"Our Next Loving Step

For more than a year, we’ve had our hearts and minds opened by stories of those entangled in our broken immigration system. Thanks to opportunities provided by the Christian Education Ministry and then by our passionate Immigration Task Force (ITF), we’ve educated ourselves about the immigration obstacle course built to discourage people from seeking safety or citizenship in our country. We’ve been reminded that many of the current circumstances that push people to make a desperate journey to our borders can be directly linked to a dismal history of US intervention in Central America for the sole purposes of power and profit. We’ve cringed at news clips that have shown children in cages, bodies along the Rio Grande, and desperate people interned in what amounts to for-profit prisons. We’ve recognized that all those involved in our immigration system are damaged by it no matter what side of the wall they stand on. We’ve put effort into pushing back on recent legislation designed to make these matters worse and on rhetoric that demonizes and diminishes rather than encouraging and comforting "the stranger". We’ve been reminded that we were all "strangers" once. And, for the last year or so, rather than just standing in a place of privileged pity, we’ve asked, "What can we do?" Immigration issues are insidiously complex and deeply rooted. What real difference can our love make?

Out of love, Pastor Leah and I “put ourselves in place” in Arizona to experience in some small way the dynamics on our southern border. We met with people in the courts, in sanctuary churches, and in makeshift shelters in Mexico. We stood silently at gravesites in the desert and not-so-silently in front of a border patrol station in Nogales.

Out of love, many of you have also stood up for immigrants. You’ve stood in support of and sacred witness for Jose Robles who sought sanctuary in Gethsemane Lutheran Church for over a year before he turned his fate over to ICE.

Out of love, many of you prepared and shared a meal with those recently released from the detention center in Tacoma. Others tried to make temporary housing for some immigrant children awaiting sponsors feel more like "home". These were just two of our 2019 Worship without Walls opportunities.

Out of love, the staff of the church has committed to become better educated about what it means that Fauntleroy is already a "sensitive location"—a place where we can advocate for and support anyone who comes through our doors seeking safety from ICE. ITF is committed to learning more about asylum accompaniment for the sake of those who will trust us with their care as they await asylum hearings.

Out of love, all of us whole-heartedly committed to housing an asylum-seeking family one way or another. And, after one family, another and another…. These have all been good steps. AND each good step has taught us that there’s so much more to do on this Way of Love.

So…..are you ready to take another good, loving step?

On Sunday, Feb. 9, Greg Dirks and his brothers, Tom and Brian, would like to invite members of Fauntleroy Church to go on a mission trip to Guatemala from August 28 thru Sept. 6. They’ll offer a Moment for Mission during church and a brief presentation during the coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. They hope that your whole-hearted response to ITF’s initiatives for asylum-seekers will flow into supporting this unique opportunity, as well.

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CALENDAR

Sunday – February 2
9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship – Leah Atkinson
10:30 Children’s Chapel – S. Chapel
3:00 SOAR Super Bowl Party – Holsberry home

Monday – February 3
LPS Enrollment open to church and LPS families
8:30 Altar Guild
9:30 Caring Ministry – Rm. 405
7:00 Service & Outreach Min.—Lib.

Tuesday – February 4
7:00 Personnel Com. – Fish Bowl

Wednesday – February 5
9:00 LPS Parent Conf.
9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl
6:30 Parish Life Min. – Library
7:00 Homelessness T.F.-BRR

Thursday – February 6
8:30 LPS Parent Conf. – Fish Bowl and Classrooms
10:00 Knitters/Crafters – Library
6:30 Ukulele Band
7:30 Choir

Friday – February 7
9:00 LPS Parent Conf.

Saturday – February 8
8:30 Soul of Aging – Fell. Hall

Sunday – February 9
9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship – Karen Frazier
Preaching
Ministry Sunday – Sunday School in Fell. Hall
11:00 LPS Open House

Monday – February 10
8:30 Altar Guild
6:30 Sisters – Beerman home
7:00 Nominating Com. – Fish Bowl

Tuesday – February 11
6:30 Seadise Sisters – Rm 416
7:00 Finance Min. – 4th Flr C.R.
7:00 LPS Standing Com. – Library
7:00 Stewardship Com. – F. Bowl

Wednesday – February 12
9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl
6:30 Christian Ed Min. – F. B.

Thursday – February 13
10:00 Knitters/Crafters – Library
10:00 Morning Sisters – Lounge
6:45 Council Exec. Com. – Library
7:30 Choir

Friday – February 14

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.

