



The Congregator

Fauntleroy Church United Church of Christ

December 10, 2018

PASTOR LEAH'S REFLECTIONS

During Advent, one of the places to which my prayers are frequently directed are to the homes and dwelling spaces of the grieving. While the rest of us bask in wonder and Christmas spirit as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas, I know that many of you are just doing all you can to hold a holy space at a time when the contrast of past pleasant memories with a duller, emptier present threatens to collapse the walls of the season upon you.

As I think and pray for all whom have lost a loved one, an accustomed way of being and/or sense of self, I am reminded that this season – this season that is marketed as “merry and bright” – is actually for you who are struggling the hardest to feel merry.

God looked down on a world where God's people were in pain, in despair, impoverished of spirit and oppressed by the forces of the world, and God's heart broke. And that is why God chose to come close in the person of Jesus. GOD CAME FOR YOU, and God continues to draw near for you.

If you are doing all you can just to hold up the walls of Christmas this year, may you feel God refusing to let you do it alone. In the deepest of nights, may the holiness wrap you in the embrace you need, right under the natal star.

Remembering that Emmanuel means “God with us,” *Leah*

Yesterday's Pain

Ann Weems

In the godforsaken, obscene quicksand of life,
there is a deafening alleluia
rising from the souls of those who weep,
and of those who weep with those who weep.

If you watch, you will see

the hand of God

putting the stars back in their skies

one by one.

Yesterday's Pain.

Some of us walk in Advent

tethered to our unresolved yesterdays

the pain still stabbing

the hurt still throbbing.

It's not that we don't know better;

it's just that we can't stand up anymore by ourselves.

On the way of Bethlehem, will you give us a hand?

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**WORSHIP
CHURCH SCHOOL
10:00 AM**



December 16, 2018

**Third Sunday of Advent
Celebration Sunday**

The Spirit of Christmas Present
Luke 1:68-80 and Luke 3:7-18
Leah Atkinson Bilinski Preaching

4:00 PM

Christmas Concert

Fauntleroy's Chancel Choir and
Peace Lutheran Choir Celebrate
the Season in Song
Sanctuary

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"The Spirit of Christmas Future"

Luke 1:39-45, 46-55

Karyn Frazier Preaching

**Christmas Eve worship times
listed on next page.**

REMINDER

Don't forget that Sunday, Dec. 16,
is "Celebration Sunday" for our
Capacity Campaign. Please join
us, and please pledge.

CALENDAR

Saturday – December 15

9-11 Homelessness T.F. Lunch
Prep – Kitchen

Sunday – Decmber 16

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT and CELEBRATION SUNDAY

9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship
4:00 Christmas Concert – Sanc.
6-8:00 Preconfirmation Gathering – Youth Room

Monday – December 17

8:30 Altar Guild
5:30 Sisters Christmas Party – Gutterud home
7:00 Facilities Ministry – Fish Bowl

Tuesday – December 18

3:30 LPS Teachers Mtg. – 4th Flr Conf. Room
5:15 Homelessness T.F. - Library

Wednesday – December 19

9:45 Staff Meeting - Library

Thursday – December 20

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

Sunday – December 23

9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship
6-8:00 Preconfirmation Gathering – Youth Room

Monday – December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

LPS Winter Break
8:30 Altar Guild
4:00 Children's Service
7:00 Worship for All Ages
11:00 A Quiet, Communion Service

Tuesday – December 25

Church office closed

Merry Christmas

Wednesday – December 26

Church Office Closed

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

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Join us on **Sunday, Dec. 16, at 4 PM**, when the Fautleroy Chancel Choir will sing with the

Peace Lutheran Choir, celebrating the season in song. The program will feature diverse styles of songs and instruments, ranging from the rocking, "Midnight Alleluia" to Randall Thompson's classic "Alleluia", a choral masterpiece composed in 1940. The Fautleroy Women's Ensemble and other guest musicians will perform Christmas favorites, with plenty of carol singing for everyone.

All are welcome to attend this free concert. A reception will follow in the Narthex.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Hopefully, one of these worship opportunities will work for you and your family.



4:00 PM – Children's Service

An intergenerational worship with the Christmas Story and familiar carols, especially created with children in mind. Milk and Brthday Cake will be served following worship in Fellowship Hall.

7:00 PM – Worship for All Ages

A traditional service that includes the Christmas Story, carols, special music and a candlelight singing of "Silent Night".

11:00 PM – A Quiet Communion Service

A quieter, reflective service that includes the Christmas Story, carols, special music, communion and the singing of "Silent Night" while we close the service in a circle.

