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The Communicator

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We're on the web
www.eagleharborchurch.org
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The Communicator

All the (Church) News That's Fit to Print
Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, UCC
July-August, 2017

The Arrival of the Past

You wake wanting the dream
you left behind in sleep,
water washing through everything,
clearing away sediment
of years, uncovering the lost
and forgotten. You hear the sun
breaking on cold grass,
on eaves, on stone steps
outside. You see light
igniting sparks of dust
in the air. You feel for the first
time in years the world
electrified with morning.

You know something has changed
in the night, something you thought
gone from the world has come back:
shooting stars in the pasture,
sleeping beneath a field
of daisies, wisteria climbing
over fences, houses, trees.

This is a place that smells
like childhood and old age.
It is a limb you swung from,
a field you go back to.
It is a part of whatever you do.

—Scott Owens



Tending the Garden of the Soul

We are sharing Living Water! I am so delighted that **Elissa Kratzer** has led us into a very do-able project in partnership with the Bainbridge Land Trust keeping young native plants alive during the drier summer months. We're sending a team out on Mondays and Thursdays to water new plants at the Agate Passage Preserve. I hope it will be a service opportunity that also offers a little Sabbath time out amongst the trees for those who participate. Breathing in the good green energy of plants and gazing out at the water is good for the soul.

Prayer Chain

Call any one of us with your prayer requests and concerns:

Linda Swolgaard, 842-3338
Ann Lovejoy, 842-0108
Jennifer Merrill, 780-6937
Tonya Keaton, 852-4817
Eileen Nicol, 842-1245
Dianne Speers, 855-9446
Marian Rees, 842-4621



The Land Trust has been at work already for some number of months removing invasive plant species and re-planting native species. They've cleared a lot of blackberries, Scotch Broom, and English ivy. Not easy, as anyone who has worked in Northwest landscapes knows.

The social landscape right now seems full of weeds and briars. I notice in my social media (Facebook and Twitter) how much hyperbole there is in speech about the Other Guys. Does hate speech lead to hateful actions? In recent weeks there has been yet more violence rising out of political and religious convictions. Attacks on Muslims in America, for example, have been dramatically on the rise, following a rise in hateful rhetoric.

I wonder if hate speech isn't a kind of invasive species in the garden of our souls? Once hatred and suspicion of the Other takes root, it can be awfully difficult to uproot.
(cont. on page 3)

We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains

of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ's sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a 'cloud of witnesses' – our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church. "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials—unity, in nonessentials—diversity, in all things—charity," These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. 'To believe is to care; to care is to do.'

We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

We are a people of possibility. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all,



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

God is still speaking,

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Leslie Amendt, Benjy Cunningham, Peggy Houck, Tom Jorza, Joan Pratt, Marian Rees, Stephen and Noyuri Soderland, Rene Zimmerman

Focus on Faith:

Here's a nice summary of the United Church of Christ's central beliefs:

We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belong to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

We believe that all of the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' No matter who – no matter what – no matter where we are on life's journey – notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed – we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized – past, present and future – are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of 'love, support and care' for the baptized – and we promise that we won't take it back – no matter where your journey leads you. *(cont. on pg. 7)*

Missionary from Palestine to Visit EHCC

On **July 30**, our guest sermonizer will be UCC/Disciples of Christ Global Ministries Missionary Loren McGrail. Loren has spent the last four years as the Communications, Advocacy, and Church Relations Officer for the YWCA of Palestine. Among other things, in this role she coordinates YWCA advocacy projects including The Fabric of Our Lives, Breaking Down the Wall, The Wise Women Also Came, and The Flight into Egypt (information about each of these is available online at www.ywca-palestine.org). So, **please, join us for worship at 9:30** as Loren reflects on her ministry in East Jerusalem.

In the 5th chapter of Matthew's gospel, Jesus says "21 'You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire.'" Seems pretty harsh. But I think he was trying to tell the people that what you plant in your heart can have serious consequences, especially if you are spewing angry, insulting words out into the public sphere. What we say really does matter.

