



The Beacon

University Baptist Church

June 2011

For the Healing of the Nations...

I do not hide the fact that my favorite book of the Bible is Revelation. Growing up thinking that this book was about “the end of the world,” it was refreshing to discover that the book is more about the hope of a Christian community in the midst of persecution as they struggle to gain liberation and freedom. The political intonation of the book and its poetic style also help in making this my preferred biblical narrative.

Towards the end of the book we find the following verse: “*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*” (Revelation 22.1-2, NRSV)

The author of the book wants to make sure that the community suffering persecution knows that the new reality of God’s presence in their midst also brings about healing and wholeness. After all, healing and wholeness are at the heart of the gospel message that Christ proclaimed. When the church takes seriously the call to be an agent of transformation, healing and wholeness, healing for all nation comes naturally.



Healing Tree, Terry Weaver

Yet, we cannot proclaim healing and wholeness for the nations unless and until we achieve it for ourselves. If, as we proclaim, the church is the community in and through which the Spirit moves and takes shape, then we need to embrace the opportunity to be healed by this same Spirit. It is then that we can proclaim through our own experience, the transforma-

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We are a welcoming and affirming congregation.

We celebrate our diversity in religious background, sexual orientation, race, age, gender and abilities.

University Baptist Church
4554 Twelfth Ave NE
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tive power of God’s presence – in whichever form you understand this reality – in our midst.

The liturgical season that starts after June 12th, with the celebration of Pentecost, is called “Ordinary Time.” However, there is nothing “ordinary” about this season. Coming right after the Feast of Pentecost, the Ordinary

Time of the Church is the right opportunity to embody the ministry of the Spirit. Healing and wholeness are integral to this ministry. This is why our congregation will be exploring ways in which we can bring about healing, wholeness, and restoration to our own lives and the lives of others. The Ordinary Time of the Church will be called *Season of Compassion & Justice* for our faith community.

Building on the articles “Justice in Hymnody” that Margie Paynton published in previous *Beacons*, we are going to explore justice issues for various communities and groups, and in doing so, we will find healing for ourselves. The church will explore how we can be more compassionate towards women, children, Creation, the elderly, the differently-able, the poor and the oppressed, those from different religious expressions, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender children of God. In doing this, we will also find ways in which we can be more compassionate with ourselves, and in doing so, bring healing to the nations, as the author of Revelation states, starting with our own community. Creating a new community of the Spirit is possible.

In healing, wholeness & compassion,

Pastor Manny

Happy Birthday!!!

June

- 6/3 Amy Zuercher-Stern
- 6/6 Erica Badgeley
- 6/8 CaraLea Doty
- 6/9 Dian Schmitz
- 6/10 Annette Kaplstein
- 6/14 Jessica Badgeley
- 6/14 Katrina Zuercher-Stern
- 6/16 John Mix
- 6/20 Susan Vaughan
- 6/21 Rosie Yee
- 6/21 Alethea Putnam
- 6/22 Jackie Lamont
- 6/27 Mike Stern
- 6/28 Michael Johnston

If your birthday isn't listed here,
please
contact the office so we can add
you to our list!

Please note: the *deadline* for the March Beacon is
Tuesday, June 21

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Save the date for the Annual Church Picnic: Sunday, August 21st, 8am-2pm

The picnic will be at Ravenna Park, 120th NE and NE 58th. In the past it has been a worship service followed with a potluck lunch followed by some games. We have the park reserved from 8:00 a.m to 2:00 pm.



Buzz from the Building Team

Beginning June 5, UC will go to their summer schedule beginning at 10 a.m. We will continue at our regular time of 10:30 a.m.

The next segment of the 15th Ave repaving project begins in June. This means that there will be one lane closed in each direction between 45th and 50th. For our community members who need assistance, you should drive through the alley to where the downstairs door is, unload your passenger, and then park your car in the lot.

There will be volunteers at the door to assist getting people to the elevator which will take people to the main floor. If you plan to use this means of entrance, you will need to arrive by 10:20 so you can get in and the volunteers can get to worship on time.

Please know that every effort will be made to keep the alley free of blocking by cars or trucks.

All other members may need to use the alley behind the parking lot (off 47th) to enter the lot if coming from the south.

