



The Congregator

Fauntleroy Church United Church of Christ

November 26, 2018

"Here for Good" Capacity Building Campaign



Campaign Pledge Sunday is on **December 16** for the "Here for Good" Capacity Campaign (please note the change of date). We are two thirds of the way to our goal of \$1 million. It is through early donations to the campaign that we have been able to complete the much needed repairs on our steeple. As the pledges come in, we reflect on a couple aspects of the campaign that are meaningful to us as a caring congregation. First, it is through a successful campaign that we will achieve better fiscal stability for our church. Secondly, when everyone gives a pledge (large and small) we bond more tightly with respect for each other as a congregation.

As we look towards the exciting future we have together as a congregation, it is important we are not held back financially. Our historic building has maintenance needs that cannot be presently supported by our general operating budget and interest rates are rising on our mortgage from the remodel of our church ten years ago. In addition, we need to grow our spiritual leadership to have the capacity for all of the ministry we do in our church and in the community. It is through a successful campaign that we create the financial space in our general budget to not just afford the much needed Associate Pastor position, but also dream of what we can do without that additional burden weighing us down.

While achieving our financial goal of \$1 million is important, our true goal is to advance our mission. In order to put ourselves in a position to do that, we would like to see everyone's involvement through pledging/donation for the campaign. We appreciate our church because we work together for a common mission. Our Counsel and Ministries work in concert and are transparent to assure us that we advance our mission together. We celebrate and faithfully problem solve together. We also vote together on significant elements of our collective life. Our campaign is no different. It is together, through everyone's investment, that we will grow our capacity for ministry.

The total funds required to accomplish our goals is \$1,000,000. The money raised in the campaign has thus far funded the immediate need of **Steeple Repair** (\$105,000). Campaign funds are also providing seed money for a new **Associate Pastor Position** (\$90,000), a long-term building **Maintenance Reserve** (\$150,000), and the elimination of our **Mortgage** debt from our 2008 remodel (\$655,000). Pledges can be paid over a 3-year period.

You can pledge and donate online on the church website: <https://www.fauntleroyucc.org/capacity-campaign>, but we hope you will also plan to join us for the *Here for Good* Capacity Building Campaign Pledge Sunday on December 16. On that day, the pink Advent candle signifying "joy" will remind us of God's determination to come and live among us, that we might together know our fullest potential. May our shared campaign pledges be one real and moving expression of that potential.

Thank you very much for your consideration, "Here for Good" Co-Chairs **Laura Grit and Glenn Seaverns**

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**WORSHIP
CHURCH SCHOOL
10:00 AM**



December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent
The Spirit of Christmas Past
 Luke 21:25-36
 Reception of New Members
 Communion
 Leah Atkinson Bilinski Preaching

Following Worship
11AM – 4 PM
Alternative Giving Fair
 Fellowship Hall

4-6:00 PM
Cocoa and Caroling

December 9, 2018
Second Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Pageant
 "A Christmas Carol"

Following Worship
The Advent Festival
 Fellowship Hall

CALENDAR

Saturday – December 1

5:00 Sojourners/Crock Pots
Christmas Party – Bjornson's

Sunday – Decmber 2

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
9:15 Rainbow Bells – Small Chapel
10:00 Worship – Communion
Reception of New Members
11-4:00 Alternative Giving Fair – F.
Hall
4:45 SOAR Youth Group

Monday – December 3

8:30 Altar Guild

Tuesday – December 4

9:00 Fix-It Group
7:00 Council – BRR
7:00 Personnel Com. – Library
7-8:30 Associate Pastor Search
Com. – Fish Bowl

Wednesday – December 5

9-12 Baking cookies in kitchen
6:30 Parish Life Ministry - Library

Thursday – December 6

10:00 Knitters/Crafters – Library
6:30 Ukulele Band
7:30 Choir

Saturday – December 8

9-1:00 Christmas Pageant Practice –
Sanctuary

Sunday – December 9

9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
9:15 Rainbow Bells – Small Chapel
10:00 Worship – Christmas Pageant
11:30 Advent Festival – Fell. Hall
6-8:00 Preconfirmation Gathering –
Youth Room

