

The Saltwater Scroll

The Newsletter of Saltwater Church

An Intentionally Inclusive, Spiritually Progressive, Justice-seeking Community

March Newsletter

Worship Services

All worship services are at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, March 6, at 10 a.m.
“Pancake Breakfast”

Join us for a pancake breakfast at 10 a.m. followed by a presentation by our Board of Directors about this year’s stewardship campaign. Children and youth will meet in their regular classrooms following breakfast.

Sunday, March 13
“Is Difference without Division Possible?”
With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto

How can we be in authentic relationship with people who have different political views?

. Sunday, March 20
“Hope Fulfilled”
With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto and Melinda Einander, Director of Family Ministries

This morning’s service is a service for all ages. A potluck lunch will follow the service. Please bring a dish to share.

Sunday, March 27
“Spirits Rising”
With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto

On this Easter morning, we celebrate the human ability to overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Board of Directors

Sharon Crow, President
Lisa Key, Vice President
Echo Allen, Secretary
Gaye Greeves, Treasurer
Aaron Sperry
Quinn Rose
Saphronia Young

The Board of Directors may be contacted by email at board@saltwaterchurch.org. Phone numbers and addresses are listed in the church directory. Board officers will be elected at the July board meeting.

Church Office Information

Office: (253) 777-4994 or (844) 480-0647 (toll free)

Email: info@saltwaterchurch.org

Website: www.saltwaterchurch.org

Church office hours: Sue Eaton, our church administrator, is usually in the office Monday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.; and Friday, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. She sometimes runs errands, so please call before stopping by.

Minister and Staff Contacts

Any staff member may be reached by phone by calling (253) 777-4994.

Minister: Reverend James Kubal-Komoto
Email: minister@saltwaterchurch.org

Director of Family Ministry: Melinda Einander
Email: melinda@saltwaterchurch.org

Music Director: Paula Mayfield
Email: paula@saltwaterchurch.org

Choir Director: Tom Burt
Email: tom@saltwaterchurch.org

Church Administrator: Sue Eaton
Email: sue@saltwaterchurch.org

Minister's Schedule

Reverend James usually works Sunday through Thursday most weeks. His days off are Friday and (sometimes) Saturday. He is available for appointments late mornings, early afternoons, and evenings. Feel free to call him on Fridays and Saturdays, but unless it is an urgent matter, he may not return your call until later.

Church Calendar

The church calendar is on our website, at www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendar. To have an event put on the church calendar, contact church administrator, Sue Eaton, or visit www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendarrequestform.

Deadlines

The deadline for announcements for the Weekly Emailed Announcements and the Order of Service is **Wednesday by 10 a.m.** The deadline for the newsletter is the third Sunday of every month. **The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, March 20.**

To submit any announcement or newsletter content, visit www.saltwaterchurch.org/publicity. If you email an announcement, please use the announcements@saltwaterchurch.org address only. If you email a newsletter article, please use the newsletter@saltwaterchurch.org address only.

Our Welcoming Community

“Meet the Minister” Online in March

This month’s “Meet the Minister” gathering will take place online. This is an opportunity for recent visitors to Saltwater Church to meet with Reverend James and learn more and ask questions about Saltwater Church as well as Unitarian Universalism.

Participants will need an Internet connection as well as a computer with a webcam and a mic. It's also helpful to have a pair of earphones or earbuds.

To attend, please www.saltwaterchurch.org/zoomroom on Wednesday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. and follow the prompts.

An in-person "Meet the Minister" gathering will most likely be scheduled during April.

In the meantime, recent visitors are always welcome to contact Reverend James to ask any questions they may have about the church or Unitarian Universalism or just to talk about something happening in their lives. Feel free to contact Reverend James at (253) 336-6561 or minister@saltwaterchurch.org.

Letting Our Light Shine

Stop by a table in the Welcoming Room on Sunday, March 13, and pick up items that will help let the wider community know about Saltwater Church. Pick up cards to pass out to friends, bags for shopping, bumper stickers, and t-shirts.

