

SANDPOINTER

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

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SANDPOINTER

January 3, 2018

**Sand Point Community
United Methodist Church**

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Rev. Janelle Kurtz, Pastor



**Martin Luther King
Day of Service
Saturday, January 13th
3:00-5:00 p.m.**

We will again be joining other local congregations to serve at North Helpline (12736 33rd Ave NE, 98125). Like last year, we will be working in the warehouse to prepare food and supplies for clients. There is work for people of all ages and abilities so we hope you'll join us! Following our service, we will be gathering for fellowship at the Wedgwood Ale House (8515 35th Ave NE, 98115). Appetizers will be provided.



From the Pastor—

At this time last year, we celebrated Epiphany Sunday in worship with the introduction of "Star Words." Words written on Blue or Yellow star-shaped post-it notes. We were to put our stars somewhere we would see them. From there, we would reflect and pray on that word throughout the year. I affixed my star words: Comfort and Change (I'm not sure how I ended up with two) on the inside of my phone case. I saw them A LOT over the past year. And I even reflected on them periodically, too.

It is only now with another Epiphany upon us that I realize how comfort and change played out in my faith this year. You know it was a hard year for me. For much of it, comfort seemed to taunt me. At best it was fleeting, always leaving before I was ready for it to go. In my darkest midnights, it was empty and so far from reach I could no longer imagine it at all.

Change, on the other hand, sought me out. Again and again. In the unexpected ways that change always comes to us. I can think of half a dozen moments when I tried to force change out of desperation. To control it. But it was the surprising changes this year that most shaped my life and my healing. These changes were always beyond me--surfacing at moments when I let myself be human and let God be God. When I let others love me and care for me even when I felt like I had nothing to give in return.

The holy mystery is that now, as I reflect fully on this past year and its changes, the words of this familiar Advent Scripture are echoing in my heart: "Comfort, o comfort, my people says God. Speak tenderly...she has served her term, her penalty is up" (Isaiah 40:1-2). To be sure: this is an everlasting comfort, long in coming, but graciously given. And for that, I am beyond grateful! Though that's not to say that I wouldn't mind having something like "stability" or "consistency" as my Star Word this year after last one!

Dear ones, I pray that your Star Word revealed God to you in a new way this year and that it might again this Epiphany!

Peace, *Pastor Janelle*

This week

Sunday (January 7)

Sunday School—9:30-10:00 a.m.

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Youth Choir Practice—immed. after postlude, Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall

Unhanging of the Greens—after Fellowship Hour

Looking Ahead

Monday (January 8)

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Wednesday (January 10)

Bell Choir—6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (January 11)

SPRC Meeting—7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Saturday (January 13)

MLK Day of Service—3:00-5:00 p.m., North Helpline

Sunday (January 14)

Sunday School—9:30-10:00 a.m.

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Youth Choir Practice—immed. after postlude, Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall

Enrichment Hour—11:30 a.m., Fireside Room

Monday (January 15)

The Church offices are closed in observance of MLK Day

Tuesday (January 16)

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

Church Council—7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Wednesday (January 17)

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (January 18)

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

Pastoral Connection

To connect with Pastor Janelle you can reach her by phone (206-523-3040) or email (revjkurtz@gmail.com) Sunday-Thursday. She takes her days off on Fridays and Saturdays. Pastor Janelle is happy to schedule a time to meet with you in person. Appointments can be scheduled directly through Pastor Janelle or the Church Office.



January Birthdays

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

Melodies of Compassion— Water 1st International

Melodies of Compassion for the months of December and January will be donated to Water 1st International. The organization was started in 2005 by a group of professionals with experience in the water and sanitation and fundraising sectors. **\$16 MILLION RAISED. 2,297 PROJECTS COMPLETED. 185,000 LIVES TRANSFORMED!**

The focus was simple: build an organization from the ground up with the ability to consistently implement high-quality water and sanitation projects that provide permanent solutions for the world's poorest communities.

