

THE TIDINGS

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



The Good News As You See It

The Gospel that is secret is not the Gospel. The word Gospel, found in Mark 1:1 and throughout Paul's writings, is the Greek word εὐαγγέλιον (euaggélion), which literally means "the good news." The story of Jesus, His life, ministry, teachings, murder, and resurrection, are all essential components of this "good news" which was given to humanity by God. It is not simply a story about a man from 2000 years ago, but a lived experience in the lives of His followers; as we experience the good news, we become part of it. Jesus Himself reminds us that one does not hide the light under a basket, but places it on a lampstand so that it may provide light to all.

Jesus' murder was an attempt to thwart this expansive view of the good news. Empire believes that if the herald is killed, the message dies with them. We know, however, that if the message is conveyed, it transforms. When someone starts to trust in the power of love and the strength of vulnerability, it is like a little yeast worked into many pounds of dough - they are inoculated against the logic of violence. It never happens all at once, but instead grows inside of a person over time, repeatedly challenged and repeatedly vindicated. In the end, our lives eventually testify to the fact that Love Wins.

How have you been inoculated against the cynicism of the world? How has your encounter with the Word made flesh led to a life of transformation? In January we celebrate the Epiphany, a word meaning sudden insight, which commemorates the three magi coming to honor the Christ child's birth. They came because they knew somehow that an amazing thing was happening, a new possibility was opening up. This poem by Jan Richardson captures the transformation and newness that the turning of the year and encounter with the Gospel brings:

The Year as a House: A Blessing

Think of the year as a house: door flung wide in welcome, threshold swept and waiting, a graced spaciousness opening and offering itself to you.

Let it be blessed in every room. Let it be hallowed in every corner. Let every nook be a refuge and every object set to holy use.

Let it be here that safety will rest. Let it be here that health will make its home. Let it be here that peace will show its face. Let it be here that love will find its way.

Here let the weary come, let the aching come, let the lost come, let the sorrowing come.

Here let them find their rest and let them find their soothing and let them find their place and let them find their delight.

And may it be in this house of a year that the seasons will spin in beauty, and may it be in these turning days that time will spiral with joy. And may it be that its rooms will fill with ordinary grace and light spill from every window to welcome the stranger home.

Wherever you make your home, may it be blessed, and may you enter this Epiphany and the coming year in peace.

Blessings,

Annual Meeting Notification

The Annual Meeting of Admiral Church will be held Sunday, January 29th after the worship service. The meeting will include a progress report from the Contract Negotiating Committee, 2023 Budget, and Approval of Church Officers. All church members are urged to come and participate.



UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

(Please add to your calendar.)

- **Worship at Alki UCC
January 1st at 10:00am**
- **Games. Games, Games is
back!!! January 7th from
2:00-5:00. Grab a bag of
snacks and come join the
fun!**
- **Drop-in Choir Rehearsal
January 8th at 9:30am**
- **Drop-in choir Rehearsal
January 15th at 9:30am**
- **Meal and Mission - Third
Sunday Every Month -
January 15th from 6:00 -
8:00 Everyone is welcome!**
- **Admiral Church
Annual Meeting
January 29th**

Scriptures and Sermons and Sharing

We're doing something a little different this year. In collaboration with the Worship Team, Pastor Andrew will be co-preaching with members of Admiral Church on their personal insights and interpretations of the Good News of Jesus Christ. We will hear from 6 members between Epiphany and the beginning of Lent on what it has meant for them to be inoculated by the message and ministry of Jesus. They will choose Scripture, give their own reflections, and share the sermon in a didactic style. Every one of us is a bearer of God's abundant light, and we know Jesus calls each of us to share the light we have received so that the whole world may be illumined, especially in dark times.

1/1 Join worship at Alki UCC

1/8 Epiphany- Revealing Christ to the World
Matthew 2:1-12- The Story of the Magi
Anthem: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

1/15 The Gospel According to... Anita
Shaffer
Scripture TBD
Anthem: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

1/22 The Gospel According to... Kathy
Heinemann
Scripture TBD
Anthem: TBD

1/29 The Gospel According to... James
South
Scripture TBD
Anthem: TBD



You are cordially invited to a Special Drop-in Choir Rehearsals!

