



The Congregator

Fauntleroy Church United Church of Christ

June 11, 2018

LIVING OUR OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OUTSIDE THE CHURCH WALLS



Last week, as I was walking from the church to the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse, someone rolled down their car window and as if it was an insult, screamed out of it, "You're gay!" Now, I'm not so quick on the draw to surprises like this, but the two men walking to their car from the YMCA yelled back, "and happy!" There, prominently displayed above us on the church's exterior wall was our new banner, "Be You, Be Proud, Be the

Church" in honor of Pride Month. It, along with our rainbow and "Blessed Ramadan" banners are letting the community of West Seattle know just what kind of Christians we are. We're the kind who have wide-open arms, who follow a God who affirms all God's beloved children as created beautiful and who are willing to stand up beside Jesus and those still labeled as "lesser than" by many in society.

As much as we would like to think of Seattle as a safe haven from hatred for LGBTQ persons, it is not. Even here, I've received a couple phone calls from so-called "Christian" neighbors about our rainbow sign and been taken to task by a few fundamentalist pastors who wanted to officiate weddings in our sanctuary using language about marriage being a covenant only for a man and woman. A couple months ago, we had our rainbow banner stolen from out front. **Bud Schwinger** lovingly stepped forward to replace it before it was well-missed, but these are but a taste of the repercussions that could come.

To all of it, I say, "bring it on", and I hope you do too. Because while our "Open and Affirming" covenant and stance is a wonderful thing to celebrate inside our church walls, I believe God is calling us to better celebrate it outside our church walls too.

That's why, this month, on June 24th, after we share in a glorious "Pride-full" worship where we'll be celebrating and reaffirming our Open and Affirming covenant, I'll again be making my way to the Seattle Pride Parade after worship. The Pacific Northwest Conference of U.C.C. churches is sponsoring both a float and a booth at the end of the parade. Fauntleroy U.C.C. has contributed \$500 toward our U.C.C. presence at the parade – THANK YOU! Along with our fiscal support, any U.C.C. member or friend is invited to participate in the float (details are emerging and will be announced as we get them). Volunteers are also still being sought for the U.C.C. booth at the end of the parade. I have 300 rainbow twizzlers to pass out, and I'd love to share a shift with some Fauntleroy folk. Let me know if you're interested.

Last year, sitting at that booth after making my way through a parade where Christianity was much more prominently represented by hateful protestors than denominations like the U.C.C., this is what I heard from person after person: "Thank you for being here today. It's so nice to know that there are Christians out there who aren't like those other ones, with the signs. Your voice is important. I needed to hear your voice today."

Whether you're able to participate in the Pride parade or not, I hope we'll all consider how we might better live our O&A beliefs more loudly, boldly and prophetically for all out there who need to hear our voice. In prayer that all persons might know their God-given worth,

Leah

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**WORSHIP
CHURCH SCHOOL
10:00 AM**

**JUNE 17, 2018
Happy
Father's
Day!**

Graduate Recognition
Gospel of Thomas Saying 20
Eze 17:22-24; Ps 92:1-4, 12-15
Leah Atkinson Bilinski Preaching

Following Worship
June is Anti-Torture Month
A table will be in the narthex with
letters for signing.

**JUNE 24, 2018
Teacher Recognition
3rd Graders Receive Bibles
Celebrating and Reaffirming
our Open and Affirming
Covenant**
Ps 139:1-18, 2 Cor 6:1-3
Leah Atkinson Bilinski Preaching

Following Worship
Seattle Pride Parade begins at 11
AM at 4th & Union and ends at 2nd
Ave & Denny Way. You can join in
anywhere along the route.

**NOTE: Next Congregator will
go out on July 9.**

CALENDAR

Saturday – June 16

- 2:00 Memorial Service for **Erma Couden** – Horizon House
 5:00 Crock Pots – Reeves home

Sunday – June 17

Happy Father's Day!

