“Boxed” by Ann Weems

I must admit to a certain guilt
about stuffing the Holy Family into a box
in the aftermath of Christmas.
It’s frankly a time of personal triumph when,
each Advent’s eve, I free them (and the others)
from a year’s imprisonment
boxed in the dark of our basement.
Out they come, one by one,
struggling through the straw,
last year’s tinsel still clinging to their robes.
Nevertheless, they appear,
ready to take their place again
in the light of another Christmas.
The Child is first
because he’s the one I’m most reluctant to box.
Attached forever to his cradle, he emerges,
apparently unscathed from the time spent upside down
to avoid the crush of the lid.
His mother, dressed eternally in blue,
still gazes adoringly, in spite of the fact that
her features are somewhat smudged.
Joseph has stood for eleven months,
holding valiantly what’s left of his staff,
broken twenty Christmases ago
by a child who hugged a little too tightly.
The Wise Ones still travel,
though not quite so elegantly,
the standing camel having lost its back leg
and the sitting camel having lost one ear.
However, gifts intact, they are ready to move.
The shepherds, walking or kneeling,
sometimes confused with Joseph (who wears the same dull brown),
tumble forth, followed by three sheep in very bad repair.
There they are again,
not a grand set surely,
but one the children (and now the grandchildren)
can touch and move about to reenact that silent night.
When the others return,
we will wind the music box on the back of the stable
and light the Advent candles
and go once more to Bethlehem.
And this year, when it’s time to pack the figures away,
we’ll be more careful that the Peace and Goodwill
are not also boxed for another year!
CALENDAR
Saturday – January 18
5:00  Crock Pots – Ackers home

Sunday – January 19
9:00  Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00  Worship – Karyn Frazier
       Preaching

Monday – January 20
Office Closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Tuesday – January 21
8:30  Altar Guild
1:00  Church/Y Com. – Fish Bowl
5:15  Homelessness T.F. – Library
6:30  Christian Ed Ministry – F.B.
7:00  Council – BRR
7:00  LPS Staff Mtg. – Classrooms

Wednesday – January 22
9:45  Staff – Fish Bowl

Thursday – January 23
10:00  Knitters/Crafters – Library
10:00  Sisters – Lounge
5:00  F. Hall Focus Group – F. Hall
6:30  Ukulele Band
7:30  Choir

Saturday – January 25
8:30  Soul of Aging - Narthex

Sunday – January 26
9:00  Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00  Worship – Leah Atkinson
       Bilinski Preaching
11:30  Taste & See – Library

Monday – January 27
No LPS Classes
8:30  Altar Guild

Tuesday – January 28
6:30  Seadise Sisters – Rm 416

Wednesday – January 29
9:45  Staff – Fish Bowl

Thursday – January 30
10:00  Knitters/Crafters – Library
7:30  Choir

Friday – January 31
No LPS Classes

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.

FUNCTION & FELLOWSHIP
GET READY TO WIN AT TRIVIA NIGHT ON FEB 22!
Fauntleroy Trivia Night
Saturday, Feb 22 – Fellowship Hall

• Doors open at 5 PM – Potluck begins
• Trivia begins at 6 PM
• Grand prizes for 1st & 2nd place teams
• Other prizes throughout the evening
• $15/person – purchase at Get Involved Table or send a check marked “Trivia Night” to the church office

Register now for a fun night of trivia in Fellowship Hall! Now, in its second year, this general-knowledge event has a professional trivia host and will be a night of fun and friendly competition. Whether you come by yourself, as a couple, or as a full team of 8, everyone has a chance to win.

If you already have a team captain, great! If not, don’t worry – you’ll be assigned a team after you register. Trivia questions are answered as a group. The table that answers the most questions correctly by the end of the night wins.

The first-place team takes home bragging rights and a collection of gift cards to West Seattle and White Center businesses. The second-place team will win a fabulous wine basket that also comes with underage-friendly treats. Like last year, there will be lots of other opportunities to win throughout the evening, so bring cash or your checkbook so you can participate in all the ways to play!

Please also bring a potluck dish to share. The church will provide non-alcoholic beverages and you may BYOB (beer or wine) to share with your team. Team captains are encouraged to come up with creative names for their team and encourage team spirit with costumes. This event is for high school age and above; childcare will be provided for younger children.

