

faith church

You Are Welcome Here

CELEBRATING 2016 at FAITH!



Clockwise: Preschool, Music, VBS, Blood Drive, Mayors' Giving Day, Bubbles, Leadership Training, Garage Sale, Youth, Hands Against Hunger!



A Place to Stand

No matter our positions on the issues being loudly debated in the public sphere, these are tumultuous, difficult, even chaotic times. Faced with click-baiting and fake news, deep divisions in almost every arena, the rise of hurtful stereotyping and name-calling by nearly all parties, and a general lack of generosity and kindness in conversation, many of us may feel like we have lost our footing. We may be unsure about where we stand.

Some of us are unsure about where we stand with our families, after the holidays brought with them difficult conversations in which we felt isolated or hurt by those we hold most dear. Some of us are unsure about where we stand at work, when we disagree with our superiors about major issues facing the world. Some of us are unsure about where we stand in the country, with promised dramatic shifts in policy regarding healthcare, immigration, religious liberties, discrimination protections, international relations, public education, and the economy.

And some of us may feel unsure about where we stand in the church.

The local United Methodist Church is a complex organization: in matters large and small, we lean on our broader denomination to speak for us; and yet we often disagree with the larger denomination in multiple areas. As a local church, we rely on our conference and our district to help cast the vision for our community; and yet we also have to discern God's call on our congregation, which may, at times, differ from what God is calling others in our area to do. As a congregation made up of people with diverse viewpoints and experiences, we ask our pastor and leadership team to guide and direct our programs and missions; and yet there are few things about which we will achieve unanimous agreement, meaning someone will almost always feel disappointed or left out.

It can leave us wondering where we stand, how to find our footing.

While it won't solve all of our problems, and it won't be easy, I believe the best place for us to stand in times like these (and really in all times) is quite simply... together. We stand together. This doesn't mean we agree on everything, and it doesn't mean we ignore our differences and *pretend* we agree on everything, either. Instead, it means we commit to being community for one another no matter what. It means assuming the best from each other, listening to each other (and receiving the other person's experience as truthful, rather

than telling them why they're wrong), taking the time to have challenging conversations, praying for each other, and praying together for our congregation, our community, our country, and our call. This kind of relationship is, in many ways, counter-cultural: there are not a lot of examples of this kind of kindness and generosity circling around us; but we can be that example for the neighborhood in which we live, an example of love in a world full of posturing.

One of the most profound things I've seen in recent days was at the women's march in Seattle last month: it wasn't a cleverly-worded sign or even the vastness of the crowd that day that moved me, but the sight of four brave women walking together. One of the women had quite literally lost her footing: her body was not cooperating with her, and she was unstable, having trouble walking. So her three friends simply linked arms and held her up. They gave her a place and a way to stand by standing together. The friends could have left the one behind and gone on their way, delighted not to be dragged down by a slower partner. But instead, they chose to stay together, to support one another.

I know I have not always provided that arm to lean on in recent days, and I haven't always taken a supporting arm when offered, either. But I truly believe this is our call in the coming days: that no matter where we stand, we stand together in love; no matter where we go, we go arm in arm, holding each other up.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Elizabeth

CONNECTION POINTS



Connect with members of Faith Church and the local community on the last Saturday of each month. February's Connection Points will be:

- Hike at Twin Falls / meet at the trail head at 9:00 a.m. Info [HERE](#) [RSVP](#)
- The Marymoor Dog Park / meet at the parking lot at noon. Info [HERE](#) [RSVP](#)
- Postdoc Brewery/ meet at 1:30 p.m. (dogs are welcome). Info [HERE](#) [RSVP](#)
- Movie - *The Lego Movie*/ TBD early afternoon at the Issaquah Cinebarre. Info [HERE](#) [RSVP](#)
- Foodie - Zeek's Pizza/ meet at 4:30p.m. Info [HERE](#) [RSVP](#)

March's Connection Points events will be a Seattle Tourist Day, *The Shack*, and a hike to Poo Poo Point via the High School trail.

As leaders at Faith Church, we created Connection Points events with the heart to create friendly community interaction and to build stronger friendships among members of our church as well as with friends in the local community. As members of the Methodist tradition, we would like to remind all of the participants that moderation in the enjoyment of alcohol is a great choice. Although many of the venues provide alcohol, it is up to you to drink responsibly and to show care and compassion for your neighbor. We hope that you enjoy your time together and find new community and friendships through these monthly events.