I often feel angry and fearful these days about policies that lack compassion for the most vulnerable people. But I don't want to have my soul controlled by anger or fear any more than I want the trees in my neighborhood overrun by ivy that chokes the life out of them.

I am trying to refrain from the kind of speech that might lead someone to violence, trying to keep love (rhododendrons!) and compassion (salal!) growing in my soul's landscape instead. I hope we can help and support each other in our efforts to be loving in thought and speech as well as action.

—Peace, Dee

Summer Bible Study

The **Tuesday morning Bible study (9:30-11:00)** is focusing on parables this summer.

The **Wednesday evening Bible study will once again move out to Battle Point Park for the month of July.** We will meet in the picnic shelter at **6:00 for a simple potluck** (bring finger foods & beverages to share) and some conversation.



Those who wish can head over to enjoy the free concerts in the park after the feast and study concludes. **In August we will return to our 7pm gathering in Dee's office,** if there are enough people who want to keep it going. It might be best to check in with the church office in August to find out if it's still on. We are working and playing our way through the gospel of John.

All are welcome at either study group. No experience in reading the Bible necessary; a sense of humor helps in both groups.

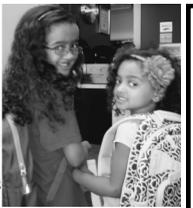


Caring Coins



EVERY STUDENT COUNTS!

Project Backpack



Caring Coins is the loose change (or bills/checks designated for Caring Coins) you put in the offering plates on Sunday mornings during worship. Each month we choose a different recipient for that collection. **Thank you for your generosity!**

July Caring Coins: *Real Change*, an Opportunity and a Voice

Real Change is a reader-supported, low-barrier work opportunity that rewards effort from the first day forward. More than 300 active vendors sell the award-winning weekly newspaper each month, with about 800 vendors served annually. Sellers of Real Change are self-employed and purchase papers for resale for \$0.60 each. Vendors keep what remains of the \$2 cover price, plus all tips, for each newspaper sold. Real Change readers directly put more than a million dollars annually into the pockets of our vendors by buying the paper on the street.

Real Change is more than a job. It's a community and a chance to grow.

- Vendor Speakers Bureau provides valuable training and paid experience.
- Vendor Representatives are peer-elected leaders who help ensure vendor concerns are heard.
- Vendor advocates meet twice-monthly and are the backbone of our organizing and advocacy.
- Leadership training opportunities and paid internships help vendors build transferrable skills.
- Vendor voices inform our newspaper through weekly Editorial Committee meetings.

EHCC Caring Coins is an annual supporter of the publication. Checks may be made payable to EHCC with "Real Change" in the memo line.

August Caring Coins: Project Backpack

The Helpline House Project Backpack (PBP) began in 2000. Through community matching, partnerships and sponsorships, this program has helped nearly 2,800 students since that time.

Generally, we are aware of PBP providing essential school supplies at the start of the school year; but it is important to note that PBP also provides assistance with other important education-related expenses throughout the year. Funds collected through Project Backpack:

- Assist with high school fees and graduation expenses
- Assist with fees for student enrichment, i.e. camp, music lessons, etc.
- Assist with daycare, especially summer programs
- Reduce the burden of school expenses on already tight budgets

The Project Backpack community school supplies drive begins August 1st and continues through August 25th. Your support through Caring Coins each week during August is greatly appreciated.

Want to give more than coins? Place cash in separate envelope marked "Caring Coins" or make checks payable to EHCC with PBP in the memo line.

—Madelyn Fox

Thank You!

There's a fair amount of behind-the-scenes activity here at EHCC... Efforts that contribute to the inclusiveness of our worship hour, to the beauty of our church grounds, to the functioning of our building, and to our participation in our Living Water campaign, for example. You know who you are, and we thank you! And, in honor of summer, let's give a special shout out to some of you who quietly go about beautifying of our grounds: **Ellen Fisher, Don Fox, Anne Hopkins and Marian Rees, Mary Clare Kersten, Elissa and Charlie Kratzer, Ann Lovejoy, Jim Tusler, and Ed Cannard.**