Seating is limited, so get your tickets soon before they’re all gone. Can’t wait to see you there!
LeeAnne Beres for the Planning Team

NEWS FOR OUR MEN
PNC-UCC ANNUAL MEN’S RETREAT
All UCC men are invited to this annual retreat at Pilgrim Firs Conference Center from Jan. 30-Feb. 2. There is a Day of Silence beginning Thursday evening, Jan. 30, then the regular retreat on Friday, Jan. 31, which concludes Sunday morning at 11 AM, Feb. 2. There is also a new option to attend Saturday only for three meals and the program for $40.

Trivia begins at 6 PM
Doors open at 5 PM

Potluck & See Invitation
TASTE & SEE INVITATION
You’re invited!
Are you considering becoming a member of Fauntleroy Church or would like to learn more about the congregation while making connections with other members, visitors and friends of the church? Come “taste and see” what we’re all about! A progressive lunch is provided during the event. The next “Taste & See” will take place following worship on Jan. 26. Contact the church office if you’d like to participate. Childcare will be available.

Sarah
YOUTH NEWS
NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT

The UCC National Youth Event is at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, this July 22-25. We’d like to send a delegation of youth and at least two adult chaperones to this amazing event, which is celebrated as the largest denominational gathering, often bringing in 4,000 participants! NYE includes speakers, workshops, music and worship meant to inspire and empower youth. This year’s theme is “Unite!: Unite for the Earth; Unite for Justice; Unite for Faith!”

If your youth is interested in going, registration will open in February. We are asking participating families to cover the registration fee (early bird) of $375 in two payments, made to Fauntleroy Church with “NYE” written in the memo line. The first $200 and the registration form are due by Feb 2; $175 is due by March 1. The registration fee covers the cost of program, room and on-campus meals for all days of the event.

We’ll be traveling as our own church group, so I (Kristen) will register all the youth at once after we know who wants to attend. Then we hope to raise enough to cover all travel costs and hope the church will help cover the rest. We have a good start with proceeds from our fall bake sale, sweatshirt sales, and parents’ night out babysitting, but there’s more to do to meet our goal! We estimate total costs will be about $1,000/youth, including registration, airfare and any extra travel expense to get to the university, and shared expenses to cover chaperones’ costs.

Next steps?
1. Let me know if you are a youth interested in going to NYE at youth@fauntleroyucc.org and send me the registration form (attached).
2. Return the first registration payment to me or the church office by Feb. 1.
3. Let me know if you’d like to chaperone!
4. To see how NYE events are shaping up and for any FAQs, go to: http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/.

More details to come soon!
Questions? Contact Kristen Miller, Youth Director.

OUR YOUTH LEADER POSITION IS EXPANDING!

You may have heard already that we have a new vision unfolding for youth leadership at the church. After some wider conversations with Council, Pastors Leah and Karyn, and Youth Leader Kristen Miller, the Christian Education Ministry has decided to expand our Youth Leader job to create more capacity to build on our current youth programs and to offer some support to our new Associate Pastor position by freeing up some of the basic communication and Sunday morning responsibilities.

And if you have heard about all this, you may be wondering what this means for Kristen? We’ve been talking with Kristen about this all along the way, wondering what it would mean with her full-time work at the March of Dimes and now with her growing family (baby Miller is due this May!). The truth is that the expanded job is too much to put on Kristen’s plate, but she and Josh aren’t going anywhere. First, they love the youth too much and want to stay involved in a smaller way. And, second, they love the church too much! Kristen and Josh said they joined the church because they couldn’t imagine a better community supporting them as new parents. In the meantime, Kristen has offered to keep things going for our youth, especially as they plan for the National Youth Event and until we find the right person for this new position. We’re so grateful for that!

So, CE and Personnel have just put the finishing touches on a job posting for a half-time Youth and Children’s Program Director. Starting this month, we will be looking for someone who:

1. Delights in working with youth and will build on our current youth programs with fellowship, community involvement, mission, and service.
2. Has excellent organization and communication skills to support our Sunday School leaders a few hours a week and on Sunday mornings.

The ideal candidate would have:
• Integrity, maturity, and lots of enthusiasm.

Be someone who...
• Is at least 23 years of age.
• Is a person of progressive faith, comfortable talking about and encouraging faith development.
• Is a self-starter and takes initiative, but also welcomes and seeks collaboration.
• Is organized and communicates effectively.
• Will foster inclusiveness.
• Will support youth in exploring their faith and in caring for one another.
• Relates well with both youth and adults.
• Is knowledgeable about team building and group development.
• Maintains confidentiality and appropriate safe boundaries.

