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Prayer Chain

*Call any one of us with your
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The Communicator

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www.eagleharborchurch.org

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am - 1pm

The Communicator

All the (Church) News That's Fit to Print
Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, UCC
September, 2018

Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit,
giving life to all life,
moving all creatures,
root of all things,
washing them clean,
wiping out their mistakes,
healing their wounds,
you are our true life,
luminous, wonderful,
awakening the heart
from its ancient sleep.

—*Hildegard of Bingen (translated by Stephen Mitchell)*



Overflowing

I am so full of gratitude for Eagle Harbor Church!

Months ago as our worship team was planning seasons ahead, we agreed that to speak of Faith and Doubt during the summer would most likely be of interest to the church, and that it wouldn't be too difficult a general topic for both ordained and lay speakers to take on. It dovetailed nicely with my preparation to teach the adult class at Family Camp, with its curriculum titled "Beyond Belief."

Little did we know what varied and marvelous testimony would be offered because of this invitation to share in the preaching. Each Sunday has been fascinating and inspiring. The careful preparation, the honesty and vulnerability, the lively intelligence, the humility in the face of Divine Mystery evident as our speakers have shared their faith journeys have been such a blessing.

Many, many thanks to **Ann Lovejoy, Stephen Wilson, Bill Comfort, Greg Diamond, Jim Macpherson, Dick Goff, Mary Brown, and Elyse Fairweather** for participating as speakers and worship leaders during this series. If you missed any, you can find audio and/or texts of the sermons at our website, eagleharborchurch.org.

Thanks as well to the folks who have provided music during the summer, not



only regular accompanists **Carol Estes** and **Alice Tawresey**, but those who offered special music in these past few months: **Time and Tide (Ann Lovejoy, Simon and Becky ffitch), Marian Silberstein, Reed Price, Leslie Gordon, Elyse Fairweather, Mark Power, Laeticia Lehman-Pearsall, and the Vintage Vixens**. Such excellent music really makes our hearts sing and our spirits soar.

Those of you who have been here to listen, share your thoughts, pray, give financial gifts and sing hymns have also been a blessing. The gift of presence is a gift indeed; a sanctuary relatively full of receptive folks participating in worship encourages those who are offering their gifts and strengthens the community.

I mentioned after being away for a couple of weeks that when people ask me about how church is faring I often do a little boasting about how wonderful you are individually and as a body (even though St. Paul sternly warns against boasting!). The Holy Spirit does the leading, but you do the responding, the saying of "yes" over and over. I am grateful.

—Peace, Dee

Bill Comfort (cont.)

Ministry at Seattle University. I got my Masters of Divinity and became an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. The UCC has been a great place for a faith like mine which keeps growing and changing.

Why should we pass on the Christian faith/why is Christianity (as you understand and practice it) relevant today? Just as the Dalai Lama didn't think all of us needed to be Buddhists, I don't believe everyone needs to be a Christian. I believe, however, that everyone needs to find a way to connect with the divine. I think everyone is looking for that one way or another. Christianity provides the tools and opportunities to have moments of grace on your own and among others. When people realize that something spiritual is missing from their lives, having a church to find is a wonderful thing.

How would/do you describe EHCC to someone who doesn't attend our church? EHCC is just the kind of place that a person could come to in order to find spirit-filled adventure among people who are evolving in their own faith in both intellectual and mystical ways. I find that many opportunities for service and growth are available through EHCC. Sunday mornings at EHCC are friendly, casual and filled with light and grace.

The Alaska Suite

On **Saturday, October 13, 7pm** at **Grace Episcopal Church**, a five-piece chamber jazz ensemble will perform *The Alaska Suite*, sponsored in part by EHCC. The *Alaska Suite* is an original piece of music by Seattle pianist and composer Nelda Swiggert. **But this is not just a concert!** Combining the emotional power of multiple mediums—live music, spoken words, images and poetry—*The Alaska Suite* celebrates the beauty and majesty of Alaska; laments the rapid impacts of global warming in Alaska and all of the Arctic (our canary in the coal mine); and uplifts spirits with reasons for hope and calls to action. So mark your calendar and plan to attend. **\$15 tickets at the door or through Brown Paper Bag.**

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Mel Bockman, Sharon Burris, Anna Edmonds,
Peggy Houck, Tom Jorza, Joan Pratt,
Linda Swolgaard

Including those grieving:

Anne Hopkins and the family and friends of
Marian Rees, who died on 8/26/2018

Focus on Faith:

What makes your on-going relationship with church meaningful or worthwhile/how has participation at EHCC positively affected your life? I love church in all the ways and places that it occurs. I've been an ordained minister for the past fifteen years; the church has provided me with a living and opportunities to be surprised by grace in many situations. Sheri and I have been adventurers for Christ. We have served in Hardin, Montana; Chewelah, Washington; Forks, Washington; Custer, South Dakota; and Suquamish, Washington as well as providing pulpit supply to many churches of a variety of denominations and serving on a lot of committees. In all of these venues we have had experiences of Grace like the one described on page 9.

