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

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SANDPOINTER

January 15, 2019

**Sand Point Community
United Methodist Church**

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Rev. Nico Romeijn-Stout, Pastor

Sand Point Church to Celebrate its 75th Anniversary!

Rise and Shine! We are closing in on a special milestone. It is the 75th anniversary of our church and church family with the first service having been held on February 20, 1944. Let's celebrate with a special coffee hour reception, an invitation to former pastors and staff to join us, and all of us contributing as I know we can.

We will celebrate on a date to be determined. Let me know your suggestions so I can consider them with those already in mind.

The reception will include a decorated cake and punch. We will need folks to serve. Perhaps you would rather arrange flowers for the altar and Perry Hall tables.

Maybe you could design the invitations or help me remember who all to invite. Maybe you could be a greeter that day or a guide for our guests. We will need folks to set-up ahead of the event and clean-up afterwards.

Let our lights shine! Please let me know how you want to be involved in this "all hands on deck" occasion. Get ready to celebrate how far we've come even as we continue to look forward.

Thank you, Sylvia Abbott

From the Pastor—

One of my favorite descriptors for a life of discipleship, for a life spent following Jesus and his teachings, is that of *adventure*. I think of adventures as experiences whose outcomes are unknown. Adventurous experiences are often ones that are unusual, bold, or even a little bit risky. To follow Jesus is all of the above.

Reading Brian McLaren's book *We Make the Road by Walking* for this week (ch. 20) got me thinking about the incredible adventurous experiences in my life and how they have required some kind of preparation. Sometimes it's intentional (I did plan to hike the Wonderland Trail), sometimes the preparation is the sum of experiences enabling me to say yes to an adventure.

Jesus' life models the need for preparation and even retreat for us. Before he began his public ministry, Luke tells us that the Spirit first led him to the wilderness to be tested and to prepare. Over and over again throughout his teaching ministry, we read that "Jesus withdrew." Sometimes by boat, sometimes by hiking up a mountain. He recognized the need to withdraw, to go on retreat, to recharge for the bold and risky experience of a life in ministry.

Maybe, just maybe that is what God is calling this faith community to in the season we are in. To step back and listen for the Spirit's guidance. To prepare for the adventures ahead. To consider the meaning of a life of discipleship – a life of journeying faithfully into God's preferred future for us.

Part of how we are doing just that as a community together is by engaging in the weekly devotional practice of reading McLaren's book together (and the scriptures he includes for each chapter!). Reading and contemplating is only half of the invitation however. The other half is to make a ritual of gathering with your family or friends to discuss ideas that show up on the page or in your minds, and to pray for and with one another.

Our Men's Bible Study (that meets 10:00 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays) has adopted the book for study. We will also again have a short term study group during Lent, the season that prepares for Easter and begins in early March. In the meantime, you can do this on your own! Resources, including a reading schedule and a blog with weekly posts, are found at www.greaternw.org/crossover.

May Grace and Peace and Adventure be with you!
Pastor Nico

This week

Sunday (January 20)

Sunday School—9:30-10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Youth Choir Practice—immed. after postlude, Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall

Looking Ahead

Monday (January 21)

Church offices are closed in observance of MLK Day

Wednesday (January 23)

Bell Choir—6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Saturday (January 26)

Memorial for Bob Houk—2:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday (January 27)

Sunday School—9:30-10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

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.

Wednesday (January 30)

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday (February 3)

Sunday School—9:30-10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Youth Choir Practice—immed. after postlude, Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall

Tuesday (February 5)

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

Wednesday (February 6)

Bell Choir—6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (February 7)

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

SPRC—7:00 p.m., Fireside Room



January Birthdays

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

Pastoral Connection

To connect with Pastor Nico you can reach him by phone (206-523-3040) or email (nromeijnstout@gmail.com) Sunday-Thursday. His days off are Fridays and Saturdays. Pastor Nico is happy to schedule a time to meet with you in person. Appointments can be scheduled through Pastor Nico or the Church Office.



Melodies of Compassion January 2019 North Helpline

Our January Melodies of Compassion supports North Helpline.