Please join the Admiral Choir voices rehearsing together on Sunday, January 8th and January 15th at 9:30 am. We will learn the music in 30 minutes, after a fun vocal warm-up, and then sing the anthem during worship together. We love to sing with you! Looking forward to having some more voices join our ranks!

January 8th - “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

January 15th - “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Other Drop-in Choir dates will occur each month in 2023. Please plan on joining us!

TRUSTEES TEAM REPORT

Hello, from your Trustees Team!! As you recall, this busy Team is in charge of monitoring the financial health of Admiral Church, tending to the building and grounds and managing facility use, both rental and non-rental.

Financially, we are finishing the year only having had to withdraw \$20,000 from the Endowment (instead of the predicted \$70,000), thanks to a \$42,800 Federal PPP grant, increased rental income and a very successful Christmas Market. Yay.

The major concern for our building is (as usual) the roof. Sigh. Following the big ice storm of December 23 and subsequent heavy rain, we suffered major leaks in the narthex and the hallway by the bathrooms on Christmas Eve. Water seeping through the wall precipitated a near-disastrous sparking electrical short in the narthex Christmas tree in the middle of the service; a crisis was averted by our Director of Music Ministry Sam Peters courageously jerking the plug from the wall, fortunately without electrocuting himself. Hooray for Sam!! All has now been dried out, but the educational wing roof continues to be an ongoing worry. Even a temporary patch job would cost \$80,000, money we do not want to spend on a building we will be leaving in the next 2-3 years. Happily, summer repairs to the gutters over the altar have kept the sanctuary dry through all this! Thanks to Anne Muller's daughter and crew, Admiral Church grounds now look presentable for the winter, with all leaves raked, protecting the lower level drains from clogging and flooding the preschool.

November and December saw some impressive (and profitable) use of our flexible facility! The annual Christkindl Markt, Anne Muller's brainchild, was held November 19, spreading out through the entire building and grounds, raising \$5,000 and delighting hundreds of guests. In December, your Rental Coordinator and her crew managed a memorial service with sit-down reception for 80, a community meeting for 90 and several musical recitals and other events. Good for the bottom line, good for the community, makes us all proud!

THANKS to the 2022 Trustees Team: Anita Shaffer, Peggy Rich, Laura Sutkus and Gerry Flaten! Sound like we have a lot of fun and get to do a lot for Admiral Church? We DO! You too can be a Trustee! Contact Anita to learn more.

ANITA SHAFFER, Trustees Team Leader

NEW TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

With the time change and the average age of our congregation, some members are finding it difficult to come to church activities held in the late afternoon and evening or even on Sunday morning. The Transportation Ministry is an effort to ensure that everyone who wants to attend can attend. We need willing drivers who can pick up and deliver folks who don't or choose not to drive to get to church worship services or events. We also need folks who don't feel comfortable driving on these darker days. The Transportation Ministry will provide each person who needs a ride who signs up with 2-3 possible drivers. It will be their responsibility to contact one of these drivers to arrange their own transportation. If you are interested in having a ride or being a driver, please contact Peggy Rich joyinthemorning1130@gmail.com or call (206)460-3021.



