



# The Congregator

Fauntleroy Church United Church of Christ

January 8, 2018

## MY 2018 PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jonah is my favorite biblical character. By far. The satirical fable in which he plays a starring role may for scholars be a complicated layer cake of motivations and interpretations, but I prefer to remember the story the way I was taught as a child: God told Jonah to do something. In return, Jonah “ghosted” God. Because he didn’t want to hear it.

Never one to cultivate or let my own internal dialogue dictate my decision-making, I can relate. I, my friends, a woman who always has a plan. I may be a millennial who doesn’t own a printer, but my old-fashioned paper At-A-Glance weekly planner breaks my day into tidy 15-minute increments – and I’ve used one since I was a sophomore in high school. That’s 20 years of daily schedules, work plans, deadlines, appointments, dates, parties, rehearsals, reminders, cleaning chores, and grocery lists. If you’re a control freak, you probably own an At-a-Glance.

Needless to say, I’ve rarely encountered a problem or stressor that couldn’t be quantified on paper, its elements broken down into tidy lists that allow me a feeling of complete control over my own destiny.

A week before Christmas, I was offered a job that I’d first conceptualized more than a year prior – my dream job, really. I set a goal, and my trusty planner and I got to work. It was a long shot: the position represented a complete change of career for me, and I had no prior experience. I was proud that my strategy and copious list-making had paid off.

In order for the position to work, I was required to make a few sacrifices: I would go from working part-time to working more than 40 hours per week. And I would go from working at home to working more than an hour away from West Seattle, sitting in viaduct traffic twice daily. No problem, I thought. Plenty of people do the same thing every day. It’s called a “sacrifice” for a reason.

Most importantly, it would require my two small children to be cared for by someone other than me. My husband, sure, but also my mom, my mother-in-law, my sisters, my friends, a nanny, and the wonderful women in charge of the after-school daycare at their school. Again, not a problem, I thought. They’ve had me at home for almost eight years. It takes a village, right?

After my final, successful interview, I was elated. But I cried all the way home. I immediately began making my lists. Schedules. I waited for the feeling of control to return. But it didn’t.

I spent exactly two days trying my best to be reasonable. To tamp down my emotion. To run away from what I now believe was a sign from God, a sign that my decision to take the job would change my life in a way that no amount of list-making could help me handle.

After a Sunday morning spent crying through church, barely able to contain my emotion, I knew something was very wrong. I was a mess. And I don’t know about you, but I find being a mess to be very time-consuming. I was completely off-schedule.

I called my mom. “You’re obviously being told something inside your being that you’re refusing to acknowledge,” she advised.

So, finally I did. I acknowledged it. I remember saying aloud, “I’m not going to take this job. It’s too many hours, it’s too far away from home, and my children are too young. And, then, came the peace.

Hilary Reeves

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**WORSHIP  
CHURCH SCHOOL  
10:00 AM**

*Happy New  
Year!*

**January 14, 2018**

Ministry Sunday - Led by the Homelessness Task Force Sunday School in Fellowship Hall Leah Atkinson Bilinski Preaching

**January 21, 2018**

Leah Atkinson Bilinski Preaching

**Following Worship**

**3-6:00 PM**

**Visit Redmond Mosque**

(Meet in the church parking lot at 2:15 to carpool or you can meet us at the Mosque.)



# CALENDAR

**Friday – Jan. 12 – Sunday, Jan. 14**  
Sr. High Camp @ Pilgrim Firs

**Sunday – January 14**

- 9:00 Adult Bible Study - Library
- 10:00 Worship – Ministry Sunday
- 11:15 Green Com. – Library
- 11:30 Lunch and viewing of “The Visitor” – Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 30’s Get-Together - Grit/Yanacek home

**Monday – January 15**  
**Office Closed – President’s Day**

**Tuesday – January 16**

- 8:30 Altar Guild
- 3:30 LPS Teachers Mtg – 4<sup>th</sup> Flr Conference Room

**Wednesday – January 17**

- 9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl

**Thursday – January 18**

- 6:45 Council Executive Com. – Lib.
- 7:30 Choir

**Saturday – January 20**

- 5:00 Crock Pots – Ackers home

**Sunday – January 21**

- 9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
- 10:00 Worship
- 11:30 Women’s Retreat Plan. – Lib.
- 3-6:00 Visit Redmond Mosque

