



United Church of Christ-Congregational THE LIGHTED WINDOW



Celebrating 159 years of faithful
service for Christ and the Church

April 2019

Sunday Worship Time

10:00am

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Bill Comfort

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Hours: M-Th 9am-12:30pm

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-Optimism

Literary scholar and
cultural theorist Lauren

Berlant believes that the persistence of the American Dream amounts to a cruel optimism, a condition "when something you desire is actually an obstacle to your own flourishing." If I understand her I believe that she feels that our American culture is built on this optimism, that whatever constitutes the American Dream is our due. When we have not found this dream to be possible for us our predictable response is "the pent-up outrage of citizens realizing that they'd been chasing nothing more than a dream." Most of what I know about Berlant comes from an article in the March 25, 2019, issue of the New Yorker, with the headline "That Feeling When." The article is by Hua Hsu. I also looked at Berlant's blog*Supervalent Thought*. One of the entries on her blog described a happening that seemed destined not to live up to her expectations. She considered leaving the scene, but "then decided to follow my own principle, which is that you have to show up with whatever you have to fight the unacceptable situation."

Years ago, I was an intern at Eastgate United Church of Christ in Bellevue, Washington. The Rev. Dr. Rick Russel and I spent several of our planning sessions together trying to come up with a definition of how to do ministry. We finally came up with "Show up and do what you are called to do." Berlant is not particularly religious. At least, there are no articles on her blog about ministry or faith or any of the other religious kind of words that I could think of. And yet, she has adopted as her own principle "show up with whatever you have to fight the unacceptable situation." Since the first part of our creeds are the same, I am wondering what the differences at the tail of the two statements mean, if anything. Rick and my formula for ministry calls for doing what you are called to do. The idea of call indicates that the action and the expectation of the action come from a place outside of ourselves. Berlant's principle seems not to acknowledge the possibility that someone's intent in a given situation might arise from outside of oneself. I wonder if that makes any difference? One of the truths that I have observed about "call" is that the nature of what one is called to do is hardly ever perfectly defined. One can come to a situation expecting one thing and find that in the moment something else is called for. Similar moments may or may

not call for the same ministry. It seems to me that this truth is actually very close to what Berlant is pointing toward. Can these musings about how Berlant and Rick Russell and I handle our expectations in any given moment shed any light on the more generally held expectation of the American Dream? I hope they can. The American Dream is, after all, a dream—not very well defined or concrete. Perhaps we could all start by defining the American Dream as living the way we are right now. Let your present circumstance be the Dream you are dreaming of. Then in the next moment show up with all of the best wisdom, skill and intention and do the thing that is called for in that moment. That may be preach a sermon, baptize a baby, hug a loved one or tell someone you’re sorry or that you love them. Great things happen when we, who have successfully embodied the American Dream, live into every moment in this way. We lose the possibility to be disappointed, we become more effective in each of the moments of our lives, and we open ourselves up to the potential of living into God’s call. That seems like an optimism that is anything but cruel. Blessings, Bill



The April pantry item is FRUIT. In March 241 cans of Tuna was collected and taken to the Salvation Army food bank. Please help fill the shopping cart in the Roberts room.



Birthdays in April
Robert Deckard 4
Barry Frizzell 13
Donna Miller 13
Cynthia Graham 15

Date	Greeter	Reader	Coffee Host	Child Care
4/7	Sohailia	Sheri	Sheri and Donnie	
4/14		Annika		
4/21		Caroline	Susan Randy Stewart	
4/28				
5/5				



Calendar of Events

- Apr 3— 10:30 Lenten Study
11:30 Book Study
3pm Diaconate
 - Apr 7—8am Men’s breakfast
8:30 Breakfast
 - Apr 8—10:30 Women’s Fellowship
Field trip
 - Apr 9—2:15pm Church Council
 - Apr 10—10:30 Lenten Study
 - Apr 14—Palm Sunday
 - Apr 16—2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
 - Apr 17—10:30 Lenten Study
 - Apr 18—6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service
 - Apr 21—10am Easter
 - Apr 22—Office closed
 - Apr 24—Foundation meeting TBA
 - Apr 28—2pm Organ crawl
 - Apr 30—2:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
- AA MEETS: Mon-Fri 7-8am
 Mon & Fri 6-7pm
 Sat & Sun 5-6pm
 Tues 5:30-6:30pm

**Book Study Wednesday,
April 3, at 11:30am
Isabella Gray room.**

Our May meeting is May 1 and the book is THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. It is available in paperback. Cody Yeager

Per Capita Donation

Church Council has requested that all members pay a per capita assessment of \$14.00. Envelopes are available in the pews. Per capita is what is paid to the conference per member annually. Conference then uses these funds for their operations. We are the Central Pacific Conference along with 45 other churches. Our conference minister is Molly Carlson and the office administrator is Debbie Jacober. Molly has helped us with bringing Bill here and in the future will help with the pastoral search.



