



The Congregator

Fauntleroy Church United Church of Christ

February 26, 2018

From the Pastor's Desk

*A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted
for her children, because they are no more.*

Jeremiah 31:15 and Matthew 2:18

In the wake of shooting massacres that are becoming ever more common in the U.S., I've become accustomed to the usual pattern of response: forlorn, grieving loved ones; heartfelt and obligatory speeches from politicians, "thoughts and prayers" sent from across the country, the usual arguments that follow about gun control, the exasperated impass that dead end conversation (if you can call it conversation to begin with), and the place of privilege invoked as most of us who feel ourselves in safer contexts move on to other things of life. In the wake of it all, a false peace settles in as the news cycle moves on until...it all happens again.

The predictable pattern is so frustrating – both for the circular route it takes (never really resulting in change, it seems), but also for the way it disrespects the lives of those who've lost loved ones and can't move on.

This past week, something has felt different in the space following the massacre at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Rachel is weeping and will not be comforted. She is weeping loudly and bitterly, claiming her right to be heard and comforted and promised true hope.

I heard Rachel's bitter cries this week in the words of Fred Guttenberg, the father of Jamie Guttenberg who was taken from her family on Valentine's Day. Challenging Senator Marco Rubio face-to-face, you could feel all this father's love, despair, weeping and mourning channeled through strength-fueled words of challenge. I couldn't listen to one word of that man's gut-wrenching speech without weeping myself. The same was true as I watched student, Emma Gonzalez, and others speak so passionately from their own places of pain.

When grief is so publicly on display, I think there's something in our bones that tells us it's improper to look away. I know I felt that this week. I think lots of people did – on both/all sides of political aisles. And, amid this tragedy, I gave thanks for the courage of victims to own their right to be heard and joined in their broken and broken-open places.

When I think about what role people of faith have at times like these, my focus goes toward the broken and broken-open places of life. I think about how God calls us to notice and hold and work in those spaces in ways that break cyclical patterns, always attentive to the bigger picture of God's realm yearning to be born.

Let me be clear: our role is bigger than gun control. Yes, our society must look at how best to prevent tragedies from happening in the future. Absolutely. But, as persons of faith, we have to be about more than just that.

And so today, I wrap my arms around Rachel and I let her sobs heave my body too. I am listening. I am listening to Rachel, and I am listening for God's word of hope, promised to the Rachels of the world. It's an important place to sit, pray, listen, learn and notice God. I invite you to dwell here too, noticing how God is loving and working -- that the broken might become the broken open, and the broken open become the fertile ground where God's realm can thrive.

Blessings, peace, wholeness, *Leah*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**WORSHIP
CHURCH SCHOOL
10:00 AM**

*The
Season
of
Lent*



March 4, 2018

Third Sunday in Lent

"Jesus Unplugged"

John 2:13-22

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Communion

Leah Atkinson Bilinski Preaching

Following Worship

Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

Girls Scout Cookies Sold

March 11, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Lent

"For God So Love the World

That...What?"

Numbers 21:4-9

John 3:14-21

Leah Atkinson Bilinski Preaching

CALENDAR

Saturday – March 3

9-11:00 Homelessness T.F. prepare and serve food at Bartell's

Sunday – March 4

9:00 Adult Bible Study - Library
10:00 Worship – Communion
11:30 Service & Outreach – F. B.
11:30 Family Support Group – Lg.
4:45 SOAR Youth Group – in church building

Monday – March 5

8:30 Altar Guild
6:30 Lenten Series "The Last Week" – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday – March 6

9:00 Fix-It Group

Wednesday – March 7

9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl
6:30 Parish Life Ministry - Library

Thursday – March 8

10:00 Sisters – Lounge
6:30 Ukulele Band - Sanctuary
7:30 Choir

Saturday – March 10

1:00 Stewardship Com – Ackers home

Sunday – March 11

Daylight Saving Time Begins

9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship
5:00 Sojourners – Bjornson home

