JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME.” - ISAAC WATTS

"Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth; break forth into grateful song and sing praises! Yes, sing songs of praise extolling Love’s way; lift up your hearts with gratitude and joy!”  Psalm 98 (translation, Nan C. Merrill)

“As we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that ennobles rather than embitters. We have hardship without becoming hard. We have heartbreak without being broken.” Desmond Tutu, The Book of Joy

I’ll be honest: I had to grow into the idea of this year’s theme for Advent, “Joy to the World.” What seemed like a good idea in July – to honor, in part, the 300th anniversary of Isaac Watt’s hymn of the same name – felt more and more out-of-place as plans solidified for Advent (and the Advent insert you’ll find in this edition of the Congregator). I thought about congregation who have lost someone. I thought about those struggling with health issues. I thought about those who have lost their homes – to California wildfires, to war, to life-threatening turmoil, to poverty, to transitions of life that come whether we like it or not. I thought about the state of our country and world and all the hatred heaped upon those viewed as “other”. From a place of trying to hold all these concerns in prayer, a theme proclaiming “joy” felt a bit like a blind departure from reality.

But, then, I remembered who this God is that we serve – a God who, story-after-story tells us, steps right into the middle of the hardest times and spaces of our lives and world to proclaim something different: hope to the hopeless, peace to those without peace, love to those declared loveless, and yes -- joy to the joyless.

I like to think of it as a Divine push-back. Against waters that rage and threaten to drown us, God steps in and shows us dry land across the Red Sea. In the exiled places of our lives, God sings of a new Jerusalem. And when we, probably much like Mary and Joseph, struggle to see a way forward in the midst of a difficult situation, God declares, “Be not afraid, for see I bring you glad tidings of great joy – which shall be for all people” (Luke 2:10). For all people -- not just for some, but for ALL – especially, I think, those who need glad tidings of great joy the most.

As joy is not happiness, I look for joy in all spaces where the Divine pushes back at fear and sadness. When I do, I can feel it in something as small as a smile, or innocent words of wonder shared by a child. I feel it claiming space, inch by inch, when someone reaches out to hold a hand, give a hug or simply phone someone who’s not expecting the call. And I feel it every time I sing “Joy to the World,” thinking of Isaac Watts’ restless, poetic pursuit of just the right words from Psalm 98 that God might use to invoke joy in the hearts of God’s followers. I feel pieces of joy holding court in all these places, seeking to grow and coalesce, by the power of a God who loves us.

I hope you’ll join us this Advent in singing, inviting and living “Joy to the World” this year. For all the ways you need it, and all the ways others need it, let us invoke God’s joy for all people.

In Christ’s Love, Leah

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL
10:00 AM

NOVEMBER 17, 2019
"Where Hope Begins"
Daniel 3:1, 8-30
Rev. Leah Atkinson Bilinski Preaching

FOLLOWING WORSHIP
Special Congregational Meeting and Vote on Camp 2nd Chance

NOVEMBER 24, 2019
Rev. Karyn Frazier Preaching

FOLLOWING WORSHIP
Hanging of the Greens

Decorating the church for the Advent/Christmas Season!

CHILDREN’S PAGEANT
Practices have begun. If you have questions, contact Karyn Frazier.

Dress Rehearsal
12/7, 9AM – 12 PM

Pageant
12/8, 10:00 AM Worship
**CALENDAR**

**Saturday – November 16**
9:00 Intro to “Soul of Aging” – F. H.
5:00 Crock Pots – Ackers home

**Sunday – November 17**
9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship-Leah Preaching
11:30 Vote on Camp 2nd Chance– Fellowship Hall

**Monday – November 18**
8:30 Altar Guild
7:00 Facilities Min. - Library

**Tuesday – November 19**
5:15 Homelessness T.F. – Library
7:00 Stewardship Com. – F. B.

**Wednesday – November 20**
9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl

**Thursday – November 21**
10:00 Knitters/Crafters – Library
6:30 Bells
7:30 Choir

**Sunday – November 24**
9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
9:00 Coffee Hour Training – Kit.
10:00 Worship – Karyn Preaching
11:20 Decorate the church for Advent and Christmas
11:30 Women’s Retreat Plan – BRR
11:30 Coffee Hour Training - Library

**Monday – November 25**
8:30 Altar Guild
9:30 Caring Ministry – Room 405
6:30 Sisters – Goldfine home
7:00 Executive Com. - Library

**Wednesday – November 27**
9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl

**Thursday – November 28**
Office Closed

**Friday – November 21**
Office Closed

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**CARING MINISTRY**

**HEALTHY LIVING IN OUR STRESSED WORLD**

Today, people are feeling stress and anxiety on many different levels. Some experts attribute this to the massive information that is pouring in on us through modern technology. We are hearing news from around the world 24/7. I like to be informed, but a lot of the news is about situations we have no control over. This stress and anxiety can impact our physical, emotional and spiritual health. This can be especially true during the holiday season.

Here are several things that may help to decrease our stress and anxiety.