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FAITH JOURNEY TEAM



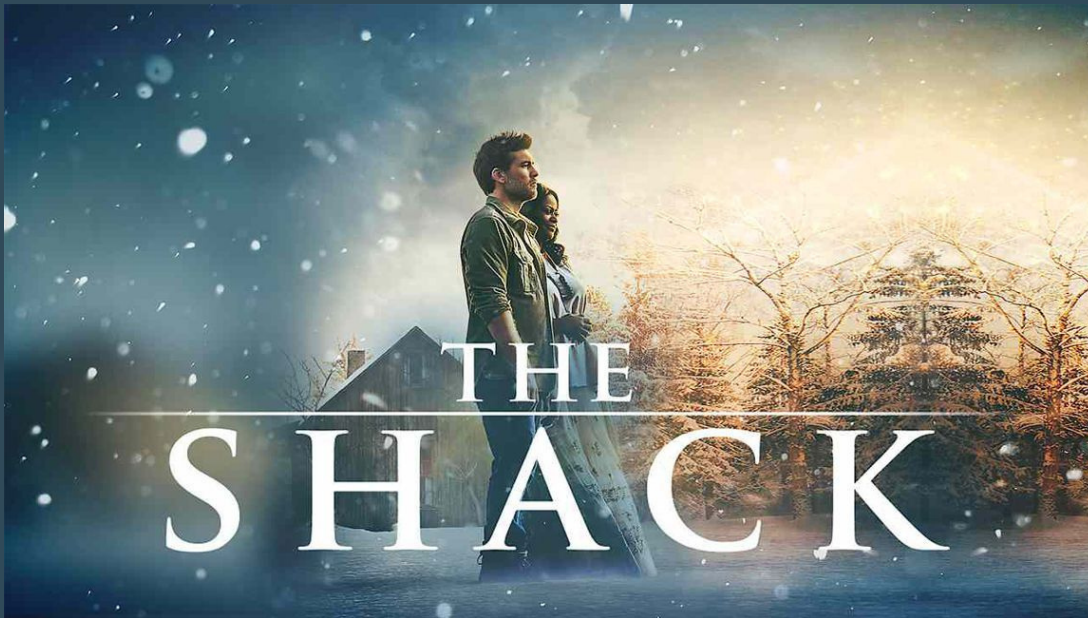
“Watch This Film - For Your Faith Journey!” I’m sure you’ve wondered and yes indeed, we’re continuing with the WTF screening and discussion events, usually on the 5th Tuesdays throughout the year. Featured this month on January 31 at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary will be the 2017 film based on the New York Times bestselling novel “The Shack” which takes us on a grieving father’s uplifting spiritual journey, including his encounters with the divine. We look forward to seeing you there.

As always, you can feel free to reach out to this Team with input related to your “faith journey” needs and interests.

We usually meet the second Tuesday of each month at 3PM. If you’d like to join us, reach out for details

JAMES BIX SOUTH, Team Leader

WTF* @ADMIRALCHURCH 4320 SW HILL ST



**TUES
JAN 31
@6:30P**



***WATCH THIS FILM | FOR YOUR FAITH JOURNEY**

Admiral Zoom



BINGO IS BACK!

Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00pm

All are welcome! If you have played before you know how much fun it is! If you haven't joined us before, give it a try! It is a great social time with friends!

You will need a new set of BINGO cards for month. Please email me before January 10th to let me know that you would like to play even if you were a regular last year (joyinthemorning1130@gmail.com). Then watch for your Bingo Cards in the mail. We will be using the first 5 Bingo cards in the stack this month.

Then on January 17th at 6:45 grab your Bingo cards, a dauber or other marker and log into the church's Fellowship Room in the Member Portal on the Website and join us!

This month's theme is "Celebrate Ben Franklin Day". Prizes will be provided by church members for the winner of each game.

Jokes to tell and fun facts about Ben Franklin between games are welcome!

“MEAL AND MISSION” THIRD SUNDAYS, 6-8:00 PM

I'm so excited to tell you about this program at Admiral Church! It's a great way to connect with each other, share a meal, and be Jesus' hands and feet as we work together in service of our community.

On January 15th we will be putting together Comfort Kits for patients and their families who are staying at the Ronald McDonald Houses near Seattle Children's Hospital. The kits we make will contain goodies and activities to help the time pass for those in treatment and their families who are waiting. Each will contain a note card of encouragement.

And yes, it IS a potluck! Please bring a dish to share, it needn't be fancy, and purchased is fine if homemade is not your thing. The important part is the sharing of ourselves, our stories and our blessings that happens when we eat together. The first disciples knew it, and they understood that this kind of sharing shows others what the way of Jesus is all about. So invite your friends and neighbors, too! The more, the merrier!

PLEASE JOIN US!! MEAL AND MISSION, SUNDAY JANUARY 15th, 6:00!

