



# The Congregator

Fauntleroy Church United Church of Christ

August 22, 2016

## PASTOR LEAH'S PONDERINGS...

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

So...I'm remembering a promise I made in my sermon on July 24<sup>th</sup> (I bet some of you know where this is going)! In part of that sermon, I criticized the closing prayer of Rev. Mark Burns at the Republican National Convention. The prayer was (and I still stand by this) unfaithful in its content, tone and focus, but I've said enough about it already.

My critique was focused on how we attempt to use God to serve our purposes and perspectives, and in fairness, I promised that if I heard anything similar in prayer led at the Democratic National Convention, I'd make sure to show equal disappointment.

Well, when I heard the opening prayer of Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale at the DNC, I knew I owed you a few more words.

Rev. Hale's prayer was also, by my assessment, an unfaithful prayer. Most of it was simply a stating of position, directed in the general direction of God. "We understand..., we have a platform..., we have an opportunity..., you have given us wisdom," she prayed. And yes, she too placed Hillary Clinton on a pedestal in her prayer, much as Mark Burns did with Donald Trump. Only in closing, did Hale humbly *ask* God for anything, and when she did, it was simply an ask for courage and the party's unification (which I think was a response to the Bernie chants that interrupted her prayer).

Now, I'm really not looking to pick apart other pastors (I sighed at the thought of having to follow through on my promise). But these pastors' prayers *are* worthy of mention. And, they're worthy of mention because as Christians, we should be concerned any time someone prays in a manner that speaks more *for* God than *to* God. Red flags should go up when we hear a prayer that includes an abundance of positional statements but a lack of humility over pride, hope over fear, love over hate, and trust in God over trust in human beings. When our Republican and Democratic conventions are both steeped in imperialist language and 240 years of surface-level civil religion centered around equating the U.S. with the biblical "city upon a hill" (the shining example for the world -- the new Israel) well, I think God groans out loud. And, I think we have a duty to speak up and out for our groaning God, lest we allow our faith to devolve into a meaningless, dangerous, choose-your-own-adventure coat of arms.

God isn't a democrat, republican, libertarian, socialist, anarchist or anything else. God doesn't play favorites. And, God's vision for the world is far, far greater than any vision in which the U.S. or a politician is cast in the role of Savior.

We can do better as people of faith than to hitch a ride on the coat tails of civil religion rhetoric crafted to benefit political motives more than God's mission in our world. We must do better.

And for *that*, I fervently pray.

*Leah*

### WORSHIP/CHURCH SCHOOL 10:00 AM

August 28, 2016

*"But I'm Only..."*

Jeremiah 1:4-10;  
Hebrews 12:18-25a

Leah Bilinski Preaching

#### Following Worship

Finish Restriping Parking Lot

September 4, 2016



#### Labor Day Weekend

*"At the Tipping Point with  
Nothing but Cracked Cisterns"*

Jeremiah 2:4-13;  
Jeremiah 18:1-11

Communion

Leah Bilinski Preaching

#### Following Worship

Set up for 2<sup>nd</sup> Time Sale in  
Fellowship Hall

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, Sept. 11, 11 AM

All-Church Potluck  
Picnic and BBQ



# CALENDAR

## Saturday – August 27

9:00 Restripe Parking Lot

## Sunday – August 28

9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library

10:00 Worship

11:00 Eco-Friendly Coffee Sold

11:00 Restripe Parking Lot

## Monday – August 29

8:30 Altar Guild

## Tuesday – August 30

6:30 Reading Group Discussion & Potluck – F. Hall (**Note time**).

## Wednesday – August 31

9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl

## Thursday – September 1

6-9:00 Church Leaders - BRR

## Sunday – September 4

9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library

10:00 Worship

11:30 Set UP for 2<sup>nd</sup> Time Sale - FH

## Monday – September 5

**Labor Day – Office Closed**

## Tuesday – September 6

8:30 Altar Guild

9:00 Fix-It Group

## Wednesday – September 7

9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl

## Thursday – September 8

10:00 Sisters – tbd

7:30 Choir Resumes

**As an open and affirming congregation, the members and staff of Fautleroy Church are committed to fostering community among people of all races, cultures and sexual orientations.**

means to be a prophet and to live prophetically and prayerfully. And, of course, because it is so important to us that we live out what we learn, the center of our summer classes has included learning ways to pray as well as assembling about 100 blessing bags filled with essentials like a bus ticket, toiletries, a snack bar, and an important list of local resources. Thanks to the Homelessness Task Force for continuing to involve the kids in this meaningful project. So often it is our first, most immediate way to live out our love when we encounter someone in need.