1. **Exercise** – get out of the house and take a walk for 30 minutes per day. Walk with a friend. Getting out in nature will help to focus on positive thinking. (Be sure to check with your doctor to make sure you are healthy enough to exercise)

2. **Don’t smoke** - absolutely no smoking of anything!

3. **Try to eat a healthy, balanced diet**, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, and avoid fast foods and processed foods. Maintaining a healthy weight is important.

4. **Turn off the TV and electronic devices for a period of time each day**. Listen to music and/or read a good book.

5. **Stay socially connected**. Social isolation can increase stress and anxiety. Also – volunteering has been shown to empower people and may help to decrease stress.

6. **Sleep is important**. Research is showing that most of us need 6-8 hours of sleep per night.

7. **Practice “gratefulness”.** Stop and consider how miraculous our bodies work, how most of us have enough food to eat and a roof over our heads. Again, this helps to refocus away from negative thoughts and stress.

8. **If these don’t help, then consider contacting your doctor. There is help available.** There are many other ways to reduce stress, including massage, meditation, and healing touch therapy.

On Sunday, Dec. 1, the Caring Ministry will gather for the Family Support Group after worship (about 11:30 AM) in the Fellowship Lounge. Church member, **Patty Bodzioch**, is an apprentice in the field of “Healing Touch”, a compassionate energy therapy in which practitioners use their hands in a heart centered and intentional way to support and facilitate physical, emotional and spiritual health and wellbeing. This is meant to be used as a complimentary therapy to traditional modern medicine. Let’s find out what this is all about. Join us for a discussion about this topic and anything else that comes up! All are welcome!  

Bobbie Reeves, Caring Ministry

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**SERVICE & OUTREACH**

**CROP WALK**

We did it! We had a beautiful day to walk. We had fun and fellowship. Even more important, we raised over $20,000 for the Seattle Walk. This amount is not final as late donations are still coming in.

The money is used to combat hunger locally--for West Seattle and White Center Food Banks--and globally, with long term solutions: chickens, livestock, seeds for crops, wells for clean water. Church World Service accomplishes a lot with each dollar given. There were 100+ walkers; 44 walkers were from Fauntleroy Church. Way to go, everyone! Many who could not walk donated money, so we had a high participation rate from our church. The tally from Fauntleroy Church is $7,025. We walked because others walk. We gave because we love God...and love our hungry/thirsty “neighbors”. Mary Anne DeVry

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**HOLIDAY WREATHS**

Reminder, the holidays wreaths must be picked up on Sun., Nov. 24, between 9:30 – 11:30 AM. Thank you!

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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 orientations.
OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Welcome

The following folks joined our church on 10/13/2019. Say hi the next time you seen them! Valerie Pifer also joined that day, and I will share her information upon receipt.

KATHERINE BRENNAN & SEAN PROTHERO
Katherine and Sean have been attending Fauntleroy Church for a while now. Katherine is an attorney and Sean is a Hospital Call Center Supervisor. The both love doing crosswords, spending time outdoors, swimming and growing their own food. Sean also loves coaching, and the Seahawks and Huskies. They have a cat named Thor, who gets lots of love too. Both feel that the church has been very welcoming and is doing important work in the community and they’d like to add their voices to the decisions being made here.

KRISTEN & JOSH MILLER
Kristen is our Youth Leader and Josh is a Business Specialist. They have been attending the church for about 3.5 years and have fallen in love with the community. In their free time, they love going to Disneyland and getting to see Josh’s family at the same time. They have two cats, London and Oliver, who “work hard to tolerate each other”. Kristen loves to sew, and Josh likes to paint. They decided that no matter what happens in their lives, they want to remain part of the Fauntleroy community, so it seemed right to make it official!

MARGUERITE HASKIN
Marguerite is a retired Administrative Assistant. She loves choral singing and has sung in choirs for most of her life. In Seattle, she sang with the Seattle Symphony Chorale for many years. She enjoys travel and has been to many countries in Europe and Asia. She loves animals, especially cats. Marguerite was primarily looking for a church choir when she joined Fauntleroy’s choir in Feb. 2019. She became impressed with the nature of the worship services, quality of the sermons and the church’s dedication to social justice. For her own personal and spiritual development, she felt it was time to find a church home, and we’re glad she found it here!

SEASONAL INFO.
‘TIS THE SEASON, FRIENDS!