Monday – March 12

8:30 Altar Guild
6:30 Sisters – tbd
6:30 Lenten Series – Fell. Hall

Tuesday – March 13

5:15 Homelessness T.F. – Library
6:30 Seaside Sisters – Room 416
7:00 LPS Standing Com. – 4th Flr Conf. Room
7:00 Finance Ministry – Fish Bowl

Wednesday – March 14

8:30- LPS Pictures
9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl
1:00 Fellowship Com. – Fish Bowl
6:30 Christian Ed Ministry - Library

Thursday – March 15

8:30 LPS Pictures
7:30 Choir

As an open and affirming congregation, the members and staff of Fauntleroy Church are committed to fostering community among people of all races, cultures and sexual orientation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WESTERN REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT (WRYE)



Two of our youth are interested in going to the **2018 Western Regional Youth**

Event (WRYE) this summer! Youth from the eight western conferences of the United Church of Christ will be hosted by the Hawaii Conference on **June 25-29, 2018, in Honolulu**. This quadrennial event, themed "E Hele Mai I Ka Wai (Come to the Water)," will include keynote speakers, workshops, service-learning projects and other activities. The UCC's 8th to 12th graders will stay at the University of Hawaii on the island of Oahu, where they'll learn, worship, grow, and connect with one another through their Christian faith. To find out more, go to: <https://www.uccwrye.com/>.

BUT FIRST: As Rees and Morgan figure out how WRYE fits with summer plans and what to pack, they'll need your help fundraising for this great (but not inexpensive) event! And we have a delicious idea about how you can support them. YOU are invited to:

Save Sunday, March 25, after worship

WRYE Luau Lunch Fundraiser in Fellowship Hall
Think pulled pork, macaroni salad, maybe a little hula dancing?

This will put the fun in fundraising. This will be one easy, great way to show support for some really great youth.

SERVICE & OUTREACH

FROM THE HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE

Here are two opportunities to help the homeless and low-income folks in our community.

The first is our regular monthly meals. We briefly engaged with the Mary's Place Family Shelter in White Center, but they changed their outside meal policy in a way that no longer made this a fit for us. HOWEVER, we are still providing monthly meals at The Welcome Table in the White Center Bartell's parking lot. Many of you have volunteered here before, but we signed up for a slew of new meals recently and need volunteers. It is fairly uncomplicated -- we make a hot dish and sandwiches in the church kitchen immediately before delivering and serving the meal. Total time commitment is about 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM on a Saturday. In addition to serving the community, this is an excellent fellowship opportunity because you get to work with other congregants, and we have some of the nicest and most interesting people in the world here. It is also a great opportunity for families because children can help (I've brought Zoe before). Sign-up sheets are out on the tables in the Narthex.

The second is Food LifeLine's Mobile Food Pantry at the SeaMar Clinic on Ambaum. This is a pilot program designed to provide fresh produce for low-income diabetic patients of the clinic. Preliminary results have been encouraging. I've participated a couple of times, and it is very well-organized and the other volunteers are super nice. It takes place on the 2nd Thursday and 4th Saturday of the month from 9:30 AM – Noon. Volunteers must be 18+. Pre-registration is required (but totally uncomplicated). Participation also answers the nagging question "where do all those leftover Mercado meals from Starbucks go?" Contact me if you are interested.

Note: both opportunities are outside and have tents in case it is raining. These are partial solutions, and you will be exposed to the elements. If you want any more information, please feel free to contact **Bill Zoellner, 206-402-3226, or wzoellner@yahoo.com**.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

A SPECIAL WAY TO WORSHIP

Worshipping without Walls

Q: But what does the LORD require of us?

A: God has told you, people, what is good: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Or as *The Message* says: "It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't take yourself too seriously—take God seriously."

