

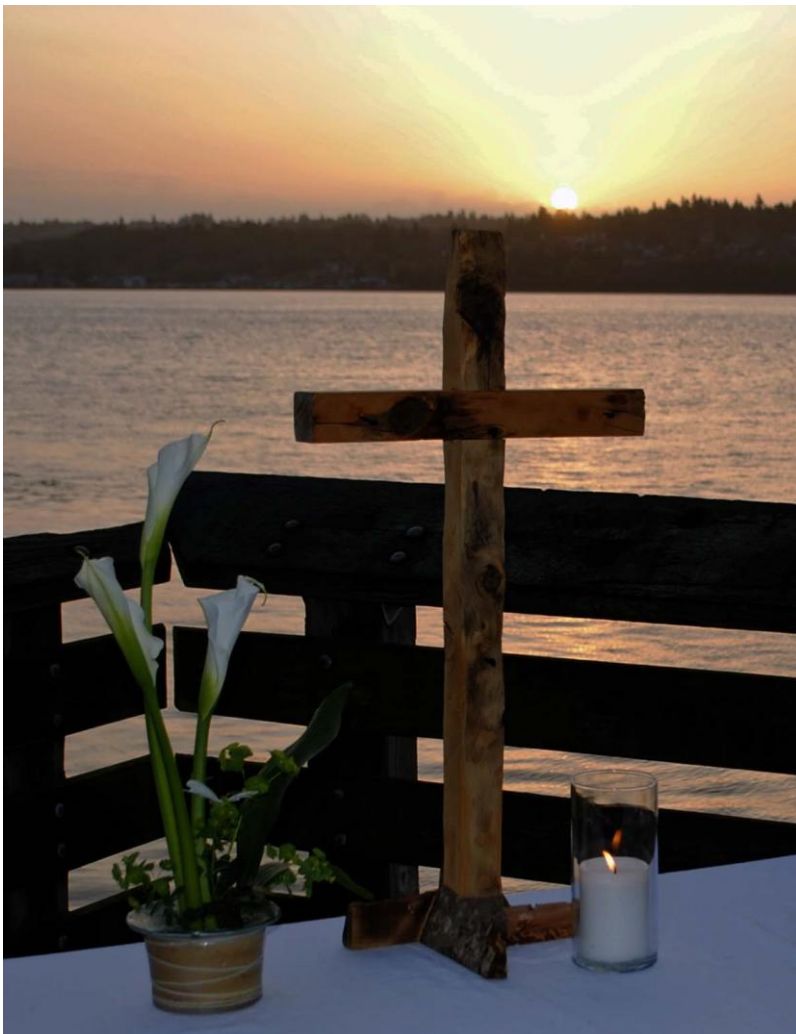
# The Bridge, Easter 2015

**Fox Island  
United Church of Christ**  
*an Open & Affirming Congregation*

**Rev. Janet Matthews**  
Wayne Lackman, Minister of Music  
Meredith Shanley, Organist/Pianist

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*Whoever you are,  
and wherever you are on life's journey...  
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*



## *Easter Services*

- Palm Sunday*
- 10 am *Procession of Palms & Communion*
- Good Friday*
- 7 pm *Music from New Voice & the Chancel Choir*
- Easter Sunday*
- 6:30 am *Sunrise Service at the Fox Island Fishing Pier*
- 7:30 am *Coffee & Light Breakfast*
- 8:30 am *Full Breakfast*
- 10 am *Easter Service*

Janet's



Journal

*"Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about."*

— N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*

To colonize earth with the life of heaven is one way of distinguishing our Christian mission and expressing the promise of new life through Christ. With that in mind we can consider the channels where we are transforming lives at Fox Island United Church of Christ and colonizing earth with the life of heaven, God's Kingdom on Earth.

What is taking place in our community that is transformative? Where are Kingdom seeds being planted? Where is Life Born of the Spirit germinating within our daily lives? How are we renewed and restored?