CELEBRATING EPIPHANY

On January 6, 2019, we will have a service remembering the story of how the three wise ones followed the star to the Christ child. On this special day, we'll celebrate communion together, listen to the stories of three people



reflecting on how and where a simple word guided them this past year, and then receive a "star word" meant to invite us to our own epiphanies in the coming year. **Leah**

YOUTH CAMPS

MID-WINTER RETREATS



Registration is now open for the Conference Mid-winter Retreats at Pilgrim Firs! The theme is "Spiritual Awakenings", which will focus on spiritual practices and awakening to the presence of mystery and God found within and around us.

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

MINISTRY MINUTES

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY

Highlights from the Nov. 7 Parish Life Ministry meeting:



- Reviewed and updated the Ministry's Purpose and Responsibilities.
- An all-church Trivia Night will be hosted by Crock Pots and sponsored by Parish Life Ministry in February.
- Planned for Advent Festival activities. Hot cocoa and cookie decorating continue with several new ones.
- Reviewed the Fautleroy Fall Festival...what went well and what could have been better.

Sarah

SAVE THE DATE

Trivia Night is coming to Fautleroy on Saturday, Feb. 23. Please mark it on your calendars and look for event details to come in January. Trivia Night is sponsored by the Parish Life Ministry and hosted by Crock Pots. **Sarah**

MEMBERSHIP

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Meet our newest members, who joined the church on Sunday, Dec. 2. If you'd like contact information, please call the church office.

Abby Anderson & Meagan Collins

Abby is a Program Supervisor/Social Worker at a shelter for undocumented, unaccompanied minors. She is a native Washingtonian and loves the mountains and outdoors. After attending school in the Mid-West and living in Latin America for several years, she is so happy to be back here, near family. The church has been important throughout Abby's life. She wants to be part of an authentic, multi-generational community that seeks radical inclusion and supports her in her quest to find ways to live a full, connected and authentic life.

Meagan works as a mental health therapist at an LGBTQ agency in Seattle. Meagan has so many interests. To name a few: she likes to practice yoga, garden and cook soup in her free time, read, listen to music (especially folk). She also loves the outdoors, being anywhere in nature fills her soul, but she particularly loves the ocean and the thick blanketing of snow on the mountains. Meagan lives near the church, so it was convenient, but she was then drawn in by the church's open and affirming stance. She feels Fauntleroy is the perfect place for her for many reasons.

Mary Anne & Scott deVry

Both Scott and Mary Anne are retired. Scott worked for the US Government as a Jet Pilot, instructor, administrator for US Navy Air. He also worked as a Program Analyst for OSHA. Mary Anne was a Nurse/Social Worker in faith-based organizations. Both Scott and Mary Ann enjoy spending time with their three grown children and five grandsons. Scott also like to sail, ski and coach sport teams with his kids. Mary Anne nurtures her "inner self" by reading, doing crossword puzzles and gardening. They were members of Fauntleroy Church in the late 70's/early 80's and both feel this is a homecoming. Mary Anne is especially interested in the church's outreach ministry and social justice issues. Scott enjoys Leah's sermons.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING



On Christmas Eve, the offering will be split in three ways: 1/3 will go to support the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ, 1/3 will go to the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and 1/3 will go to support the ever-growing work and witness of our own Fauntleroy Church.

The Christmas Fund provides assistance to ministers and lay employees of the church who 1) served in settings and situations that made it difficult to obtain financial security in retirement, and 2) still actively serve, but find themselves in emergency situations or financial need that threatens their ability to remain in ministry. Your gifts to the Christmas Fund do much to dispel fear and anxiety in the lives of these individuals who have given so much of themselves to the Church.

The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project promotes justice by defending and advancing the rights of immigrants through direct legal services, systemic advocacy, and community education. Northwest Immigrant Rights Project strives for justice and equity for all persons, regardless of where they were born. NWIRP's legal services are critical to helping thousands of immigrants in Washington State navigate the complexities of the United States immigration system so they can apply for asylum or other forms of immigration protection. Without appropriate legal assistance, the men, women and children served by NWIRP may be less likely to obtain legal immigration status, and more likely to be returned to a country where they face ill treatment, torture, or even death. Access to NWIRP's services can also be a major factor in providing economic and personal security. Please join our congregation in heading Christ's call to care for the immigrant through our giving on Christmas Eve. **(Stevi & Clayton Hamill)**

Kathleen "Kathy" Grainger

Kathy is a retired project manager for an urban redevelopment company. She and her husband, Alan, are the parents of one grown daughter. They are new to West Seattle after living on Bainbridge for 30 years. Kathy enjoys gardening, reading, cooking and is an aspiring knitter! She is also an active community volunteer who loves spending time with friends and family. She deeply appreciates the work of Fauntleroy Church and the UCC. She was involved with the open and affirming process at Eagle Harbor UCC and it's important to her that she be part of a community that welcomes and accepts all people.