Elizabeth P. is receiving updates from Seattle DOT, and will keep folks apprised of progress. Please read carefully “This Week at UBC” emails to get the latest updates.

Another buzz . . .

Hall Storage: This shelf is allocated to banner storage. (During the June 11 work party, I will move more banners to that space). Hospitality has bins of table clothes stacked to the left of the refrigerator.

Downstairs Room: The space downstairs has a new name, “The Gathering Place” and it is available on Sundays or other times small groups may want to use it. For example, it is a great place for the Spanish Speakers to go to talk after they have their coffee. Please remember to LOCK THE DOOR with the key when you leave!!

JUNE 11th: Please come to the workday on June 11th from 10 – Noon. Here is the array of opportunities to help:

- Help finish organizing in The Gathering Place
- Help rearrange the sanctuary and decorate for Pentecost
- Help with the transformation of Our Common Prayer Book – if we are ready for the next step

Come and enjoy Top Pot Donuts and Coffee – sustenance for the work!!!

For more or less information, contact Elizabeth P. at 206-687-7573 or lizpatrick2@comcast.net



"On this June day the buds in my garden are almost as enchanting as the open flowers. Things in bud bring, in the heat of a June noontide, the recollection of the loveliest days of the year - those days of May when all is suggested, nothing yet fulfilled."
- Francis King

Father's Day. What it means to me...

As the oldest daughter of eight siblings, I grew up in a mixed family with half-sisters and brothers along with a step-sister and a step-brother. It was apparent that I grew up with the idea that I needed a mother and a father for it to be "normal". As I was growing up and I recall my father in-and-out of my life during the first 10 years. During a disagreement with my mother when I was 11 years old, I told her that I wanted to go and live with my father. I felt he would understand me more since she did not. My mother allowed me to go for the summer and live in rural Mississippi. Since my father and I had a relationship that was strained from him being non-existent in my life growing up; and I was too proud to tell my mother that I made a mistake, I found myself riding a school bus four times a week to the nearest Baptist church 35 miles away. There I found comfort in the people, kids my age and the love of a community who welcomed me as I was. Over the next two summers, I visited my father and his family mainly because of the church. My father passed away when I was 23. We were still estranged.

The presumption that children need both a mother and a father is widespread. It has been used by supporters of Proposition 8 to argue against same-sex marriage and to uphold a ban on same-sex adoption.

On the other end of the political spectrum, Barack Obama endorsed the vital role of fathers in a 2008 speech: "Of all the rocks upon which we build our lives, we are reminded today that family is the most important. And we are called to recognize and honor how critical every father is to that foundation."

The lead article in the February issue of *Journal of Marriage and Family* challenges the idea that "fatherless" children are necessarily at a disadvantage or that men provide a different, indispensable set of parenting skills separate from women. There are times that I buy into this theory because of my relationship with my son. It was difficult being a single mother and not having a man around as a positive role model for my son. I felt helpless that I could not be the "father" in my son's life.....would he have turned out differently if there were a man in his life?

"Significant policy decisions have been swayed by the misconception across party lines that children need both a mother and a father. Yet, there is almost no social science research to support this claim. One problem is that proponents of this view routinely ignore research on same-gender parents," said sociologist Timothy Biblarz of the USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Extending their prior work on gender and family, Biblarz and Judith Stacey of NYU analyzed relevant studies about parenting, including available research on single-mother and single-father households, gay male parents and lesbian parents. "That a child needs a male parent and a female parent is so taken for granted that people are uncritical," Stacey said.

In their analysis, the researchers found no evidence of gender-based parenting abilities, with the "partial exception of lactation," noting that very little about the gender of the parent has significance for children's psychological adjustment and social success.



Father & Son, Malik Braun

As the researchers write: "The social science research that is routinely cited does not actually speak to the questions of whether or not children need both a mother and a father at home. Instead proponents generally cite research that compares [heterosexual two-parent] families with single parents, thus conflating the number with the gender of parents."

Indeed, there are far more similarities than differences among children of lesbian and heterosexual parents, according to the study. On average, two mothers tended to play with their children more, were less likely to use physical discipline, and were less likely to raise children with chauvinistic attitudes. Studies of gay male families are still limited.