EHCC has been a friendly and joy filled place for Sheri and I to worship when I am not preaching elsewhere or otherwise engaged. I was last employed as the Interim Pastor of Suquamish UCC. We are searching for the next part of our adventure.

How would you/please describe the evolution of your Christian faith so far? I am lucky to have a faith journey that started from when I was very young and continues to evolve. My family and I were Methodists while I was growing up. At one point I noticed that in church my mother would grow quiet during the recitation of the Apostle's Creed and during some verses of some of the hymns. I asked her about this and she told me that she didn't want to say things in church or anywhere that she didn't really believe in. That was the beginning of my intellectual growth in faith. Trying to make my faith fit with the wisdom of science dominated my faith life for a long time. Eventually I became a Unitarian with a very intellectual faith.

One day my then-girlfriend Sheri and I went to a meditation class on a whim. In that class, and many classes afterward with that teacher, I had experiences which I believe to be the direct experience of the bubbling effervescence at the center of creation. That threw me for a loop.

We participated in a lot of ways of cultivating these kinds of experiences and spent years trying to figure out what these things meant to our lives. At one point we went to hear the Dalai Lama speak. During his talk he seemed to speak directly to me and said, "Some of you may think that you need to become Buddhists. You don't need to become Buddhists. Go deeply into the tradition of your youth and you will find what you are looking for." In the fullness of time that led me to the School of Theology and

This n That

EHCC Intern: Joining us for the 2018-2019 school year will be Earth Ministries' intern **Rachel Shinabarger**. Rachel will be with us for about five hours a week, leading our youth group and assisting us with our Living Waters focus and activities. Rachel is a recent college graduate with a B.A. degree in Global Studies. She has a deep passion for cultivating justice globally, locally and personally. She has served in several ministerial and mentoring roles with various ministries including a Christian ministry in the National Parks and Sky Lodge Christian Camp. **Welcome, Rachel!**



On the Mend: This fall we will be focusing on stories of Jesus as a healer and considering the wounds in our lives that need healing. As part of this series titled "On the Mend" **we will be making quilt pieces on the theme of healing**. We will provide quilt squares and invite any of you who are interested to create something; if we have enough pieces at the end of the season we will piece together a quilt. In addition, **we will be inviting folks to bring quilts you might like to share as part of our sanctuary decor**. We look forward to worshiping together as God continues to piece together a Beloved Community in this place.

Sock It to Homeless with Operation Nightwatch

Operation Nightwatch is a grass-roots, volunteer-led group of people dedicated to loving our neighbors who're poor and homeless.

- Volunteers provide a hot meal late at night, serving at 9pm after other programs have closed.
- Overnight shelter for men and women is provided through a series of partnerships with other organizations.
- Support for formerly-homeless seniors is provided at a small senior apartment building with 24 units in a dormitory style setting for people over age 62.

For the past several years EHCC has collected **200 pairs of men's white socks**—an important piece of clothing for healthy feet in our wet winter months. Let's do it again! Sock collection at church will continue all Sundays in September.

Sunday School Update (Not just for kids!)

This school year we are using for our Sunday School curriculum *A Joyful Path Year 2*, from Progressive Christianity's *Inner Wisdom Series, Spiritual Curriculum for Young Hearts and Minds*. Year 2's topics are: The Teachings Of Jesus; Pluralism; Inclusion; How We Treat Others; The Search for Understanding; Peace and Social Justice; The Integrity of the Earth; and Life-long Learning and Selfless Love.

Our first unit, from September 9-23, is "The Path and Teachings of Jesus." Our affirmation for these three weeks is:



"The life of Jesus helps me understand that I am one with all." On September 9 we focus on Experience and Community; on September 16 Experience of Joy; and on September 23 Experience of Transcendence.

On September 30 we begin the second unit: Many Ways, which runs through October. Our affirmation for these five weeks is: "My heart is open to the wisdom teachings of the world." On September 30 we dip into Hinduism.

Questions about the curriculum?
Speak with Joti Chandra Kaur.

Sept. Caring Coins: Charter for Compassion

In February 2008 the TED prize was awarded to Karen Armstrong for her wish to create, launch and propagate a global compassion movement based on the Golden Rule. Since that date a group of significant global leaders honed the language collected from thousands of contributors into the "Charter for Compassion".