**Monday – January 22**

- 8:30 Altar Guild
- 6:30 Sisters – Gedney home
- 6:30 Adult Ed Class – F. Hall
- 7:00 Facilities Ministry - Library

**Tuesday – January 23**

- 9:30 Caring Ministry – Library
- 6:30 Seaside Sisters – Room 416
- 7:00 Council – BRR

**Wednesday – January 24**

- 9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl

**Thursday – January 25**

- 10:00 Sisters – Lounge
- 7:30 Choir

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

# ADULT EDUCATION

## ADULT EDUCATION PLANTS SEEDS

*“I cannot do every-thing, but I can do something.”*  
*Edward Everett Hale,*  
*Unitarian minister,*  
*author and historian*



At the conclusion of many of our Adult Education series at Fauntleroy Church, a frequently asked question is, “What can I do to help?” Sometimes finding that next step seems overwhelming, but the truth is it may be as easy as picking up the phone and asking the right people.

If you’ve attended our Adult Ed classes, you know that we have delved into a variety of social justice issues ranging from white privilege to our broken immigration system.

At a session in May, while exploring racial injustice in our society, our class was joined by Seattle Police Det. Kim Bogucki and her team from The IF Project. This organization is a collaboration of law enforcement, currently and previously incarcerated adults, and community partners focused on intervention, prevention and reduction in incarceration and recidivism. Members of their team shared their stories about their lives before and while in prison, and they explained how difficult it was to turn their lives around when they were released with good intentions but little or no support from the justice system. Without money, a place to live or a job, the prospects for recidivism are high. Fortunately, the people who spoke to us that evening had overcome these obstacles with the help of The IF Project and other such organizations.

A follow-up call to Detective Bogucki led members of the Adult Education team and the Seaside Sisters group at our church to gather gently used clothing for women just released from prison. And several weeks later, I was blessed to deliver many large bags of lovely clothes to a group home in the White Center area that is part of Kate’s House, a non-profit foundation that works hand-in-hand with The IF Project and provides housing for women who were previously incarcerated. The eight women living there (and another eight who live next door) now have clothing that will help them in their efforts to

find work and to look great when they begin their new jobs. It truly did feel like Christmas as some of the women and I unpacked the bags and displayed the lovely blouses, slacks, sweaters, shoes and warm coats throughout their living and dining rooms.

To me, the story here is “don’t let the need you see everywhere overwhelm you.” As Edward Everett Hale said over 100 years ago, “do **something**”—no matter how small it may seem at the time. It could make a real difference in someone’s life.

**Ev Eldridge**

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## MINISTRY SUNDAY

This Epiphany we have been following the star of Love, especially in Sunday School. That journey continues on **Jan. 14**



**when we’ll have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministry Sunday!** Ministry Sundays are special days when all grade levels are led by one of the Ministries of the church. We want to help the children and youth connect to the loving work of the whole church, so we’ve invited each ministry to take over Sunday School for a morning in 2018.

This month, the kids will be helping the Homelessness T. F. with their good work by assembling lots of blessing bags! These bags contain simple essentials that can be given to someone on the street, including a list of service agencies in the West Seattle area. This is a service project that the kids have really embraced. They understand the difference food, dry socks, and toiletries can make to someone without shelter in this cold weather. It is the “something” we can do in the moment when we can’t do everything. Everyone is welcome to pick up a blessing bag to keep in their car for that moment of caring connection. (Also, consider leaving a goodwill donation so we can keep this project going!)

Thanks to the Homelessness T. F. and all of you for all the authentic ways you offer a powerful example of doing God’s loving work together. **Our next Ministry Sunday is Feb. 11, when Parish Life will keep us walking along this amazing Way of Love.**

**Karyn**

# SWEET, SWEET MUSIC

## "DIVINE TO ETHEREAL."

An evening with the **Fauntleroy Women's Ensemble, Friday, Jan. 26, 2018, 7:30 PM**

We truly hope this performance will be a work of art, and are excited to be performing under lights in the church's beautiful sanctuary. Combining sweet song with joy and tenderness, the Women's Ensemble will perform a diverse program of beautiful music, both sacred and secular. From "Stars" by Scandinavian composer Eriks Esenvalds, accompanied by water-filled wine-glasses and percussion, to the depths of the sea in **Bronwyn Edwards'** swirling composition "Swimming with Dolphins"; with songs for humanity such as "Malala," (the young lady who defied the Taliban in the name of education for women); "Corroboree" (think didgeridoo and drums) and "Even When He is Silent," based on words scratched on the wall of a concentration camp, with guest ballerina **Annika Bjornson**, we hope you will be deeply moved. From the sacred anthem of light and harmony in "Lux Aeterna" to the antics of love-sick cats in "Alley Cat Love Song", we hope you will take with you that joy only music can bring.

