

SANDPOINTER

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

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SANDPOINTER

November 28, 2017

**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



**Hanging
of the
Greens**

Join us **Sunday, December 3** for the Hanging of the Greens—the time when we adorn our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Just as we prepare our hearts for Christmas, we will prepare our space, too. And both ‘preparations’ will take place as part of our worship service.

After worship, we will enjoy some fellowship and treats together and then re-gather in the sanctuary at 11:30 to finish any decorating we cannot do as part of the service. Please join us for worship and decorating!

**United Methodist Women’s
Christmas High Tea**

**Tuesday, December 12,
1:00-3:00 p.m. in Perry Hall**



All women of the church and their guests are invited to the United Methodist Women's annual Christmas High Tea in Perry Hall. Donations for three charities will be collected. Come for the devotions, merriment, a lively program, tea sandwiches, festive cookies—and tea, of course! Please contact Sue Haas if you need a ride.

From the Pastor—

Earlier this fall, we introduced a PrayGround at the front of the sanctuary in an effort to engage our youngest disciples more fully in worship. We designed the space to be child-friendly and included developmentally-appropriate worship materials. We made intentional changes from week to week as we saw needed. After six weeks, we removed the space to accommodate memorial services. This time was integral for us to ask more questions of you, our members and families, as a way of assessing our progress towards our goal.

What we learned from asking questions was what worked to engage us all in worship more fully—and what didn't! The PrayGround space was most appreciated for its hospitality and welcome—characteristics we embody just by who we are as a faith community!

We also learned that the pews better facilitate focus on the worship materials we provide. The children's bulletins, worship kits and children's Bibles best engage our children in our shared worship time, even more so when adults join in and follow-up. Several families mentioned that they welcome other adults in engaging their children at church—it's important to have faith mentors outside of parents and guardians. And if you aren't sure how to best start those conversations, feel free to reach out to the parents.

Asking the right questions also revealed ways we can shape Sunday School as an opportunity to explore how we worship together as a faith community. The last few weeks, our children have been meeting in the chapel for Sunday School to sing, hear a lesson, and pray together. We invited the children to create guidelines for worship to explore what it means for *all of us to be active participants* in worship. Watch for their guidelines! Our personal favorite suggestion is: "Sing REALLY Loud!!!" One John Wesley suggested, too.

The PrayGround introduced the opportunity for us to have conversations and ask important questions about ways we create meaningful worship for all. What has come out of it furthers our initial purpose of more fully engaging us in our shared, inter-generational worship. This will remain our goal!

This week

Saturday (December 2)

PEO Christmas Bazaar—10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Perry

Sunday (December 3)

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

Hanging of the Greens—after Fellowship Hour

Looking Ahead

Monday (December 4)

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Tuesday (December 5)

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

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

Wednesday (December 6)

Bell Choir—6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (December 7)

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

SPRC—7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Sunday (December 10)

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

Tuesday (December 12)

United Methodist Women's Christmas High Tea—

1:00-3:00 p.m., Perry Hall

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.

Celebration of Commitments Sunday November 19



Music Director
Les Martin, leading a
cantata with a brass
quartet, a cantor, and
our Chancel Choir

Pastor Janelle and
the congregation's
children.

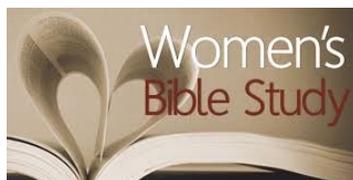


Photos by Bruce Taylor

Women's Bible Study

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

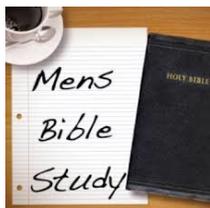
All women of the church
are invited.



Men's Bible Study

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

All men of the church are invited.



From the Pastor, continued—

With this goal before us, we may come back to the PrayGround again as the needs of our congregation change. For now, though, we will focus our energy on creating worship materials for all ages and fostering mentoring relationships for disciples across the generations.

Thank you for your patience in this process and for trusting us with your reflections. We take this to heart and are grateful to be in ministry alongside you—in worship and beyond!

Pastor Janelle and Sarah Ritchey

All-Church Council Meeting

On Tuesday December 5th at 7:00 p.m., the Church Council will be meeting to conduct its regular business. We will also be following up on a few items still requiring our attention from our Charge Conference.

All SPCUMC members are invited to be present to hear these updates and vote on these remaining items.

See you there!

Child Care for Church Council

Child care will be available for the Church Council meeting on
Tuesday December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Advent Worship Preview

This Advent season, we will be reading through Luke chapter 1.

Reading through this passage, you'll notice that at several key points in the story, the characters ask a question. Their questions are not unlike our own faith questions: "How can I be sure?" "How can it be?" "Why?" "What will this be?"

We will use these questions to dig deeper into our own faith and the questions we ask. Each week will lead up to the Christmas Eve celebration—the moment when the Good News breaks through all our questions. I invite you join us and read along!



Parents' Night Out



Parents' Night Out is on Friday, December 15th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Like all our other PNOs, this event is open for all children ages 0-12 years old and space is limited. Our staff and volunteers will be present while the kids play games, create Christmas-inspired crafts, sing Christmas carols, eat dinner, and watch a short age-appropriate movie. A suggested donation of \$5 per child / \$10 per family.

To reserve your child's space or would like to help with this fun-filled event, please contact Sarah Ritchey at spclittleones@gmail.com.

Christmas Bazaar

Members and friends of the congregation are invited to a Christmas Bazaar in Perry Hall, Saturday, December 2nd, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.. The event is sponsored by Seattle P.E.O. Reciprocity, one of the groups that rents space in our church throughout the year.

P.E.O. is a women's philanthropic organization promoting education for women through scholarships, loans, and a college for women.

Items for sale will include poinsettias, kitchen knives, Entertainment Books, note cards, synthetic chamois, and jewelry.

Please join us for coffee and treats as you shop.



Christmas Poinsettias



All are invited to bring red poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary in celebration of our Christmas Eve services. Please plan to bring poinsettias to worship on Sunday, December 24th, placing them near the altar by 9:50AM before we begin worship.

If you would like your poinsettia to be given in honor or memory of someone, please have those names into Nicole in the church office by Wednesday, December 20th for inclusion in the bulletin.

SPRC News of Note



On Sunday, November 19, our congregation experienced a wonderful service highlighted by special music that included a cantor, a brass ensemble, a xylophone and special bells. Oh, and some special drum that Les Martin, our music director, found on a dusty shelf!

Most of us have probably come to expect an anthem or special music of some kind on Sunday morning, but we may not give much thought to the role of music director who puts the "show" together. The 19th was exceptional because Les Martin, our Music Director, worked with Yvonne Hoar, our Organist, to acquire and rehearse with all the musicians and our choir to create a wonderful, moving service. And as the performance was occurring, I considered how important it is for our music director to not only have musical expertise and lead our choirs, but also to be a member in high standing as part of the Seattle (and beyond) musical community in order to find many talents to bring to our services.

To the point of being part of the local music community, I was delighted to learn that Les was the organist for St Mark's Cathedral's Compliment Service on November 19th, and that his future local performances will include Saint-Saëns' "Symphony No. 3" (The Organ Symphony) with the Seattle Pacific University Symphony Orchestra at Seattle's Benaroya Hall on November 26, as part of SPU's annual Sacred Sounds of Christmas concert, and even an invitation to be continuo organist for Handel's Messiah with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra!

For most of us, music is a core part of worship and the opportunity for "lifting up our joyful noise."

Thanks, Les, for the efforts you make to that end.

Martha Price, Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee