

UUCP
 Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse
 PO Box 9342
 Moscow, ID 83843

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General Church Information
 UUCP Phone: 208-882-4328
 Office Email: uuchurch@palouseuu.org
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens, Minister
Sue Engels, Treasurer

<http://www.palouseuu.org>

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UUCP

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse

News

April 2025

PO Box 9342 420 E. 2nd Street, Moscow, ID 83843 Issue Date: April 1, 2025 Volume #75, Issue 4 Issued Monthly

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April 6, 10:00 am

Love as a Verb

Service Leaders: The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens and Juno Peterson-Pope

Celebrant: Martha Schmidt

Our congregation has been hosting Family Promise for twelve years now. This powerful model for combatting houselessness offers us many opportunities to act with love and generosity. How has this practice changed us, as individuals and a community?

April 13, 10:00 am

Storytelling Our Humanity: Applications of an Ancient Art

Service Co-Leaders: Dr. Rodney Frey and Michelle Hazen

We are what we tell. Story defines us, our identities, our values, our dreams of what we seek. We are *homo narrativus* – humans that define our experiences and existence through the narratives we tell. So much can and must be said about our stories. While our stories and their act of telling necessary go hand-in-hand, with storytelling the “means” to deliver the story’s “content,” far less attention is paid to the act of storytelling. This service will focus on the act of storytelling, specifically, on orality-based storytelling, its structure and dynamic, and its implications for our communications and for our humanity. This service will be an extended Time for All Ages!

April 20, 10:00 am

Celebrating the Kin-dom

Service Leader: The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens

Celebrant: Mark Willis

Medieval Christians proclaimed the ‘kingdom’ of God, placing God, or the Divine, at the top of a hierarchy that also theorized that humans were more sacred than plants and animals, and men were more sacred than women. We are still suffering the consequences of this misguided idea. A more accurate reflection of reality would be to see life as a kin-dom, a complex, interdependent and interrelated web, where all things are equally important. Join us as we celebrate the kin-dom together.

April 27, 10:00 am

Earthrise

Service Leader: The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens

Celebrant: Jen Elliott

Centered on the poem by the brilliant Amanda Gorman, we will reflect together on the ways we have risen, are rising, and must continue to rise to defend and protect our precious planet.

Monthly Vesper Service offered April 4

Begin the new month with a time of quiet and companionship with our vespers service, 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 4 in the sanctuary.

The service lasts about 30 minutes and includes short readings followed by two 10-minute periods of silence. Afterwards, service organizers invite attendees to join them downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for a simple supper of vegetarian soup.

Members of the Shared Worship team take turns conducting the service. This month, it is led by Mark Willis and Michelle Hazen.

For more information, contact Nancy Nelson at nancy.nelson.moscow@gmail.com.



Minister's Pages—Minister's Musings: Hope and Possibilities



*If the world is to be healed through human efforts,
I am convinced it will be by ordinary people, people
whose love for this life is even greater than their fear.-*

Joanna Macy

I hike up on Moscow Mountain almost every day. I say it's because of my dog, but if I am honest, I get as much if not more from our forest adventures as he does. The trails up there are my happy place. Over the years, I've become very familiar with the subtle progression of the season, and right now, we are in the midst of transitioning from my least favorite season to my favorite.

In early spring, the mountain is messy, muddy, and icy. There are about three weeks, every year, when I actually prefer walking in town over the unpredictability and mess. The gear I use in the winter - snowshoes, yak-tracks - isn't useful in navigating the tricky spots. My fellow hikers and I pass along trail conditions like a community treasure map...Balsam route is navigable all the way to the juncture! Penstemon is totally clear of snow! It's not unusual to have snow, rain, sleet, wind, and sun...all the same hike.

But then, the wildflowers start to come up. First the grass widows, the spring beauties, and the glacier lilies. Then the bluebells, the kitten ears, the water-leaf...all the way through May, when I start to see the lady slippers. The landscape transitions from brown and muddy to green and lush. The air is cool and moist and clean. Once the flowers start to bloom, you'd have to nail my feet to the floor to keep me from getting up to my happy place.