Staff-Led Bible Study: Tuesday mornings, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Talbert Conference Room. Explore 52 of the most significant stories in the Bible in 2017, one story per week. All are welcome.

IN THE BEGINNING PRESCHOOL

ITBS hosted our 3rd annual community preschool fair. We had 22 vendors participate and over 60 families stop by to investigate what each preschool or child care center had to offer their family. It was a huge success and a great way for our neighbors to get to know Faith Church.

ITBS is in full swing with our 2017-2018 registration process and it is going strong and steady! We are humbled to have the kind of loyalty and dedication to our ministry with our current families, our alumni families and to our delight, Faith families. By January 12, ITBS had registered 69 families. There are openings in the Bunnies (20 mos. old), Monkeys (2 ½ yr. olds), Bears (3 yr. olds) and Pre-K (4-5 ½ yrs.) classes. The website has the most up to date enrollment information: www.inthebeginningpreschool.org for your convenience. Please share the website family and friends looking for a great preschool.

The students are going on field trips, celebrating Valentine's day with parties, teaching about our founding fathers of this great nation and so much more! This month holds so many wonderful possibilities for our students and we are so thankful to be able to engage, nurture, love and teach these young children here at Faith.

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRIES



Children & Family Ministry (CFM) is delighted to share an exciting new opportunity for moms at Faith Church called *Building Better Moms!* Just imagine a mom "time out" from the hustle and bustle, the endless lists, and the continual struggle to find balance in the midst of it all.

Imagine... A place that meets you right where you're at – as a mom, a woman and a friend.

Imagine... Learning how to be better equipped as a parent through speakers and discussion. Imagine... Growing through a supportive network of moms who "get" it – from

newborn to teens. Imagine... Serving not only your family, but also your community through outreach opportunities.

CFM invites you to join us for an **informational dinner**. Learn more about this *Building Better Mom's* program forming in our area, and how this group could better connect moms, as well as our community!

CFM invites you to be inspired, invigorated and to imagine the possibilities. Please forward this invitation to anyone you think may be interested in learning more. We hope to see you there!

Tuesday, April 25th, 2017

Faith Church Lobby

melissa@faithunited.org for more information

Children's Choir News

Boys and girls in 2nd-5th grade are encouraged to attend Children's Choir rehearsal on February 5 and to participate in leading worship by singing Hymn 431 "Let There Be Peace on Earth" on February 12 at the 10:30 service. ALL children age Preschool-5th are invited to Children's Choir rehearsals at 11:30 a.m. -noon each Sunday after Sunday School in the choir room on February. 19 and for the rest of the school year. Your kids will enjoy the time to move around, use their voices, talk about the meaning of hymn lyrics, learn to work together as a group, participate in occasional craft activities, and pray together with their friends.

Let's go see *The Batman Lego Movie* together on Saturday, February 25th (Time is TBD)! Keep your eyes open for children's movie opportunities and lots of other great fellowship opportunities through our Faith Connection Points. Save the date of the last Saturday of each month for getting connected with other Faith folks. Spread the word and bring a friend.

Coming soon:

Children's Ministry Lead Sacraments Class-

Two-nights - March 12 and 19 from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the Talbert Living Room. Dinner will be provided. A \$5 donation per family is appreciated to pay for dinner and supplies. The 2-night event is designed for parents and children in second through fifth grades to work and learn together about the symbols and meanings behind the Christian sacraments of communion and baptism in a fun and interactive way. Older and younger siblings are welcome to attend. This class will be offered again in September. Please bring along any other families and friends that are interested.

Scouting Sunday is March 5th. If you are involved in Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, please check your emails for information on how you and your troop or pack can be involved in our worship services.

YOUTH MINISTRY



On February 17-20, youth ministry has a team of eight headed to Los Angeles, California on a four-day mission trip! Please keep Thomas, Charlie, James, Karen, Emma, Audrey, Morgan, and Leslie in your prayers as they work to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the inner city of LA.

We would like to give a giant **THANK YOU** for the 45 donations we received from our congregation totaling \$2,050! We are truly humbled by the generosity and support you have shown and are excited to share the ways God moved during this time when we get back!

TRUSTEES

Faith Church has once again been blessed by an Eagle Scout candidate on his way to completing the requirements to achieve the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America!

In October, Eagle Scout candidate Connor Azzarello attended the Trustees meeting and presented a plan for building an enclosure for yard waste. The Trustees Team was delighted to accept his proposal. Connor returned to Trustees in November and presented a well-thought out time frame for him and his team to complete the enclosure by December 3, 2016.