First, I hope that we leave worship more connected to one another and the Living Christ; abundantly so throughout Holy Week and Easter. Palm Sunday we will process with palm fronds as a tribute to Jesus' peaceful entry into Jerusalem. That morning is filled with special readings music and communion, in remembrance of him. The young people will go to Sunday School and we will begin telling the story of the night of Jesus' betrayal prior to his arrest.

There is one service on Good Friday, April 3 at 7 pm with the Chancel Choir and New Voice providing music. Our hope is that by adding elements of the Maundy Thursday service to Palm Sunday and Good Friday we will provide a deep preparation for more people; a registering of the sorrow and loss that took place before the wonder of Easter Sunday; a realization that planting seeds to colonize the Kingdom required courage and sacrifice, including Jesus' own life.

This Lenten Season brought incredible opportunities for preparation and transformation. Sacred Exploration and Holy Discernment permeated Pre-Dawn Lenten Yoga and Meditation. The space was filled with Christ's presence. Diane Larson and Sally Watkins offered beautiful prayers, meditations and time of sharing in the "Life Full of Grace" Lenten series. God's grace was perceived and celebrated through nature, beauty, creativity, and our inner world. We explored the Grace that Jesus came into this world to draw us into: The Kingdom of God. As Diane writes: *Jesus not only taught us the value of the Kingdom Within but also gave us the necessary keys to enter the Kingdom.* Those of us reading the Inner Matrix are finding ways to open our minds, hearts, and beings to Divine Love through meditation and practice.

On March 31 we will host a New Member Orientation inviting folks into the life and mission of FIUCC. The first Sunday after the Resurrection, April 12, we will receive new members. This coming Sunday, Andy is meeting with parents and youth to plan this summer's mission trip to the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho. The trip is August 2 through August 7, with a possible extra night added on for fun on the way home. These trips are always transformative and spirit-led. We hope to bring new life to our Sunday School program by including more of our adults in the youth program. Plan to hear Andy Sharp share a ministry moment this Sunday and next week March 22 there is an event led by Staci Steiner and Sara Million to share about our curriculum and the ways of Sunday school. The hope is that it will make helping in the Sunday more accessible to a greater number of adults.

Easter Morning we leave the sorrow of Good Friday as we enter the New Life of the Resurrection beginning with the Sunrise Service at the Fox Island Fishing Pier at 6:30 am. Finally, finally our joyful Easter Celebration is at 10:00 am. I pray that our Lenten Season has provided us with a deeper connection to Christ that we continue to live as we colonize the Kingdom with hearts full of joy and promise – the Easter Promise. The Easter Commission.

Yours in Christ,  
Janet





## *Contemplative Practices at FIUCC*



“We may think of prayer as thoughts or feeling expressed in words. But this is only one expression. In the Christian tradition Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God. It is the opening of mind and heart – our whole being -- to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words and emotions. Through grace we open our awareness to God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing – closer than consciousness itself.” -Thomas Keating

The source of all Contemplative Prayer is the indwelling Trinity: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The focus of Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer is to deepen our relationship with the living Christ. Both practices are a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. In Lectio Divina we cultivate a friendship with Christ by listening to the word of God in scripture with our open hearts. It is a way of listening to the texts of scripture as if we were in conversation with Christ and He was suggesting the topics of conversation. This daily encounter with Christ and reflection on His Word leads beyond mere acquaintanceship to an attitude of friendship, trust, and love. In Centering Prayer we move beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him. Daily practice profoundly supports our movement into communion with the Spirit.

FIUCC supports and welcomes all to participate in Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer every Monday evening from 7:00 – 8:00pm. Also throughout lent we have a daily Lenten Predawn Prayer and Yoga Practice that offers a profound spiritual experience for all who participate. The Lenten Practice includes Lectio Divina, Yoga and Centering Prayer. You can do practice with Patty Metzger and Natalia King in the sanctuary every morning from 5:00 – 7:00am or watch the videos that George Metzger creates and uploads everyday from your computer. Just go to [www.foxislanducc.org](http://www.foxislanducc.org), click on “Resources” and then Lenten Predawn Prayer and Yoga Practice. It will transform you!

