

# The Bridge, Summer 2015

Fox Island

United Church of Christ

*an Open & Affirming Congregation*

Rev. Janet Matthews

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

## Music & Graduation Recognition Sunday



June 7<sup>th</sup>



Come celebrate our musicians and grads!



*We have entered the Season of Pentecost. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit; for some it is considered the birth of the church. Sunday we heard the story found in Acts, about the disciples so filled with the Holy Spirit that they were able to speak and be heard in foreign languages. People come running to hear what is taking place at the festival; what is all the commotion? They ask, "Are these not Galileans? How come we are hearing them talk in our various tongues?" ... "They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!" (The Message Bible).*

There must be spiritual juice that comes from describing God's mighty deed. Especially from those who had followed the master teacher, Jesus. We have Gospel versions of the story of Jesus' life death and ministry. The focus is on Jesus, as it needs to be, yet I wonder what a story might sound like with the focus on the disciples. Especially those who were with him for years? What might be the insider details?

*Maybe Peter would tell this story: It was at the Feast of Pentecost that suddenly all the pieces seemed to come together. Yes, to those who were present it probably looked like an instant miracle. First these people were one way and then they were another. These people—us followers of Yeshua, the Good Sheppard, and the Great I Am. Yes, yes of course we were stunned and wonderfully bewildered. James, John, and Mary, such looks on their faces you could see the light in their eyes. We heard people saw flames about our heads, the light of God burning hot and bright, probably clearing away all that Jesus had not been able to resolve while he was alive. Burning away the words, thoughts, deeds, and feelings that were not of God, the light, the flame burning away bitterness, envy, unfounded fears, shame, doubt, resignation, boastfulness, the list goes on. God's Holy Fire made room for words of praise and joy.*

*Here is what in that moment we forgot and certainly many of the people who were there that day did not know: we had been preparing for this event for years. Most of us had been fisherman and laborers when we started following the teacher. Follow we did, all over the countryside, spending time with so many people, so many. We were present for the lessons taught to crowds and then we were to care for the crowds, even feed them. We saw the healings and knew healing in our own bodies and souls. Then we learned we could do more. It meant praying, praying in ways we were not accustomed to. It meant trying over and over again. We were sent off on our own in pairs. This was pretty unnerving. We wanted to stay with the Rabbi. "Off you go, there are people you need to share the good news with." He would not let us bring anything of comfort. So strange if someone did not want to hear the message he said "move on". Give your attention to those who are ready to hear. Funny thing he did not run after anyone. He served those who were with him and readied himself to serve those he had yet to meet.*

*Of course people wanted to be like us. We liked being so close to his Holy Presence. It was not without sacrifice. We were up early in the morning for prayer and awake into the night listening to teachings. He spoke to us in ways that he did not talk to the crowds. For us there were even more parables and corrections, at first he was patient, and after awhile he would say things like, "Get behind me Satan." He was really tough that day.*

*Through it all he promised—"You will do greater deeds than these." We weren't so sure. He promised that we would know an Advocate, God's spirit with us. We were beyond distressed about what was to come when he started talking about his death. No one wanted to have that conversation. Yet, we did. It didn't fully prepare us. The terror we felt at his death and our inability to prevent or even stand against it is more than any of us had known before. But didn't we know his presence afterward: at the empty tomb, on the road to Emmaus, on the beach with the grilled fish, and in the room with Thomas.*

*We were guided by an angel, yes we saw angels, to return to the upper room where we had been meeting. We were there to pray and really we were not sure what else? The angel let us know Jesus had returned to the place where God's everlasting grace reigns, so what else could we do? We prayed and told stories. And then..."without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, a gale force...Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through our ranks."*

If I understand the story, Pentecost was not an event that happened in a vacuum. It was the culmination of days, months and years of following Jesus. Times filled with challenge, teaching, and grace. Are we ready to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Are we speakers, actors, and hearers of the Word? Are there places we need to learn more? Pray more? Serve anew? As Pastor and leader I would love to hear what folks are thinking. What might strengthen our resolve to be followers? What gets in the way? Are we ready for the Holy Spirit? Seems there is a breeze blowing.