- 9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
 10:00 Worship – Graduate Recognition

Monday – June 18

- 8:30 Altar Guild
 7:00 Facilities Ministry - Library

Tuesday – June 19

- 7:00 Council - BRR

Wednesday – June 20

- 9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl
 7-8:30 Faith & Money - Library

Saturday – June 23

- 9:00 Homelessness T. F. – Kitchen
 1:00 Memorial Service for **Karen Tyree** - Sanctuary

Sunday – June 24

- b 0 Adult Bible Study – Library
 10:00 Worship – Teacher Recognition; 3rd Graders Bibles
 11:30 Green Committee – Lounge
 11:30 Worship Ministry – Fish Bowl

Monday – June 25

- WRYE Begins in Hawaii
 Pencil Me In For Kids Drive Begins
 8:30 Altar Guild

Tuesday – June 26

- 6:30 Seaside Sisters – Room 416

Wednesday – June 27

- 9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl
 7:00 Faith & Money - Library

Thursday – June 28

- 10:00 Sisters – Lounge

Sunday – July 1

- Sunday School Summer Schedule
 9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library

Wednesday – July 4

Happy 4th of July! Office closed.

Sunday – July 8

- 9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
 10:00 Worship
 5:00 Sojourners – Stewart/ Butterfield home

Tuesday – July 10

- 6:30 Seaside Sisters – Room 416

Wednesday – July 11

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

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

SERVICE & OUTREACH

MEN'S CLOTHING DRIVE TO FILL PRESSING NEED



Our Homelessness Task Force is responsible, once a month, for preparing and serving

Saturday lunch in the Bartell's parking lot in White Center. Many of you have volunteered to make sure that diners at these weekly meals find nourishing food and hospitality.

In addition to free food, individuals in need can get free clothing and toiletries. **Dick Finnie**, a regular helper behind the free table, dispenses the socks our task force provides but reports that demand for other men's clothing now way exceeds the supply.

To respond, the task force will have a drive **June 17 - July 1** for durable (not dressy) men's shirts, pants, jackets, and shoes. Items should be clean, in good repair, and easy for someone living rough, or in a vehicle, to take care of.

Look for donation bins in the narthex and lobby. Call the church office (206-932-5600) if you need assistance with a sizable donation.

And, if you'd like to help but don't have suitable clothing to donate, checks are welcome, too. They can be put in the offering plate or sent to the church office for the purchase of new underwear. **Judy Pickens**

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a Congregator Crew who comes in twice a month to add labels, sort and count our newsletter to prepare it for mailing? They are **Bonnie Beerman, Rita Gutterud and Bud Schwinger**. Bud also takes it to the bulk mail center. Please thank them!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CAN YOU TEACH SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL?

We still need help to staff our simpler summer Sunday School program. (Thanks to everyone who has already signed up!) This is the perfect time to teach or assist if you don't have time during the regular program year. Helpful things to know..

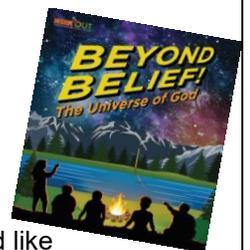
- **NEW! We've added a summer class for Middle Schoolers** led by **Kristen** when she is not away leading camps. She'd welcome an assistant and we'll need leads on 7/8 and 7/15.
- **We also offer 2 multi-age classes: PreK-K and 1-2nd with 3-5th graders in each class to be "learners and leaders."** We need 4 adults each Sunday.
- All materials are ready and lots of support provided. Our curriculum was created for day camps so is overflowing with choices.
- Youth can be helpers and possibly teachers, too! Check with Karyn, and she'll show you how.
- High School youth enjoy worship AND can sign up to be worship readers, ushers, communion servers, musicians and greeters to add their gifts to the summer Sunday worship services. (Email **Sarah Ackers** or **Pastor Leah** and they can get you scheduled.)

Summer Sunday School starts July 1st so let Karyn know right away how you will help or sign up at the Get Involved Table.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER SUNDAYS!

Thanks to **Kristen Almgren**, our marvelous Youth Leader, we'd like

to offer a space for middle school youth to gather on Sunday mornings this summer. They will still attend worship on the first Sunday of the month in order to celebrate communion. On the other Sundays, we'll use our *Beyond Belief* curriculum for good discussions and activities about a faith and love that stretches beyond our imagination. (**NOTE:** We will need teachers on 7/8 and 7/15



while Kristen leads camps. Can you help?)

MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

These two gentlemen joined our church on Sunday, May 27. Please make them feel welcome.