The organization—Charter for Compassion—provides an umbrella for people to engage in collaborative partnerships worldwide dedicated to becoming a compassionate presence in the world. A compassionate world is a peaceful world and this is possible when every man, woman and child treats others as they wish to be treated—with dignity, equity and respect.

As a member of The Charter, EHCC affirms the principle of compassion and contributes financially to promoting their global network. **Please give generously in the Sunday offering plates. Make checks payable to EHCC with Charter for Compassion in the memo line.**

Focus on Faith: Bill Comfort



Sheri and Bill Comfort

What brought you to church (initially; not specifically to EHCC)? I was originally baptized at a Methodist Church in San Bruno, California at the age of 12. Shortly thereafter our family moved to Sacramento, California where my mother attended first a Christian Church and, later, after we bought a house and moved again, a Methodist Church. My connection with these churches was through youth groups. I attended summer camps and, later, in high school became a leader in the Methodist Youth Fellowship. This activity was a large part of my social life in high school.

Tell us about a specific time when participating in church was especially meaningful (not necessarily a time at EHCC). I subscribe to the not solely UCC idea that church is wherever two or more people gather in Jesus' name. So the time I am going to talk about occurred in the parsonage in Custer, South Dakota, across the driveway from the beautiful church building of Custer Community United Church of Christ.

In the South Dakota Conference of the UCC there are associations. Four of the associations are geographical and one is ethnic. The Dakota Association comprises a dozen Lakota churches scattered mostly along the Missouri River from just over the border to the north in North Dakota and just over the border to the south in Nebraska. On the day I'm remembering, Sheri and I hosted Jeri and Mitch Behringer, and Toni and Byron Buffalo. The purpose of our meeting was to organize a Sacred Conversations on Race retreat. In South Dakota the main racial divide is between white people and Native Americans. Toni came into our house and lit a bundle of sage. She smudged our whole house and each of the people. Then we all sat down. Toni said that she and Byron felt trepidation coming to such a meeting in a town named for a renowned killer of Lakota people in the center of the Black Hills, a land sacred to the Lakota people, a land that was taken and mined for gold by white people. Having smudged the house and the people she said they felt safe. We went on to plan the retreat that helped bridge the divide between Native Americans and whites within the South Dakota Conference.

That's the big thing that happened. The little—but just as important to me—thing that happened is that Toni, Byron, Jeri, Mitch, Sheri and I co-created church together in our house. People from different parts of the UCC community remembered they were one in the body of Christ. We made life-long friends. *(cont. on pg. 10)*

Take Note

Suquamish Museum Tour: Tuesday, September 18, 1pm. All are invited to join us; if we have 10 or more EHCCers, the Suquamish Museum will give us a guided tour of the museum. **Cost: \$5/adult; \$3/senior citizen.**

Our EHCC Indigenous Connections Task Force suggests we all consider annual membership at the Suquamish Museum (Individual: \$15; Senior Couple: \$25; Family: \$40) It's a simple, inexpensive, low-key way to stay in touch with, and support, our indigenous neighbors, and their thoughtful displays help us learn the history, art, and interests of the Coast Salish people. You can join when you visit, or join remotely. **Basic Package Annual Memberships include free admission, 10% store discount, newsletter, special invitations, and more!** For more information contact Casey Lewis at clewis@suquamish.nsn.us or call 360-394-8499. Inquire about other membership opportunities at the Donor Level of Support and about Corporate Memberships!

CROP Walk 2018

What are you doing Sunday afternoon, September 23? Would you like a way to visit with friends, make new friends, enjoy the outdoors, get exercise AND help change the world? Come walk with us in the CROP Hunger Walk to raise funds to fight hunger in our community and around the world. Faith communities throughout Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap will **gather here at EHCC at 1pm** (for registration) with signs, stickers and enthusiasm to walk together (**walk starts at 2 pm**) on a 3-mile loop that begins and ends at EHCC. After the walk we'll share fellowship, music and snacks.

When you walk in the CROP Hunger Walk, you are raising money to help fight hunger, but you are also walking in solidarity with all of those people around the world who are walking for food, for water and for firewood each day. A large percentage of funds raised stays in our local communities, assisting Helpline on Bainbridge and Fishline in Poulsbo, with donations also reaching around the world. Be part of something truly meaningful; help make a difference in the lives of those in need.

To become a walker or sponsor, please see Ann Lovejoy or me. You can also **register online at www.crophungerwalk.org** All are welcome; come walk with us!