The organization opened in 1989 with Emergency Services in response to the overwhelming amount of people in need that local churches regularly saw at their pantries. These churches were among North Helpline's first supporters, referring clients and helping the organization get off the ground financially. The Emergency Services group at that time was able to provide financial assistance with utility shut off and eviction prevention.

The Food Bank was added in 2001. In 2010, they moved locations to a brand new facility in Lake City. Amongst Seattle's many social services, North Helpline is distinguished by this uncommon trait: the convergence of distinct resources under one roof. The North Helpline of today remains volunteer-driven. Please give generously this month! (*Paper money also is gratefully accepted.*)

I Will Sing a New Song by Howard Thurman

The old song of my spirit has wearied itself out.
It has long ago been learned by heart;
It repeats itself over and over,
Bringing no added joy to me days or lift to my spirit.

I will sing a new song.
I must learn the new song for the new seeds.
I must fashion new words born of all the new growth
of my life - of my mind - of my spirit.
I must prepare for new melodies that have
never been mine before.
That all that is within me may lift my voice unto God.
Therefore, I shall rejoice with each new day
And delight my spirit in each fresh unfolding.
I will sing, this day, a new song unto the Lord.

Handbell Choir Openings!

The Handbell Choir has openings for ringers at 4 of our eleven ringing stations.

Ringing by Station means that we specialize in ringing just 2 pitches and their sharps or flats, depending on the key of the piece. We learn to easily identify “our 2 notes” on the staff and play these same notes in every piece we are playing.

We have openings for a ringer at each of these stations:

- Station 1: Low C4 & D4 (heavier bells, bass clef)
- Station 2: Low E4 & F4 (heavier bells, bass clef)
- Station 4: B4 & “middle” C5 (midweight bells, bass clef)
- Station 5: D5 & E5 (midweight bells, treble clef)

You’ll get to learn dazzling handbell techniques, such as “tower ring”, “martellato”, “gyro”, “weaving” “shake” “thumb damp”, “mallets”, and more!

The handbell choir meets from 6:30 – 7:30 PM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month (with occasional exceptions), and we perform in the church service about once per month.

Please let me know if you would like to come and try your hand at ringing – no obligation, no pressure, just lots of fun and team-work in a great community of people!

Les Martin, Director of Music

“You are not finished yet. You are ‘in the making.’ You have the capacity to learn, mature, think, change, and grow. You also have the freedom to stagnate, regress, constrict, and lose your way.

Which road will you take?”

*Excerpt from the Preface of
We Make the Road by Walking
by Brian D. McLaren*

Office Closures

The church offices will be closed on Monday, January 21, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day



ALTAR FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS



Flowers, branches, and other plants brighten our Sunday mornings.!

Please consider donating an altar arrangement to beautify our worship experience. The new 2019 sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board just outside Perry Hall. If you'd like, designate your arrangement in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion in the space provided on the chart. Altar arrangements should be delivered by noon on Friday (if delivered by a florist), or by 9:45 a.m. on Sunday before the 10 a.m. worship service. There are many vases available for your use in the hallway cabinets by the pastor's office. Contact Sue Haas or the church office, with questions. Thank you!

Women's Bible Study

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

All women of the church are invited.



Have You Tried our Assistive Hearing Devices?



If you have difficulty hearing during the service, try one of our assistive hearing devices. You'll find them in a wooden box on the main table in the Narthex. They work like a transistor radio to amplify the pastor, the liturgist — even the pipe organ! Seeing is believing. But hearing is important, too! Ask an usher if you need help.

Did you accidentally take a hearing device home with you?

We started with about a dozen, but we are down to just four. If you accidentally took a hearing device home, please bring it back. If you have trouble getting to church, please phone Bruce Taylor and he'll come pick it up from you.

February Parents' Night Out

We are hosting Parents' Night Out on Friday, February 15th from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Parents' Night Out is open for all children ages 0-12 years old. Staff and volunteers are present while the kids play games, create art projects, sing songs, eat dinner, and watch a short age-appropriate movie. A suggested donation of \$5/child, \$10/family helps to offset the cost of dinner and supplies.