Monday – December 10

8:30 Altar Guild
5:30 Sisters Christmas Party –
Gutterud home

Tuesday – December 11

10-12 Homelessness Task Force
meal prep for Vision House –
Kitchen
6:30 Seaside Sisters – Room 416
7:00 LPS Standing Com. – 4th Flr
CR

Wednesday – December 12

9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl

6:30 Chistian Ed Min. – Library
7:00 Finance Min. – 4th Floor CR
7:00 Assoc. Pastor Search Com. -
BRR

Thursday – December 13

10:00 Knitters/Crafters – Library
10:00 Sisters Christmas Party - tbd
6:30 Adult Bell Choir
7:30 Choir

**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.**

SEASONAL ITEMS

VARIETY OF NONPROFITS SET FOR ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR

The third
annual **West
Seattle**



Alternative

Giving Fair has drawn a wide variety of non-profits, all offering gifts that keep on giving. The fair will be **Sunday, Dec. 2, 11 AM – 4 PM** in Fellowship Hall. Several will be familiar and some will be coming for the first time. Expect to find Real Change, the Tiny Homes Project, Reading With Rover, and Mary's Place, plus 18 others.

In addition to appealing to the wider community, this fair is your opportunity to support nonprofits traditionally found when we've had a giving tree, including Safeway gift cards for immigrant school families and warm hats and gloves for those who are homeless.

Bring your checkbook to shop for those on your gift list right after worship or plan to come in the afternoon. And, do alert friends and neighbors to this true-spirit-of-the-season event. **Judy Pickens**

SOAR YOUTH GROUP EVENT

On **Dec. 2**, join **Kristen** for a great gathering with the youth from Plymouth Church downtown. We'll leave after worship and return at about 3 PM. What a great way to start our Advent Season! Then, stay tuned for more Christmas fun with Christmas Ships, gift exchanges, fellowship and fun!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, Dec. 2, 4:30 PM – Around the Neighborhood



We're going caroling this year! All are invited to join in!

We'll gather in the narthex at 4 PM for some hot chocolate and to warm up our voices. Then, from 4:30-6 PM, we'll be singing as we walk around the neighborhood. At 6 PM, those who wish can eat at Joe's! We can't make a reservation on a Sunday night but, a few people will be heading there for dinner with an open invitation to all who want to join them!

ADVENT FESTIVAL

Sunday, Dec. 9, following worship and the Children's Pageant, the fun continues with our Advent Festival! **Carolyn Tucker** and friends will make delicious stone soup for us to enjoy, and the Parish Life Ministry will host holiday craft and activity stations for all ages. Be sure to put it on your calendar and plan to stay a while for this festival of fun, food, and fellowship. Please sign up at the Get Involved Table if you can help with festival setup, cleanup, or activities.

Sarah Ackers

YOUTH CAMPS

MID-WINTER RETREATS

Registration is now open for the Conference Mid-winter Retreats at Pilgrim Firs! The theme for the weekend is



"Spiritual Awakenings, which will focus on spiritual practices and awakening to the presence of mystery and God found within and around us.; **Pastor Leah** will lead the programming for middle school and our Conference Minister, **Rev. Mike Denton**, for the high school group! It's going to be incredible! Here are the details:

Dates: January 18-20 (for both groups)

Time: 7 PM Friday – 1 PM Sunday

Ages: Middle School: Currently in grades 6-8 and High School: Currently in grades 9-12.

Cost: \$140

Registration Deadline: January 5th.

Questions, please contact me. It's lots of fun! **Kristen**

SEASONS OF THE CHURCH

FOLLOWING THE STAR TO EPIPHANY

The day of Epiphany (Jan. 6) commemorates the coming of the Magi to visit the Christ-child (a story meant to honor Jesus' physical manifestation to all the people of the world). As the story goes, the Magi followed the great star to Bethlehem, where they knelt down before Jesus and paid him homage, offering great and costly gifts.