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It’s a chance for more of us to “put ourselves in place” to learn firsthand about the context and conditions that push people on the difficult trek to seek asylum at the US border in the first place. It’s a chance to offer a bit more stability to people before they feel they need to make that desperate journey.

The mission trip to Guatemala would be well supported by the Hands for Peacemaking Foundation, which Greg’s brothers have worked with for several years. Hands for Peacemaking is a non-profit that partners with churches to send teams to the remote highland region of Guatemala. There teams engage in safe, short-term mission work in impoverished and underserved Mayan villages. Most of these villages were devastated by the series of cruel military dictatorships supported by our CIA and the United Fruit Company, which feared losing profits to local farmers in the late ‘50s and early ‘60s. The effects of what became a brutal 36-year civil war—especially the poverty and lack of education and the most basic services—still greatly contribute to the current instability that pushes people to immigrate.

Greg and Tom would like to take a team to Guatemala from Aug. 28-Sept. 6 to help address some of the most immediate needs in these rural areas. The costs to make the trip allows Hands for Peacemaking to support each team at their mission house and provide for their transportation, food, accommodations, interpreters, and supplies along the way. The focus of our trip would be to buy and install simple, clean air stoves that replace the traditional open-pit cooking methods in homes, lowering rates of respiratory illness, death and injury and reducing deforestation and wood consumption. Teams have also built schools, installed clean water storage tanks and engaged in other activities that improve the quality of life and improve economic sustainability in these villages.

On Feb. 9th, you are invited to learn more about the work that Hands for Peacemaking is doing in Guatemala and to consider joining Greg and his team this summer—or at least to consider how we all might support the fundraising it will take to make this incredible opportunity happen. Go here to read more about Brian Dirks’ testimony about his experience. Then, with an open heart, stay for coffee on Feb. 9, to hear from Greg and Tom about this next good step we might make together to change a little bit of someone’s world for the better…and certainly to be changed ourselves.

In Christ’s light and love,
Pastor Karyn

HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE

‘SWEET DREAMS’ DRIVE

Last spring, we collected and donated bedding for people who are homeless and this year we will be doing it when cold is most keenly felt. If you have a clean blanket, throw, afghan, or sleeping bag in good repair that you no longer need, plan to bring it on Sunday, Feb. 16 or Feb. 23, and put it in the donation box in the narthex. Or, you may drop it by the church office.

This Homelessness Task Force drive will bring a degree of comfort to some of the 100+ homeless people who come to the free Saturday lunch in White Center.

Judy Pickens
SUNDAY SCHOOL CAN YOU TEACH!

We need a few more hearts and hands on the 4th floor to teach Sunday School. Can you help? We are committed to making sure Sunday School volunteers have a good balance between a little bit of teaching and a lot of time in worship. That's good for everyone. But, at the moment, we've had a few volunteers who've needed to take a break to attend to those life shifts that sometimes come along. That is shifting the balance for other volunteers a bit.

We'd love more hearts and hands in:

Preschool/Kindergarten: Teams of volunteer teachers use a curriculum called "Seasons of the Spirit" that helps children begin to understand Bible stories at their young age level and in their own words through art, crafts, drama, and stories.

1st - 2nd grade and the 3rd-5th grade classes: Elementary-aged kids go deeper with a theme or story from the Bible, which they explore for several Sundays through science, games, art, cooking, movies, drama and more. At the moment we are learning about Miracles.

All three classes:
- Are taught in teams. You could find a friend to teach with you!
- Start after the Time with Children and last about 40 minutes.
- Are supported with curriculum that helps teachers learn right along with the kids. You don’t need to be an expert—just willing to lead from wonder and willing to spend about an hour a week planning for Sunday.
- Come with all kinds of supplies and all kinds of ideas to help with planning—more than you'll need in one class time.
- Can be scheduled to work with your calendar and scheduled online. Committing to teach about one Sunday a month is a big help.

And all three classes include some pretty remarkable kids…who happen to like snacks….(Just saying.)

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND WIN ON FEB 22!

Do you like Husky Deli ice cream? Or Proletariat Pizza? If your team is the first-place winner in this year’s Trivia Contest, you could walk away with a gift card to one of these or other fabulous local businesses!

Registration is open now for the event on Saturday, February 22. You can sign up as an individual, a couple, or as a full team of 8. If you already have a team captain, great! If not, don’t worry—you’ll be assigned a team after you register. We had a ton of fun last year with team names and themes – ranging from Hawaii to Star Trek and everything in between. Be creative and come in costume to show maximum team spirit.