Please contact Sarah Ritchey if you would like to have your children participate!

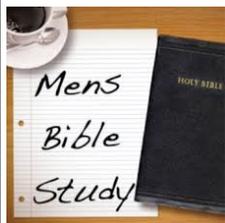
O, wind,
if winter comes,
can spring be far behind?

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Help Needed for Parents' Night Out February 15th 5-8pm

We are in need of volunteers to help with set up, reading/playing with the kids, serving dinner, and clean up for our Parents' Night Out on Friday, February 15th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. This outreach opportunity is open for all children ages 0-12 years old. Staff and volunteers are present while the kids play games, create art projects, sing songs, eat dinner, and watch a short age-appropriate movie.

Please let Sarah Ritchey know if you are interested in volunteering or would like more information.



Men's Bible Study

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

All men of the church are invited.

A Note of Gratitude

As we start 2019, I would like to thank you all who have generously contributed to the ministries of Sand Point Community UMC: our community of faith, our spiritual home, and our nuclear family in Christ. I am especially grateful for all who have made a financial commitment through your 2019 pledge. Your commitments are an incredible testimony to your faith in what God has done and is doing; your ongoing discipleship journey; and your hope for this community's future. The *incredible* good news that I have to share with you all is that of our nearly 40 families who have made a pledge for 2019, *two-thirds(!)* are new or increased pledges!

On behalf of our whole church community — THANK YOU!
Pastor Nico



SP Kids Perry Playdates beginning this year!

Join us every Monday from 9:30-11:30 a.m.! You are invited to come build community with friends and meet new ones in Perry Hall at Sand Point Community United Methodist Church. This program is designed for children 5-younger and their caregivers. A wide variety of books, toys and games will be available within a larger indoor space to play. This a free program and open to the public. This is not a drop-off event, supervision is required.

Sandpointer Change

We are planning to move from two Sandpointers a month to one, larger Sandpointer a month. This change will allow staff to put more time into the planning and execution of the newsletter, and it will create a useful, single tool for congregants to keep track of our church's upcoming events.

Most Churches have monthly or quarterly newsletters, so this adjustment aligns with other religious organizations.

If you have any comments about the changes, please feel free to talk with Pastor Nico or Nicole.

The Advent Season at



United Methodist Women's Christmas Tea

Thirty women enjoyed the Christmas Tea and raised \$341, plus bedding and stuffed animal donations, for Beds for Kids, a project of the Seattle Police Foundation. All donations collected were given to benefit children in need of a better night's sleep. Thanks to all the UMW women who brought goodies, and guests, to this annual event.

When the Choir is Away at Christmas...



The Sunday our Choir was away singing the Bach Cantata at First Lutheran of Richmond Beach, we worshipped in our original sanctuary—Perry Hall! The group was small, but they enjoyed a special advent experience: there were Carols, art experiences, time to get to know each other better, and they shared communion.

A Thank You - the Christmas Parents' Night Out

Thank you to all who helped make our Christmas Parents' Night Out a success! Twenty-seven kids came and had a great time creating artwork, playing games, and enjoying time together. A special thank you to Sylvia Abbott, Bella Flaccus, Alison Muir, Sici Mirante, Brittany Erickson, Kathy and Doug Warnaca, Pastor Nico, and Adam Ritchey.

Sand Point Community Church!



On Christmas Eve, our Family Service and the Candlelight Drop-in Service were a huge success! About 300 folks attended the two services, many folks from the neighborhood and beyond have been attending Eve services for years.

Between a Missions Team donation, and special donations from the Family Service, we raised over \$1500 for the Luke 4:18 fund—a district-led Bail Fund for one of our district congregations, El Dios Viviente, whose congregants have been struggling with immigration harassment.

An Advent Thank you!

A special thank you to all the folks who helped create a beautiful experience at Sand Point Community Church this Advent season, whether you helped tidy and decorate, assisted with a specific worship service—it was a lovely end to our year!