It reminds me of the way feelings of despair and depression can give way to determination and peace. When I'm struggling emotionally, I have to keep slogging through, picking my way through the messy things, and sharing and benefiting from the insight others have to offer. When my stores of hope are low, I can borrow little sparks from others. Sometimes, I need to take a day off and stay curled up in the safe and familiar, waiting out the nastier storms. But with time, the force within me that continues to heal, grow, and become starts to send up shoots. I find little reasons for cautious optimism - a story here, a new perspective there. The way clears, gradually, and I find myself moving forward again.

Meanwhile, off the mountain, it's time to start planting the garden, and in the realm of public life, it's time to start planting seeds of the world as we wish it to become. We are planting seeds by building relationships, investment co-ops, and movements. We are sheltering the tender new growth places, and the tender and vulnerable people among us.

Sometimes, things have to get really awful before enough people notice and decide to put their energy and resources into making them better. When things are difficult - muddy and messy - we are on the leading edge of a new beginning. I am hoping and praying, these days, that the chaos and cruelty of our current political climate is about to give way to a tidal wave of compassion and change. I see tiny signs that a shift is in the works, and so I am looking for hope and dreaming of all that might be possible. Will you dream with me?

UUCP Staff Information

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevens, Minister

Please make an appointment at calendly.com/revehstevens or call 208-310-5937.

Ginger Yoder, Dir. of Lifespan Religious Exploration

Office hours: Monday 10:00-2:00

Summer Stevens, Administrative Secretary

Phone: 208-882-4328 Email: uuchurch@palouseuu.org

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:00-2:00

Sam Welsh, Music Director

musicdirector@palouseuu.org

Ryan Urie, Building Manager

bldgmanager@palouseuu.org

2025 UUCP Board

President: Judy Meuth

Vice President: Suzanne Seigneur

Recording Secretary: Mark Willis

Michael Jennings

David Nelson

Tom Salsbury

Donald Stanziano

Alexandra Broughton

Ashley Anderson

Treasurer: Sue Engels

March Board Meeting Summary

- ◆ The Capital Campaign Final Phase will need to raise \$335,000 to completely pay for the siding project and to pay off the construction mortgage.
- ◆ Ginger & Rev. Elizabeth were interviewed by UU World, and Ginger has been asked by the UUA to become a UUA Professional Development Educator.
- ◆ The Board unanimously approved hiring Ryan Urie as Adult Faith Formation Manager.
- ◆ On June 8, the final Covenanting Workshop will actually write the new covenant; there will be other opportunities for participation in addition to in-person attendance (online & paper forms at services).
- ◆ The Social Justice Committee Charter was updated and unanimously approved.
- ◆ The Ignite Grant Committee will meet soon to evaluate applications and select grantees.
- ◆ Facilities Policies on Borrowing Items; Workshops, Petitions, Presentations; Storage; Items Left at Church; and Bulletin Boards are being updated and will be presented to the Board for approval at the next Board meeting. The Facilities Use Policy will be updated with a few changes to room names and published on the UUCP web site.
- ◆ The new Sanctuary window is completely finished and looks great!
- ◆ The contract for the siding replacement is signed, the price is locked in at \$114,000, and work is due to start June 1, 2025.
- ◆ Rodney Frey is continuing to work on the Land Acknowledgement and MOU proposal; he has made a few wording changes at the request of the tribes and will continue to consult with the tribes and keep moving forward.
- ◆ The Board approved running ads on KRFP at a cost of \$440/year for one ad per day.
- ◆ The November Board meeting was moved to Nov. 20 and planned to be on Zoom.
- ◆ The annual Congregational Meeting is set for December 14 after the service.
- ◆ The December Budget-only Board meeting is scheduled for December 4 in preparation for the Congregational meeting on Dec. 14.
- ◆ Breakfast with the Board is set for Sunday October 12 at 8:30 am.
- ◆ The next Board Meeting will be April 24, 2025.