For the last three years, one of the ways in which we have celebrated Epiphany was by receiving our own "stars" to follow. Every person will be invited to take a random star from a basket, then discover your "star word" for 2019. You will be invited to let your word dwell in you, bother you, confound you, draw you into prayer and, ultimately, guide you to a birthing place.

Once again, on Sunday, January 6, we'll also be inviting a few people to share reflections on how they've dwelt with their word this past year and where it has led them. If your word made an impact on you and you wouldn't mind sharing about how it did so in worship, please contact me.

Christ's peace, Leah.

SERVICE & OUTREACH

IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE



On Nov. 18, the Immigration Task Force asked the congregation to join us in writing letters to advocate for the immigrant

population. We felt called to take action as new rules are being proposed, which would bar those seeking to build their lives in the US from obtaining their green cards if they receive cash assistance by way of TANF or SSI. Essentially, this privileges the rich in the immigration process, leaving out the most needy and vulnerable.

I left the gathering feeling buoyed by hope. We received over 40 handwritten letters to be sent out to DHS

MUSIC THAT FEEDS OUR SOULS Christmas Concert, December 16 at 4 PM

For nine consecutive years, beginning in 2007, I sat alone at a piano in the center of SeaTac Airport's Main Terminal and played for 7 hours a day, for the 9 days prior to Christmas. I was always drawn to the dark colors of sad, minor keys and music poured spontaneously from my heart into the enormous and cavernous space around me, as I tried to pick up on the energy of excited, anxious, weary (insert a long list of adjectives here!) travelers dispersing to all corners of the globe to be with loved ones. While there were surely many joyous moments, the strongest recollections I will carry with me for the rest of my life were of the broken people carrying the burdens of terrible loss, who flocked to my piano for compassion, comfort, a listening ear, a hug, and solace and musical balm for their pain. They sat on my piano stool with me, cried on my shoulder, sang with me, and requested songs that brought back memories of their lost friends and family. These scenes were no Joy to the World, but rather the plaintive cries of the Coventry Carol. I was so deeply moved by these beautiful souls, sharing their life stories with me, a total stranger. But the glue that held us all together on those dark December mornings was the music. Ah, the music!



This year, Christmas will come around and many of us will be struggling with loss in our lives. And some of us will be celebrating the exciting milestones of a new marriage, or the arrival of a child, or the beginning of a new phase of our lives such as coming home from college at Christmas for the first time. The familiar tunes of Christmas weave through the tapestry of our lives and ground us in tradition as we bond with our family and friends and celebrate and remember and we sing... How we sing!

On Sunday, Dec. 16, 4 PM, the Peace Lutheran Church Choir will join our Chancel Choir for our annual Christmas Concert. We're calling it the "Christmas Alleluias" -- we will be singing Randall Thompson's beautiful "Alleluia", composed in 1940, as Thompson responded to world events and the second world war. This piece is considered a classic, and I am excited to bring this wonderful experience to our choirs and our audience. We will also sing the upbeat and Celtic "Gaelic Alleluia" and complete our Alleluias with the rocking "Midnight Alleluia" with a brass chorus. I hope to include our littlest trumpeter, **Carly Reeves!** To the Alleluias we will add some contemporary songs that tie the story of Christmas into our everyday lives -- "Somewhere in Your Silent Night" and "Make Room." Add to the mix three ensemble songs adding color and texture to the sounds of our choirs, and to round off the program there will be lots... of... carol... singing! Yes indeed, bring your best voices and let's raise the rafters of Fauntleroy Church! Our concert is free, and all are welcome. This is music that will feed our souls during the Christmas season and no matter who you are and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

As a final gift to you all, I have posted the tracks from my "Arrivals and Departures" CD -- a collection of Christmas music to celebrate my retirement from playing piano at SeaTac airport. Please feel free to download the MP3 files and add them to your iPhone playlists, or share them with friends and family. They are on my home page at www.bronsongs.com - right-click on the links and save. Enjoy!