Our Learning Community

Spring Chalice Circles to Begin in April

Chalice Circles, our small group program for adults, are a wonderful way to get to know other church members and to reflect on life’s big questions with them. They usually meet the first and third weeks of the month, either at church, at a church member’s home, or online using video conferencing technology. Chalice Circles starting in April will meet six times from April through June. The deadline for signing up for these Chalice Circles is Sunday, March 20. To find out more about Chalice Circles or to sign up for Chalice Circles, visit www.saltwaterchurch.org/chalicecircles or contact Reverend James.

Our Caring Community

Register Now for the Church Retreat



This year's church retreat will be Friday, April 22, through Sunday, April 24, at the Seabeck Conference Center.

This year's retreat will feature Kathleen Tracy, a singer, songwriter, and teacher.

Kathleen Tracy will facilitate a program of song themed around the idea of our oneness with each other and nature. Her program session will touch on our interdependent web of

belonging, and the need for each of us to be more deliberate about seeking out opportunities for authentic connection in this digital age. She will also address the need to actively confront the ever increasing fragmentation of our culture. A metaphor she uses for this exploration is mycelium and mushrooms - crazy, right? But it works!

This year's retreat will include members from congregations in Shoreline, Marysville, West Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia as well as Saltwater Church. It will be a chance for children, youth, and adults to meet and build relationships with other Unitarian Universalists. While this is a wonderful opportunity, it also means that it is more important than ever before to register early.

Register now at: www.shorelineuu.org/seabeck-retreat.html.

For questions about the retreat or for help with registration, contact Kat Sperry at mommakatsperry@gmail.com.

Puget Sound Unitarian Universalist Music Festival

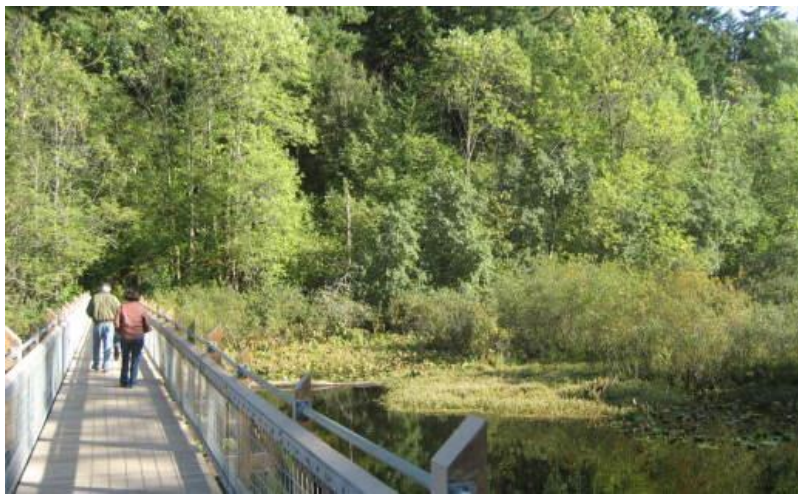
Unitarian Universalist Choral enthusiasts are excited to share information with you regarding the Puget Sound Unitarian Universalist Music Festival that will take place on Sunday, March 6, at 4 p.m. at the Kirkland Performance Center.

Approximately 17 choirs from the Puget Sound area (including choirs from Bellingham to Vancouver) will present this music/worship service under the tutelage of esteemed Unitarian Universalist composer, conductor, and clinician, Reverend Jason Shelton. Reverend Shelton, one of our most prolific Unitarian Universalist composers, is represented in eleven selections in our teal hymnal, including "Standing on the Side of Love".

This service, "Love is the Spirit of This Church," will be a series of reflections and stories of how love borne from our Unitarian Universalist faith and heritage has manifested and made an impact on the world.

The Kirkland Performance Center is a state of the art venue that will assist in making this city-wide service a memorable experience.

Tacoma Nature Center Hike



Join Saltwater Church families on a picnic and hike at the Tacoma Nature Center on Saturday March 1. Hike at 10 a.m. and picnic at noon. There is a level path for little legs and a more challenging trail for those who are up for it. On sunny days the turtles like to sun themselves on logs at Snake Lake. There is also an indoor information/education center and gift shop. Bring your own picnic lunch. Contact Melinda Einander or any member of the Family Ministries Team for additional information.

Creative Hands

By Debra Valpey

Attention all Yarn and Fabric Crafters (and Wanna-Be's). We meet to do our own creative projects regularly on the second and fourth Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Welcoming Room. In addition to sharing ideas and skills in the planning and construction of our own creations, we also make comfort shawl, scarves, and lap robes for members who are dealing with serious illness or who have lost loved ones. We make baby blankets for our newest members and we design and construct fabric creations to "warm" our sanctuary walls. Beginners are especially welcome as are those more experienced folks who can teach us new skills. No experience is needed; if you can tie your shoes we can get you knitting, crocheting, weaving, appliqueing. Please join us as we share in camaraderie and creativity. For more information, contact Debra Valpey, at (206) 953-5704 or Lynn Crow at (206) 429-2005.

New Member Profiles

By Bev Ross



Melissa Hartsock became the two hundredth member of Saltwater Church in January 2016. Melissa lives in Federal Way. She has a strong desire to work with children and attends Highline Community College where she majors in education. Melissa combines what she learns in her classes with her job as a "toddler teacher" at KinderCare Learning Center in Federal Way. In addition to working with children, Melissa loves music. She says, "Music is a valuable tool in my teaching." Melissa is learning how to play the piano and loves to sing. She has joined the Saltwater Church choir.



Greg Laurel became a member of Saltwater Church in February 2016. Greg has been attending this church for nearly twenty years and decided it was time to "make it official". He has been an active participant in Saltwater's Youth Group and has helped with many of the annual church auctions. He has also enthusiastically attended and participated in the church retreats. He is an avid guitar player and has, on occasion, shared his talent with our congregation. Besides playing the guitar, Greg's interests include martial arts, fencing, woodworking, and acting. As a new member, he hopes to get more involved with the Auction Team.

Among Ourselves

We hold in our hearts Bob and Joanne Loeliger after the death of Bob's mother in January. She was the last of her generation.

Congratulations to Jim and Mary Morgan's daughter Erin who was accepted into a master degree program at the University of Washington.

Our Caring and Lay Ministry Teams

Both the Caring Team and the Lay Ministry Team at Saltwater Church help members of our community during difficulty, transition, and crisis. Members of the **Caring Team** can sometimes help with some of the following tasks: Bringing meals, providing emergency babysitting, providing respite care, providing transportation to medical appointments, buying/delivering groceries or other needed items, and meeting other specific, short-term needs. To contact the Caring Team, contact Denise Yanega at (253) 838-7479 or at denise@saltwaterchurch.org .

Sometimes during a time of difficulty, what a person needs most is someone to talk to. Members of the **Lay Ministry Team** can provide an ear to listen, a heart to care, and a hand to hold. They are also available to visit hospitalized or homebound individuals. You can contact any one of the lay ministers below:

- **Debra Valpey** (206) 243-5566 or debra@saltwaterchurch.org
- **Denise Yanega** (253) 838-7479 or denise@saltwaterchurch.org
- **Peggy O'Connor** (253) 839-1432 or peggy@saltwaterchurch.org
- **Mike Yanega** (253) 838-7479 or mike@saltwaterchurch.org
- **Phil Dindia** (253) 941-1106 or phil@saltwaterchurch.org
- **Lynn Crow** (253) 941-0860 or lynn@saltwaterchurch.org

Our Serving Community

Sound Alliance Update

By Phil Dindia

The Sound Alliance Team thanks you for the time and effort you gave to guide us in adopting our next actions for the Common Good. Since the Listening Session we have read over all the comments and suggestions from each table to get a sense of what issues were most important to you. We tabulated the results and decided to focus on the three main areas of concern, namely:

- Action on behalf of the most needy- homeless and those burdened with addiction and/or mental illness. (forty-five votes)
- Action to protect our planet, by working to have all our energy come from clean and renewable resources, instead of coal or other fossil fuels.
- Action to address income inequality/unequal taxation in our state.

