

SANDPOINTER

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

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SANDPOINTER

February 20, 2018

**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



Thank You to Ron and Susan Vigil!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ron and Susan Vigil who concluded ten years of providing faithful custodial services (and more!) to Sand Point church on December 31, 2017. You are invited to extend your personal appreciation to them directly with a card or note. Their address is available in the church office for those who need it.

While there can be no replacing the part they played in our faith community, we are attentive to making sure the services they provided are still being met. Effective January 1, 2018, our weekly cleaning services are being provided by Vanguard Cleaning Systems. Volunteers are providing other custodial and minor maintenance services previously provided by Ron and Susan.

From the Pastor—

My reflections this week are courtesy of one of my recent devotionals. It is an excerpt from Henri Nowen's writings entitled, *Bread for the Journey*:

"Patience is a hard discipline...Patience is not a waiting passivity until someone else does something. Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest, to be completely present to the moment, to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand."

My friends, I have revisited these words again and again. I love the idea of trusting that the ground we stand on might reveal its own treasure. These words conjured up an image of standing on a wellspring hidden just below the surface waiting to be unleashed.

I have two thoughts about this: 1. I believe that we, as a congregation, are in a wellspring moment! Right here, right now, the Spirit is working something in our midst. I see it, I hear it, I sense it bubbling up. For me, I vacillate between excitement and nervousness—wondering what will be fully revealed. And so I ground myself again in the word: Patience: *active, deliberate, standing our ground, being fully present, engaged where we are, patience*. I wonder, are there places in your life where you could use the grounding of such patience? What would that look like?

2. In asking myself these questions, I decided to remove the word "busy" from my vocabulary (or at least try to!). This is my Lenten discipline. You see, the 'busier' I think I am, the less patience I tend to have. Being 'busy' pulls me away from being present and leaves me thinking about "ALL THE THINGS!" I have to do. It's as if 'busy' becomes a badge of honor all its own. Remember that jar from worship a few weeks ago? Busy tries to fill it for me. Now I must fill it differently: intentionally, patiently.

I hope this vocabulary change will keep me mindful. Present. Aware that time is a gift from God; it is not just a scarce commodity that I never have enough of or trifle away. Who knows what will come of this practice, but I will trust that treasure might be revealed in the ground I stand on.

Also, now that I've told you all this Lenten commitment, feel free to hold me accountable in it: Ask me how it's going and call me out when I inevitably stray. May this Lenten season hold all kinds of treasure for you to unearth.

Peace, *Pastor Janelle*

This week

Sunday (February 25)

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

Tent City 3 Dinner—Dinner prep. @ 2 p.m., Lehman Hall; delivery & serving approximately 5 p.m.

Looking Ahead

Monday (February 26)

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Wednesday (February 28)

Lenten Dinner + Discussion—5:30-7:00 p.m., Perry Hall

Bell Choir—6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (March 1)

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

SPRC Meeting—7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Sunday (March 4)

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

Tuesday (March 6)

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

Wednesday (March 7)

Lenten Dinner + Discussion—5:30-7:00 p.m., Perry Hall

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

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.

Save the Date!

Sand Point Community Night at the Mariners!

When: Friday, June 15th at 7:10 pm against the Boston Red Sox

Cost: \$13 per ticket (cash or checks made payable to Sand Point Community United Methodist Church)

Why: Come root on the Mariners with all of your friends from Sand Point Community United Methodist Church and watch a fireworks display after the game!

All ticket orders are due back to the church office by Friday, May 4th. Order forms will be made available at the church this week. Any questions contact Sarah Ritchey at spclittleones@gmail.com.



Go Mariners!



Could you volunteer time to cover the church office when the Office Manager is away ?

In the past we've put out a call for volunteers for office coverage a few weeks before the Office Manager's vacation time, but that turns out to be rather hit or miss, and we'd like to have a more reliable system in place. The aim is to compile a list of five or six people who could be trained to cover the basic needs in the office when the office manager is on vacation, ill or temporarily away. This would assure keeping the office open during main business hours so that it accommodates those who may have need of access to or use of facilities. Such volunteer coverage hours are usually modified to provide presence for 3 or 4 hours on any given day. The work is limited to tasks such as answering the phone, directing calls as needed or taking messages, bringing in the mail, etc.

We want to create a set list of volunteers so that we can rotate and not burden any one person with the task, and it will (hopefully) make it easier to find a volunteer if others on the list might not be available. Once we have "the list," the office manager will do a "training" of the basics, and then work with those on the list to plan ahead for coverage during the office manager's time off/vacations.

February Melodies of Compassion SPCUMC Little Free Pantry

February Melodies of Compassion is for our Little Free Pantry.