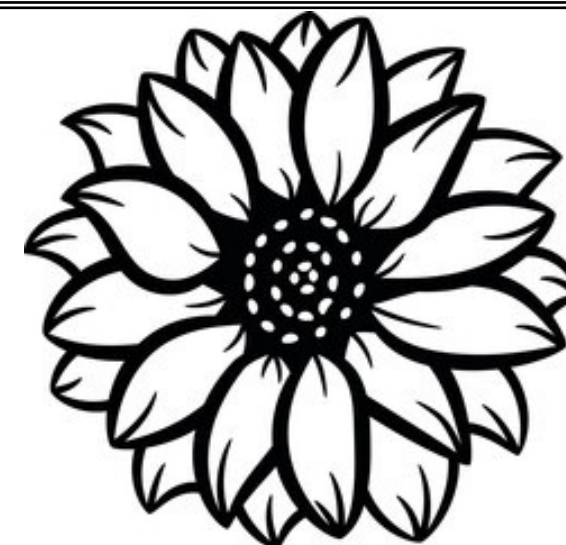
Upcoming UUCP Board Meetings

The fourth Thursday of every month, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom:
April 24, May 22, June 26

Young Adults Group

Are you over 21 and looking for an open community of love? Welcome to the UUCP Young Adults group.

We meet up every Sunday from 11:15-12:15 in the RE Office, to talk about different topics that affect us on a day-to-day basis. We create a space where everyone is welcome; regardless of race, gender, sexuality, faith, or ability.



Communication & Connection



One of the March Session Plans for Small Group Ministry is on the topic of loneliness—its impact on individuals and reportedly more than half of our society. We’ve suffered from a pervasive undercurrent of loneliness for decades. Then Covid hit and sent us into a tailspin of isolation, from which we have not fully recovered, especially given our pre-existing collective lonely state. And now we are seized by rampant political divisions and segregation at myriad levels, set within a hyped tribalism in a desperate attempt to find connection through narrow enclaves that are exclusive—hardly a true formula for the broader connections humans seek.

Connection to our own value, purpose, and orientation in the world that is not limited to just around the block. Connection to our perception of reality and security where a populace can thrive. Connection to rich relationships where we’re working mutually in an environment conducive to a bright future. Connection to positivity and not lost in so much fear; or if feeling lost, then strong in our togetherness to face fear.

To live a life worth living. Experience satisfaction and joy. To be a part of something that matters and to nurture what we hold precious. To help each other and be helped with respect and community. To be a part of—to belong. In this very real sense, connection is everything. But there are extreme forces bearing down against that, shredding us inside and outside of ourselves, exasperating our loneliness.

We’ve heard suggestions, like turn away from the barrage of digital technology that replaces face-to-face contact. And though it can feel safer to huddle at home, to go out more and out-stretch a hand to others in a variety of activities. To breathe in nature and sea-

sons and events in the community. Maybe even add back the front porch from which to visit passer-by’s, kids playing on sidewalks, and critters scampering about. There to watch shape-shifting clouds and know there are stars above them, and relish that we are part and parcel of this amazing universe. Generally, people desire the better side of

connecting, so to gravitate toward anger and restriction indicates severe loss, however much perceived or real. Loneliness is loss and it’s at epidemic proportions in this country. Fear of losing ground, feeling invisible, cornered, over-burdened, paralyzed. Left disconnected and suffering. Lonely, lost, fearful. It’s not born in hatred or privilege, although it may go there. It’s born in the fear of vulnerability.

A first step toward relieving that is to embrace connection, including being open to the hard connections. To hear and understand how loneliness separates us, inside and outside. To recognize how things like politics is a vehicle to make it worse, so don’t get on that bus. See people’s fears and see people outside of their fear. See the common roots to fear and be compassionate, attentive to the why’s and means of overcoming fear. To see us walking together, not stumbling alone.

The power to connect is awesome. It’s our birth-right to share life. The more sharing, the merrier. The more there will be connections to a vibrant network of possibilities. The more fascinating stories to tell. To bear in mind that the need for connection is as basic as it comes. There is a human wealth in body and soul to be shared when we connect as a relatable friend and not an obdurate foe.

—Victoria Seever

What Did You Think of the Service? Shared Worship Team Collecting Feedback

What lifted you up in a church service? Did anything make you uncomfortable? What resonated with you? Is there anything you would change?