Janet

## ***Get Ready for Summer Fun!***

Summer is a busy time for fun activities! Here is a sneak preview of some of the upcoming events so that you can hold the dates. You won't want to miss out on the fun!!

The **Annual Church Campout** will be from Aug. 27 - 30<sup>th</sup>, Thursday night through Sunday. We will be camping at Ohanapecosh State park at Mt Rainier. We will be in the group camp area. This area only allows tent camping, but there is an area for trailers also. If you are interested in camping in a trailer, you need to call or go online to [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) and reserve a campsite. We are only reserving in the group area. Watch for a signup sheet as the time gets closer! The weekend will include a potluck dinner on Saturday, Aug 29<sup>th</sup> for anyone who would like to make a day trip up there and enjoy the area!

We will take a group to a **Rainiers Baseball Game** on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, for "Debbie's Night at the Ball Game" for the game and fireworks! Tickets will be \$11.50 and include the game, hot dog, and a water. This is a fun tradition, and was Debbie's favorite event. So we go and watch the fireworks in her honor!!

The **Blood Mobile** will be here on June 14<sup>th</sup> to once again give us the opportunity to donate blood in Honor of Debbie Clegg and others that we know have had the benefit of a blood transfusion. Call the church office to reserve a time. The van will be here from 9-1 that day.

The **Concerts in Skansie Park** on Tuesday nights are a great way to get together to watch a lot of fun music! This year we would like to try to get a group area together for anyone wanting to sit outside to watch the shows The first one is on Tues, June 16<sup>th</sup> and is a FABULOUS group called The Coats, a group of four guys singing a capella. Super fun!! Watch for a signup sheet for that so that we can get an idea how many blankets to set out. Bring a picnic dinner and lawn chair and join in on the fun!

Also watch for the signup sheet in July for the **Progressive Dinner!** This has been a fun event in the past, and most requested to do again! This will most likely be in late July or early August.

As you can see, we will have a fun, eventful summer!!! Keep watching your bulletins and Fox Fires for more info as events get closer!!

Sharon Gregory  
Fellowship chair

## ***Looking ahead...***

There have been requests for *The Inner Matrix: A Guide to Transforming Your Life and Awakening Your Spirit* study to take place in the evening. We will meet at church between 6:30 and 8:00 pm **beginning Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup>**. If you would enjoy a light salad supper, come early. The books are available on Amazon or from Pastor Janet – just let her know you are interested. Those who participated in the Winter Feast/Lent group will agree that the group meetings drew us together in deeper conversations and the meditation practices that are a part of the book study helped to uplift spirits and deepen a sense of peace. If you plan to join the group, which will meet throughout June, July, and early August, please let Pastor Janet know. Email [fiuccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:fiuccpastor@gmail.com) or call her cell, (253) 432-0155.

# Be an FIUCC Lifesaver



## Gig Harbor Relay for Life

**Where:** Peninsula High School  
14105 Purdy Dr NW, Gig Harbor

**When:** Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm to  
Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> @ Noon

Please join our 2015 Relay for Life Team and Run, Jog, Walk, Shuffle, Hop, Skip, or Jump for either 30 minutes or 60 minutes to Help Fight Cancer! We need about 20 more people to be able to keep our baton moving around the track the entire event. Individual fundraising is NOT required or expected!! Just come have fun and show your support.

You may register for the Fox Island UCC Relay for Life Lifesaver Team by either:

- 1) Signing up at our Team Table in the Church Narthex any day from May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup>  
**-OR-**
- 2) If you cannot be at the church, email or call Misti Birkmann at [seattlejazzie@gmail.com](mailto:seattlejazzie@gmail.com) or (206) 734-8381 and she will get you registered.