On Sunday, March 18, 2018, we'll do it again! We'll worship God by "Worshipping without Walls." It's different, but it really is quite simple and quite good:

1. **Wake up:** Gather for donuts and coffee in the narthex at 9:30AM! Sign a few advocacy letters while you're at it.
2. **Worship:** Gear up! Enter the sanctuary at 10:00 for Pastor Leah's blessing and sending.
3. **Walk with God:** Go out! Sing your way right back into the world to do justice, offer kindness, and humbly **serve the wider community from about 10:30-12:30.** (Time commitments vary.)

All the people, all ages, all morning, worshipping without walls:

- At **Food Lifeline** packing groceries for the 250 foodbanks they serve. Last year we sorted thousands of pounds of food in 2 hours!
- At **West Seattle Elementary** hanging children's art, organizing resources, spiffing up the teachers' lounge, saving hours of teacher and custodian time that can be refocused on priorities for the kids.
- With **Friends of Lincoln Park (FLiP)** removing invasive plant species and stewarding the health and beauty of the park's urban forest. The work is fun for all and great for your physical and mental health as well as for our planet.
- Or **on-site** packing backpacks with essential items for our refugee neighbors trying to catch their breath in a new place



WOMEN'S RETREAT: A TESTIMONIAL

"In my 18 years as a member of Fauntleroy Church, I have been to many women's retreats and always look forward to being at Pilgrim Firs. There is something for everyone, whether you are new to the church or joined long ago. You can get acquainted with women you don't know, share time with old friends, relax in a supportive and enlightening environment. We have had retreats in the snow, the sun and the rain and it really doesn't matter. One thing is for sure- you will get to know more about yourself and others and have fun along the way. There is always free time to be by yourself, walk, play music and do wonderful crafts. Fauntleroy women are very talented and always happy to share their skills with others.

We have superb leaders in Leah and Karyn so leave your family and pets behind and spend a weekend with the women of Fauntleroy church."

(Complete information about retreat on insert.) **Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis**



Get the idea? Our whole congregation out on a Sunday morning doing exactly what God has asked us to do for one another. The details of this special day are still unfolding, but what's already clear is that on this Sunday in Lent our hearts, minds, whole bodies and strength will be seriously turned towards God.

Look for project sign-ups soon and then come to church on March 18 awake, excited, AND comfortably dressed for worshipping out in God's world. (Nursery care will be available for infants thru age 4. **Karyn**

ADULT EDUCATION MORE ON IMMIGRATION



There will be an Immigration Lecture Series at University Congregational UCC on March 9 and 10. Sign-up at the Get-Involved table to carpool to the Friday and/or Saturday sessions of *Faith on the Move*. On Friday from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Bob Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General will engage in a conversation entitled *Law and Story: Reframing the National Conversation on Immigration*. On Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy, immigration leader and President of the Pacific School of Religion, will offer three sessions on *Faithfulness Beyond Boundaries: Reading Ruth on the Move*. Order your tickets online through Brown PaperTickets.com or mail-in form--\$50 for both days or \$25 for Friday and \$30 for Saturday. **Mary Code**

SEASONAL ACTIVITIES LENTEN STUDY SERIES



The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem by Marcus Born and John Dominic Crossan

The last week of Jesus' life is a week of great importance for Christians, but one we often fail to fully understand as we hurry from Palm Sunday to Easter. In this five-week study, we will journey through the final days of Jesus' life via accounts from the Gospel of Mark, seeking to better understand how Jesus' passion of life led to his suffering and death. Alongside Borg and Crossan, we'll engage their humble task: "to retell a story everyone thinks they know well and most do not seem to know at all". We'll meet from 7-9:00 PM, in Fellowship Hall. Here is the schedule:

- Feb. 26 Chapter 1-2
- March 5 Chapter 3-4
- March 12 Chapter 5
- March 19 Chapter 6
- March 26 Chapter 7-8

Sign up and order your book at the Get-Involved Table in the narthex by Feb. 25. Questions? Contact **Mary Code** at codemary55@gmail.com or **206-932-6301**. This series will be led by **Pastor Leah Bilinski**. Light refreshments will be served.



