

Northwest Reminder

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MARCH 2019



A Newsletter serving the congregation and friends of
Northwest United Protestant Church



Website
nwup.church

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(509) 946-3222

INTERIM PASTOR'S LETTER



Our lives are full of change. It's simply the way life is. Think back at the changes you've seen in your lifetime. Who would have thought, just fifty years ago, that we would have an African-American president? Who would have thought, just twenty years ago, that same-sex marriage would be legal

across the country? Who would have thought, just ten years ago, that we would carry "smart phones" in our pockets, little rectangles that each have more computing power than NASA used to send Neil Armstrong to the moon? And think about all the changes in your life...marriages, divorces, children, grandchildren, deaths, births.

The church changes too, and it does so for several reasons. Sometimes the church changes in response to financial and other practical concerns. Sometimes the church changes in response to a changing culture; while the good news of Christ doesn't change, the **way** the church **shares** that news with the world must. And sometimes the church changes because the wind of the Holy Spirit blows through our midst, calling us to new and sometimes scary things.

There are a lot of changes in the wind right now at Northwest Church. We have a new Music Director. We have an Interim Pastor. Church room usage has been shifting recently, and will likely shift more in the coming year. And we are at the crux of our Visioning process as we prepare together to identify a **Vision** for our congregation in coming years. Depending on what Vision statement is developed on March 30, there may be more subtle, or even large, changes coming down the road with the call of a settled pastor.

Change can be scary, especially when that change feels like a loss of control for us. I want you to know a few things about all of these changes.

First, all the changes happening now are **not** some sort of coordinated effort to accomplish something specific. They're not pieces of some big plan. In fact, most of them have been percolating for a while, some for several years. They just happen to be bearing fruit at the same time!

Second, our **guiding principles** can help us act in appropriate ways during changes, and can also help us make good decisions about where to go.

And **Third**, while things change all around us, **the love of God through Christ never changes**. Whatever we experience, whatever good and bad changes occur in our lives, Christ never leaves our side, even if he sometimes seems to be hidden. While I don't believe that "everything happens for a reason," I do believe that God can bring good out of anything, and that God is absolutely with us in every season, every moment, every day, whatever those days may bring.

Blessings,
Interim Pastor Peter Kalunian

**ONLINE
GIVING
IS LIVE**

NO CHECKS? NO PROBLEM. GIVE AT
WWW.NWUP.CHURCH



A PRAYER FOR NORTHWEST CHURCH

God, grant us **patience and wisdom** in seeking the pathway forward for the discernment of Northwest Church's future ministry as we seek a new Pastor. May the Holy Spirit continue to fill our hearts and minds with your love and your Faith. We pray that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness and minister your justice with compassion. We ask all of this in the name of Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

MARCH INTERN'S CORNER

Saint Francis was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, and his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in harmony with God, with others, and with himself.



I believe that the members of our church are somewhat like St. Francis. Here are some of the things that our church or individual members are doing for our community:

- ⇒ Donating to the Richland food bank
- ⇒ World Relief Christmas boxes
- ⇒ Support to Jefferson Elementary School
- ⇒ Donating time at the Richland Early Learning Center
- ⇒ Use of our building for NA/AA groups
- ⇒ Richland Early Learning Co-op at NWUP Church
- ⇒ Hosted an Opioid forum at NWUP Church
- ⇒ Donating time for Meals on Wheels weekly
- ⇒ Donating to the local Chaplaincy
- ⇒ Donations to Week of Compassion
- ⇒ Donations to Grace Clinic
- ⇒ Sharing space with Flourish Mid-Columbia
- ⇒ Sharing services with Shalom UCC
- ⇒ Neighborhood events with our summer intern
- ⇒ Food 4 Friends
- ⇒ Disciple's Women Ministry
- ⇒ Inter-faith work with Richland Mosque
- ⇒ Work with Congregation Beth Shalom

God has called us to serve. And I am confident that we are obeying his call by serving each other and our community. At our congregational meetings, we collectively decided we want to do more to serve our local neighborhood. We know we are "Good at Food" and we want to focus on that ministry. We also want to partner with others who are already serving.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Yours in Christ, Rick Donahoe

