



December 2023 Newsletter

Come as you are. No dress codes. No judgments. No discriminations. No distinctions.

So bring your doubts, questions, and busy kids. God does not reject people. Neither do we. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome to full participation in all areas of our congregational life and ministry.

At the Sunnyslope Church we do not put a period where God has placed a comma, because we believe God is still speaking, and we are still learning what it means to live in Jesus' realm of love, compassion, and justice.

Rev. Dane Breslin

Worship Services
10:30 Sanctuary and Zoom

Office Hours
Tuesday – Thursday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
509-663-5745
sunnyslopechurch@nwi.net
sunnyslopechurch.org

Minister available: Sun – Wed
by appointment
Office Hours: Tue & Wed
10:15 am – 1:00 pm
Rev.dane.breslin@gmail.com

SPECIAL OFFERING December 31

Church World Service Blankets and New Community Project

Sunnyslope has supported both organizations for many years. Our December Special Offering will be split between the two organizations.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKETS



Disasters. Diseases. Freezing temperatures. A month where the finances just don't add up. It doesn't take much for our normal lives to be totally derailed. CWS Blankets help families get back on track when they need it most. Through the gift of a blanket, we can stand alongside someone who may be facing some of their darkest hours to provide warmth and comfort. For people around the world struggling to sleep on freezing sidewalks, in unfamiliar evacuation centers and shelters or in drafty homes, a blanket is a treasure.

Give a blanket to cover someone with warmth...and the reminder that they are not alone.

New Community Project ...turning the world upside down...

NCP is a small nonprofit organization with a Big Goal: to change the world!

We provide resources that challenge us, experiences that change us, and a community that gives us hope.

Our focus is environmental sustainability and social justice, both of which are essential for a peaceful human community. NCP considers the spiritual dimension of our lives to be important and seeks to bring about deep inner change in our personal and societal values.

However, we welcome and work with anyone who shares our commitment to a world of peace and justice and sustainability.

You can visit their website at NewCommunityProject

Did you know????

Don Locke and his wife, Robin Ainsworth are ringing bells for the Salvation Army in Spokane this year. Let's wish them warmth and good cheer.



October 2023 Statistics

Date	Attendance	Offering	Special Offerings
11/5	53	\$2, 246.38	COB Ministers \$25 UCC Veterans \$25 Diversity Painting \$295
11/12	50	\$2,045	Diversity Painting \$150 Marian Gillin memorial \$100
11/19	49	\$1693	Diversity Painting \$56.60 Christmas Baskets \$420
11/26	37	\$154	Christmas Baskets \$ 310

Building Use: \$ 400

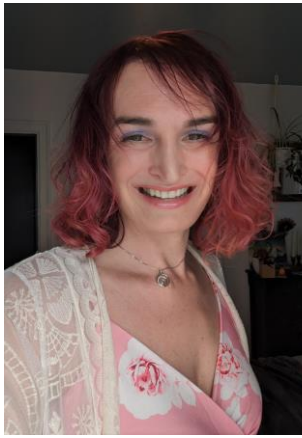
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/3 Debbie Sleiman
- 12/8 Eunice Hannah
- 12/8 Nichole Harlow
- 12/11 Carol Bowman
- 12/13 Janet Stutzman
- 12/14 Mary King
- 12/15 Samir Sleiman
- 12/16 Betty Murillo
- 12/21 Kristi Bahr
- 12/21 Pam Leighton



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/22 Dave & Lois Brown
- 12/23 Larry & Heather Harlow
- 12/25 Don Locke and Robin Ainsworth



Getting to Know...

Althea Alpin

Who are you and what do you love?

I am girlfriend to my love, a mom, a genderqueer omnisexual transwoman, a seminary graduate, and as I describe it a professional queer. I work almost exclusively with the trans community as a psychologist and more recently an electrologist. I suppose those two sentences basically describe what I love. I love my delightful family, my girlfriend, my community, and being able to serve others. I love the cascade mountains and honestly feel like I am just as much a part of them as the trees and lakes that decorate their slopes. I love feeling inspired and challenged spiritually. I love hiking, swimming in nature, music, yoga, playing nerdy games, fitness, and fashion.

Why Sunnyslope?

I enjoy attending Sunnyslope for many reasons. Primarily, the community and sense of safety I experience there. In my many years of church attendance, I have never been in a community that so consistently links what they believe with their actions. I have never experienced a congregation where I don't feel pressured by shame. I find attending helps me unpack and heal from religious baggage from my past. I am definitely not a Christian, but I have always valued the person of Jesus. I find their teachings on liberation inspiring. I find Jesus to be motherly. I also find great value in working through the complexities of how they have been misrepresented and misused. Sunnyslope helps me further my thinking and processing in these areas.

What do you dream of for this community?