However, like two heterosexual parents, new parenthood among lesbians increased stress and conflict, exacerbated by general lack of legal recognition of commitment. Also, lesbian biological mothers typically assumed greater caregiving responsibility than their partners, reflecting inequities among heterosexual couples.

"The bottom line is that the science shows that children raised by two same-gender parents do as well on average as children raised by two different-gender parents. This is obviously inconsistent with the widespread claim that children must be raised by a mother and a father to do well," Biblarz said.

Stacey concluded: "The family type that is best for children is one that has responsible, committed, stable parenting. Two parents are, on average, better than one, but one really good parent is better than two not-so-good ones. The gender of parents only matters in ways that don't matter."

To all the fathers in my life, I pray you have a very special day and that the other days of the year are filled with much love.

Life Transitions for Those 55+ Years

Please join us on June 4th from 9:30 a.m. - 1p.m. for the first *Life Transitions for Those 55+ Years*. Please bring your adult children or another family member who you want to be part of your life transition planning.

Life transitions refer to issues pertaining to the aging process for those who are 55+ and include healthcare decisions, housing decisions, driving decisions, and end-of-life decisions.

As a sojourner with us at UBC, the congregational care team and your pastor care about you in these life transitions. We want your family member(s) (be they family of origin or chosen family) to know we care and want to be of assistance if needed.

On June 4th, we will talk briefly about the types of transitions we all face as we age. Pastor Manny will talk about, and share forms for the information that he needs, to provide the best pastoral care in times of illness or death. It is helpful for a pastor to have some connection with those individuals who are significant in our lives. Some of our members will share the experiences they had with their parents, the transitions they faced, and what was helpful.

You will have an opportunity to gather as a family and begin to identify some of the issues you are facing and how, as a family, you may want to move forward in conversations and actions. There will be resource materials available for you to take with you.

Please plan to attend and if you haven't already done so, please RSVP to Elizabeth P. (206-687-7573 or lizpatrick2@comcast.net) so she knows how many to prepare for.

UBC Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes

- Moderator Rhonda H called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. Pastor Manny Santiago led in prayer.
- Biennial discussion: The number of delegates we are entitled to is smaller than earlier thought due to failure to keep membership and contribution data up-to-date with ABCUSA. We will have two official delegates.
- Financials will be available electronically by contacting Mary Clare B or at the Stewardship Council meeting on May 18. Information about contributions is available from Lori Taylor or the church office.

Reports:

- Learning and Play is preparing for children's learning experiences which have begun during the hour before worship.
- Worship is holding a summit on May 7 to discuss Pentecost. Margie P announced that the binders will need more work in future.
- Pastoral/Staff Relations: David S will act as interim team lead while Marilyn M is serving as interim pastor at the Burton church.
- Congregational Care: Conversations are beginning about care for young adults.
- Hospitality: Suzan B-W thanked those who have helped with coffee hour.
- Communications: Elizabeth P reported for this team that they are continuing work on the website.
- Building: New cabinets in conference room will be assigned to teams. Road work which will begin soon in front of the church will affect disabled parking. Plans are being made to address the need.
- Bylaws: Work is expected to begin soon. Lin C will lead.
- Pastor: Pastor Manny will attend Baptist Peace Fellowship board meeting.
- Closing prayer was led by Elizabeth.