Now in its second year, this general-knowledge event has a professional trivia host and will be a night of fun and friendly competition. How it works: our trivia host has prepared 5 rounds of trivia for us – several question rounds, a visual round, and an audio round. There will be a diversity of questions across a range of interests, so you don’t have to be an expert in any one field. Trivia questions are answered as a group, and the table that answers the most questions correctly by the end of the night wins. Kudos to last year’s winning team: "This is Embarrassing!"

This year’s first place team will take 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. 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. Tickets are $15 per person and can be purchased at the Get Involved Table after worship or by sending a check to the church office marked “Trivia Night.” Come and be ready to win!

Fauntleroy Trivia Night
Saturday, Feb 22 – Fellowship Hall
- Doors open at 5pm – Potluck begins
- Trivia begins at 6pm
- Grand prizes for 1st & 2nd place teams
- Other prizes throughout the evening
- $15/per person – purchase at Get Involved Table or church office

– LeeAnne Beres for the Planning Team

And, yes, we'd love help in our youth class, too. We're just focusing on our younger kids at the moment.

I would be happy to talk with you more about the program, answer questions, offer training to get you off to a smooth start—or just explore other ways you could support our Sunday School with your time and talents. The reality is that this ministry is about more than a few hearts and hands and a few Sundays; it’s about our ministry to children and youth right at the heart of the church. How can we all help?

Pastor Karyn

HELPING OTHERS IT’S COLD OUTSIDE

For men living rough or with only light shelter, these cold days and nights can compromise health and tax energy. Our Homelessness Task Force gratefully accepts clean, serviceable clothing for men who come to the free Saturday lunch in White Center. Coats, gloves, scarves and hats are especially appreciated, along with pants, shirts and shoes. Leave your donation under the Get-Involved Table in the narthex or in the church office.

Judy Pickens
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 Miller
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: Louisa Wagner; 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; the Lane Family; Gen Storz; Nancy Barker; Houtz/Martinez family, Layton Walters, Jette Bryant Walters; Gloria Luna, Wyvona Barrett, Jill Harlow, Patty Bodzioch’s friend, Roseann; Anne Douglas; Loy Smith; Joan Gregory; Cynthia Jones; Mary Mitchell; Starke Shelby’s sister, Susan; Marilyn Whittendale; Sydney Johnson, a friend of Angel Luna’s.

A NOTE OF THANKS
To my UCC Fauntleroy Family,
Thank you more than you can imagine for the love and light that you gave me following the tragic death of my beloved son Keegan. It was a life changing event for me, and I will be forever trying to figure out a way to live inside of my loss.

Thank you again for carrying me.
With kindness,
Nancy Barker, Keegan’s Mom

GIVING TREE
KEEPS ON GIVING
This Advent’s giving tree asked for your help with two needs in our community and you responded to both in a BIG way.
You were asked to donate $25 Safeway gift cards for low-income families at three area elementary schools to help with food over the long winter break. You came through with $2,225 to help 89 school families.
You were also asked to donate toward constructing and outfitting a tiny home at Camp Second Chance. You came through with $4,122, plus $125 in Safeway gift cards for camp residents. A share of the Christmas Eve offering added another $1,368.14 to help fuel our growing involvement at the camp.
Thank you! - Judy Pickens

CAN YOU HELP?
Did you know we have a sound person for every service or major event in our sanctuary? We do, and you could be a part of our audio team. We remotely control the volume and sound while sitting in the sanctuary, so every microphone is controlled from the pews. Training is easy and you just need to have an interest and a good ear. If this sounds like fun to you, I am looking for additional members to expand our team. Please contact Klem Daniels at klemdaniels.com or (206)459-7622.

SOAR SUPER BOWL PARTY
Youth! Save Feb. 2 at 3:00 for our SOAR annual Super Bowl Party! Thanks to the Holsberries who will, once again, host. Plan to bring a snack or beverage to share with the group. You can RSVP Kristen Miller at youth@fauntleroyucc.org

SHE’D LOVE VISITORS!
Marilyn Whittendale is rehabbing at Park West after a short hospital stay. She’d love calls and visitors while she’s there for the next two weeks. Give her a call at 206-937-9750 or 206-793-0062 as she’s busy rehabbing when she’s not entertaining everyone on the piano!