Peggy Rich, M&M Committee

Donations Needed For Meals and Mission on January 15th

HELP BY DONATING INDIVIDUALLY PACKAGED GOODIES:

granola bars, fruit snacks, cookies, crackers,
trail mix, nuts, jerky, candies, gum, mints, etc.

HELP BY DONATING ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS:

children's playing cards, coloring books and crayons, maze book,
disposable camera, travel games, legos, small stuffed animals, etc.

adult word search books, crossword puzzle books, sudoku books
and small paperbacks (in English and Spanish), family DVDs,
letter writing paper and stamped envelopes, etc.

Admiral Church, making a difference
for a few people at a time!

Stewardship: Putting Your Faith Into Practice

If we wish to embrace stewardship, we must gradually learn to embrace every definition or aspect of stewardship.

- **Scripture Based** All of the teachings of stewardship come directly from the Gospels, the Old Testament and the letters of the New Testament. Stewardship is not a new fad, or environmental word. Stewardship is the way God has expected His people to live since the beginning of time.
- **Dependence on God** Stewardship is recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God. We can take credit for nothing. Everything we have and everything we do is a result of some gift that God has placed into our hands.
- **Gratitude** Stewardship is living a life of gratitude – taking the time every day to recognize the gifts that God has given and to be grateful for them.
- **Giving Back** Stewardship is returning a portion of our gifts to God. The gifts we return are our time, our talent and our treasure. We return these gifts because we feel an overwhelming need to show our love and gratitude to God.
- **Transformative** Stewardship is transformative. Once we embrace the stewardship message it changes the way we look at every decision we make. Stewardship becomes a total way of life.
- **A Love Response** Once we allow God to truly take up residence in our hearts we become so overwhelmed by His abundant love for us that we just naturally feel the need to join our lives with Him and dedicate our time, talent and treasure to carrying out God's work here on earth.
- **Proportionate Giving** Stewardship calls us to realize that each of us is called to give as God has given to us. We no longer base our giving on what others are giving. We no longer excuse ourselves from giving because we do not see others giving. Rather we give in proportion to all that God has given to us.
- **Prayer - Spending Time with God** Stewardship involves spending time with God. Recognizing that every day is a gift from God, we strive to spend some of each day with God, through prayer, scripture reading, and other spiritual activities. During this time we ask God how He wants us to use the gifts He has given to us.
- **Participation - Sharing Talent** Stewardship involves sharing talent. Recognizing that God has given each individual unique skills and talents so that together we can do the work of Our Lord, we strive to share our own talents **and** to encourage and welcome others to also use their talents to participate in the mission and ministry of the Church.
- **Generosity - Giving Treasure** Stewardship involves giving treasure. Aware of our tremendous financial blessings, we strive to give generously to support the building up of God's kingdom.
- **Trust in God** Stewardship is trusting God. We believe that our generous God will always provide for us. None of us will ever have all that we want, but we will always have all that we need.
- **Accountability** Communities that embrace stewardship must be accountable to the community for the way in which the parish uses the gifts entrusted to it.
- **Thankfulness** Stewardship calls us to be ever grateful for the gifts that God has given. Not only are we called to be grateful to God, but we also must be grateful to one another.
- **Counter-Cultural** Stewardship is counter-cultural. While society encourages us to continually strive for more and more, stewardship helps us to recognize that we already have more than enough. In fact, we have enough to share.
- **Discipleship** Stewardship is discipleship. We strive to put God first in all things and to follow where Our Lord might lead.

Please fill out and return your pledge card.

GAMES, GAMES, GAMES

1, 2, 3, let's go! January 7th!

1st Saturday of every month
2pm start
3 hours or so of games

Bring some snacks and/or games/cards to share. I'll bring some of both, especially games. Meet in the lounge. All are welcome. Invite a friend or two if you like. We can always play more than one game at a time.



