

SANDPOINTER

Sand Point Community United Methodist Church
4710 Northeast 70th Street
Seattle, Washington 98115-6148

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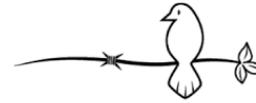


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November 29, 2016

**Sand Point Community
United Methodist Church**

4710 NE 70th St., Seattle, WA 98115-6148
206-523-3040; sandpointcommunity.org
spcommunity@qwestoffice.net
Rev. Janelle Kurtz, Pastor



christian peacemaker teams



Melodies of Compassion

December Giving

Christian Peacemaker Teams

Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) is an international organization set up to support teams of peace workers in conflict areas around the world. These teams believe that they can lower the levels of violence through nonviolent direct action, human rights documentation, and nonviolence training. CPT sums their work up as "...committed to reducing violence by *getting in the way*". CPT currently works in Colombia, Iraq, the West Bank, Chiapas, Mexico, and Kenora, Ontario, Canada. CPT has around 30 full- and part-time stipended peacemakers and nearly 200 part-time volunteers who support violence-reduction projects around the world. This work is supported by a Board of Directors whose members represent organizations and denominations officially sponsoring CPT. The CPT places teams at the invitation of local peacemaking communities that are confronting situations of lethal conflict. These teams **seek to follow God's Spirit as it works through local peacemakers** who risk injury and death by waging nonviolent direct action to confront systems of violence and oppression. Please hold these teams in your prayers and support them with your Melodies gifts this Christmastime!

From Our Pastor...

June of 2014 marked the beginning of the Year of YEAH (YoY). This was something of a mini 'bucket list' year for me and Kevin. For one year we dialed back our practical, 'we can't do that, maybe one day' thinking and just went for it. It was a wonderful counterbalance to the first five years of our marriage when all our energy was going towards finishing our degrees, new jobs, ordination, and paying off those degrees.

We did dozens of ordinary, everyday things we normally would have foregone due to time, ease, or routine. But we also went big: We did Thanksgiving in NYC, adopted our beloved cat on a whim, did a friends trip we kept putting off, spent Valentine's Day at a blacksmithing class. I went trapezing, air ballooning, and on a 3-day silent retreat. The year culminated with a cross-country move that just 12 months before seemed at best, impractical; and at worst, utterly impossible. We never imagined the year ending with us unpacking boxes in Seattle; but we are so glad it did!

I share this with you, because that is precisely the point. Before our YoY, we didn't let ourselves *imagine* anything beyond the everyday or what was most practical for 30 years from now. We didn't let ourselves vision or dream or really play. And life was fine, steady, as sure as it could be on our end; but it was nothing like the terrifying, uncertain, exhilarating thrill that comes when you jump off a platform and swing through the air! That was a different kind of living! That's the living Spirit that gets you to pull the moving truck out of your familiar home to set off for one 3,000 miles away to see what awaits.

My friends, we don't have to jump off a platform or pack up all our things, but I hope that we will find ways to make room to vision. To dream. To imagine. To say 'YEAH!' when time, or routine, or practical thinking would rather we say 'no.' I hope we will give ourselves our own Year of YEAH to see where the Spirit is leading.

In the YoY spirit, you will be hearing from our Visioning Team in the new year as we discern our next adventures as a faith community. In the meantime, we want to encourage everyone to free space to dream in their own lives. Imagine something you'd like to do or a way you would like to live. Whether it's writing a novel, taking a mission trip, or reconnecting with an old friend. Maybe it's next week or maybe it's next year, either way, let's say 'YEAH!' now! Read on for a free opportunity to work with a life coach towards these dreams (pp. 4 in this Sandpointer).

Pastor Janelle

Calendar

Wednesday (November 30)

Bell Choir— 6:30 p.m., Choir Room
Choir Practice—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (December 1)

Women's Bible Study—10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Sunday (December 4)

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall
Friends of Magnuson Park— 12:30—3:30 p.m.,
Perry Hall

Monday (December 5)

SANDPOINTER (newsletter) deadline

Tuesday (December 6)

Men's Bible Study— 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
UM Women's Christmas Tea— 12:30 p.m., Perry Hall

Wednesday (December 7)

Bell Choir— 6:30 p.m., Choir Room
Choir Practice—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Looking Ahead

Sunday (December 11)

Communion Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall
Enrichment Hour—11:30 a.m., Fireside Room

Wednesday (December 14)

Bell Choir— 6:30 p.m., Choir Room
Choir Practice—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (December 15)

Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Friday (December 16)

Parent's Night Out—5:00—8:00 p.m., Perry Hall;
RSVP to Sarah Ritchey at spclittleones@gmail.com

Sunday (December 18)

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Children's Christmas Program (during Worship)
*** All children welcome to participate!***
Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall



December Birthdays

We apologize if we missed your birthday. Please call the church office with your information so we may include you next time.