### Helpful Information about the 2015 Relay for Life Event

- a. **Survivors** who plan to help kick off the event at 6 p.m. on June 12<sup>th</sup> - PLEASE arrive at our Team tent between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>. A team captain will be there to help you have what you need to participate in the Survivor Lap and attend the Survivor Reception.  
**\*\*NOTE\*\***  
Survivors please pick up a SURVIVOR REGISTRATION FORM from our team table in the Church Narthex in order to receive your Survivor t-shirt, register for the Friday night dinner & to be included in the Survivor group photo.
- b. **All FIUCC Lifesaver Team Members** should arrive at the FIUCC tent at least 15 Minutes prior to their scheduled start time. There will be a tent host there to give you your team t-shirt, answer any questions you have, and help ensure a smooth hand-off of our team baton.
- c. **Astroturf is our friend!** In order to protect the Peninsula High School Astroturf field ALL food and drink other than water MUST be consumed outside the field in secondary sites or in the grandstands. Given that no team will be allowed food IN the team tents this year, food trucks will be at the facility for food purchases during the event and the Kiwanis Club will be serving a Saturday Morning Pancake Breakfast.
- d. **Purchase a Luminary** for \$10 to be lit and displayed at the event. For more details see our team table in the Narthex.
- e. For a detailed **Event Timeline**, please check the bulletin board or pick up an Event Schedule at the team table on May 31<sup>st</sup> or June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- f. **CAMPING ITEM DONATIONS NEEDED** for our Silent Auction item- a camping tote filled with goodies. Please bring any NEW or ALMOST NEW item that would make any camping trip complete and that can fit in a large cooler bag. We will have a box next to our team table in the Narthex.
- g. For those attending the event- there will be a **Friday Night Game Night** sponsored by the American Cancer Society. You can have fun winning raffle tickets for PRIZES to be given away during the event.

For other questions – Jack Lee or Misti Birkmann will be at the Relay for Life team table following Sunday Services on May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>, or you can call Misti at (206) 734-8381.

**Thank you for getting involved and helping this year be a HUGE success!!**

# Church Debenture Program

Hey! We need help and we are running out of time!

We are still looking for investors in our debenture program. This is the vehicle that we use to pay our church building and property mortgage. When this program started in 2004 the total was at \$252,668. The total is now at \$173,000 and dropping. We had \$42,000 in debentures mature this year and all but \$15,000 was reinvested in new notes. Still we need sell those \$15,000 in new issues.

We prefer to sell notes in \$1,000 to \$5,000 increments but there really is not a cap on the dollar amount.

Our interest rate offering this time is:

- One year interest rates at 1.25%
- ~~Three years at 2.00%~~ *[sold out]*
- Four year notes at 2.25%.

All three rates are *above* commercially available certificates of deposit offered by lending institutions. The big bonus is that you get to *help FIUCC remain financially healthy.*

Please consider this excellent investment by calling Stan Adams (253)273-4185 or Jerry Wax (253)225-8632 right away. Thank you!!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

5:01 PM  
04/07/15  
Cash Basis

FOX ISLAND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Profit & Loss Budget Performance  
March 2015

	<u>Mar 15</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 15</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Operating Fund			
Income	16,224.75	58,158.38	197,494.00
Expense	(19,189.62)	(53,919.49)	(205,444.00)
Total Operating Fund	<u>(2,964.87)</u>	<u>4,238.89</u>	<u>(7,950.00)</u>
Other Income & Expense	<u>122.00</u>	<u>3,241.00</u>	<u>3,800.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>(2,842.87)</u></u>	<u><u>7,479.89</u></u>	<u><u>(4,150.00)</u></u>

## Save the Date for Our 2015 Annual Retreat

The Board of Deacons is happy to announce that our annual church retreat will be held on Friday, Sept. 18 through Sat. Sept. 19. Please mark your calendars and keep the weekend free if you would like to attend.