Money that is donated to Melodies this month will go toward stocking the Pantry. We as a church are committed to serving our community; one way we are doing that is through the on-going support of a Little Free Library and a Little Free Pantry. It is through these works of piety and works of mercy that make Sand Point a driven community of faithful people, full of adventurous spirits as we experience God's grace with one another.

Whether there is a need for food or a need to give, the Little Free Pantry facilitates neighbors helping neighbors, building community. In all places, Little Free Boxes are for those who want and/or need to give.

If you are inspired and would like to help share in the stewardship duties of our Little Free Boxes, please contact Sarah Ritchey at spclittleones@gmail.com or the church main office at 206-523-3040.

Stewardship duties include keeping the Pantry stocked with good food, and making sure the box is well maintained on a daily basis.

Sunday School



During this season of Lent we will have opportunities for sharing together in a faith journey where we will all have room to grow, discover strengths and passions, and deepen our love of God and connection with one another.

Kids and youth will be gathering together in the chapel at 9:30 a.m. to prepare for Worship by examining the scripture used for the week's sermon while also taking a look at the recently released movie, *The Greatest Showman*, and how it relates to us from a faith perspective.

I am excited for our season together and look forward to discovering all the ways we can be a community together at Sand Point!

Sarah Ritchey

Engaging Kids and Youth in Worship

There are many different ways in which we are currently engaging our kids and youth in worship each Sunday morning to help them have an authentic faith experience.

Youth are invited to participate during Worship in various ways through being an acolyte, helping to serve communion, and passing around the offering plates. They are also provided materials that guide them through the scripture lessons and hear the message in ways that are meaningful to them.

Our older youth are invited to use the white "Worship & Scripture Reflection Notebook" binders during Worship. Every Sunday, a new handout is placed inside with details about Worship, scripture readings, and open-ended questions that help to guide faith discoveries. These binders are also filled with lined and blank pages available for note-taking, doodling, and writing.

Weekly Children's Bulletins are available for ages 3-6 and ages 7-12 and focus on the scripture lesson on which the sermon is based.

There are Worship Kits filled with toys and books for our Preschool and early elementary age children.

Small, colorful clipboards with blank paper and crayons are available to children of any age.

Issues of the Upper Room's DevoZine and Pockets, devotional magazines geared for kids and youth, along with the Beginners Bible and Action Bible are also made available to read during Worship.

All of these items can be found on the round table in the Narthex. Worship Kits, Clipboards, and Binders remain in the sanctuary so they can be used on future Sunday Mornings. Children's Bulletins can be taken home.

Easter Candy Donations

The Easter Bunny is looking for nut-free treats/candy donations for our Easter Egg Hunt. If extra candy hops into your shopping cart, the candy can be dropped off in the office or you can pass it off directly into the capable hands of Sarah Ritchey.

SPRC News of Note

Since becoming SPRC chairperson (how hard can it be? I asked – HA!), I've tried to have a monthly piece in The Sand Pointer to highlight the work of SPCUMC's paid staff. Thus far Les Martin, Yvonne Hoar, Nicole Denny and Sarah Ritchey have been featured.

Last month I wanted to highlight our bookkeeper, Sue Takano, but when I sat down to write something I realized I have no idea what a bookkeeper does. Well, that's not entirely true. I know bookkeepers record money in and money out. But it's actually more complicated. I learned something about this when I sat down with Sue for her annual review, and even more when the SPRC sat down to update the information on "Bookkeeper Position Description" (which we are doing for all staff positions).

Our bookkeeper does keep track of money in and money out, but in order to do that she must follow and/or create appropriate systems to achieve it. That means she can't cut a check if it is not accompanied by the appropriate requisition with the appropriate signatures, and even with that information, the check must be reviewed and approved by the Financial Secretary. And, of course, that check has to be recorded in the appropriate budget category (that information was supposed to be on the requisition wasn't it?!), which sounds simple but sometimes isn't - hum, should that expense for the youth choir be applied to Youth Ministries or Music?? Well, fortunately, Sue keeps all of that straight (and so much more) and, in collaboration with the Finance Committee, provides us (Church Council) with a monthly budget report and an Annual Budget Report to plan for the coming year. Oh, I forgot - a bookkeeper also needs excellent computer skills as well as knowing when and how to file tax reports.

Although Sue works part time, her work, and that of our Finance Committee, have a full time effect on the engine of our church. I have come to appreciate how she organizes her work in a few hours a week, and always with the awareness and efficiencies of prioritizing the necessary activities. And, although it doesn't really doesn't show up anywhere regarding qualifications for bookkeeping skills, Sue is a dog person, and that just places her over the top with me! Thank you, Sue!