SPECIAL MARCH DATES & TIMES - 2019

- * World Day of Prayer, *March 1st*
- * Piano Tuning, *March 1st*
- * Transfiguration of Our Lord, *March 3rd*
- * Piano Concert, *March 3rd @ 3pm*
- * Food 4 Friends, *March 4th @1:30pm in Fellowship Hall*
- * Ash Wednesday, *March 6th*
- * Ash Wednesday Dinner & Service, *March 6th @ 6pm*
- * Breakfast Bunch, *March 7th @ 7:45am at Denny's*
- * "Short Stories by Jesus" Bible Sturdy, *March 7th @ 6:30pm*
- * Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 10th*
- * First Sunday in Lent, *March 10th*
- * Girl Scout Sunday, *March 10th*
- * Valdez Baby Shower, *March 10th*
- * Stewardship & Finance, *March 13th @ 3:30pm*
- * Elders Meeting, *March 13th @ 9:30am*
- * "Short Stories by Jesus" Bible Sturdy, *March 14th @ 6:30pm*
- * Second Sunday in Lent, *March 17th*
- * Board Meeting, *March 19th @ 5:30pm*
- * Breakfast Bunch, *March 21st @ 7:45am at Denny's*
- * "Short Stories by Jesus" Bible Sturdy, *March 21st @ 6:30pm*
- * Third Sunday in Lent, *March 24th*
- * Food 4 Friends, *March 25th @1:30pm in Fellowship Hall*
- * "Short Stories by Jesus" Bible Sturdy, *March 28th @ 6:30pm*
- * Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 31st*

**Daylight Savings Time
begins Sunday, March 10th
Don't forget to set your clocks!**



MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 3:00 PM in OUR Sanctuary

**Dr. Jovanni-Rey V. de Pedro, Internationally acclaimed pianist
will be performing on OUR Grand Piano.**

You will not want to miss this!!

Throughout 2018 you may have been hearing some amazing music coming from our Sanctuary. Jovanni has been practicing on our piano for his many International Concerts and Programs he has performed this past year. When he was here visiting his wife Jeremy, who is finishing up her residency in Kadlec's Family Practice Program, I loaned him my key to practice on our piano.

When Jovanni and I were talking recently he mentioned he would love to give a concert to thank us for his availability to practice when he was in town. Lucky us! Both the Elders and our Board have given full support for this performance.

A program has been selected that includes music which piano students, parents, grandparents, piano teachers and non-pianist alike will recognize. We will hear an assortment of pieces by Bach, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Bartok, Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin plus a few others. There will be some surprises planned to dazzle you. Also included will be a duet or two with our recent musician, Carissa Pitkin Cox.

There will be a free will offering taken for donations towards The Melange International Music Foundation that is a registered 501(c)(3) charity to provide scholarships for students from developing countries and support the purchase of a cover for NWUP Church's new piano. Dr. De Pedro has recently established this 10-day course that will immerse participants in the musical and cultural traditions of Vienna, Austria.

*Stay posted for
further updates
on this event.*

*Pass the word and
bring a friend or
neighbor along.*

*Yours in music,
Onnie Adams*

Special Performance



3/4/19—FOOD 4 FRIENDS RESCHEDULED

Because of the inclement weather last Monday, *Food 4 Friends* will be meeting this coming **Monday, March 4th at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall**. We always need plenty of helpers to assemble and deliver these meals, so please drop in!

3/5/19—SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER @ ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Last year the folks at *All Saints'* invited the NWUP Church congregation to join them for their "Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper" to thank us for loaning them our Fellowship Hall the previous year, and they'd like to do it again. **The Pancake Supper will be Tuesday, March 5, from 5-7pm**. The menu is simple: Pancakes (including gluten-free options), sausage, and fruit. There is no charge for tickets; they simply invite free-will offerings.

3/6/19—ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER & SERVICE

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is this coming **Wednesday, March 6th**, and NWUP Church is hosting the light supper and worship service that we share every year with our friends from *Shalom UCC*. Be sure to sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex so we know how many to plan for and then mark your calendars for **6:00pm on Wednesday March 6th in the NWUP Church Fellowship Hall** for a Lenten meal of soup and bread followed by a **worship service at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary**.



Baby Shower 2.0

Let's try this again! Come celebrate the anticipation of our newest little member with a **baby shower for Paul and Kristen Valdez on Sunday, March 10th** right after church.

This happy couple wants to be surprised by the gender of their new bundle of love so neutral colors please. Don't miss it!