Poinsettias for the Christmas Altar



To donate a fresh poinsettia plant for the altar this Christmas, please purchase your potted 6-inch plant (any color) and bring it to church on Sunday, December 18th (not before, as we can't be responsible for watering them, and keeping them warm in the unheated sanctuary). Put your plant on, or in front of the altar, by 9:45 that morning. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one with your poinsettia, please let Nicole in the church office know their names by Tuesday, December 13. You may take your poinsettia home after our Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. worship service. Thanks in advance for donating a poinsettia!

New Writing Group!



Tom Trzyna is starting a writing group! He has run classes on autobiography writing and knows the promises and complexities of the task. He is interested, above all, in working with people's stories so that they can resolve issues, find spiritual meaning, and lead richer lives.

The people who join need to commit to:

- 1) Writing five pages a week
- 2) Developing a writing plan
- 3) Reading at least Writing as a Way of Healing or The Art of Slow Writing, by Louise De Salvo
- 4) Being willing on an occasional basis to share some of their writing
- 5) Meet weekly

If you are interested, or have questions, you can contact Tom.

Women's Bible Study 1st & 3rd Thursdays

10:00 a.m.—Fireside Room
All women of the church are invited.





**United Methodist
Women
Christmas Tea
Tuesday, December 6,
12:30 p.m. Perry Hall**

All women of the church, and friends and neighbors are invited to our annual Christmas Tea. There will be tasty treats, light entertainment, and the opportunity to share gifts for Mary's Place, the shelter for homeless families with children that the Church has long supported. Their wish list includes: underwear and socks for women and children; soap, shampoo, and deodorant; blankets, jackets, backpacks; Depends, baby diapers, and toddler pull ups; juice boxes, unopened vitamins and first aid items; gift cards, and shoe vouchers. Mark your calendars for this fun event!

Free Life Coaching Opportunity

An exciting opportunity is available to us as we help a Ravenna community member fulfill her Life Coaching training requirements. Coach Daphne has made available to us the opportunity for 8-10 individuals from our congregation to participate in an introductory life coaching experience. Willing and interested participants would have three one-hour, private, 1-on-1 sessions working with Coach Daphne.

This time together would:

- 1) identify a particular goal/dream of interest (with the help of the coach);
- 2) create together some ideas of how to move towards reaching one's goal through understanding the power of thought and the importance of feeling good, as well as doing processes to identify and lower any resistance in achieving one's goals;
- 3) establish a commitment of identifiable steps to keep working towards your goals, as well as determine what success will look like.

The Life Coaching is free at this time while Coach Daphne works toward her certification. Coaching sessions may be a combination of in-person and telephone meetings and would occur through December and January. Coach Daphne will be available to greet us in person on December 11 after service at our fellowship time.

New Art!

Sarah Ritchey's striking original papercuts are now on display in the north hallway. Sarah is our Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries, as well as being a professional artist. Papercut art, dating back to 6th Century A.D. China, has enjoyed a recent revival by contemporary artists.



THANK YOU TO OUR "HANGING OF THE GREENS" VOLUNTEERS!

We had a great turnout of 30 people to hang the greens on November 20th after church. It might have been *The Best Christmas Hanging of the Greens Ever!* Thanks go to: Sylvia Abbott; Berta Cohen; Ken Cribley; Bill and Ana Eagen; Bella Flaccus; Roland Grober and Caroline Zizza; Sue Haas; Kathryn Jacobson; Kevin, Janelle, and Sasha Kurtz; Alison Muir; Jack Praeger and Gladys Ruthrauff; Roland, Marilyn, and James Pray; Adam, Sarah, Ewan, and Matthew Ritchey; Jane Stevens and Jerry Zimmerman; Ngaire and Bruce Taylor; Tom Trzyna; and Kathy and Doug Warnaca.

Advent in Sunday School



Join us weekly for a special Advent-themed Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

- K-5 in the downstairs classrooms
- 6th grade & up in the Youth Rec Room



Seeking Household Help?



Someone connected to our congregation has reached out seeking employment opportunities. She has experience in providing housecleaning, cooking and bathroom aide services. If you might be able to benefit from these services, please contact the Church's Office Manager, Nicole Denny (206-523-3040 or spcommunity@qwestoffice.net) who will make the connection.