Laura Sutkus

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

“Anchoring West Seattle since 1899” One obvious thing you’ll notice is a new logo that includes these words and is inspired by this year’s Stewardship campaign design which this committee agreed was a good starting point. With that input, this is what Pastor Andrew and I came up with (for at least short-term use.) Thanks to Peggy and Anita for providing the new outside banners that incorporate it. If they’re not up already, they will be soon. Oh! And notice the QR code for ready access to our website.



This committee also continues to act with intention to improve our online presence and communications channels.

We usually meet (as needed) the second Tuesday of each month at 4PM. If you’d like to join us, reach out for details

JAMES BIX SOUTH, Chair

CONNECTING WITH THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

Words of Thanks and Praise for Those Who Ask!

During the years of my active ministry, I asked hundreds of people to share their time and talent in a thousand different ways. I called on people to engage in tasks ordinary and extraordinary, but the hardest ask was always the same. Dozens of times I heard a refrain that went something like this: “I’ll do anything to help out Pastor except ask for money.” Sometimes these words were expressed with surprising vehemence and not a little anger...

Let me offer a few words of thanks and praise to those who did and who do ask for money. Without you I’m not sure our Conference and our congregations or caring institutions would exist. Without you there would be no mission. Without your energy and dedication, the quest for justice would be little more than words. Without your efforts our buildings would not exist, the music would stop, and the praise of the Living One would not have a chance to be heard over the noise of the world.

In Timothy Snyder’s powerful book, *On Tyranny*, one of his points is the absolute necessity of strong independent institutions to prevent tyrants from controlling the future. He says that unless we work together to support institutions with our time and talent; unless we form strong communities with the financial vigor to meet the challenges headed our way, all that is best about the possibility of a just future will wither and disappear.

When I read those words, I could only think about the amazing miracle of people who ask for money and those who respond. Strong and vital congregations, educational institutions committed to the truth, cultural organizations that stretch our creativity and offer visions of justice that challenge assumptions and enlighten. Those who ask and all who give are partners preventing a future where tyrants have their way.

Please remember: Jesus asked, and Jesus still asks and unless we hear that ask as including our financial resources, I’m not sure that we are listening. So, I am grateful! I am grateful for those who join Jesus by asking the rest of us to embrace the godly task of sharing.

Rev. Ron Patterson, for the PNC Stewardship Committee

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

United Church of Christ to Sell Cleveland Headquarters

In a sign of declining staff and resources, one of the original “seven sisters” of mainline Protestantism in the United States is preparing to sell its Cleveland, Ohio denominational headquarters.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a once-influential denomination that boasted membership in the millions. It has been in a state of uninterrupted decline since its 1957 founding as a merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches.

The denomination relocated its nationwide organization, known as the National Setting, from New York City to Cleveland in 1990 in an effort to both reduce expenses and locate closer to the bulk of church membership.

The church has listed that nine-story, 120,000-square-foot building for \$7 million. Plans are in place to move staff to a single floor of an office building half a mile away, plus basement space for archived materials.

“Making this move saves the National Setting hundreds of thousands of dollars a year by leasing one floor rather than maintaining a nine-story building that once housed 330 employees,” UCC General Minister and President Dorhauer said in an announcement from the denomination’s official mouthpiece. Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, the National Setting had planned to redesign the space to accommodate 117 employees.

UCC officials previously planned to sell the headquarters building in 2015 and lease back space as part of a 20-year agreement with a Georgia-based property management firm. That sale eventually fell through.

The denomination’s reach and influence have been significantly curtailed: the 802,256 person membership has rapidly shrunk in recent years. In 2016 a UCC internal report forecast a further 80 percent decline in the following 30 years, dropping a denomination that once was a spiritual home to in excess of 2.1 million U.S. Christians down to a predicted 200,000 members in 2045.

In 2016, denominational officials announced staffing changes during a UCC Board of Directors meeting. Two-thirds of national staff positions were eliminated in the prior 16 years: a decrease from more than 300 in 2000 to just over 100 in 2016. Dorhauer warned that year of “multiple financial challenges that could impact the well-being of the national setting.”

**Worship Service
every Sunday @ 10:30
www.admiralchurch.org**



Annual Meeting January 29, 2023

***Admiral Congregational
United Church of Christ
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