I’ve had a few questions of late about where the United Church of Christ stands on women’s reproductive rights (in particular, the right to an abortion). I began to talk about this subject in my sermon on May 19, but I thought I’d take the opportunity of this Congregator’s front page to say more.

First, I always feel the need to preface these types of conversation with a polity lesson. In the governance of our denomination, local churches like ours have autonomy, as do the members within them. We are not a hierarchical denomination. Our General Minister and President and representative General Synod body speak to us, not for us. Our conference delegates speak to us, not for us. Karyn and I, as your pastors, speak to you, but not for you. So when people are looking for what the U.C.C. believes about particular social justice issues, I can tell them about those things which our national church body or Pacific Northwest Conference church body has stood to affirm belief and support in (via “resolutions” voted upon at the national General Synod gathering every two years or at our conference’s annual gathering), but in most cases, unless Fauntleroy U.C.C. has specifically stood up on a particular issue such as we have with our covenant to be “Open and Affirming” of LGBTQIA persons -- I can only tell inquirers either what our national (or conference) church body believes or what I’ve come to find that most of our church members individually affirm.

I don’t share this short polity lesson as a disclaimer meant to smooth waters with those who believe differently from most of us. I’d say that much of our congregation falls closely in line with the positions our national church body takes on most issues. I share it though, because I think it’s good to 1) recognize all that we cannot claim Fauntleroy Church believes per say, and 2) recognize all that we could take a stand on as an individual local church, should we be moved to add our unified voice to power.

That said, here are some ways the national denomination of the U.C.C. has stood in support of women:

- In 1971 (two years before Roe v. Wade), the U.C.C. passed a General Synod resolution calling for the repeal of all legal prohibitions of physician-performed abortions, citing wide and varied views on when life begins and becomes viable, and lifting up the ways in which laws against abortion disregarded a woman’s right to make healthy choices about her body and contributed to injustice for the poor.
- In 1973, at the next Synod, the U.C.C. affirmed Roe v. Wade, urging pastors of local churches to both support the resolution and work to encourage community education around rights, human sexuality, contraception and available services in furthering community health.
- In 1977, a Synod resolution was passed standing against the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to rule constitutional Medicaid restrictions that limited access by the poor to legal abortion. The U.C.C. called for services to aid the poor in obtaining reproductive healthcare.

Additional resolutions reaffirming previous General Synod actions and seeking to further women’s reproductive rights (including the right to choose) were passed in 1979, 1981, 1987, 1989, and 1991. (I suspect an emergency resolution might also make it to this year’s General Synod). You can read more about all of these U.C.C. resolutions at ucc.org. Simply search for “reproductive (continued on Page Two, Column Two)
Friday – May 31
7:30 Sweet, Sweet Music – F. Hall

Sunday – June 2
9:00 Adult Bible Study - Library
9:30 Rainbow Bells – Small Chapel
10:00 Music Sunday
11:30 Annual Meeting – Fell. Hall

Monday – June 3
8:30 Altar Guild

Tuesday – June 4
9:00 Fix-It Group
7:00 Personnel Com. - Library

Wednesday – June 5
9:45 Staff Meeting – Library
6:30 Parish Life Min. – Fish Bowl

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

Saturday – June 8
6 PM Confirmation Practice – Sanc.

Sunday – June 9
The First Sunday in Pentecost
9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship – Confirmation Celebration/Communion
(No Sunday School)

Monday – June 10
Congregator Mailed
6:30 Sisters – Ranes home

Tuesday – June 11
6:30 Seaside Sisters – Room 416

Wednesday – June 12
9:45 Staff Meeting – Fish Bowl
6:30 Christian Ed Min. – Library
7:00 Finance Min. – 4th Floor C.R.

Thursday – June 13
10:00 Knitters/Crafters – Library
10:00 Sisters - Lounge
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.

(Continued from Page One)….justice” once on our denomination’s webpage.

Why so many resolutions? The short answer is because our faith calls us to be bold in witnessing against injustice everywhere we see it. And when wide and varied beliefs about when life begins are used to dehumanize and traumatize women, turning our bodies into battlefields; when the poor aren’t cared and stood up for as much as an inviable fetus; when the loudest voices of faith cause people to think that all voices of faith stand against them, how can we of progressive faith remain silent?

My colleague, the Rev. Sara Ator Wilcox, attended a reproductive rights rally this past week. Her sign called for sexual education, access to birth control, funding for family planning and a stop to sexual violence. As she moved through the crowd, a woman stopped to tell her she was on the wrong side. Why? Because Sara was wearing a clerical collar, and the woman had never met a pastor or person of faith who wasn’t anti-choice.

Our voice is important. Our voice is needed.

Toward a just world, Leah

HELPING OTHERS

THIRTWAY 1% PROGRAM

We recently received a check in the amount of $247.53, representing sales receipts in the amount of $24,753.

Fauntleroy Church participates in the 1% Cash Back Program, sponsored by the California Ave and Morgan St Thriftway. Simply bring in your receipts and put them in the receptacle at the Donation Station located in the entryway to the Church/Y offices. Bonnie Beerman collects these receipts, totals them and sends them on to the Thriftway Store. They, in turn, send us check for 1% of the total. These funds are then given to our local Food Banks.

Thanks so much for saving and sharing your receipts….and thanks to Bonnie Beerman for her work on this project!

Jackie

NOTE: The next Congregator will be mailed on June 10, followed by one on July 1 and July 22. After that, we will resume our regular mailing schedule of the 2nd and 4th Mondays (Aug. 12 and 26).