Before summer ends, please take a minute to thank all our summer teachers who have taught our children to live out their love: **Carol Smith, Yessika Yoncee, all our nursery helpers, and Vicky Ellis, Lynn Caldwell, Hilary Reeves, Maria and Joel Groen, Sarah Cotton Rajski, Karen Kitsis, Jennifer Casillas, Kari, Beau and Rees Holsberry, Sheryl Guyon (and members of the Homelessness Taskforce), and Jane Leonard.** They were that little extra sunshine we all really needed.

## SEPT. 10<sup>TH</sup> TEACHERS ORIENTATION

Don't forget! This is our most important meeting of the year for our Sunday School volunteers. Sunday School Teachers Training is **Sept. 10 from 9:30-12:30**. If you have volunteered to teach or assist, thanks! We'll gather as a whole group and in teaching teams to learn about leading, review the curriculum, get an overview of the year, and fill out schedules far enough to get our fall programs off to a smooth start. **Please RSVP Karyn Frazier at [karyn@fautleroyucc.org](mailto:karyn@fautleroyucc.org)** so she can plan materials and childcare.

## PROGRAM BEGINS SEPT 11<sup>TH</sup>

Our Fall Sunday School Program begins again Sept. 11. We'll start classes for all ages and look forward to the kids' amazing questions and energy in all the rooms on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Thanks to our 20+ volunteers who signed up to be leaders, music experts, assistants and nursery helpers. We need lots of hearts and hands to help young loving



spirits grow. We offer Sunday School and care for:

**Nursery: Carol Smith** and volunteer caregivers will ensure our nursery is a welcoming, loving, and safe place for infants and toddlers through age 3 during worship.

**Preschool & Kindergarten:** Teams of volunteer teachers use a lectionary-based curriculum to help children begin to understand Bible stories at their age level and in their own words through art, drama, and movement.

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classes:** Elementary-aged kids explore a theme or story from the Bible for several weeks at a time. This year, we'll start with "Gems of the Kingdom: Parables," which includes learning through science, games, cooking, Bible study, and more.

**Middle School:** For younger youth, we focus on fostering community and spiritual growth and help youth connect scripture to their lives. Group building, ritual, lively discussions, regular mini-service projects and participation in worship are all part of their Sunday experience.

**High School:** Older youth participate in communion the first Sunday of the month. On other Sundays, leaders offer fellowship, great conversations around current events or world concerns, and service to help youth deepen their relationship with God. In both Middle and High School classes we use a lectionary-based curriculum, but also shape our program around the questions and interests of our young people.

**Adult Bible Study:** Learning options for adults include a **Sunday morning Bible Study** that meets in the Library on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor at 9:00. The topics vary according to the interests of the group. Often the focus and conversation are about the lectionary scriptures that inspire the sermon. Other opportunities for adult study are offered throughout the year and during the week so keep a close eye on your Congregator!

It's almost time! Time for us all to gather again--time for children and youth to meet new teachers, create classroom covenants, and continue to discover that they are deeply loved by God and their faith community. Vacations were great, but it will be so good to be back up on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor learning about God's love for all of us.

**Karyn**

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## SUMMER PROGRAM THANKS!



We've had 2 wonderful Sunday School classes every week this summer: a multi-age class for PreK-5<sup>th</sup> graders and our nursery. Both rooms have been full of energy (so much so that next year we know we'll need to expand our summer program!). This summer we've focused on what it

# CHURCH MEMBERS

## GETTING ACQUAINTED

*As often as possible, The Congregator will include a brief profile of one person in the church. This is a great way to get to know each other and to see the many ways we are engaged in the life of this church. We'll start with profiling Council members and Ministry chairs.* **Sarah Ackers**

**Kathleen Steele,**  
Church Council, Clerk

**1st friend at Fauntleroy:** I don't recall a "1st friend" at Fauntleroy, but I felt I was coming home when I arrived at Fauntleroy. (I attended and was confirmed at the University City UCC in San Diego and years later, **Larry** and I were married by that UCC minister.) **David Kratz** and Fauntleroy members were very welcoming.

**Favorite thing about Fauntleroy Church:** People are welcoming and respectful and everyone pitches in to get things done.

