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

Have your children and/or grandchildren outgrown the books that you read with them? Reading Partners collects and gives them to the students as they finish their program. Please bring to church and Lynn will make sure that they get to them. Please no board books or ones that are personalized. If they receive books that they cannot use, they will give them away at Farmer's Markets where they often have booths.

# ~~~SAVE THE DATE!~~~

## SALTWATER UU BOOK STUDY—BEGINNING IN MARCH



Saltwater UU is going to be hosting a book study [\*Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans & Nonbinary People & Their Families\*](#) that NPUCC folks are invited to attend with them. Discussion groups will be via Zoom every other Tuesday from 6-7:30pm between March 11 & May 13. There will be both a mixed identity group and a trans & non-binary only group meeting at those times. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Amy about getting signed up!

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL WOMEN'S RETREAT - NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025

The Pacific Northwest & Central Pacific Conferences of the United Church of Christ join together every three years to offer a spiritual and motivational women's retreat. This year's retreat, Embrace Joy, will take place at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA. They are excited to welcome Rev. Danae Ashley as Worship Leader and Rev. Andrea Rose Cano as Keynote Speaker! They are equally excited to have Linda Srb and Susan Moore returning as Music Leaders! You can learn more about these leaders and more on the [retreat website](#). This open and affirming gathering warmly welcomes all who identify as women. Their aim is to create a supportive and empowering environment where everyone feels valued and included.



# February Birthdays

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Kendra Elwell  | 2/6  |
| Alice McGregor | 2/18 |
| Steve Allen    | 2/20 |

# February Anniversaries

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Lori & Jon Comen | 2/8  |
| Joan & John Held | 2/11 |

If you don't see your February birthday or anniversary  
on this list and would like to be included,  
please contact the church office at  
[office@npucc.org](mailto:office@npucc.org) or 206-824-1770