—Jim Macpherson

Take Note

Fiber Art Display in our Sanctuary: in conjunction with the Island's outdoor quilt show, let's have a fiber art display of our own **the weekend of September 8 & 9.** All are invited to display their fiber art pieces (quilts, wall hangings etc.). **Contact Alice Tawresey (alictaw@aol.com) for more info. or to sign up to display.**

It's your year to sing in the choir! Join the music gang at EHCC this year.

It's loads of fun; it's rewarding; and we are, we humbly admit, an absolutely great bunch of people. Besides, we need you! **Thursdays at about 7 pm, beginning Sept 13** in our sanctuary! **For more info. contact Carol Estes: allegria88ce@gmail.com**

Beach Clean Up: after coffee hour on Sunday, September 9, we will join others cleaning up the Waterfront Park area as part of an island-wide effort organized by Sustainable Bainbridge, the Land Trust and many other partners. **Beforehand,** let's have a **finger-food-type potluck for coffee hour** so we'll have enough energy to go out in search of trash. All can participate in the potluck, and then those with the time and energy to join the cleanup effort can walk down to the Waterfront Park beach access to tidy the shoreline. Sustainable Bainbridge reminds us that picking up trash on the streets is also a good idea; if your section of beach looks clean already, stop the trash before it makes it to the Salish Sea! **Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes, and either wear or change into clothes you don't mind getting dirty.** See Sustainable Bainbridge's website for additional information.

Benjy Cunningham Memorial Service: Saturday, September 15, 1pm.

Hungry Readers: on September 17 at noon in our fellowship hall our book group will be considering **Unapologetic: Why, Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense** by Francis Spufford. Says the Amazon blurb: "Unapologetic is a book for believers who are fed up with being patronized, for non-believers curious about how faith can possibly work in the twenty-first century, and for anyone who feels there is something indefinably wrong, literalistic, anti-imaginative and intolerant about the way the atheist case is now being made." **Open to all! (And bring a sack lunch if you'd like to.)**

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>9/30 19th Sunday after Pentecost Worship/SS 9:30am Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K (EHCC Hosts) AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p><u>EHCC</u> <u>September, 2018</u></p>		<p>Abbreviation Key: FH: Fellowship Hall K: Kitchen S: Singer Room AA: Alcoholics Anonymous OA: Overeaters Anonymous SS: Sunday School <i>Birthdays in italics</i> Church events in bold</p>			<p>1 OA 9:15am S</p>
<p>2 15th Sunday after Pentecost Worship/SS 9:30am AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p>3 Labor Day: Office Closed</p>	<p>4 Bible Study 9:30am Dee's office</p>	<p>5 Bible Study 7pm Dee's office AA (men's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p>6 Men's B'fast 7am FH Madrona 9-10:30am FH Alaska Suite Planning Session 10:30-11:30am FH</p>	<p>7 Quilters 4-6pm FH <i>Vicky Harrison</i></p>	<p>8 OA 9:15am S Quilters 8am-7pm FH</p>
<p>9 16th Sunday after Pentecost Worship/SS 9:30am Waterfront Park Beach Clean-up after all-church pot luck coffee hour AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S <i>Ernie Williams</i></p>	<p>10 Transfriending Group 7pm S <i>Russ Freeman</i> <i>Frosty Gordon</i></p>	<p>11 Bible Study 9:30am Dee's office</p>	<p>12 Bible Study 7pm Dee's office AA (men's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p>13 Men's B'fast 7am FH Senior Center 3-5pm FH Choir Rehearsal 7pm sanctuary</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 OA 9:15am S Benjy Cunningham Memorial Service 1pm</p>
<p>16 17th Sunday after Pentecost Choir Rehearsal 8:30am sanctuary Worship/SS 9:30am AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p>17 Hungry Readers noon FH Communicator Deadline</p>	<p>18 Bible Study 9:30am Dee's office Mission Council Mtg. 7pm S <i>Don Fox</i></p>	<p>19 Neighborhood Mtg. 7pm FH Bible Study 7pm Dee's office AA (men's mtg.) 7:30pm</p>	<p>20 Men's B'fast 7am FH Choir Rehearsal 7pm sanctuary <i>Dee Eisenhauer</i> <i>Peggy Houck</i> <i>Linda Swolgaard</i></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 OA 9:15am S <i>Jim Macpherson</i></p>
<p>23 18th Sunday after Pentecost Choir Rehearsal 8:30am sanctuary Worship/SS 9:30am CROP Walk: registration @ 1pm; walk starts at 2pm FH AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p>24 Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K</p>	<p>25 Bible Study 9:30am Dee's office Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K</p>	<p>26 Bible Study 7pm Dee's office AA (men's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p>27 Men's B'fast 7am FH Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K Choir Rehearsal 7pm sanctuary</p>	<p>28 Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K</p>	<p>29 OA 9:15am S</p>