We believe each of these has a special attraction for us: the first allowing us to continue standing with the most downtrodden in our midst; the second to keep our beautiful planet safe for all children and grandchildren of the world; the third allowing us to partner with all workers of all ethnic backgrounds who struggle to make a living wage, and face unequal taxation.

Our Sound Alliance team will begin the work of evaluation and research on these issues looking for the prospects for concrete, specific and winnable actions. We shall be in contact with those who have expressed a desire to be involved in this process. We welcome your continued support as we proceed.

Congregation Concerned about Climate Change

By Mary Paynter, chair of Saltwater Climate Action Now!

Our church's affiliation with Sound Alliance has led to some stunning accomplishments in the past few years. We have taken effective action on issues related to immigration, homelessness, and getting kids off to a good start. Notable by its absence from this list of issues however, is climate change. "I think it's just too big, too daunting.... maybe too hopeless-seeming," said an unnamed source, a member of Climate Action Now!

In a surprising turn of events, the Sound Alliance Listening Session of January 31 revealed that many Saltwater Church members now see climate change as a problem right up next to homelessness in its urgency. "I know we have a lot of homeless people and I feel for them and want to help. But man, if we don't save the planet...the homelessness thing almost won't matter," said one participant.



Family Ministries

by Melinda Einander, Director of Family Ministries

“It’s okay if you didn’t bring any money today,” I say. “Put your good wishes in the basket when it is passed to you.” When our children and youth started meeting together for Lighthouse Chapel worship six years ago, I began saying this when it was time to pass the basket for the offering. I noticed that many (sometimes most) of the children had not brought money for the basket, and I didn’t want to put any of the children on the spot, or make them feel uncomfortable for not having money to give.

Looking back, I wish I had talked with the parents, encouraging families to send their children with some money on Lighthouse Chapel days, even if only a few pennies, to practice the act of giving. Why didn’t I? Why haven’t I? Because, like many of us, I am uncomfortable talking about money. I believe strongly that our church be a place where all are welcome, and there be no price of admission. Unlike some churches, our congregation does not charge families a yearly fee for their children’s participation in religious education classes; I appreciate how this shows our commitment to providing a welcoming space to all families, and to recognize that our religious education classes, like our worship services, are something available to everyone.

Although anyone can participate in religious education classes, worship, youth group, and many of our other groups and classes without paying a fee, we know that the true cost of offering these, of running our church, is not free. Materials and supplies, building maintenance and utilities, staff salaries, and our dues to our local and national association all cost money. Each year we ask every member to make a pledge, committing to help financially support our congregation. And every Sunday at worship, we pass a basket so that we may not only help support our congregation, but a variety of organizations in our community.

It is important for our children and youth to understand that part of belonging to a church is contributing—contributions of time, talent, and treasure. At last month’s Lighthouse Chapel, we explored the theme of stewardship, celebrating the ways we each contribute to Saltwater Church. We talked about the idea of a steward as a helper, a caregiver, and a person who shares. We thought about ways we care for ourselves, care for others, care for the environment, and care for our church. We are stewards of our congregation when we give time to do a needed task, like cleaning up a classroom, or when we share a talent, like singing or playing music. We are stewards in the greater community when we help others, for example by providing meals to a homeless shelter. We are stewards of our Unitarian Universalist faith when we give money during a children’s chapel or worship service or tell others about our church and why it matters to us.

Continued on the next page...

It can be hard to talk about money, especially with children. Children need to learn our values around money, especially as it relates to increasing consumerism, consumption, and materialism in contemporary society. But where to begin? We can start by helping children understand the differences between “needs” and “wants”, and how to balance these in keeping with the resources we have. With regard to what money is for, many families find it helpful to teach children that some money is for spending, some money is for saving, and some money is for sharing.