Among Ourselves

It's a time of travelling, with **Mary and Brooke R** in California, **Bob and Lori T** in Italy, and **Carol S** at Yellowstone National Park with her friend Susan. One of the highlights of **Joanne W's** trip to France and Spain was a meal at the Arzak Restaurant in San Sebastian, Spain, considered by many to be among the top restaurants in the world. **Joanne's son John M** met the chefs and asked for a future internship. Another highlight was hearing "O Magnum Mysterium" at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris... In June, many among us will travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the American Baptist biennial: **Manny S, CoraLea and John D, Daniel H, Brooke R, Marilyn M, and Sadie and Peter C...** **Lynn, Michael and Eva G-J** will travel to New York City, where Eva will participate in a weeklong music business camp at NYU. **April R** will participate in a triathlon in Victoria. **Tosten H** will travel to Guinea on July 5 to work with the Peace Corps. Over Memorial Day weekend **Eva G-J and Valerie F** travelled to Vancouver, BC, with the Ballard orchestra and choir for a music festival. You can hear **Eva** in the Ballard High School spring instrumental concert on June 7 at 7 p.m., and hear **Valerie** at the BHS choir concert on June 9 at 7 p.m. Also see **Valerie and Walt F** in the Mountaineers production of *Oklahoma* on May 29 and 30 and June 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, and 19. **Gail F** is the music director for the production, **Walt** plays Ado (Annie's father), and **Valerie** sings and dances. Get more information at www.foresttheater.com... On June 4 at 7 p.m. you can hear **Mike S** in concert at Christ Episcopal Church, 4548 Brooklyn Ave N.E. Concert proceeds benefit the Wine into Water project, helping communities affected by the absence of clean water and sanitation... **Elizabeth P's** new address is 13725 - 32nd Avenue NE, Apt. C233, Seattle, 98125. Her phone number is 206-687-7573... **Matt and Diane P** celebrated their 4th wedding anniversary by attending a concert of Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks... **Jessica B** chose Colorado College in Colorado Springs! ... **Susan V** has been working 6-day weeks and is looking forward to a rest... **John and CoraLea** are looking forward to two new great-grandchildren expected in July. Also, their son John and his wife Vernetta are moving to Merced, Cal., since Vernetta got a job at UC Merced... **Aaron B** is pleased that an article he wrote for the *Skagit Valley Herald*, "A Whole-Body Language: Teaching French with Gestures, Not Textbooks," was picked up by the Associated Press... Congratulations to **Peter H** and his bride Alexx, who were married on a sunny Saturday, May 14... We miss **Marilyn M**, who is acting as interim minister at Burton Community Church on Vashon... We pray for healing for **Suzan B-W**, whose surgeries on May 18 were successful. We also pray for **Helen H**, who is quite sick, and for **Martha B's** father, Jay, who has cancer. We pray for peace for **Pastor Manny**, whose aunt and godmother, Carmen Rodríguez, passed away on May 16.



Compiled by Lynn G-J. If you have news to share, please contact her at lynngaertner-johnston@comcast.net or leave a message with the UBC office: 206-632-5188.

I Am My Brother's Keeper: Confronting Islamophobia.

On May 6th and 7th, several UBC members attended an interfaith conference at St. Mark's Cathedral of Jews, Christians and Muslims as an opportunity to show its support, respect and understanding for Americans of all faiths.

How does one assure that "never again" can be a strategy as well as a goal? This question was presented to a coalition of Jewish, Christian and Muslim groups at the conference on Islam and Islamophobia.



When the poison of prejudice infects a society, it is as much at risk as the victims of intolerance. Disdain for, and fear of, Muslims exists among rich and poor, liberal and conservative. Islamophobia has increased in virulence and reminds many of the rise of antisemitism in Germany in the 1930s.

The keynote speaker, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf from New York, opened the conference on Friday evening. He was able to answer some of the questions from the audience and was on hand to discuss his book, *What's Right with Islam*. I purchased a copy and will loan it out to anyone who would like to read it. On Saturday, the conference included speakers, workshops and lunch, ending with an interfaith service including the Muslim evening prayer and a re-commitment to international human rights. The services were led by Imam Fazal Hassen, Bishop Greg Rickel and Rabbi Jim Mirel.

After leaving the conference, a large amount of people from the conference attended a Saturday evening supper hosted by several local mosques including AbuBakr, Tukwila, Umar al Farooq Montlake, Terrace, MAPS, Redmond, ZIANAB Center Lynwood and others.

With solid resources and time shared, the hope was to learn more about Islam, identify prejudice and bias and consider strategies for confronting Islamophobia in our own community. That prejudice is personal, national, and international. It shapes and is shaped by our media. This event provided strategies and forums for continuing to confront Islamophobia.

I enjoyed all the workshops, especially the last one of the day on Saturday called, "**What does it mean to be an American Muslim?**" Jennifer Gist, CAIR Civil Rights Coordinator led the discussion and I was able to hear stories from women who were American Muslims here in our community. It was an eye-opening discussion that really helped me understand some of the misconceptions of being Muslim. On the facing page is a photo of the women who I had a chance to talk with after the workshop.