Patty Metzger

## YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2015

The time has come to get a final head count for the mission trip, which is happening this year August 1 - 8. We are heading to the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho. I am very excited to be leading this trip this year. The time for commitment from those kids who want to go is fast upon us.

On March 15 after church Andy Sharp will be holding an informational meeting for parents and kids who are interested in learning more about the trip. A commitment is required by the end of March. For more details and sign up join us in the youth room after church.

## New Member Dinner & Service

We will be holding a service right after Easter to admit new members to our church!

Orientation Meal: March 31, 5pm

New Member Service: April 12

Please contact Diane Larson or Pastor Janet with questions!

Hey folks! We would love to have more people sign up to host coffee hour!! You can find the signup sheet on the wall right next to the kitchen window.

## All Church Work Party

Please join us for an All Church Work Party on Saturday, March 21 from 9AM to Noon. We need to spruce up our church grounds prior to Easter, and need lots of volunteers! Please contact John Mikkelsen with any questions at

## Death Café

Announcing upcoming Death Café meetings on 3/23, 4/20, 5/11, and 6/22 from 3-4:30 at the Gig Harbor Library. At a Death Café people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death.

Our objective is *'to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives'*.

A Death Cafe is a group directed discussion of death led by Dr. Kriss Kevorkian with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session.

## Sunday School Q&A

On March 22, Staci and Sara will introduce the Sunday school curriculum to all those interested in helping out. It will be a time to ask questions and learn what takes place in Sunday school every week. Please come!

# WILL YOU GIVE TO



**One Great Hour**  
OF SHARING

2 Corinthians 8:13-15

[www.onegreathourofsharing.org](http://www.onegreathourofsharing.org)

God is still speaking,  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST



Date Change:

## Special Offering March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>8 Third Sunday in Lent</b> 10a Sunday Service  Lenten Series #3 11:30a Lunch 12p Presentation	9 5-7a Lenten Practice 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	10 5-7a Lenten Practice 11a Crafty Needlers  1-3p WFFTS Book Group	11 5-7a Lenten Practice	12 5-7a Lenten Practice 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Choir Rehearsal	13 5-7a Lenten Practice	14 5-7a Lenten Practice
<b>15 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 10a Sunday Service Lenten Series #4 11:30a Lunch 12p Presentation 11:30a Youth Mission Trip Meeting	16 5-7a Lenten Practice 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	<b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b> 5-7a Lenten Practice	18 5-7a Lenten Practice	19 5-7a Lenten Practice 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Choir Rehearsal	20 5-7a Lenten Practice	21 5-7a Lenten Practice  9-noon All Church Work Party
<b>22 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 10a Sunday Service  11:30a Sunday School training	23 5-7a Lenten Practice 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	24 5-7a Lenten Practice 11a Crafty Needlers  1-3p WFFTS Book Group	25 5-7a Lenten Practice  12p Women's Birthday Lunch	26 5-7a Lenten Practice 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Choir Rehearsal	27 5-7a Lenten Practice	28 5-7a Lenten Practice
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 10a Sunday Service <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i>	30 5-7a Lenten Practice 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	31 5-7a Lenten Practice 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  1-3p WFFTS Book Group	1 5-7a Lenten Practice	2 Maundy Thursday 5-7a Lenten Practice 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Choir Rehearsal	3 Good Friday 5-7a Lenten Practice  7:30p Good Friday Service	4 Holy Saturday 5-7a Lenten Practice
5 Easter 6:30a Sunrise Service 7:30a Easter Breakfast 10a Easter Service	6 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	7 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation 1-3p WFFTS Book Group  5:30p Deacon's Mtg	8	9 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation 12p Women's Fellowship  7p Choir Rehearsal	10	11