The Families Ministries' library has a number of books that can be helpful in better understanding your own relationship with money, as well as giving you tools for talking about money, consumerism, consumption, and materialism with your children. The library can be found in the Community Room of the Lighthouse building, and on first Sundays a selection of books will be available on a cart in the Welcome Room for check out. I also suggest the booklet “Let's Talk About Time/Money Balance” available on the UUA website at <http://www.uua.org/re/families/20092.shtml> . I hope that we can challenge ourselves more to talk about money, with our children and with each other, as together we continue to create a culture of generosity—of time, of treasure, and of talent.

Family Ministries Calendar for March

March 6	Stewardship Pancake Breakfast 10 a.m.
March 6	Children and youth meet in classrooms 10:30 a.m.
March 6	High School Youth Group 12-2:30 p.m.
March 7	Family Ministries Team meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m.
March 12	Family hike and picnic at Tacoma Nature Center 10 a.m.
March 13	Children and youth meet in classrooms 10:30 a.m.
March 13	Parent Class “Roots and Wings” 3:30-5:30 p.m.
March 20	Intergenerational Worship (all ages meet in the sanctuary) 10:30 a.m.
March 20	Potluck lunch at noon
March 20	High School Youth Group 12-2:30 p.m.
March 27	Easter Sunday; children and youth meet in classrooms 10:30 a.m.
March 27	Easter egg hunt following the service

Carry the Flame

Children ages 7-11 are invited to expand their understanding of our Unitarian Universalist faith and how it applies to his or her life. This project is designed for a child and parent (or other adult mentor) to work on together. Children who complete this project will be recognized by the congregation at a worship service in the spring. Recognition will include a chalice pin to wear on his or her nametag, and a book about Unitarian Universalism for children. Contact Melinda Einander, Director of Family Ministries, for more information.

Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, March 27, all children are invited to hunt for eggs at 11:30 a.m. following the service. Please dress for the weather; the hunt will be held outside rain or shine. Junior and senior youth will coordinate the hunt. If you would like to donate goodies, prizes, or eggs, please contact Melinda Einander, Director of Family Ministry.



Throughout the months of January and February, our elementary-school-aged children talked about Jesus's teachings about compassion and justice. On a recent Sunday, the Explorers class learned how Jesus taught that we could bring about the Kingdom of God by being our best selves, and in so doing, help create an ideal world. The children brainstormed together what an ideal community or society would look like. The drawing on the left is part of their brainstorm.

Church Life

Generosity in Our Communities

by Debra Valpey, Longtime Saltwater Church Member

Words can be funny things. The term *generous* originated with the gentry, those of so-called *noble birth* in old Europe who were seen as magnanimous, strong in spirit, and easily given to helping those less fortunate, both because they *could* and because it was their *noble* calling. They were often considered superior to the rest of humanity. It seems to me that the term has undergone a metamorphosis, as have many in the English lexicon. After all, sleek used to mean being fat and having greasy skin. Go figure. All too often, it seems to me that it is those of more *modest* means that are most giving of their time, energy, and physical resources. They are the truly *generous*.

As an example, I am thinking of a member of our congregation who is always there when extra help is needed, be it for organizing a memorial service, a pledge gathering charity walk, or a political meet up with legislators. This individual deals with a physical illness that makes movement challenging but you would never know it unless you were so informed.

Another of our members works full time, is raising a blended family, and shares professional advice without a thought of asking for any compensation. This individual is always, and I mean *always*, free with praise toward others for their efforts in supporting our communities, including Saltwater. Just being around this person helps me feel honored and valued, and prompts me to want to do more for our Saltwater community and beyond.

Yet another individual who I think epitomizes generosity is an older person whom others might think has earned the privilege of cutting back and taking it easy, but, instead, is a shining example of generosity. This person is alive in the most extraordinary ways every moment of the day. Even after experiencing some great personal losses this kind person's spirit thrives. Ever present, quietly listening, and always ready to take on a new challenge.