MATTHEW BENEDICT

Matthew is 16 years old and a high school student. His folks are **Gwen & Tom Benedict**. Matthew is an avid musician, who plays the clarinet and saxophone. He recently placed in state music competition. He also enjoys hiking and bouldering. Matt has been attending Fauntleroy Church for about 2 years and enjoys the "vibe". He thought he was a member, but when he found out that wasn't the case he decided to join as he thought it would be an "Interesting experience". We're so happy to have him!

JAESON ALBRITTON

We first met Jaeson when Leah performed a memorial service for his beloved Mother. He has attended the church for a while now and has found it to be warm and welcoming. Jaeson works as a Fiscal Specialist. His hobbies and interests include: music, reading, philosophy, exercise, photography, good food and sports. Some of his favorite books are: The Bible, The Way of the Superior Man and Blink. His interests are many!

F.Y.I.

NO JULY CALENDAR

I will not be sending out a July 2018 calendar. Very few ministries are meeting and not a lot of all-church activities are happening. Please look at the calendar on the first column for upcoming events. Thanks. **Jackie**

THANK YOU!

Girl Scout Troop 40890 is grateful for the support they have received from Fauntleroy Church's community over the past few years.

We have hosted our two annual fundraisers in Fellowship Hall -- our Christmas Cookie Exchange in December and our Valentine Ball in February.

In September, Fauntleroy Church

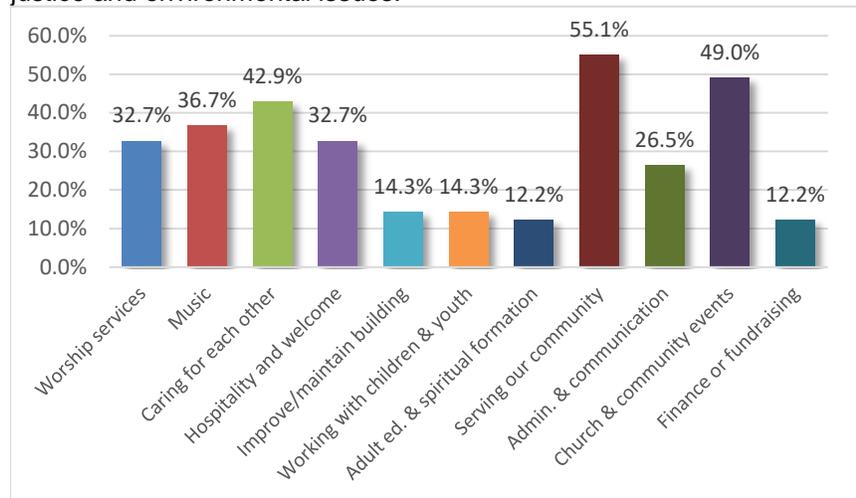
TIME & TALENT SURVEY RESULTS 2018-2019

If you have completed this year's Time & Talent Survey, you already know that the questions asked are about your interests, skills, work styles, and availability preferences, rather than the specific tasks that need to be done. By looking at categories of interests rather than specific tasks, we can identify areas in which our congregation is being called to serve. As of June 4th, 51 individuals from the church have completed the survey. **If you have completed your survey, thank you!** The results are fascinating and I want to share some of them with you.

When asked which specific populations/issues you are interested in working with, the congregation has so far responded with strong interests in helping seniors and the homeless, environmental and green issues, and being involved in social justice. This is exciting to see! Did you know that Fauntleroy UCC has a Homelessness Task Force (HTF), a Global Peace and Justice Committee, and a Green Committee? All three are in immediate need of new members to take on leadership and supporting roles.

When it comes to working with seniors, our church has a couple ways in which we directly help. We have a small, dedicated group of people on our Caring Ministry Committee who regularly check in on the homebound of our congregation. We also have a Family Care Support Group, which provides support and resources to those in our congregation with family members who are making changes in their living situations due to declining health. I wonder, what working with seniors means to our congregation? And, how do we help seniors in ways in which more people can participate? At the same time, I can't help but notice that significantly fewer people are interested in working with children and youth. Given the strong Christian Education programs in our church, I wonder, how do we, as a congregation, provide more support to that part of our ministry?