What Does it mean to be an American Muslim, Rhonda Hue

While we were attending the conference on Saturday, news came to us that another situation of Islamophobia was occurring. Two Islamic religious leaders on their way to attend a conference in Charlotte, NC on Islamophobia and prejudice against American Muslims were removed from a Delta flight at Memphis International Airport on Friday, May 6, 2011 because the pilot refused to fly with them. Both of the clerics were dressed in traditional Islamic robes, known as a Bisht or Arabic men's cloak, and had cleared the TSA security checkpoint before being allowed to board the aircraft.

Masudur Rahman and Mohamed Zaghloul of the Islamic Association of Greater Memphis were pulled from their connecting flight, after the plane's pilot decided to return to the gate. The decision by the pilot was an ironic example of the very subject of the symposium that the two men were on the way to attend, fear, loathing, and retaliation against members of the Muslim faith in America.

Shock waves from the incident were heard around the world, as well as from domestic media in the U.S.

Mr. Rahman, one of those bumped, but allowed to board a later flight, commented afterwards on the incident, saying *"It's racism and bias because of our religion and appearance and because of misinformation about our religion. If they understood Islam, they wouldn't do this."*

Comments by passengers at Memphis International Airport were mixed. Some were appalled by what they called *"racial profiling"* and *"prejudice,"* while others saw it as merely exercising caution in the aftermath of the assassination of Osama bin Laden and possible retaliation by Islamic extremists.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) issued a statement which condemned the incident.

CAIR spokesman Ibrahim Hooper said in interview with CNN, *"They went through security, even went through secondary security, got on the plane and were taxiing out. But the plane never made it into the air, because the pilot said passengers didn't want to fly with the two Muslim clerics in the plane."*

Rhonda Hue

Diversity Month of June

June 8-9th – Shavuot is a Jewish holiday that occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan (late May or early June). Shavuot commemorates the anniversary of the day God gave the Torah to the entire Israelite nation assembled at Mount Sinai, although the association between the giving of the Torah (*Matan Torah*) and Shavuot is not explicit in the Biblical text. The holiday is one of the *Shalosh Regalim*, the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals. It marks the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer.

The date of Shavuot is directly linked to that of Passover. The Torah mandates the seven-week Counting of the Omer, beginning on the second day of Passover and immediately followed by Shavuot. This counting of days and weeks is understood to express anticipation and desire for the Giving of the Torah. On Passover, the Jewish people were freed from their enslavement to Pharaoh; on Shavuot they were given the Torah and became a nation committed to serving God.

June 12 – Pentecost is one of the prominent feasts in the Christian liturgical year commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ after the Resurrection. The feast is also called Whitsunday especially in the United Kingdom. Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Sunday, hence its name. Pentecost falls on the tenth day after Ascension Thursday.

Pentecost is historically and symbolically related to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus. Among Christians, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in the New Testament Acts of the Apostles 2:1-31. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described as the "Birthday of the Church." The Pentecostal movement of Christianity derives its name from this biblical event.

June 12 – Philippine Independence Day occurred on June 12, 1898 in Cavite II el Viejo (now Kawit), Cavite, Philippines. With the public reading of the *Act of the Declaration of Independence*, Filipino revolutionary forces under General Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the sovereignty and independence of the

Philippine Islands from the colonial rule of Spain, which had been recently defeated at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War.

The declaration, however, was neither recognized by the United States nor Spain. The Spanish government later ceded the Philippines to the United States in the 1898 Treaty of Paris that ended the Spanish-American War. The United States finally recognized Philippine independence on July 4, 1946 in the Treaty of Manila. July 4th was observed in the Philippines as *Independence Day* until August 4, 1964 when, upon the advice of historians and the urging of nationalists, President Diosdado Macapagal signed into law Republic Act No. 4166 designating June 12 as the country's *Independence Day*. June 12 had previously been observed as *Flag Day* and many government buildings are urged to display the Philippine Flag in their offices.

June 19 – Father's Day is a celebration honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. It is celebrated on the third Sunday of June in many countries and on other days elsewhere. It complements Mother's Day, the celebration honoring mothers.