Phone: 932-5600/Fax 932-0401
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Fauntleroy Church UCC
 9140 California Avenue SW
 Seattle WA 98136-2556
 February 26, 2018

Sunday Worship & Church School: 10 AM

Office Hours: 8:30-3:30 PM Mon.-Thurs. 8:30-2:30 Fri.

Senior Minister	Rev. Leah Bilinski
Music Director	Bronwyn Edwards
Christian Ed Director	Karyn Frazier
Little Pilgrim School Director	Lorrie Cook
Wedding Coordinator	Rosina Geary
Volunteer & Engagement Coor.	Sarah Ackers
Youth Leader	Kristen Almgren
Nursery Supervisor	Carol Smith
Custodian	Bill McElroy
Financial Assistant	Bonnie Beerman
Financial Assistant	Pat Gedney
Office Manager	Jackie Gould

TIME DATED MATERIAL

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE: TUESDAYS, 1 PM

OVER THE FENCE

GETTING ACQUAINTED

As often as possible, The Congregator will include a brief profile of one person in the church. This is a great way to get to know each other and to see the many ways we are engaged in the life of this church. We'll start with profiling Church Council members and Ministry chairs.

VICKY ELLIS

Hobbies: Yoga,
 Hockey/Baseball
 -mom for my boys

Career: Training
 Manager,
 Maritime Industry



1st friend at Fauntleroy: Sarah Ackers! :) stopped me in the stairwell coming from the nursery with my sons and invited us to Crock Pots.

Favorite thing about Fauntleroy Church: The Fellowship/Friendships and the Music

Where do you sit in the sanctuary: With the choir-front row with the tenors. My boys, **Ethan & Oliver**, sit in the front pew, usually next to **Karyn Frazier**.

In which church groups/ministries/activities are you involved:
 Council, Parish Life Ministry,

Choir, Women's Retreat Planning,
 Crock Pots

Something you look forward to in the coming year: Women's Retreat April 20-22!!!

PEOPLE NEWS

Warren Wahlborg passed away on Feb. 4. Warren was raised in this church and is the son of deceased, long-time members, **Karl & Maxine Wahlborg**.

Jean Herbert, church choir director for many years during the 60's and 70's, passed away on Feb. 7. Jean directed multiple children's and adult choirs and the first Bell Choir started under her direction. Jean would have turned 100 on Feb. 18.

Mike Goldfine had emergency appendectomy surgery two weeks ago, following which he had some complications requiring a second surgery. He should be home recuperating by the time you read this.

WITH SINCERE SYMPATHY

We are sad to announce the death of a parent of two of our members.

Betsy Boyer lost her dad, **Ed McDaniel**, on Feb. 16 and **Molly Seaverns** lost her mom, **Jackie Aschenbrenner**, on Feb. 21. Jackie was 88 years old and still lived in her own home.

Please keep the family and friends of these good folks in your thoughts and prayers.

AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENTARY

All are invited to the northwest premiere of the documentary, "**1948: Creation and Catastrophe**". It is being shown on **Fri., March 26, 7 PM at St. Mark's Cathedral and Sat., March 17 at Edmonds United Methodist Church**. Through personal recollections of both Palestinians and Israelis, this movie reveals the shocking events of the most pivotal year in the most controversial conflict in the world. It tells the story of the establishment of Israel as seen through the eyes of the people who lived it. Both screenings will be followed by a Q&A with the director, Andy Trimlett. Admission is free. Donations are welcomed to help defray the costs. **To attend and carpool to this film on March 26, please sign up at the Get-Involved Table on Sunday mornings.** Or, you can call the church office. Go to www.1948movie.com for more information. To carpool, we'll meet in the church parking lot at 6 PM. Please plan to have dinner beforehand.