When: Sunday, March 10th
right after Worship Service!
Where: in the Sanctuary

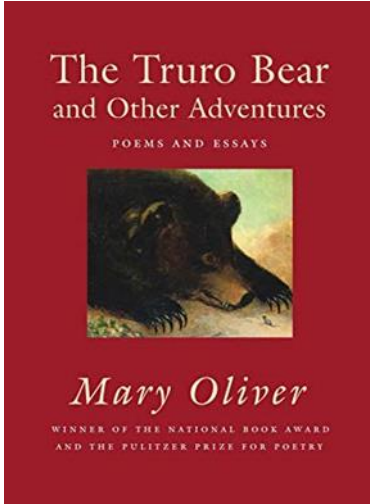


New Book in the Library

The church library is on the honor system.

Please remember to return the books when you are finished reading them.

Thank you. Mel Adams, Librarian



The Truro Bear and Other Adventures

by Mary Oliver

Mary Oliver was an American poet who won the National Book Award and a Pulitzer Prize. She was far and away America's best selling poet. She and her companion Molly Cook lived in Provincetown Massachusetts for 40 years. The town and the surrounding countryside were the inspiration for many of her poems and essays.

Ms. Oliver teaches us the magic and beauty of the natural world with her joyous and intimate observations of animal, plants, rocks and landscapes. She was able to find and proclaim the sacred and spiritual in nature in an extraordinary manner.

Ms. Oliver died in January 2019 in Florida. She wrote 17 books of poetry and 5 books of prose.

Here is an example of part of one of her poems:

“... I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass. how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.

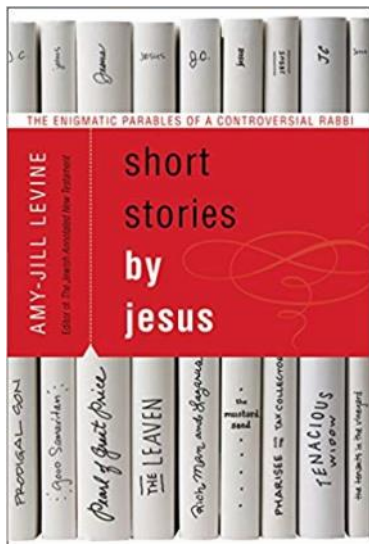
Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?”

reviewed by Mel Adams, librarian



SHORT STORIES BY JESUS:

The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi

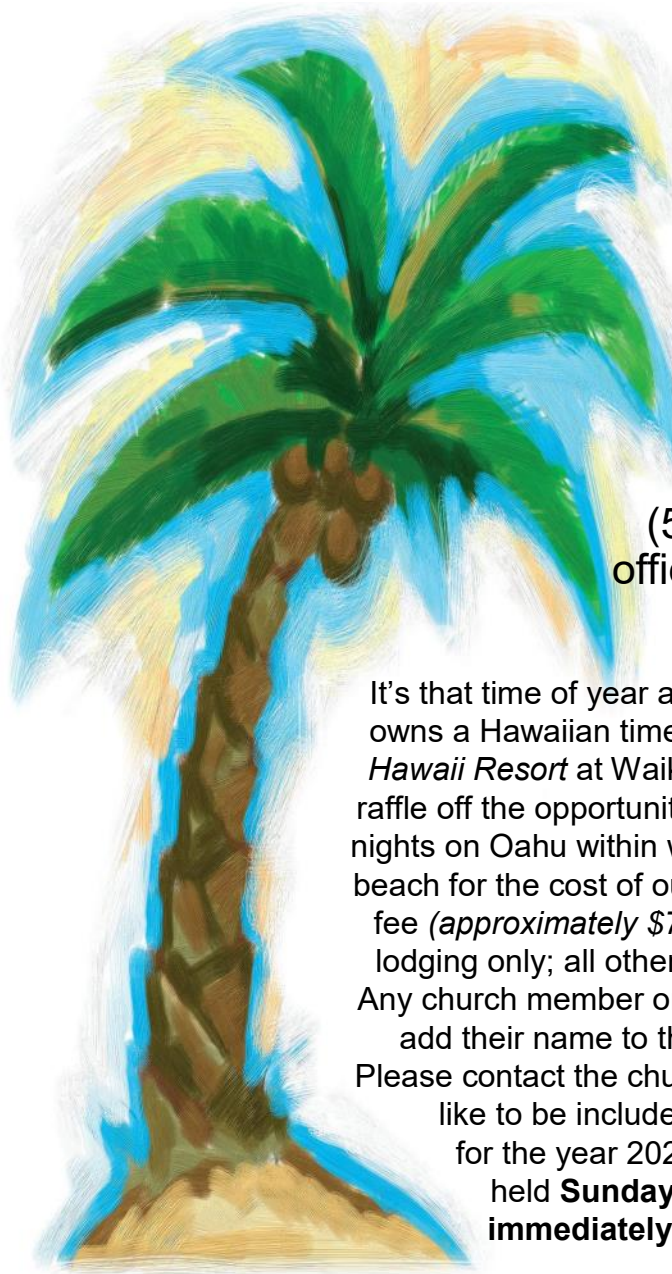
**Join Jennifer Jacobson
for a six-week study
of the Parables of Jesus
Thursdays after Choir Rehearsal
at 6:30 beginning March 7th.**

Amy-Jill Levine, the renowned biblical scholar, author of *The Misunderstood Jew*, and general editor for *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* interweaves history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus' most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers.

Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from our world today, and many traditional interpretations of Jesus' stories ignore this disparity and have often allowed anti-Semitism and misogyny to color their perspectives.

In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. In *Short Stories by Jesus*, she analyzes these "problems with parables," taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.

RSVP so we can order enough participant guides. They are \$10.46 for paperback or \$9.94 for Kindle edition on Amazon. If you order for yourself be sure to use Smile.Amazon so the church receives a percentage of your purchase. (NWUP Church already has the leader guide and instructional DVD!)



Timeshare Drawing

Sunday

March 31st

(right after worship)

Please contact
church office
(509) 946-3222 or
office@nwup.church
if interested.

It's that time of year again! NWUP Church owns a Hawaiian timeshare at the *Imperial Hawaii Resort* at Waikiki and each year we raffle off the opportunity to spend 7 days & 6 nights on Oahu within walking distance of the beach for the cost of our annual membership fee (*approximately \$750*). The \$750 is for lodging only; all other costs are up to you. Any church member or regular attendee can add their name to the drawing for free. Please contact the church office if you would like to be included in the drawing for the year 2020 which will be held **Sunday, March 31st** immediately following service.



To the hardy souls who worked hard to keep our sidewalks and parking lot clear of snow. Please know how much your efforts are appreciated!

Northwest United Protestant Church

**Your presence is requested to attend
a workshop on:**

Building a Vision

This workshop is designed to help us develop a “big picture” of who we are and what we aspire to be. At the end of our time together, we will have developed two or three short vision statements that will reflect who we want to be. The congregation will vote on the final selection.

The important stuff:

When: Saturday, March 30 from 8 am to 1 pm

**Where: Shalom United Church of Christ
505 McMurray, Richland 99354**

What to be bring: an open mind and willingness to listen

Workshop Leader: The Rev. Dr. Peter Kalunian, Interim Pastor

Snacks and beverages will be provided

Regrets only to: pkalunian@gmail.com
206-854-0612



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Our 2019 *Church Directory* update is way past due, so watch for the clipboards that will be making the rounds at worship service during the month of March. Be sure to verify or make changes to your personal information for the *Church Directory* on one of the two clipboards or email (office@nwup.church) or call the church office @ 942-3222. Once we have everyone's correct information we will send out/publish the new directory making it easier for you to contact your friends here at *NWUP Church!*

GARDEN TO TABLE



GROW,
HARVEST,
PREPARE,
SHARE

Part of our preparation for search and call of a new settled minister is to dream big dreams. Where do we want to be as a community in Christ in five years? In ten years? How do we understand our specific mission to ministry with and for the people of Northwest Church and of our city? The folks who gathered after worship on January 13th had some creative and inspired ideas.

My favorite is the brainstorming around hosting a “dinner church” service at an alternate time, recognizing many people working in businesses do not have the luxury of taking Sunday morning off. Perhaps on a Sunday evening or Saturday morning or maybe a week night – gather together and make a simple healthy meal – perhaps soup and a salad, maybe a pasta dish– and share in song and scripture, a mediation and the holy meal our Lord commanded us to share together as often as we meet. Jesus and his disciples spent a lot of his ministry around food, eating with his friends and feeding people. NWUP Church is good at feeding people too. This seems like a logical extension of our response to the Gospel.

Our focus on food in the brainstorming conversation led to imagining the development of an extensive garden on church property that would grow the food we serve at our dinners, that could also be distributed to people in need. Or that could have a section of plots leased out to local families to tend for themselves.

From there we spun out the “what if” to include Chickens! Fresh eggs from the five chickens the City of Richland would allow.





Becoming a **GREEN CHALICE** Congregation

How could we develop this beautiful (delicious?) idea into a sustainable ministry? Functionally, I suggest we would need a Master Gardener, a minister gardener? There are education classes available to teach us what we need to know about growing food in the city. Supplies and training cost money. Moving forward if we want to explore the possibility of this Garden Ministry Expansion, we would probably need to secure grants, or special offering, or some other means of amassing the “seed money.”