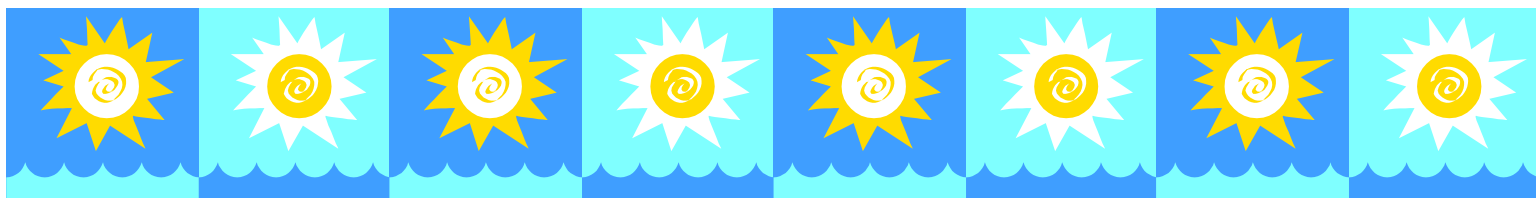
June 19 – Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is a holiday in the United States honoring African American heritage by commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the U.S. State of Texas in 1865. Celebrated on June 19, the term is a portmanteau of *June* and *nineteenth*, and is recognized as a state holiday in 37 states of the United States.

June 21 – Summer Solstice occurs exactly when the Earth's axial tilt is most inclined towards the sun at its maximum of 23° 26'. Though the summer solstice is an instant in time, the term is also colloquially used like *Midsummer* to refer to the day on which it occurs. Except in the polar regions (where daylight is continuous for many months during the spring and summer), the day on which the summer solstice occurs is the day of the year with the longest period of daylight. Thus the seasonal significance of the Summer solstice is in the reversal of the gradual shortening of nights and lengthening of days. The summer solstice occurs in June in the Northern Hemisphere and in December in the Southern Hemisphere.





Where's the Pastor?

If you want to schedule a visit or a conversation with Pastor Manny, please make sure that you call the office or email at pastor@ubcseattle.org.

(The following calendar shows activities and meetings in which the pastor is participating. Please note that you can call the office to schedule appointments or visits at any time. Visitation times are not published on the calendar. The times of the meetings are not shown in this calendar).



June

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3 - Pastors' Covenant Group Lunch	4 - Life Planning Event - Youth Ministry Lock-in	5 - Worship (Youth Sunday & Communion) 
6 DAY OFF - AWAB Board Call	7 - Worship Team Meeting	8 - PSRT Meeting	9 - Mtg with Ex. Dir. from Centro La Raza - Comm Team Meeting	10	11 - Theater Day with Foster Family!	12 -Worship (Pentecost!) 
13 DAY OFF	14 - BPFNA Committee Conf. Call	15 - Stewardship Council Meeting	16	17	18	19 - Worship (Father's Day) 
20 DAY OFF - Beacon Deadline	21 - PJR Team Meeting	22 - Manny Departs for Biennial	23 - Latino/a Pastors Mtg ABC-USA Biennial - BPFNA Workshop ABC-USA Biennial	24 - ABC-USA Biennial	25 - ABC-USA Biennial	26 -Worship - Seattle PRIDE March!  - ABC-USA Biennial
27 DAY OFF - EBA tour	28 - EBA tour	29 - Manny on Vacation	30 - Manny on Vacation			

June UBC Calendar

- ◆ Saturday, June 4 - Life Transitions Event, Youth Lock-In
- ◆ Sunday, June 5 - Youth Sunday Worship
- ◆ Tuesday, June 7 - Worship Team Meeting
- ◆ Wednesday, June 8 - PSR Team Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, June 9 - Communications Meeting
- ◆ Sunday, June 12 - Worship (Pentecost)
- ◆ Wednesday, June 15 - Stewardship Council Meeting
- ◆ Sunday, June 19 - Worship (Father's Day)
- ◆ Tuesday, June 21 - PJR Team Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, June 23-29 - Biennial
- ◆ Sunday, June 26 - Worship, Seattle Pride Parade

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Minister of Music

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Deadline for the March issue is Tuesday, June 21. Please send items for the *Beacon* to: office@ubcseattle.org

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation.
We celebrate our diversity in religious background,
sexual orientation, race, age, gender and abilities.



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