When asked "which areas of the church are you drawn to as a volunteer", you gave strongest support to "Serving our community". That lines up perfectly with the interests expressed before to help the homeless, seniors, and with social justice and environmental issues.



I am looking forward to receiving more surveys this summer and further analyzing how our interests, passions, and availabilities fall in line with the mission of the church. **Sarah Ackers, Volunteer & Engagement Coordinator**

sponsored our troop's Silver Award by approving the installation of a Little Free Library. Our troop of 9th graders hopes to spark the love of reading among children from pre-K through middle school. We are so happy that our Little Free Library has been used a lot by the children at Fauntleroy Church, Little Pilgrim

School, and YMCA. **We are looking for more books to fill our library. If you have any books for pre-K through middle school that you can donate, please drop them off at the church office.** Thank you!

Rosina Geary, Troop #40890
Leader and Fauntleroy Church
Wedding Coordinator



Phone: 932-5600/Fax 932-0401
 E-Mail: info@fauntleroyucc.org
 Website: www.fauntleroyucc.org

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Fauntleroy Church UCC
 9140 California Avenue SW
 Seattle WA 98136-2556
 June 10, 018

Sunday Worship & Church School: 10 AM

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

TIME DATED MATERIAL

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

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE: TUESDAYS, 1 PM

OVER THE FENCE

PRAYER CHAIN

Please pray for...

Cancer: Paul Pruitt, Larry Tibbetts, Donna (Finney), Bev Fletcher, Jacqueline Thornton, Becky Skilling, Paul Douglas

Health Issues: Kevin Glandon, Ron Maynard, Vicki Black, Julie Fulford, Valerie Pifer, Ed McBee, Ruthi Jensen-Larsen, Bettie Dunbar, The Lane Family and Amimu.

Loss of a loved one: Jenny & Gordy Mandt, Sue Haughton
General Support: Mary Margaret Pruitt

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Thomas Lavoie, will graduate from the University of Oregon on June 17. His goal is to work for a video production company

Whittaker Seaverns, graduated from Bowdoin College in Maine, with a degree in Economics and a minor in Biology. He accepted a job in Washington D.C. and began on June 11.

Charlie Sawyer, graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. He is working as a medical assistant in California to get experience in a medical setting while he decides if he truly wants to become a doctor.

And, last but certainly not least, **Blake McAndrews**, will graduate from Kindergarten this year and plans to continue on to 1st Grade in the fall.

IN MEMORIAM

Erma Couden

January 13, 1915 – May 24, 2018

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of long-time church member, **Erma Couden**. She and her husband, **Elliott** (deceased), were very active in this church for many years and she will be sorely missed. A service in her memory will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2 PM, at Horizon House, where Erma lived for several years. Please keep her friends and family in your prayers during this difficult time.

NARTHEX DOOR IS BEAUTIFUL!

Phil Sweetland, with a little help from some friends, has refinished the outside door into the sanctuary and installed new hardware. It looks great! Phil did the bulk of the work, but had help from **Dean Tucker** and **Cathy Phillips**, who spent one whole day helping get the hardware attached, as well as **Sue Haughton**, who painted the outside surround trim. Phil took the kick plates home and sanded and refinished them too.

Thank to you all! It not only looks fabulous, but it saved the church some money too!

A WARM WELCOME AND A GRATEFUL "THANK YOU!"

Fauntleroy Church is blessed with a wonderful team of staff who keep things plugging along on a day-to-day basis. This month, we reluctantly say goodbye to one of our two faithful Financial Assistants, **Bonnie Beerman**. Well, actually, it's not really a "goodbye" since Bonnie is also one of our faithful church members, but she will be retiring from her weekly counting, recording, depositing and reporting duties. Please join me in saying a big "thank you" to Bonnie for her six years of service to Fauntleroy Church in this capacity!

Though we will miss seeing Bonnie regularly in the office, the Personnel Committee and I are happy to announce that church member, **Aimee Pinckney**, has accepted the position and is ready to pick up the baton from Bonnie and keep running. While Aimee has participated in other areas of the life of our church, I hope you'll join me in welcoming her to this new area of service to our congregation!

Pat Gedney, our other Financial Assistant, and **Jeff VanGilder**, our Church Treasurer, look forward to working closely with Aimee, and the rest of the staff welcome her as well!

Blessings, **Leah**