Women's Fellowship News

Though our March meeting was limited on member attendance we were productive in our Program sharing of songs, scriptures, and stories of situations when we know God was right there with us!! I know I feel blessed to have received these accounts!! Thank you for the open and honest sharing from each of you. At our business meeting, we decided to select United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe Children's Program. The leaflet says "The children's Program is a church-based project throughout Zimbabwe. Children living with their families are provide financial assistance for school fees and other needs. Orphans living at the Daisy Dube Home on the campus of Mt. Selinda Mission Station are provided housing, education, healthcare and other needs." Our sponsorship will be \$30 per month. We also decided to help support the family whose home burned in February. Our help will come when the family moves back in to their home. They are currently in a furnished apartment. They will be in need of many things once it comes time for them to resume living in their reconstructed home. What we will actually do to assist them will be determined later. We hope to call upon the congregation to help, too. This will be an ongoing project. For our April meeting on Monday, April 8th, we will travel to Maryhill Museum. We will form a carpool and leave at 10 a.m. from the church. Admission, if not a member of MaryHill Museum, is \$10. Dottie Layer shared there is a free pass at our local library for 4 on a first come first serve basis. I will see if we can obtain that pass. We will have a no host lunch at Loie's Café on site! Sandwiches are about \$8.95 as well as salads with a few other prices. If you are interested in participating in this field trip and have not informed me of your intention, please let me (Joy Krein) know. Call, text, or email me at 541-296-2869 (home phone), 541-980-0619 (cell phone), or email at jobok29@charter.net. If I don't hear from YOU, I will assume you are not going with us. I need to have an accurate head count by Sunday, April 7th to assure adequate transportation.

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. The word Maundy comes to us as an Anglo-French word derived from the Latin "mandatum," which means "commandment." At Jesus' last meal together with his followers he gave them the new commandment to love one another. The service will be held in Tenney Hall. The tables will be set in a cross with the communion elements at the center of the cross. Candles will be placed strategically around the table. We will begin with a simple meal. I will bring my famous Black Bean Soup and a pan of corn bread. Others can bring soup or bread. We will start with prayer and then enjoy the meal together. After we finish eating, scripture will be read, a hymn will be sung, and I will offer a brief reflection.

We will celebrate communion by intinction. We will pass the bread around from person to person. Each person will look the person next to them in the eye and say that persons name and tell them "this is the body of Christ broken for you." Then each person will tear off a piece of bread and hold it until the cup comes to them. Similarly, with the cup, we will look into our partner's eyes and say, "(name) this is the cup of salvation poured out for you." Then the person will dip their piece of bread into the cup and hand the cup to the next person in the same manner. After handing the cup to the next person each of us will eat the soaked bread symbolizing our communion with the body and spirit of Christ and with each other. There will be a prayer of Thanksgiving. Tenebrae readings will follow. The candles will be lit, and the lights put out. Volunteers will read scripture by small flashlights. After each person reads their assigned passage, they will extinguish one of the candles. After the last reading the last candle will be put out. All the candles will remain unlit for three minutes. Then one candle will be relit and we will leave Tenney Hall silently. I hope all of you will come to this special celebration for Maundy Thursday.

EASTER FLOWERS GIVEN
IN MEMORY, OR IN HONOR OF
(PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)
BY



Please drop off this form in the collection plate or bring to the church office .

Why is Easter so Late This Year?

The date on which we celebrate Easter is determined by a formula established at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. The formula is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox. Originally the council also specified that the date would be after the Jewish holiday of Passover. When the Eastern and Western churches split in the Great Schism of 1054 A.D. among other differences the Eastern Church retained the requirement that Easter be after Passover and the Western Church did not. Additionally, the Western Church later adopted the Gregorian calendar while the Eastern Church retained the Julian calendar. So the two parts of the Church celebrate Easter on different days. This year the vernal equinox and the full moon were the same day so that the first full moon after the vernal equinox is almost a month later. So Easter 2019 is as late as it can possibly be.