These are some of the questions members of the Shared Worship team will be asking you after services occasionally. We are calling them “Response Sundays” and you may have noticed the first one on Oct. 27. Small, colorful papers were handed out with two questions that Sunday and (hopefully!) you had a chance to fill one out. People on Zoom had a chance to participate in the Zoom Room following the service.

If you didn’t have a chance to answer the questions, but would like to, you can email Nancy Nelson at nancy.nelson.moscow@gmail.com.

We will use your answers to guide us as we continue to collaborate on services that lift us up and inspire us to live out our UU principles.

Look for another Response Day sometime this winter with new questions. Our plan is ask for feedback with the papers (and emails) four times a year.



Minister's Pages—Church Chat: Sabbatical



The time of fallowness is a time of rest and restoration, of filling up and replenishing. It is the moment when the meaning of all things can be searched out, tracked down, and made to yield the secret of living.
-Howard Thurman

I have been a minister long enough that I am very familiar with the signs of impending burnout. Chief among them are a low-grade irritation with reasonable expectations, and a lack of satisfaction in my work. I had initially been thinking about taking sabbatical leave in 2026, but when I started seeing those tiny red flags, I knew I shouldn’t wait that long. So I approached the board, and they granted me three months of sabbatical leave, from the end of June to the end of September.

What does sabbatical look like? I take a break from my ministry. I rest. I travel. I breathe and play and make art and write poetry. I sleep a lot. I slow down, and spend a lot less time following the news and a lot more following my heart. I am hoping to use this sabbatical leave, in particular, to establish new habits, and strengthen existing ones. I think to be resilient in the long haul, I need to diversify my physical practices by incorporating more strength and mobility work, and retool and lengthen my meditation practice. The phrase that keeps coming to me is “strengthen the foundation.”

What does sabbatical look like for the congregation? My hope is that it will have minimal impact. I

often take time off in the summer, anyway, and this sabbatical is just a little longer than usual. The pastoral ministry team is functioning well and I am confident that they will be able to support you all emotionally and spiritually. The shared worship ministry team is on fire, and I expect the services they create will be nourishing and inspiring. A sabbatical committee has been formed, and will make sure that all the bases are covered and that the lines of communication are clear.

I accrue one month of sabbatical for every year I serve. Technically, I am ‘due’ six months. Breaking sabbatical leave into two (or more) pieces is a common practice, though, as it’s less disruptive for the congregation. I will probably take a little more time next year, in the spring or summer.

For what it’s worth, I am a fan of lay sabbaticals. I think everyone should have access to times when we step away from serving, and focus on nourishing ourselves. If you are seeing the signs of burnout, I hope my example will give you the encouragement you need to prioritize your own wellbeing. We can’t give what we don’t have.

It feels like this is both an awkward time to take leave, and a necessary time. There is so much going on, and we are doing such important work together! Yet I am deeply weary, and because the work is important, I want to bring my best self to it. This fallow time will make it possible for me to do that.

Our Little Free Pantry Needs Donations!

The free little pantry out in front of the church has been a great success...so much so that we're running out of food to fill it with!

If you have nonperishable food or toiletries to donate, please leave them in the small basket just outside the Fellowship Hall (or just add them to the Free Pantry) so we can keep providing for our community. Children are also invited to bring donations forward during the Sunday service. Thank you!



From Your UUCP Board

The Covid and flu season is upon us.

If you think you might be getting sick, take advantage of the opportunities to participate by Zoom and stay away until you are well again.

We encourage everyone to wear a mask. Masks will be available at both entrances to the sanctuary should you arrive at church and find that you have forgotten to bring one.

April 2024 RE News

Easter Brunch Sunday April 20th

Join us for an Easter Brunch directly after service on Sunday, April 20. This will be a fantastic way to enjoy our morning together. Vegetarian, gluten-free and dairy-free options will be available. Please sign up through the email Signup Genius link, or contact Ginger Yoder, to make this a reality – food and cleanup help needed!