Experience:
• Creating and supporting youth and children’s programs.
• Designing activities for different ages and learning styles.
• Does not need to be UCC but aligns with our values and beliefs as a progressive and Open and Affirming church.

Additional Information: Applicant must be at least 23 years of age. As required by law, background checks will be conducted on applicants selected for hire.

Contact Pastor Karyn at Karyn@fauntleroyucc.org if you know the perfect person for this expanded ministry at Fauntleroy Church. She can give you a more detailed job description. Or help us spread the word as we get the job posted on our website! We hope to start interviewing by February. Good things keep happening at this good church!

--The Christian Education Ministry
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

Associate Pastor
Rev. Karyn Frazier

Music Director
Bronwyn Edwards

Little Pilgrim School Director
Jenny Romischer

Wedding Coordinator
Neenah West

Volunteer & Engagement Coor.
Sarah Ackers

Youth Leader
Kristen Almgren

Nursery Supervisor
Carol Smith

Custodian
Michael Still

Financial Assistant
Aimee Pinckney

Financial Assistant
Pat Gedney

Office Manager
Jackie Gould

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE: TUESDAYS, 1 PM

OVER THE FENCE

PRAYER CHAIN

Please pray for:
- Lauren Smith; Louise Wagner; Marilyn Moore; Melissa Coudle; Mr. & Mrs. Muul; Laurie Whitford; Elaine Wilson; Kersti Muul; Theresa Rasmussen; Rick & Barbara Shaw; Kara Hill; Kathy Grainger’s daughter and son-in-law, Lily and Alan; Yvonne Miles; Carolyn’s grandchildren, Rob & Connor Tucker; the Lane Family; Gen Storz; Nancy Barker; Houts/Martinez family, Bill Zoellner Sr.; Layton Walters, Jettie Bryant Walters; Gloria Luna, Wyvona Barrett, Jill Harlow, Patty Bodzioch’s friend, Roseann; Anne Douglas and Loy Smith; Vera Holte; Joan Gregory; Cynthia Jones.

A NOTE FROM LITTLE PILGRIM SCHOOL

"We love the child, so the child will love to learn."

The 2020-2021 school year ushers in the 68th year of the Little Pilgrim School and it’s dedication to children and families.

As part of Fauntleroy Church, our little school with a big heart welcomes families and children ages 2-5 and offers a nurturing environment to play, learn and experience school.

Our purpose for nearly seven decades has been to teach the whole child and to help each child not only grow intellectually, but spiritually, creatively, socially and emotionally.

We invite you to join us for our annual Open House on February 9, 2020 from 11am until 1:30pm where you can see our spaces, ask questions, meet Teachers and collect registration materials.

Can’t make the Open House? Please feel free to reach out to lpsdirector@fauntleroyucc.org for information on how to register.

Jenny Romischer, LPS Director

THriftway 1% CASH BACK

We recently received a check in the amount of $147.28, representing sales receipts in the amount of $14,728. Thanks so much for saving and sharing your receipts… and thanks to Bonnie Beerman for her work on this project! 

Jackie

SOAR SUPER BOWL PARTY

Youth! Save Feb. 2 at 3:00 for our SOAR annual Superbowl Party! The Holsberrys have once again said yes to hosting, so thank you to all the Holsberrys! Please RSVP to Kristen Miller at youth@fauntleroyucc.org. Plan to bring a snack or beverage to share with the group.

PLANTS TO ORDER

Seed catalogs have been arriving in my mailbox since early December, their photos promising beautiful things to put in the ground come spring.

If you have flowers, herbs, or something else you would like to see or offer at our annual plant sale in May, please let me know (judy_pickens@msn.com). One of our regular growers may be able to produce what you want, whether a few plants or dozens. Just ask and I’ll see what the green thumbs in the congregation can do!

- Judy Pickens

THE LANTERN IS BRIGHTER

Early parishioners used kerosene lanterns - much like the one hanging from the beam at the front right of the sanctuary - to light their way to and from evening services. The lantern now has a brighter LED bulb and a link to overhead lights so that we might see it more often and think of those who grew Fauntleroy Church ministries before us. Judy Pickens

Editor’s Note: Thank so Phil Sweetland for “relighting” our lamp!