The result? Faith Church not only has a covered enclosure for storing yard waste from large outdoor projects, but also a completely rebuilt dumpster enclosure. A big Thank You to Connor, his team, and our Boy Scout Troop 636 and their community!



MUSIC MINISTRY



Pam and Emily would like to take a bit of space to thank all those volunteers who have been a part of the music ministry this past year. The number of volunteers last year exceeded 80 people and included Sanctuary choir, praise band, children's choir, women's and men's ensembles, soloists, a youth band performance, guest musicians, and the audio/visual team. Music is made up of many parts and Pam and Emily are so thankful for all your time, effort and talent. We look forward to another year full of "joyful noise to our Lord"!

The Music Ministry would love to get more people involved with our audio/visual team. It isn't difficult and we have great people willing to train you!

Contact Pam Sloane at pams@faithunited.org or Emily Cowgill at emily@faithunited.org any time to discuss where and how you can serve in music ministry. If you hear an exceptional voice on Sunday morning, please introduce that individual to someone on the Music Team! Some folks don't realize they have a beautiful voice and need a bit of encouragement. There is something for everyone in Faith's Music Ministry!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

DAYS FOR GIRLS Sustainable Feminine Hygiene- Every girl. Everywhere. Period.

Days for Girls International is a grassroots non-profit creating a more dignified, humane and sustainable world for girls and women.

In poverty stricken areas, a girl or woman without access to feminine hygiene supplies must stay at home for four or five days, missing school or work. Days for Girls is dedicated to partnering with others to break the silence and deprivation that accompanies the lack of women's sanitary solutions with a simple direct and effective solution available to women month after month - washable feminine hygiene kits. Every kit gives a girl four or five more days each month to participate in school, or more freedom for a woman to work to help provide for her family.

Every kit is carefully crafted, and is designed to last for three years. Think of the difference a kit can make in the life of a girl! A team of dedicated people here at Faith Church is working to make those kits just completed 75 kits. On January 10th we gave those kits to the local Days for Girls team, to be added to over 600 kits they are delivering this month to Swaziland.

We invite you to join us. There are several ways you can be involved:

Donate any of the following items:

- *Funds - each kit costs about \$15 to complete
- *Fabric - (cotton flannel/quilters cotton)
- *Thread (100% polyester)
- *Panties (girl's cotton, sizes 10/12/14)
- *Colored wash cloths
- *Gallon Ziploc Freezer Bags

Note: before purchasing any of the above, contact us for specific requirements.

Volunteer:

Sew kit elements: shields, liners, or bags. There are jobs for everyone, sewing skills not required. We meet once a month at the home of Beth Box.

Please contact Beth Box bbox@hotmail.com , or Karen Gladhill thegladhills@comcast.net for additional information. Visit the website www.DaysforGirls.org



MISSIONS



Tent City 4 is in Need - Our friends at Tent City 4 continue to reside at Exit 20 on Interstate 90 where they've been for several months as they work to find another "home." While there they continue to have a need for evening meals, gasoline (gas cards) for generators, kerosene for lights, and a variety of cold weather clothing. Please call the camp at 206-618-3901 to find out open meal dates and other current needs. These are our friends and they need our help. Call Dick or Jan

Gram (425-392-7016) or Bill or Jan Bennett (425-557-5423). Thanks to all of you for your help.

WORSHIP SUPPORT

We want to thank all those who contributed to last year's flower funds at Easter and Advent with such over-flowing generosity. Not only were we able to deck the church out in flowers for those two holy seasons, but, with the excess funds we were able to purchase the new altar and pulpit cloths and Bible bookmark that graced the chancel during the season of Advent. By rotating or flipping the cloths, we were able to show the meaning attached to each week's Advent candle.

Thanks to this congregation's generosity to date, we have been able to provide flowers for Easter, Advent and Christmas, and have been able to enhance the sanctuary with the three communion tables (big and little), a new pulpit microphone, the Pillars of Heaven nativity set, the lighted choir garland, the ushers' pew ropes, and multiple silk flower arrangements for the altar.



So, what's the reason for all the fleur-de-lis on the altar furniture?