Youth Group Easter Brunch Pancake Party Sunday April 20, 10 am – Church Fellowship Hall

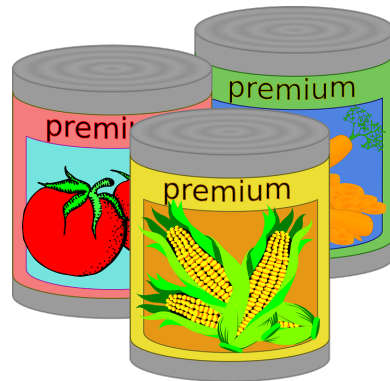
Middle and High School Youth are encouraged to come help turn pancakes and set up for Easter Brunch. This fun event will be a great way to get together and provide a great service for the church. Meet in the fellowship hall at 10 am, and your youth advisors will oversee us setting up and getting pancakes ready! Contact Ginger Yoder for more information.

Canned Good Hunt Easter Sunday, RE time (10:15-11:15)

Our annual Canned Good Hunt will take place during religious exploration on Easter Sunday. Children will hunt for cans around the church grounds and then fill our Little Free Pantry with your generous donations. Easter crafts and activities will fill the rest of our time this Sunday.

Calling All Cans!! Easter Canned Good Hunt Needs Your Help

Our annual Easter Canned Good Hunt will be taking place after church April 20th! We need all the cans we can get for the children to hunt, and they are then donated to our little free pantry. Please bring your donations to church anytime between now and Easter Sunday.



Divorce Group

Monday, April 21, 7 pm Hybrid

This caring group is for any and all who have been through a divorce, long term breakup, are in the process of uncoupling, or considering this path. We will meet to support one another in this often complicated journey. Childcare provided upon request. Rev E's office and on zoom. Zoom Meeting ID: 834 176 2033

Parent Night Out

Friday, *May* 9, 2025, Hosted at the UU Church of the Palouse

We are happy to announce that it's time for our next installment of Parent Night Out!! On Friday, May 9, we will care for your children while you get a break! Dinner (GF and allergen options), games, and fun for everyone! Hosted by the UU Church this month. Contact Ginger Yoder for the sign-up. We will be skipping April due to conflicts in scheduling.

UU Dinner and Board Game Night, Wednesday April 30, 5:30-8:00

Join your UU family for dinner and some games! We will have a pizza dinner (child friendly, veg and gf/df options!) followed by board games. Church will provide some good staples, so potluck if you are able or just come and there will be plenty!!

This is open to all UUsers and friends, and we especially hope our families will join us. Choir folks can come for dinner and then head upstairs for their rehearsal.

Bring your favorite board or card game, or just bring yourself and jump into a group with a new game. Games aimed at any age are welcome, although let's make sure they are okay for small ears that might be over hearing (no cards for humanity, for example). Our childcare providers will be there to play simple games with our littles or play upstairs with the toddlers so grown-ups can do more challenging games. This should be fun!



Force and co-sponsored by UUCP and United Church of Moscow. There will be keynote speakers and break out groups, with the goal of developing an action plan. This is a sequel to the event held last year "United Against Hate".

Health Fair Tuesday, June 24, support for bodily autonomy. Block event downtown, Moscow, organized by Bans Off Moscow and UUCP.

A few quotes:

There comes a time when silence is betrayal.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. [... And that time is now]

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa, recently quoted by Rev. Stevens

We are Unitarian Universalists, people of open minds, loving hearts, and helping hands.

Unitarian Universalist saying

Our website: <https://palouseuu.org/justice/social-justice/>

Our email: SocialJustice@palouseuu.org.

Submitted by Pat Fuerst on behalf of the UUCP Social Justice Committee

April 2024 Month of Sundays—Weekend Food for Kids

The April recipient of the Month of Sundays collection is Weekend Food for Kids. This program, which is provided by the Unitarian Church of the Palouse and St. Marks Episcopal Church, provides child-friendly food on weekends during the summer months when School District programs are not available.

This program is designed to target children from food-insecure households, but no child who wants a bag of food is turned away. The program started in 2014, when we distributed 25 bags of food per week for 10 weeks. In 2024 we distributed 952 bags of food in 11 weeks.