**One of my favorite comments from a Fauntleroy Church member:** **Andrea Menin** in response to my frustration on trying to figure out who approved what: "That's what's so great about Fauntleroy, someone has an idea and makes things happen." Since then, I've appreciated the flow of things with a smile, whether I can figure out how they come to be or not!

**Where do you sit in the sanctuary:** You'll find me sitting in different spots as I like to mix it up. My favorite is sitting in front of someone who sings well!

**Which church groups/ministries/activities are or have you been involved in:** I've taught pre-school, K- and middle school. I served on CE for about 9 years with a particular focus on getting youth involved in existing church committees to foster relationships among adult and youth members as they pursued outreach, etc. I served on the Fauntleroy Fall Festival Committee and established the "Youth Bake Sale". I've enjoyed many Women's Retreats and our family has enjoyed roller skating and bowling parties, Family Camp, youth group, Sojourners, Crock Pots and so much more!

**Something you look forward to in the coming year:** Building more and stronger friendships with other church members and **Pastor Leah** as we

## DONATIONS, HELPERS, SHOPPERS NEEDED FOR SALE



The wheels are in motion toward another successful **2nd Time Sale** - our 22nd - on **Sept. 17 and 18**. We expect to welcome scores of shoppers eager for the bargains we'll have on thousands of quality items. How well we do with this largest fundraiser of the year is entirely up to you.

Fellowship Hall will be dedicated to the sale starting Sun., Sept. 4. The Tuesday after Labor Day will be dedicated to bringing items out of storage. On **Wed., Sept. 7**, we'll start accepting new donations during business hours, on Sunday mornings, and evenings by special arrangement. The last day for new donations will be **Wed., Sept. 14**.

We accept a wide variety of lightly used items that are **clean, in working order, and complete** (all parts, electrical cords). See [www.fauntleroyucc.org](http://www.fauntleroyucc.org) for the list of items we cannot take or call the church office. Also call if you need a volunteer to pick up your donations or to make an evening delivery.

Volunteers are needed as follows. Every task involves work but also great fun and the chance to get better acquainted with fellow church members. Sign up on Sunday mornings or call the church office to see where you're needed.

### Before the sale

- Sun., Sept. 4, after worship to set up Fellowship Hall
- Tues., Sept. 6, at 9 AM to bring items from storage
- Mon., Sept. 12, at 6:30 PM to bring furniture from storage
- Weekdays, Sept. 6-16, 10 AM-3 PM to sort and price

### During the sale

- Sat. shifts between 8:30 AM and 4 PM
- Sun., 11:30 AM-2 PM

### For Saturday's bake sale

Bake cookies, cupcakes, small loaves of fruit bread, etc., wrap ready for pricing, and bring to the church kitchen Fri, 9 AM-8 PM or Sat. by 7:30 AM.

### After the sale

Mon., Sept. 19, 9 AM - noon, to process leftovers and deliver to charities

Lastly, we will need customers! Pass the word to neighbors, family, and friends about this major community event on **Sat., Sept. 17, 9 AM - 4 PM**, and **Sun., Sept. 18, 11:30 AM - 2 PM**. **Judy Pickens**

grow together and strive to make ourselves, our community and world better.

## CHURCH/Y CONNECTION

### Y IS CELEBRATING 94 YEARS IN WEST SEATTLE



The SW Seattle Historical Society is co-sponsoring HiSTORY, HerSTORY, OurSTORY, YourSTORY, an Evening of West Seattle and Fauntleroy YMCA Memories, on **Thursday, Sept. 22, here in our Fellowship Hall, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM**.

Join us at this interactive event for all ages to share and hear stories about the YMCA from every era of our 94 year history in West Seattle. Bring your YMCA memories to share. We want to hear your YMCA story!

We'll start the evening off with memorabilia and story sharing about

the many community activities that the Y has led over the years, including Bean Feed, Adventure Guides, Teen Dances, etc!

We'll end with **Clay Eals**, Executive Director of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, interviewing West Seattle locals including our own **Larry Pierce**, whose history with the Y goes back to his great grandfather, **Laurence Colman**, a lifelong YMCA leader who started the Fauntleroy YMCA and Camp Colman. In addition to discussing his family's own involvement, he will highlight the little-known efforts of locals in the difficult times of the 1930s and 1940s.

Light refreshments will be provided. This event is appropriate for kids ages 6 and older. Free childcare for ages 4 weeks to 12 years, with reservations required.

Please RSVP to **Maria Groen** at [mgroen@seattleyymca.org](mailto:mgroen@seattleyymca.org) or 206-935-6000, by **Sept. 15**.