We welcome guest musicians Dr. Nels Magelsson on didgeridoo. Nels is a French horn and alphorn player in classical orchestras and jazz ensembles, but tonight he will share his passion for aboriginal instruments particularly the didgeridoo, which is featured on Bron's original song "Corroboree" and in the world premiere of "Terra Australis," depicting early explorers searching for the great southern land, also composed by Bron. Percussionist John Mann will add his brilliance to this exciting music with a myriad of percussive sounds. We are also delighted to welcome back cellist Chad Caron, and **David Yanacek**, who will accompany us on bass.

Please come to the concert, help the Women's Ensemble support the church's mission through this fundraiser. Refreshments will be served during intermission. As always, donations of desserts are gratefully accepted. Admission is \$15.00/adults and \$10.00/seniors. Children are free. Tickets may be purchased in the church office. Mark your calendars!

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### 1) Welcoming the Stranger Part II: Immigration Speaker Series

Even if you didn't sign up for the fall program, you are invited to the upcoming speaker series concerning immigrants at-risk of deportation. As mentioned in a previous Congregator, the Council has approved moving ahead with a discernment process to consider how Fauntleroy Church might welcome and assist immigrants. The following learning opportunities will provide helpful background for that discernment. You may attend any or all of the following events, but for planning purposes, please pre-register at the Get-Involved Table or via email or phone: [codemary55@gmail.com](mailto:codemary55@gmail.com); 206-932-6301. If you attended the fall program, you are already enrolled and paid up; no further action is required. We encourage you to invite your friends outside of church who might be interested in these topics and grab a flyer from the Get Involved Table and post it in the community.

#### Kick-off Event

#### **Lunch, Viewing, & Discussion of *The Visitor*, Sun., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM-2 PM**

*The Visitor* is a fictional story about a depressed university professor who discovers a young, undocumented couple living in his New York apartment. This award winning film both captures what it is like to "live in the shadows" and the profound connections that can arise out of welcoming the strangers in our midst. PG rated; suitable for mature middle-schoolers and up. (Childcare by request.)

#### Sessions

(6:30-9:00 PM, includes a pizza dinner, free-will donations accepted)

#### **Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>--Living in the Shadows: What is the Human Toll of Current Immigration Policy?**

--Lonnie Tristan Renteria, Executive Director, Clinical Services, Puentes: advocacy, counseling, education --Karen Gamez, Immigrant Advocate, University of Washington Senior, DACA recipient

#### **Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>--From Detention to Deportation: Who ends up at the Northwest Detention Center and what happens to them?**

--Deborah Perez, Volunteer Coordinator, Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AID NW), Legal Representative

#### **Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>--Welcoming the Stranger: How can religious institutions help those at-risk of deportation?**

--Michael Ramos, Executive Director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle  
--Phillip Lienau, Co-Chair, steering committee of the Sanctuary HUB project at St. Mark's Cathedral

#### **2) Visit to the Redmond Mosque - Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 3:00 to 6:00 PM**

Please sign-up at the Get Involved Table to visit the Redmond Mosque. For those who want to carpool, we'll meet in our church parking lot at 2:15 PM and arrive in time for our 3 PM tour and middle eastern supper. Aneelah Afzali, Exec. Dir. the American Muslim Empowerment Network, will be our guide and will offer a short overview of Islam. It is worth the trip to interact with Aneelah. She is a dynamic speaker who welcomes all questions about her faith, even those that are hard to ask! Contact Mary Code at [codemary55@gmail.com](mailto:codemary55@gmail.com) or 206-932-6301 for more information.