A recent price survey shows that food prices this year have increased 20% over last year's prices. Last year's food expenditure was \$8,882. We are also able to provide fresh local fruit to the kids in collaboration with Backyard Harvest and other local fruit growers. This is a real treat for our kids.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who shop, pack bags, and distribute the food bags to the kids. Without their help, we could not do this. For more information, contact Mary Jo Hamilton, maryjomoscow@gmail.com.

UUCP Hosted Four Families in February

Volunteers turned our education rooms into bedrooms for guests in the Family Promise Program who stayed with us February 9-16. The families included six children ranging in age from 9 months to 9 years and we used all available rooms for families and our overnight hosts. Breakfast was served to families Saturday morning, allowing them to sleep in past the usual 7 am departure time, as well as enjoy socializing over a meal.

We were helped, as always, by volunteers from the LDS Palouse River and Troy Wards, who each took responsibility for food and overnight hosts on three nights.

Our church will host Family Promise again April 20-27. Look for a sign-up link in the weekly email at the end of March.

At the same time, we are providing showers for families as the program searches for a new day facility. The current location on Palouse River Drive is no longer available and alternative facilities may not have showers.

Many, many thanks to the people who make meals, stay overnight, wash laundry, set up and take down beds and generally make our church a welcoming space for the families that stay with us. The program makes a tremendous difference for the families it serves.

Family Promise schedule for the year: April 20-27; June 29-July 7; Sept. 8-15; Nov. 16-23.

Food Recovery— FREE Food!

**Every Friday @ 1:00 pm in
the 1912 Center Art Room**

(Occasionally in the UUCP Fellowship Hall, when the 1912 Center is not available)

►►► Bring Containers For Your Food ◀◀◀

(We do not provide containers)

We rescue food from a local buffet lunch and bring it to the 1912 Center for distribution.

Quantities vary and some items may run out.

The New Social Justice Committee

Unitarian Universalists and UUCP have a long history of Social Justice activism as described on our website: <https://palouseuu.org/justice/social-justice/>. According to our website:

“Unitarian Universalism entails not only the right and responsibility to come to our own theological understanding – a freedom of belief – but that freedom of belief also calls us, demands us, to participate in social justice work.”

And that is true right now, more than ever. With the current political landscape, the timing couldn’t be better for us to start this committee.

Until this January, there hadn’t been Social Justice Committee meetings at UUCP for many years. Rather, we had many activities that ran independently: things like Family Promise, Month of Sundays, Weekend Food for Kids, Ren Fair, Pride Festival, and the list goes on. We have been meeting every other week at 11:30 following worship. Zoom is available on request. Please feel free to visit our meeting, to contact us in person, or to email us at SocialJustice@palouseuu.org. Ken Faunce is chair. Ken assembled a list of social justice books, posted on our website. This list will also be posted in Fellowship Hall, along with some representative books from our library.

So what is the new Social Justice Committee up to?

Collaborating with other groups will be a big part of what we do. We are presently collaborating with the Latah County Human Rights Task Force (LCHRTF) and are co-sponsoring their May 17 event (see list of events at the end). We hope to collaborate with other like-minded churches including the United Church of Moscow and the Community Congregational United Church of Christ (CCUCC) in Pullman.

We are also promoting social justice-related events both at UUCP and in the community. We will be responding to legislation and elections (local, state, and federal) as they relate to social justice issues. You will see a table in Fellowship Hall occasionally with such information. We also hope to connect with student groups at UI and WSU, especially in response to the six Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) offices that were closed in December 2024 at UI.

A major emphasis on our committee has been collaborating with Planned Parenthood, supporting their mission, related to women’s rights and health. The abortion ban in Idaho is a major concern to us. Several members have met with the director of Planned Parenthood in Pullman to discuss how we can help and we have produced care packages in support of their clientele.

Our committee has also mentioned other possible areas of action including environmental issues, climate change, climate justice, salmon recovery (justice for indigenous peoples), and supporting churches that are sanctuaries for refugees.

Do you agree with this statement?

“This moment in our history demands our participation in social justice work right now, more than ever.”

If you agree with that, then what are you called to do?