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 Website: [www.fauntleroyucc.org](http://www.fauntleroyucc.org)

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Fauntleroy Church UCC  
 9140 California Avenue SW  
 Seattle WA 98136-2556  
 August 22, 2016

**Sunday Worship & Church School: 10 AM**

**Office Hours: 8:30-3:30 PM Mon.-Thurs. 8:30-2:30 Fri.**

<b>Senior Minister</b>	Rev. Leah Bilinski
<b>Music Director</b>	Bronwyn Edwards
<b>Christian Ed Director</b>	Karyn Frazier
<b>Little Pilgrim School Director</b>	Lorrie Cook
<b>Wedding Coordinator</b>	Rosina Geary
<b>Volunteer &amp; Engagement Coor.</b>	Sarah Ackers
<b>Youth Leader</b>	Kristen Almgren
<b>Nursery Supervisor</b>	Carol Smith
<b>Custodian</b>	Erin Vogelpohl
<b>Financial Assistant</b>	Bonnie Beerman
<b>Financial Assistant</b>	Pat Gedney
<b>Office Manager</b>	Jackie Gould

**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

**CONGREGATOR DEADLINE: TUESDAYS, 1 PM**

**OVER THE FENCE**

**PEOPLE NEWS**

Recently, a note was received in the office from **Marcia Wallace**, sharing news about two of her grandsons. On July 2, **Owen Scully** married **Ashley Kline**, in Missoula, MT, and on July 18, **Tom Scully** married **Kelly Etris**, at Roche Harbor, San Juan Island. Both, along with **Alex Scully**, are the sons of **Nora Sipes & Andy Scully**. Marcia says they are thrilled to add two lovely young ladies to their family!

**ALTAR GUILD THANKS**

Did you know that every Monday morning, four women gather in the sanctuary to lovingly restore it to "pre-worship" condition? Tissue packets, pencils, hand sanitizer, church brochures and cards are restocked. Ribbon placeholders are straightened in the spines of the hymnals. Left behind items are collected and turned into the office for the lost and found. Soiled communion cloths are gathered and laundered. They also make sure new candles are ordered and available before the old wicks are too short to burn. Thank you to **Pam Ford, Selma Neilson, Bobbie Reeves, and Peggy Smith** for caring for our sanctuary each and every week.

**ONE DAY WOMEN'S RETREAT - OCTOBER 29**

"*Worship Fully...Love All*" is the theme of the one-day retreat of church women on Saturday, October 29, 9 am - 4 pm. The retreat agenda aligns with the Advent theme for this year and covers new topics not presented at last spring's weekend women's retreat. Organizers promise detailed information in September, but for now save the date: October 29.

**Maria Groen**

**POTLUCK PICNIC AND BBQ**

Save Sunday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, for the Annual Potluck Picnic and BBQ right after church. Parish Life Ministry will provide hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex in August so that you can sign up to bring side dishes, salads or desserts. There also will be sign-up sheets for helping with set-up and clean-up, BBQ chefs (4) and servers (4). We are going to need at least 3 canopies, 2 gas barbecues and we also may need a truck without a canopy to pick up the barbecues and deliver them to the church. If you can help with any of these things, please give **Sarah Ackers** a call.

Mostly, though, we need you to come and participate. See You on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>!

**Carolyn Tucker**, for the Parish Life Ministry

**ON SEPT. 11 WE'LL BLESS OUR BACKPACKS!**

Even before trees change color and leaves fall, backpacks and school bags are the first sign of seasons changing and a new school year beginning. On **Sept. 11**, we'd like to bless those backpacks and especially the children and youth—and even adults!--who carry them. **Just bring your backpack, book bag—or even your briefcase—to church** and we'll say thanks to God for the gifts of curiosity, wisdom, fun, and friendships those packs and bags represent. We'll ask God to keep kids safe and in love with learning all year long and to support those who teach and encourage them, also.

**Karyn**

**WEST SEATTLE ARTISTS TAKE NOTE**

The deadline to apply for this year's **Fauntleroy Fine Art & Holiday Gift Show** is **Sept. 30**. If you know of a West Seattle artist or holiday-gift crafter who really *should* be in it, please pass the word. Work can be in any medium, from ceramics to metal, watercolor to paper. Details and the application form for the **Nov. 11-13** show are at [www.fauntleroyucc.org](http://www.fauntleroyucc.org) or call the church office (206-932-5600).