SUMMER CAMP

CAMP AT N-SID-SEN

N-Sid-Sen is our conference of U.C.C. churches’ year-round church camp and retreat center located on the shores of Lake Coeur d’Alene in northern Idaho. The name comes from a phrase of the Coeur d’Alene native people meaning “Point of Inspiration.” Below is a list of upcoming camps, which you can learn more about and register for at: n-sid-sen.org

- June 10-15: Work Camp (all ages)—“Working Together”
- July 7-13: Intermediate Camp (for youth going into grades 5-6)
- July 7-13: Jr. High Camp (for youth going into grades 7-9) Pastor Leah will be directing this camp!
- July 14-17: Kids’ Camp (for youth going into grades 2-4)
- July 14-20: Senior High Camp (for youth going into grades 10 through entering college)
- July 19-21: Emerging Adult Camp
- July 28-August 3: Family Camp Session 1
- August 4-August 10: Family Camp Session 2

The theme for all of these summer camps will be “Peace Works: Empowering the next generation of peacemakers”. Scholarship assistance is available. Contact Pastor Karyn for more information.
SAVE THESE DATES OF CELEBRATION!

June 2 is Music Sunday and Annual Meeting! Come fill the pews for this intergenerational worship while the choir—and our Rainbow Bell Choir—will fill the sanctuary with music. (All ages are in worship, with nursery care available to age 4.) Then after worship bring your filled-up spirit into our annual meeting where we’ll use our voices and votes to affirm all the good God is dreaming for this church!

June 9 is Pentecost and our Confirmation Worship. Nine of our youth have been on a special faith journey together since January and it’s time to celebrate where they are and all they believe at this time in their lives. Wear red to remember the Spirit that surrounds us all and to add to the wild and wonderful spirit of love we all have for these remarkable young people. (All ages are in worship, with nursery care available to age 4.)

June 16 is Graduation Recognition! Know someone who is graduating? Please email Jackie in the church office or Karyn Frazier to add their name to our list of graduating high school seniors or young (and not-so-young) adults finishing advanced degrees. At the June 16th worship, we will take a moment to celebrate where they are and especially to hold our 2019 high school graduates in prayer.

June 16 is Bible Presentations! We’ll present 3rd graders (and some 4th graders) with new bibles! We give the children the Common English Version as our gift to help them along their continuing journey of faith. This version of the bible uses inclusive and accessible language and provides great supports, such as highlighted memory verses, special call-outs, simple prayers, and open-ended questions that create wonder and connect the scriptures to a child’s own experiences. If you have a child who would like a bible, let Karyn Frazier know.

AND June 16 is Sunday School Teacher Recognition! We’ll celebr-
PRAYER CHAIN
Please pray for...Donna (Finney); Louisa Wagner; Karyn’s cousin, Becky; Dylan Bullard; Melissa Coudle; Maggie Dickson’s sister, Frances; Elaine Wilson; Gary Cooper; Sue Lille; Valerie Pifer’s son-in-law, Mike; Lauren Smith; Kersti Muul; Jo Garrity; The Lane Family; Barbara & Rick Shaw; Marilyn Moore; Mandy Sommer; Paul Fletcher; Becky; Rosalita Salanga; Stacy, a friend of Mary Belshaw’s; Yvonne Miles; George & Lashawnda Student, Lori & Averi Bowerman, Melissa Coudle; Laurie Whitford; Mr. & Mrs. Muul; Verne Miller; Beverly Wilson, Lily Grainger & Alan Blackman, Isaac & Gina Thomas’ grandpa Jim; Megan Miller and her dad, Clarence; Carl & Heather Craven, the Christo family; and Marilyn Whittendale.

WITH SYMPATHY
We are sorry to report two losses in our church community:
Megan Miller lost her Mom, Nancy Miller, on May 12. Please keep Megan and her Dad, Clarence, in your prayers.
Heather Craven lost her Dad, Dean Kimble on May 8. Please keep Heather, Carl and their family in your prayers also.

Sam Martinez is graduating from Newport High School and will attend WSU in the fall. Ariana Martinez graduated in May from Gonzaga University with a Degree in Psychology and Spanish.
Evan Frishholz is graduating from Raisbeck Aviation High School and is heading to Purdue in the fall.
Emma Pierce is graduating from Seattle U with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Psychology. She will graduate magna cum laude and will receive a Distinguished Graduating Student Award. On July 8, Emma will begin a two year post-baccalaureate fellowship at the McLean Hospital in Boston. She will be working in the Adolescent Residential Treatment Center with young people experiencing acute mental health disorders.
If you know of anyone who is graduating from high school, college or a trade school (or whatever), please let us know so we can publicly acknowledge their hard work.

NOTES OF THANKS
Dear Friends at Fauntleroy UCC,
We cannot begin to thank you enough for your generous donation ($1,300) during GiveBig and your unwavering support over the years! Your commitment to serving your community means the world to us. We are so grateful to have such wonderful neighbors! Thank you for helping stop homelessness before it starts!

Erin Dury Moore, Exec Director, West Seattle Helpline

Thank you for Giving Big. Your incredible gift of $763.81 goes a long way to keep “White Center Fed”. With your help, we raised $8,107. And, t0hanks to you, we can purchase 573 meals of high-quality nutritious food to distribute to our neighbors.
Carmen Smith, Dev. Director, White Center Food Bank

SWEET DREAMS’ NETS BEDDING FOR HOMELESS
The two-week ‘Sweet Dreams’ bedding campaign organized by our Homelessness Task Force is already giving several people a better night’s sleep.
All told, church and YMCA members donated 14 blankets, 2 sets of sheets, and 7 sleeping bags, plus $180 in cash to buy new tarps. They are being distributed to homeless persons who come to the free Saturday lunch in White Center.

Judy Pickens