Bron Edwards

and numerous letters submitted online! Even the kids got involved, joining their parents in the faithful work of advocacy. It was a joy to see Fauntleroy coming together not only to participate in fellowship with one another but to join in fellowship with the larger church as we work to bring the Kingdom of God on earth as it in heaven. We joined in with God as "The Lord watches over the strangers;

God upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin." (Psalm 146:9). If you weren't able to join us but would still like to let your voice be heard, you can still submit a letter by Dec. 10! <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/#take-action>.

Clayton & Stevi Hamill



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 E-Mail: info@fauntleroyucc.org
 Website: www.fauntleroyucc.org

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Fauntleroy Church UCC
 9140 California Avenue SW
 Seattle WA 98136-2556
 November 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
Acting Associate Pastor	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	Aimee Pinckney
Financial Assistant	Pat Gedney
Office Manager	Jackie Gould

TIME DATED MATERIAL

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE: TUESDAYS, 1 PM

OVER THE FENCE

PRAYER CHAIN

Please pray for...

Cancer: Ron Maynard, Donna (Finney), Lauren Smith, Jacqueline Thornton, Louisa Wagner, Ernie, Mandy Moore and Ernie.

Health Issues: Kevin Glandon, The Lane Family, Bob & Vera Holte, Ev Eldridge, Kersti Muul, Jaeson Albritton, Barbara Lee, Huey Simmons, Jo Garrity, Vivian Belcher, Carolyn Tucker's sister, Barbara, Vicki Weeks, Mandy Sommer and Terry Clements.

General: Our divided country and the Tree of Life Synagogue Congregation

READING TUTORS NEEDED

Reading Partners is calling for volunteers to help students at Highland Park Elementary get their reading skills up to speed. Through our Homelessness Task Force, we support low-income, immigrant students and families at this vibrant school in several ways and here is another opportunity. The school is at 10th Ave. SW and SW Trenton, several blocks east of Westwood Village.

No experience is necessary to be a Reading Partners tutor. The structured literacy curriculum is easy to follow and the program provides training and on-site support. The "ask"

is at least one hour/week between 9 AM and 2:30 PM, Monday-Thursday. You would be working one-on-one with the same student every time.

For more information, visit www.readingpartners.org or look for a flyer on the Get-Involved Table.

THANK YOU!

Heartfelt thank you to the staff and Personnel Committee for the lovely ceremony on Sunday given to me in recognition of my 30 years at Fauntleroy Church. I would have spoken if I'd been able, but I was so touched and moved, I really couldn't. So, along with thanking the staff and Personnel Committee, I want to say thank you to the members and friends of this wonderful church! It has been my pleasure and honor to serve you and this community for all these many years. I also want to thank **David Kratz** for being here and speaking such kind words to me. We worked together for 25 years before his retirement. It was a wonderful ceremony and I definitely felt the love and support in that sacred space.

Jackie Gould

EXTRA COOKIES ANYONE?

When doing your Christmas baking, please consider making an extra dozen for the church freezer. We have lots of seasonal activities when having a cookie is nice. Thanks!

CROP HUNGER WALK TOTALS

The final checks are in for the CROP Hunger Walk, and our grand total is **\$9,923.00!** This is our best year ever and up 10% from our record last year. A special thank you to our top fund-raisers, **Vicki Ellis** with \$1,775, and **MaryAnne DeVry** with \$925.

We had 72 walkers from Fauntleroy, once again our best year ever. With no other congregations willing to manage the walk, Fauntleroy stepped up to the plate. The Seattle walk raised \$13,683 which goes a long way to support our local food banks and hunger in developing countries. That money wouldn't be there without your participation - thank you for a great team effort!

Sheryl Guyon

SAVE THE DATE

Kick off the Advent season with a combined Sojourners/Crock Pot Christmas party on **Saturday, Dec. 1, starting at 5:30 at the home of John and Celesta Bjornson**. Please bring your favorite finger food appetizer or dessert to share with your friends and dust off your favorite Christmas sweater! Join us for a festive and joyful evening as we begin to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. Childcare provided at the church from 5-8 PM.