Generosity can, I believe, become a habit. When it does, holding back—whether through fear, confusion, or anxiety—comes to be seem as a waste of precious time. It is also, of course, important to be generous with oneself. We need to practice self-care so we can enjoy this amazing gift of life and be there when others need our support. And it is essential to make space for those who *want* to be generous. All too often, we turn to the same individuals for their time and expertise and neglect those among us who hold gifts of intelligence, knowledge, and practical skills because they are new to us, or a little different, or harder to get to know. Remember that it is often the *giving* that nourishes us all, spiritually, psychologically, and communally.

Financial Update

Our budget for 2015 – 2016 is roughly \$317,000. However, unusual building expenses and other costs required us to exceed our normal sources of income from pledges, rental, and donations.

The Finance Team has reported that we supplemented pledge income with **\$41,000** from other sources in order to “balance” the budget for the 2015-2016 church year.

We borrowed from funds we had set aside for future uses, and deeply invaded our savings.

That looks like this:

Source	Amount	Purpose / Uses
Cash Reserves	\$21,000.00	Long Range Plan studies, assessments and implementation.
Endowment Fund Earnings	\$ 3,663.00	Long Range Plan.
Salary Supplement Fund	\$6,332.00 (from an earmarked member donation)	To stay on track with salary goals as a fair share employer.
Dues Supplement Fund	\$1,591.00 (from an earmarked member donation)	To move toward giving our fair share dues to the UUA and PNWD. (\$86 / member annually)
Facilities Capital Reserve Fund	\$8,200.00	Stay or Go Team work

So, as the Stewardship Team has reported, we have many positives financially, such as not having any current building debt. But the necessity to invade other funds, or request special assistance from particularly generous members demonstrates that our finances are good, but not great.

Continued on the following page...

Financial awareness and transparency is a goal for this congregation. We urge you to ask questions to ensure clarity and concise financial reporting. On the church website, the December, 2015 financial documents have been posted under “team documents.”

Additional information is available on the Stewardship Team brochure, found at: <http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/stewardship>.

Many thanks to Jean Spohn and Suzanne Laurel for drafting the brochure to include that information.

Also, Patrick Latham-Finney has designed a pledge card this year that provides the fair-share giving guide to ensure more transparency in that process.

Stay or Go Task Force Update

By Peg LovellFord and Geoff Jackson, Stay or Go Task Force Leads

The Saltwater Church Stay or Go Task Force is beginning a selection process for selecting an architectural firm to complete a feasibility study for expansion on the current site.

We will select a firm that will work with us to determine whether our current location can accommodate an expanded facility. The study will provide the basis for the development of a master plan, should we decide to remain at the current location.

At the time of this printing we may be well into or have completed the choosing of the firm. We will be using the following criteria for selection purposes:

- Experience in the design and building of religious or spiritual facilities.
- Strong commitment to sustainable design
- Collaborative approach to working with the teams, congregation, community, and others engaged during the project
- Ability to respond and communicate in a timely and effective manner, regardless of geographic location
- Adequate resources to handle the scope and timing of the feasibility study and master planning activities
- References

Some other actions include researching information for the listening sessions and the June congregational meeting. Tentative dates have been set, the board will be announcing after making sure the dates work with other events with Saltwater Church.

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Please keep up to date with STAY or GO Task Force activities by going to Saltwater Church website, Congregational documents, filed under STAY GO. We are also posting our minutes and reports on the bulletin board in the community room. We will have a standalone bulletin board come the middle of February so to continue keeping all up to date (a different group has the regular bulletin board). A member of the Task Force will strive to be at the Stay or Go bulletin board after service each Sunday, unless we have a meeting or listening session. Thanks to all who are working on this project.

Saltwater Church Artists

By Debra Valpey, Art Wall Coordinator

Let's Celebrate Saltwater Artists: Saltwater Church is recruiting for original two-dimensional drawing, painting, fiber art, photography, or framed poetry. As an experiment, we are looking into expanding the options to poetry as long as it is printed on cardstock or quality paper and framed with a wire hanger. We will hang all art on Sunday, March 6.

For additional information, contact Debra Valpey at, debravalpey@comcast.net or (206) 243-5566 or (206) 953-5704.

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A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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