#### **3) Lenten Study of "The Last Week," by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg - Monday Evenings, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>-March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Leah will lead a five week study of the days prior to the crucifixion based upon the book, *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach Us About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*. Register for the class and order/buy your book at the Get Involved Table, beginning in January. A simple supper will be served

#### **4) Adult Bible Study: Video Series on the Protestant Reformation (Sundays, 9 AM in Library)**

This study group is still deeply engaged by a video series on the Reformation—its history and repercussions. Each video is self-contained so feel free to drop by periodically (or regularly) to learn about and discuss church history.



Phone: 932-5600/Fax 932-0401  
 E-Mail: [info@fauntleroyucc.org](mailto:info@fauntleroyucc.org)  
 Website: [www.fauntleroyucc.org](http://www.fauntleroyucc.org)

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Fauntleroy Church UCC  
 9140 California Avenue SW  
 Seattle WA 98136-2556  
 January 8, 2018

**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

**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>	Bill McElroy
<b>Financial Assistant</b>	Bonnie Beerman
<b>Financial Assistant</b>	Pat Gedney
<b>Office Manager</b>	Jackie Gould

**CONGREGATOR DEADLINE: TUESDAYS, 1 PM**

**OVER THE FENCE**

**PEOPLE NEWS**

**Betsy Boyer** recently had surgery and is doing well. **Susan Yarrow Morris** was recently hospitalized, but is now home. Please keep these two wonderful women in your thoughts and prayers.

The following letter was recently received in the church office:  
*Dear Fauntleroy UCC Friends,*

*Paul and I are deeply grateful for all the ways you have ministered to us these past couple of years. Your cards, calls, visits have cheered us. Yesterday, (dated 12/20/17) **Marcia Wallace** delivered a beautiful Cyclamen and cookies with a custom-made card! Thank you for such kindness and generosity. Joy to you at this Christmas time and always.*  
 Love, **Paul & Mary Margaret Pruitt**

**FLOWER CALENDAR**

The flower calendar for 2018 is on the Get Involved Table and is waiting for you to sign up to bring flowers. Perhaps you could bring a bouquet when your favorite flower is in bloom, to honor a family member or friend who is having a birthday or anniversary, or in memory of a loved one. Give it some thought, take a look at your calendar, and sign up to bring a little light and beauty into the Narthex. Thank you! **Sarah**

**IN MEMORIAM**

*Jean Edwards*

12/26/1919 – 9/19/2017

Long-time church member, **Jean Edwards**, passed away on Sept. 19, at the age of 97. She and her husband, **David**, joined the church in 1954 and were active with their children in the 60's and 70's. David is doing well, still living in the family home and doing his own grocery shopping. Way to go, David! Please keep David and the family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

**CAN YOU HELP?**



**Morgan Holsberry's**

Girl Scout troop is holding a fundraiser using the Clothing for a Cause company in Kent. They

resell or recycle clothing and other textiles and will give a percentage to our troop. It's based on weight, so we need lots and lots of clothing and other items. They are raising money to go on a trip. **We can pick up or you can drop off at our home until Jan. 20.**

What they can take: **clothing, shoes, towels, stuffed animals, hats, sheets, blankets, drapes, purses, belts.** All items need to be kept dry, so please put them in a

tightly closed plastic bag. We cannot take: quilts, bedspreads, bed pillows, carpeting, pet beds, uniforms, or hotel linens. Please contact **Kari** at [troop45077@gmail.com](mailto:troop45077@gmail.com), if you have donations. Thank you so much!!

**RECEIVED AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE BULLETINS PRINTED**

**Julie Huff** contributed to the cost of the Christmas flowers "in honor of my family".

**A NOTE OF THANKS**

To the big hearts and diligent hands of Fauntleroy's many helpers: **THANK YOU** for participating when it was our turn to provide the White Center Homeless Lunch on Dec. 30. We served Minestrone soup, sandwiches, chips, Christmas cookies, and good cheer to the approximately 120 folks who show up every Saturday for a hot meal, snacks, donated clothing, and prayers. We give them a strong message that we care.

Special THANKS to **Tom, Katie,** and **Cherie Clymer,** and **Catherine Smith** who came early to help cook and assemble lunch. At Bartell's, an army of volunteers gather, including **Robin Akin, Dick Finney, Tad Maruyama** and **Cathy Phillips.**

**Chris Mahar**

Editor's Note: Thanks to **Chris Mahar** for her hard work too!