Please welcome all of these new members. We are so happy to have them!

rents, so many of our neighbors are struggling and the food safety net these agencies provide is a significant defense against homelessness.

Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, I was able to deliver a check for \$2,000 to the White Center Food Bank just before Thanksgiving. The staff was thrilled - and surprised!

That check included donations to our Thanksgiving offering as well as proceeds from our Morgan Thriftway receipts. When we deposit those receipts in the basket in the lobby, the store gives the church a small percentage back, which we pass on to the food bank. A big thank you to **Bonnie Beerman** for counting and remitting the receipts. Please continue to put them in the basket at the Donation Station in the main lobby to the church/Y offices.

If you missed the Thanksgiving special offering, you can still donate by putting a check in the plate (to "Fauntleroy Church," for "White Center Food Bank"). Thank you for working together to make a big difference for our neighbors in need.

- Sheryl Guyon for the Service and Outreach Ministry

SERVICE & OUTREACH

OUR DOLLARS ENABLE FOOD BANK TO SERVE



Thank you!

The holiday season puts added demands on local food banks because, like all of us, their clients want to put a nice meal on the table. Faced with increased



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
 December 10, 2018

Sunday Worship & Church School: 10 AM

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

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|---|--------------------|
| 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...Kevin Glandon, Ron Maynard, Donna (Finney), Louisa Wagner, Lauren Smith, Ev Eldridge, Kersti Muul, Barbara Lee, Huey Simmons, Jo Garrity, The Lane Family, Vivian Belcher, Carolyn Tucker's sister, Barbara, Vicki Weeks, Marilyn Moore, Mandy Sommer, Terry Clements, Becky and our divided country.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/1 Nancy Patterson
- 12/2 Rob Frishholz
- 12/3 Debi Yeabsley
- 12/4 Bryce Caldwell
- 12/6 John Anderson
- 12/10 Jennifer Casillas, Jeanette Roadruck
- 12/11 Anna Crean, Caroline Decker
- 12/13 Donna DiFiore
- 12/16 Katie Ackers
- 12/17 Adam Moomey
- 12/18 Terry Clements
- 12/20 Jackson Clark
- 12/21 Judy Pickens
- 12/24 Anne Douglas, Larry Pierce, Dorinda Reagan
- 12/25 Carol Karlstrom
- 12/26 Brenda Donner, Chris Hines
- 12/28 Dan Dahl
- 12/29 Bettie Dunbar, Mark Price, Karen Stone

- 12/30 Bron Edwards, Bob Fulford
- 12/31 Rebecca Cate

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/15 Dirck & Marie Armitage
- Kirk Hopkins & Chris Nack
- Kurt & Hilary Reeves
- 12/22 Hector Martinez & Jolayne Houtz
- 12/28 Bill & Mitzi Carroll

Happy birthday and happy anniversary to you all! Sorry it's a bit late this month, but I hope it was good and will be good!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER



In mid-November, the Fauntleroy Fine Art & Holiday Gift Fair featured 16 local artists selling their original creations. A good time was had by everyone attending. Proceeds of \$2,000+ will go towards the mission of the church. Thanks to a great committee: **Francis Gifford, Chair, Jo Ann Anderson, Bonnie Berman, Marilynn Bernahl, Pat Gedney, Henry Hossner, Izzy Lewis, Leah Hunkins, Janice Menaul, Judy Pickens and Marilyn Whittendale.**

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Ushers:

- 12/2 #3, Ben Ackers, Captain
- 12/9 #4, Terry Gaddis
- 12/16 #5, Bruce Grynewski
- 12/23 #6, Klem Daniels
- 12/24 4 PM #7, Steve Sundquist
- 7 PM #1, Joel Groen
- 11 PM #2, Glenn Seaverns
- 12/31 #3, Ben Ackers

Greeters:

- 12/2 Yvonne Belshaw & Wendy Cwinar
- 12/9 Angela Gordon & Christina Petty
- 12/16 The Casillas Family
- 12/23 Lydia Shepherd & tbd
- 12/24 4 PM The Stone Family
- 7 PM Judy Pickens & Phil Sweetland
- 11 PM The VanGilder Family
- 12/31 Sue Haughton & Sally Porter

Coffee Hour:

- 12/2 Rita Gutterud & Marilyn Whittendale
 - 12/9 Marlynn Bernahl & Carolyn Tucker
 - 12/16 Pam Ford & Marilynn Bernahl
 - 12/23 Stevi & Clayton Hamill
 - 12/24 4 PM Marilyn Whittendale & Pam Ford
 - 12/31 Joan Wieringa & Baiba Morris
- Thanks so much to you all for giving of your time and talents!