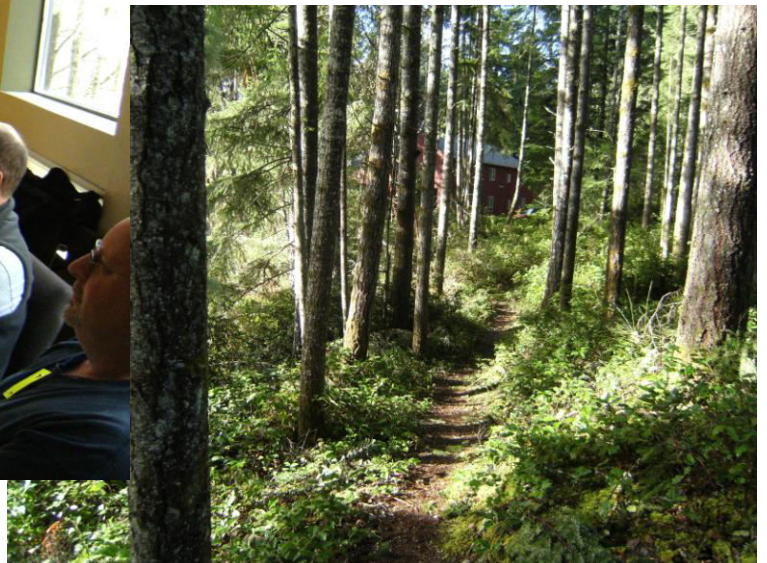
This year we are returning to Pilgrim Firs to enjoy some fun and relaxation. Our theme is "Recreation and Renewal: Playing in God's Creation". Our main focus will be to have a joyful and relaxing time and to get to know one another better. We especially want to encourage families and young folks to attend as there will be activities for all.

UCC-owned Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center is located in Port Orchard, so it is not far from home. Yet it is in a private and quiet forest setting with a beautiful lake for canoeing, rowing, and kayaking. Canoes, rowboat, lifejackets, volleyball, tetherball, basketball, four square ball, and horseshoes are provided. Kayaks are not provided. A full labyrinth and hiking trails are available for quiet reflection and communicating with God. Some additional creative activities will also be included, courtesy of the Board of Deacons. Delicious meals will be prepared for us.

Overnight accommodations include simple two-bed and four-bed rooms in the main lodge, and, depending on numbers, a nearby cabin can be made available with two separated areas for larger families. It is possible that single rooms may be made available if desired. For those who don't like to leave their own beds, Pilgrim Firs is close enough to drive home on Fri. evening and return on Sat. morning. We will have different prices for those who would like to attend in this way or those who wish to attend only on Fri. evening or only for the day on Sat.

More information and cost will be shared in the coming months, so watch for details.

Diane Larson, Chair  
Board of Deacons



# June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>31</i> 10a Sunday Service 11:30a Church Council	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>  5:30p Deacons	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation 12p Women's Fellowship	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 10a Music & Graduate Sunday 11:30a Wedding Committee	<i>8</i> 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	<i>12</i>  6p Relay for Life	<i>13</i> 8a-6p Women's Spirit Circle  —————◆12p
<i>14</i> 10a Sunday Service 11:30a Trustees  Blood Drive	<i>15</i> 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21 Father's Day</i> 10a Sunday Service	<i>22</i> 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>  TBA La Voz de Paz Concert
<i>28</i> 10a Sunday Service   UCC General Synod	<i>29</i> 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation 7p Centering Prayer  UCC General Synod	<i>30</i>   UCC General Synod				

# July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5 10a Sunday Service	6 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	7  5:30p Deacons	8	9 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	10	11  12p Wedding Rehearsal
12 10a Sunday Service	13 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	14	15	16 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	17	18
19 10a Sunday Service	20 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	21	22	23 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	24	25
26 10a Sunday Service	27 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	28	29	30 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	31  6-7p Wedding Rehearsal	1  1-5p Wedding



# August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 1-5p Wedding
2 10a Boat-In Service 12p Salmon Bake  Youth Mission Trip	3 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	4  5:30p Deacons	5	6 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	7  Wedding Rehearsal	8  Wedding
9	10 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer VBS	11	12	13 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	14 Wedding Rehearsal  Rainier's Game	15 Wedding
16	17 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	18	19	20 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation	21	22
23	24 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer	25	26	27 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  Church Campout	28	29
30	31 9:30-11a Yoga & Meditation  7p Centering Prayer					