Botanical and heraldic historians say that the symbol commonly called the fleur-de-lis is a stylized representation of the iris flower which has been a symbol of royalty since ancient times. Although there are many species of Iris, they all have a common shape of three upright petals called standards and three drooping downward petals called falls. In the Middle Ages, both the flower and the stylized form of it were taken to be symbols of the Holy Trinity: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit or God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. As the hymn says, "God in three persons, Blessed Trinity". On the fleur-de-lis, the cord across the middle represents the one Divine Substance (godhood) that binds the three Persons together.

When the sanctuary building was being built in 1994, the Interiors sub-committee of the building committee designed the altar furniture and found a master carpenter on Whidbey Island to build it. It was decided to add on the fleur-de-lis primarily as a symbol of the Trinity which would also hold the additional meaning of the birth of Christ during Advent and Christmas.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2/1 Karen Ishimaru
2/3 Chris Dederer
Jason Murray
2/5 Susie Howard
Kendall Johnston
2/7 Cathy Anderson
2/8 Susan Gewin
Leslie Mincey
Janice Murray
2/12 Jeff Coffey
2/13 Mark Bennett
2/14 Ella Dugan
2/17 Kelly Heeringa
2/18 Dennis Meinhardt
Kendra Young

2/19 Cheryl Dietzel
Tyler Fitzpatrick
2/20 Kara Edwards
Marjorie McClurg
Lee McCollough
2/21 Lizzie Webb
2/22 Kira De la Cruz
2/23 Jackie Dulken
2/24 Sue Kaetzel
2/25 Marcus De la Cruz
2/27 Todd Anderson
Mike McCuen
2/27 Phyllis Pieri
2/28 Becky Ittig



2/4 Wayne and Susan Chen
2/7 Tom Greenwood & Shannon Hamrick
2/14 Ron & Sue Kaetzel

If we have missed your special day, be sure to sign into FaithOnline and update your profile.

November & December: This month, we are thankful for...

- Judy For Rides to church.
- My Employees For Their continued support in my new leadership role.
- Our Greeters For Their sweet disposition.
- Our forefathers and mothers For A voting system without too much strife.
- Pastor Elizabeth for Being our leader and preaching a great sermon and a great healing service on 11/9, for touching our hearts and minds every week through the words of her sermons.
- Judy and Cheryl for Great hospitality at the 11/12 memorial.
- Dick For Driving Paul to chemo.
- Faith Staff For All that they do.
- Judy For for bringing me to this church.
- Melissa For Singing so beautifully!
- Pam S For Making me laugh all the time.
- Tina, Becky and all For Participating in Hands Against Hunger.
- Dietzel's & Rolette's For Making us feel so welcome.
- Becky I For Being kind, jovial and graceful.
- God For Peace
- For Faith Church For All the prayer support - I feel strong!
- Phyllis and committee For Ladies Night Out
- Our wonderful music leaders For All the great inspiring music.
- Faith Music Team For Joy and Awe.
- Chloe For Always being willing help
- Faith Church For Being so welcoming!
- Dan For Reading scripture and recording the service.
- FaithWalk For Providing us with great music.

Karen For The beautiful sanctuary decorations and set up.

The Choir For Their beautiful music.

Pamz For Everything she does.

Faith Church For All who are responsible for the banners, dramatic reading choir and singing our prayers.

Bob and Nancy For Organizing the Giving Tree

Melissa For The children's choir

Melissa For for being so welcoming and helpful.

Everyone for welcoming Jennifer's Spanish housemate.

Pastor Elizabeth For All she does, her continued leadership and guidance. For her smile and wonderful words each week, especially the sermon about generosity and being intentional. The unique Advent candles and presentation May God Bless her.

Faith's Prayer Chain For Prayers - I am fine!

Lee and Tom For Facilitating the 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday school.



FAITH CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Elizabeth Ingram Schindler	Elizabeth@faithunited.org
Music	Pam Sloane	pams@faithunited.org
Pianist	Emily Cowgill	emily@faithunited.org
Dir. Youth Ministry	Leslie Moreno	leslie@fiathunited.org
Children's & Family Ministry	Brendan Cooney	brendan@faithunited.org
Children's Assistant	Melissa Bortnick	melissa@faithunitd.org
Bookkeeper	Laura Meinhardt	laura@faithunited.org
Preschool Director	Kathryn Aitcheson	kathryn@faithunited.org
Office Administrator	Pam Zajac	pam@faithunited.org

SUNDAYS AT FAITH CHURCH

9:00 a.m.

Worship Service
Adult, Middle & High School Sunday School
Child-Care Provided

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship in Lobby

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service
Children's Sunday School
Child-Care Provided

11:30 a.m.

Children's Choir Practice