Here is one answer: Please do something. Do something that you believe will have an impact and has meaning for you, perhaps:

1. Show up for events.
2. Help with one of the many social justice activities at UUCP.
3. Protest injustice. Go to a workshop. Join a march and go to a rally.
4. Speak up! Call your representatives, even if you aren’t sure if they are listening.
5. Donate time or money to a worthy cause.

Upcoming Social Justice events:

“Pie Bake-Off!” Wednesday, April 2, at 5:30 pm at the UUCP. The Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Association student group at the U of I is hosting a Pie Bake-Off to raise funds for their end-of-semester Lavender Masquerade (on April 26). Diners pay \$5 each to eat pie and additional donations are also welcome. If you love to make pie, please enter your favorite recipe! Details at <https://palouseuu.org/pie-bake-off/>.

“Hands Off!” National Protest Saturday, April 5, 12-2 pm at Cougar Plaza in Pullman with many other locations across the country. Protest against the cuts and policies being enacted by Trump and Musk. National website: <https://www.mobilize.us/handsoff/> Pullman website <https://www.mobilize.us/handsoff/event/765025/> There will also be a “Hands Off!” event on April 5 in Moscow at Friendship Square from 12:00-2:00.

UUCP food booth at Renaissance Fair Saturday and Sunday, May 3-4. Signup genius will be announced. Planned Parenthood of Pullman will receive this year’s profits.

“United for Community” May 17, 1-4 pm at 1912 Center. Organized by Latah County Human Rights Task

Wholly Crones

Wholly Crones is a gathering of UUCP women of a certain age. We meet twice a month on the first and third Monday of the month from 1:30-3:00 pm in the 3rd Floor Meeting Room/Library at UUCP. Contact Mary Jo Hamilton if you’d like to be added to the e mail list. (maryjomoscow@gmail.com).

The group has no formal structure. Our meetings begin with a quick check-in to catch up on each other’s lives. If they wish, members volunteer to host a monthly meeting with ideas they select to discuss. We occasionally meet in person for a planned activity – going out to lunch is always popular.

We are a group of friendly “life-experienced women” who socialize and explore and discuss a variety of topics such as aging, decision making, women’s issues, current events, medical care, priorities and spirituality in the second half of our lives. Anything is open for discussion.

You would be most welcome.



Message from a Board Member: Buildings & Grounds Update

After dedicating significant effort to expanding our buildings in recent years, we are now shifting our focus towards enhancing our older historic structure with much-needed improvements.

Replacement of the Large, South-Facing Gothic Window:

We are delighted to introduce our new Gothic window on the South face of the church, which was installed in mid-February. Crafted by Pella in Spokane, this double-pane window replaces the previous single-pane one that was prone to significant water leaks during south winds. The new window not only aligns with our green sanctuary status but also seamlessly integrates with the historic charm of our building.

Siding Replacement and Painting:

The siding on our aging structure is weathered and layered with multiple coats of lead-containing paint. To address this, we are embarking on a project to replace the oldest siding with Hardie plank and repaint the remaining sections. After careful consideration, we have selected Osprey Exteriors as our contractor for their expertise, understanding of our building's intricacies, knowledge of lead paint remediation, and competitive pricing. The project is scheduled to commence on June 1st, with completion targeted for August 1st.

Funding:

The funding for the window project was largely secured through a Chalice Lighter Grant that we applied for last fall. We encourage continued support for this regional program through small quarterly donations, as the benefits circle back to our church community. To finance the siding project, we are launching a new capital campaign, details of which you will receive in the mail soon. This campaign aims to cover the siding costs, clear our remaining mortgage, and allocate any surplus to the building fund for future projects.

Special Acknowledgments:

We extend our sincere appreciation to the entire Buildings and Grounds Committee for their diligent planning of these projects. A special recognition goes to Tom Salsbury for his collaboration with Pella on the window project and to Jim Frenzel for his successful efforts in securing the Chalice Lighter grant.

We are excited about the transformations taking place within our church and are grateful for the support and dedication of our church members. Together, we are preserving our historic legacy and creating a welcoming space for all to enjoy.

—David Nelson