Fauntleroy Church’s Annual “Hanging of the Greens” kicks off Sunday, Nov. 24, and everyone is invited to help deck our church halls in preparation for the magical season of Advent! We’ll meet in the Sanctuary at 11:20 AM, divide into teams, and get to decorating! This all-ages, family-friendly activity makes for a fun, festive start to the season – for many of us, it’s a family tradition! The best part is coming back to worship and hearing the “oohs” and “ahhs!” Go to hilary.j.reeves@gmail.com, if you have questions. I can’t wait to start celebrating the season with you! Hilary Reeves, Chair, Worship Ministry

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!
Attention Fauntleroy Parents! Do you still have Christmas shopping to do? Do you just need a night out? Do you still have parents! Do you still have your chance! Fauntleroy Youth will be hosting a Parent's Night Out to help wrap presents in the quiet house (and not in the middle of the night?) Now is your chance! Fauntleroy Youth will be hosting a Parent's Night Out to help with just these situations! As you know, we are planning on sending a group to National Youth Event in 2020, so this is also doubling as a fundraiser for the trip! We will feed and entertain your children from 5-8 PM Saturday, Dec. 14, for kids age 4-12 (toilet trained required). It is $20/child or $30/family. Please RSVP and reserve your spot by Thursday Dec. 12. To RSVP, email Kristen at youth@fauntleroyucc.org.

NOTICE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF FAUNTLEROY CHURCH, UCC
November 17, 2019 – following worship

Purpose:
Approve that Fauntleroy Church becomes leaseholder of Camp Second Chance and establishes a supportive services plan aligned with our mission to end homelessness.

JENNIFER THOMSEN & DAVID OLSON; REESE McDOWELL, NORAH McDOWELL
Jennifer and David are both Financial Advisors. Reese is a sophomore at Cleveland High School and Norah is an 8th Grader at Hamlin Robinson. Jennifer grew up in Ketchikan, AK and attended Gonzaga and Seattle U where she earned her MBA. She’s had her own business for 20+ years and loves what she does. Her children are the light of her life. She enjoyed cooking, hiking, live theater, decorating for the holidays and volunteering. David grew up in Kansas and attended the United State Naval Academy. He was a submarine officer for 5 years. He got his MBA at the U of Chicago. He moved to Seattle 3 years ago after working in finance in New York City for 20 years. He and Jennifer worked together in their business. Reese enjoys karate, debate and sings in two choirs. He also plays the ukulele and has two cats. Norah loves playing soccer, does karate and has a “dog walking passion”. They recently moved the West Seattle and wanted to be part of a church and community who share similar values. And, Fauntleroy fits the bill–

We are so happy to welcome all of these wonderful people into our church community!
OVER THE FENCE

PRAYER CHAIN
Please pray for...Lauren Smith; Louisa Wagner; Marilyn Moore; Karyn Frazier & family; Melissa Coudle; Mr. & Mrs. Muul; Laurie Whitford; Elaine Wilson; Kersti Muul; Theresa Rasmussen; Dwayne Stevens; Rick & Barbara Shaw; Lydia Shepherd; Kara Hill; Kathy Grainger’s daughter and son-in-law, Lily and Alan; Yvonne Miles; Ruben Figueroa; Irene Stewart, Jill Harlow, Carolyn’s grandsons, Rob & Connor Tucker; the Konek Family; the Lane Family; John Weber; Gen Storz; Nancy Barker; Christina Bodziuch and Wyvona Barrett.

BE SCENT-SITIVE!
Scented products such as perfume, cologne, aftershave and lotion, can trigger serious health reactions in people with asthma, bronchitis, migraines, and allergies or chemical sensitivities. Please help us maintain a healthy environment for everyone by avoiding scented products at church. Thanks! Sarah

CONGRATULATIONS!
Long-time member, Evelyn Norsen, will turn 100 years old on Nov. 29. Evelyn had a very serious head injury many years ago and hasn’t been around the church for a while, but we still want to say congratulations on reaching 100!

RECYCLE ROUNDPUP NEARLY A RECORD
Recycle Roundup, on Sept. 22, brought just over 500 vehicles to our parking lot for the 1 Green Planet crew to unload nearly 16.4 tons of recyclables. Grateful drivers gave $1,416.20 in donations. This year has been the most productive yet for our roundups. Spring and fall events drew more than 1,000 recyclers and netted more than 33 tons for responsible recycling. Bonnie Beerman did a fantastic job as our host, aided by fellow members of the Evening Sisters group.

The spring 2020 roundup will be Sunday, April 26, and will be led by the Seaside Sisters group.

FROM WENDY BLIGHTS, PNW CONFERENCE MODERATOR
The combined revenues for Pilgrim Firs and N Sid Sen were over $1 million for the first time ever! That is a 25% increase from 4 years ago. Thanks to Mark and Wade for their outstanding management. And thanks to you for the ways in which you continue to support our camping program.

UCC MEN’S RETREAT
The 29th Annual Men’s Retreat at Pilgrim Firs will be Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2020. The theme is “Climate Change: From Despair to Hope”. There will be group discussions, songs, good food, walks and a wisdom circle for sharing reflections. The leader is Rev. David Schoen, who will draw heavily on two recent books on climate change. Cost: Saturday only - $40/person Friday-Sunday - $150/person Thursday-Sunday - $230/person

THANKS, FROM NW IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PROJECT
Dear Friends,
As a board member of NWIRP, I wanted to personally thank you for your continued generosity in support of our work and the people we serve. We are so grateful for people like you who stand up to defend immigrant rights. Knowing you share our belief that people deserve safety and access to their rights regardless of where they are born lifts our spirits.