This *Garden to Table* ministry has sparked my theological imagination. Our spiritual journey is one from the Garden of Eden at Creation to Christ’s Table. Humanity has been entrusted with the care of God’s Creation. Eco-Theologian Sallie McFague envisions incarnation in terms of the entirety of God’s creation, not just humanity. All that exists – the entire Universe - has been created out of God’s imagination. Everything reflects the beauty of our God. Humanity, rather than existing apart from the rest of creation, alone in God’s favor, with the resources of this world to use as we will, is reframed as part of the whole, entrusted with its maintenance and care. McFague writes of this world as our home. This is the Home God has created for us and called good. And she suggests some house rules like those you might find on the fridge in your kitchen: Take only your share. Clean up after yourself. Leave the house in good condition for future generations.

I would suggest one additional component of our big “garden to table, dinner church, feed the neighborhood” dream: Becoming a certified Green Chalice Ministry. Take a peek at the program on the Disciple’s home missions page on the internet. <https://www.disciplehomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/green-chalice-program/> Think about it. Let’s talk.

Peace be,

Jennifer Jacobson

WITNESS OF THE SAINTS

Sunday, February 3:

Worship: 45
 Christian Education: 3
 Nursery: 4

In Finance:

General Fund	\$ 6,115.75
Capital Campaign	315.00
NA Rent (Friday Night)	50.00
NA Rent (Steps & Trad.)	50.00
TOPS Rent	50.00
Hospitality	50.00
Building Fund	25.00
Food 4 Friends	25.00
Food Bank	25.00
Total	\$ 3,906.53

Sunday, February 10:

Worship: **CANCELLED DUE TO SNOW!**

Sunday, February 17:

Worship: 39
 Christian Education: 5
 Nursery: 3

In Finance:

General Fund	\$ 5,790.75
Capital Campaign	160.00
Week of Compassion	150.00
Food 4 Friends	20.00
Total	\$ 6,120.75

Sunday, February 24:

Worship: 42
 Christian Education: 0
 Nursery: 4

In Finance:

General Fund	\$ 1,300.00
Bake Sale	320.00
Week of Compassion	140.00
Capital Campaign	125.00
NA Rent (Summer Sizzler)	50.00
NA Rent (Rush Hour)	50.00
Food Bank	10.00
Total	\$ 1,995.00



1-Jim & Kay Divine
 3-Norma Conrad
 9-Buffy Burton
 11-Jim Divine

12-Harold Galpin
 12-Regina Gifford
 16-Jim & Sue Jewett
 22-Barbara Jensen

March Serving Sundays

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Elders	M. Dodson	R. Donahoe	S. Jewett	A. Kion	O. Adams
Worship Leader	S. Jewett	A. Kion	B. Nundahl	O. Adams	D. Ayres
Song Leader	A. Kion	B. Nundahl	B. Butherus	A. Kion	K. Humphrys
Deacons	Team 1- C. Rawlings	Team 2- J. Kion	Team 3- D. Whiteside	Team 4- S. Hall-Mullen	Team 1- C. Rawlings
Team Leaders in BOLD	D. Donahoe J. Jakes J. Jewett J. Lawson	N. Dodson J. Jacobson B. Nundahl J. Willis	B. Butherus B. Neslin T. Neslin B. Miller	M. O'Hara S. O'Hara G. O'Hara A. O'Hara	D. Donahoe J. Jakes J. Jewett J. Lawson
Sound	J. Brinson- Wagner	J. Brinson- Wagner	S. Wolf	B. Nundahl	S. Hall-Mullen
Counters	P. Cahow J. Willis	J. Jakes A. Willis	J. Kion S. Hall-Mullen	D. Whiteside J. Jewett	P. Cahow J. Willis
Greeter	J. Jakes	TBA	TBA	O'Haras	J. Jakes
Sunday School	P. Cahow TBA	S. Hall-Mullen TBA	J. Lawson TBA	J. Willis TBA	P. Cahow TBA
Hospitality	P. Cahow Lawsons K. Leitze	J. Jakes A. Kion B. Ponto	J. Flaten S. Hall-Mullen B. & T. Neslin	P. & K. Valdez D. Whiteside J. Willis	O. Adams J. Jacobson C. Rawlings



Northwest United Protestant Church

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 Rick Donahoe Ministry Intern
 Joyce Willis Secretary
 Karen Walley Choir Director/Pianist
 April Willis and Courtney Rieke Nursery

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