They have helped 185,000 people obtain access to clean, convenient water supplies and sanitary toilets, which the communities independently own and manage. One community at a time, with more than 7,000 supporters all giving what they can to the cause --- and not one project has failed. They know this because they follow up with consistent project monitoring. Since most international nonprofit organizations do not follow up on their projects, they are different.

Water 1st was created to support water projects that would last. Their vision was to support local, on-the-ground organizations (partners in this work) with a proven track record of implementing effective, long-lasting water and sanitation projects - comprehensive, cost-effective projects - piped water systems, sanitary toilets, and hygiene education projects.

They make sure each project is providing the intended benefits and generating the best possible outcomes. You can be confident that your donation is spent wisely and is making a real difference in the lives of the people served. Supporting and implementing water and sanitation projects properly is the best investment and best hope for the world's poorest people.

Countries being served at this time are Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mozambique and India. More information can be found at their website: Water1st.org.

Please give generously to Melodies in December and January so that we can really contribute to this most basic human need – clean water.

SPRC News of Note from Martha Price SPRC Chair



Have you ever gone up to have a close in look at the organ Yvonne Hoar plays for us every Sunday?

It has three keyboards that are immediately visible; and those pedals at the base? Well that is entirely another keyboard. In addition, there are lots of buttons that need to be pushed at the right time that do magical things to all or some of the keyboards.

Yvonne explained to me that it took her YEARS to learn to play this instrument, and yet we take her expertise for granted without much thought to the complexity of it all. Just think of all the preludes, postludes, cantatas, communion, wedding, and memorial music that we've enjoyed because this person (of small stature, I would note) has spent a good part of her life learning to bring this enormous instrument into harmonious sound.

Then imagine the absence of this music or the instrument in the hands of a novice. Think about it, and maybe clap a bit more enthusiastically after the postlude next Sunday! And if you want a really strenuous physical workout, consider learning to play the organ.

United Methodist Women Program Announcement

The next United Methodist Women's Luncheon is Tuesday, February 13, 12:00-2:00 p.m. in Perry Hall. (No meeting in January.)

We will enjoy a Valentine's Day Program: Sharing love stories from our past--our own, our parents', someone else's (?), or a favorite book or movie love story--also, Lynn Ferguson's annual report, and Devotions.

Please bring a sandwich. Coffee, tea, veggies, and dessert will be provided as we celebrate February birthdays! Please RSVP to Sue Haas to let me know if you'd like a ride. Thanks!

Parents' Night Out Thank You!

It is with joy to share my gratitude to the families who participated and to our volunteers and staff for their help with Parents' Night Out on Friday, December 15th. What a fantastic way to start off the Christmas celebrations and winter break from school! A special "Thank You" to Brittany Erickson, Bella Flaccus, Sue and Scott Haas, Rev. Janelle Kurtz, Kathryn Jacobson, Soona Moxon, Beth Mullin, and Doug and Kathy Warnaca who devoted their time and energy playing with the kids and in making the evening a great success!

A Caroling Thank You!

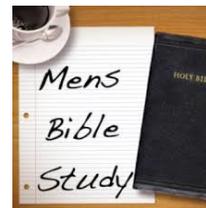
Thank you to Kim Fergus and family for spreading the Christmas spirit by organizing caroling on December 21th! We sang loud and collected monetary donations and food that filled our arms and wagon for the Hunger Intervention Program.

Thank you to Girl Scout Troop #42001

Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 42001 for contributing to our Little Free Pantry this month!

More Holiday Cheer to Come!

Look for a celebration of the holiday season in the next Sandpointer, complete with pictures and updates!



Men's Bible Study

**1st & 3rd Tuesdays
10:00 a.m.—Fireside Room**

All men of the church are invited.

Women's Bible Study

**1st & 3rd Thursdays
10:00 a.m.—Fireside Room**

All women of the church are invited.