I dream that Sunnyslope becomes more and more a sanctuary for marginalized people. I dream of Sunnyslope being an ever-challenging counter-narrative to white Christian nationalism. I dream that people will come to Sunnyslope and experience something refreshing and comforting. I dream that Sunnyslope will continue to challenge the very concept of Christianity even while it helps folks along on their unique spiritual journeys... whatever those may be.

Mark your calendars for December 10 Congregational Forum and Potluck (yum).

Calling all of Sunnyslope to attend the December 10th Congregational Forum followed by a potluck supplied by everyone who comes.

Sunnyslope holds two Congregational Forums each year, one in June and one in December. At the December forum we all have an opportunity to confirm our new officers for 2024 and give input on our 2024 budget.

At the potluck to follow we have time to visit, connect and share a meal together. Everyone is welcome! Plan on attending and being a part of making decisions for Sunnyslope in 2024.



Make a statement for justice this holiday season! Here is the opportunity to purchase a variety of shirts, hoodies, and mugs for yourself, friends, and family that speak the values of The Sunnyslope Church. All profits are donated to The Sunnyslope Church.

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/the-sunnyslope-church>





Janet sharing about Packing Friendship

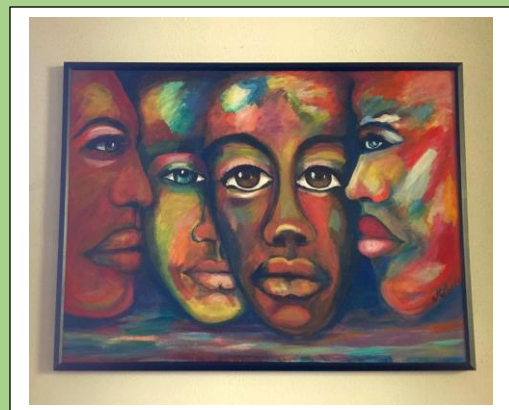


Ed and Henry lighting candles for worship



Carol reading during Children's Story

This 'Diversity' painting by Martha Flores has been purchased with the generous donations from a variety of church members. It now hangs in our sanctuary. Thanks to all.



PACKING FRIENDSHIP – DECEMBER 2023

Our partnership with students at Sunnyslope School continues! We provide 17 students with bags of food to take home with them every Friday. The intent is that the food helps to keep calories in the kids over the weekend.

HERE IS SOME OF WHAT WE NEED:



Pudding cups



Fruit cups



Single serve pasta cups



Fruit Juice boxes



Canned Chicken or Tuna



Shelf Stable Milk boxes



Thank you to those that contributed to the making of these wonderful stockings.

Blessings,
Lois Tate
Sewing Circle Coordinator

SEWING CIRCLE AND CASA STOCKINGS

On Sunday, December 3, we blessed 31 stockings created by our Sewing Circle!

Lois Tate led the Blessing by engaging the children in counting the stockings as they came out of the basket and then passing them around the congregation so they could be infused with our combined Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love.

These stockings were then taken to the Chelan-Douglas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Office where volunteers will fill them with toys and other special items for children and youth (and their foster siblings) that have experienced abuse and neglect. Information about CASA can be obtained by going to www.cdCasa.org.

Sunnyslope Leadership Team

Name	Position	Term
Rev. Dane Breslin	Minister	
Sasha Sleiman	Chair	2024
Ken Neher	Moderator	2023
Mary Katherine Deen	Scribe	2024
Cyndi Garza	Treasurer	2024
Christina Davitt	Worship	2025
Ed Deen, Interim	Property	2023
Janet Stutzman	Social Action	2023
Lois Tate	Hospitality	2025
Lori Nitchals	Deacon Representative	
Sasha Sleiman	Christian Education	2025



Cultivating Justice

*A community of contemplation and action
where we grapple with decolonization,
antiracism, and the teachings of Jesus.
Join us in the coming months as we engage:*

**The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in
Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery**

by Sarah Augustine

Monday evenings (6:30-8 pm) on Zoom

November 13, 27
December 11
January 8 & 22
February 12 & 26
March 11 & 25
April 8

Cultivating Justice
is a project of the
Sunnyslope Church
(COB/UCC) and the
Northwest Intermountain
Synod (ELCA)

[Register Online by Nov 12](#)

Email Jess Ingman at
jess.h.ingman@gmail.com if you would like
a registration link or have questions.



December 2023						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Dane Out	2	3 10:30 Worship
4 Leadership Team mtg.	5 Spring of Life 7:00 pm Steering Committee for Interfaith Coalition 10-11:30 6:00 LT mtg	6	7	8	9	10 10:30 Worship & Church Forum
11 Cultivating Justice 6:30-8 pm	12 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	13	14	15	16	17 10:30 Worship
18	19 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	20	21	22	23	24 10:30 Worship Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	27 Dane Out	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 10:30 Worship