



## August 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](mailto:sunnyslopechurch@nwi.net)  
[sunnyslopechurch.org](http://sunnyslopechurch.org)**

**Minister available: Sun – Wed  
by appointment  
Office Hours: Tue & Wed  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
[Rev.dane.breslin@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.dane.breslin@gmail.com)**

## **A Sunnyslope Story** **by Mary Katherine Deen**

**July 9, 2023**

Let's go back to the summer of 2019. It is July and the wheat on the Waterville Plateau is quickly ripening. My wonderful husband Ed is working long hours on the farm. I am recently retired and spending my time between our old farmhouse outside of Waterville and our condo here in Wenatchee. I am not taking easily to retirement as many people do. I miss the interaction with people. I miss the challenges that my profession gave me. I miss being part of a team. I am seeking my purpose in retirement and Ed is way too busy to take off on any traveling adventures.

Then I receive an invitation from my friend Irene Morrow to a meeting concerning our immigrant neighbors here in the Wenatchee Valley. Hmm...I thought to myself. I have nothing else to do so I will go and see what is happening. I had been mentoring a young Latina girl for many years and had gotten to be friends with her large extended family. Most of the family members at that time were undocumented. I just happened to be with them when the grandparents in the family were detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and taken to the ICE detention center in Tacoma. It was traumatic. The experience of getting them out of the detention center and traveling with them on their multiyear journey to become legal residents of the U.S. taught me more about our county's view of neighbor (some very bad and some very good) and the resiliency of the immigrant than I would have ever imagined. So, the situation of the immigrant was dear to my heart.

At the meeting Irene invited me to, about 40 people gathered to hear a presentation from the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN). WAISN is the largest immigrant-led coalition in Washington state with the purpose of protecting and advancing the power of immigrant and refugee communities. At the end of the meeting Irene asked for volunteers to help her organize a branch of WAISN in Wenatchee. Again, what did I have to lose? So I tentatively raised my hand. And so, Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice (WIJ) was born.

Our first task was to organize trainings for individuals to accompany undocumented persons to the court house in Ephrata where ICE commonly detained them although it is against the law. We needed funds for the training. I approached the Sunnyslope Leadership Team and asked for a \$100.00 donation. I remember that night vividly, I was timid and uncertain to ask for the donation as the people that WIJ worked with were undocumented. Would that get our church in trouble? Would people feel like we should not be working with "illegal" persons? I did not know how the church leadership would feel about that. O, what little faith I had and how naïve I was to the heart and soul of Sunnyslope. The group did not hesitate. Ben Green said,

“This is what Jesus would do and we will too”.

And so, a very small seed as small as a mustard seed, was planted. No one knew how that tiny seed would grow and grow. Janet Stutzman offered that Sunnyslope could serve as the fiscal sponsor for the group. I didn't even know what that meant at the time, but I have come to learn that it is a BIG DEAL. It means that Sunnyslope receives funds on behalf of WIJ through private donations and grants. It means Sunnyslope takes on the mission of WIJ as their own. It means that Sunnyslope takes on the risks associated with the works of WIJ. It means that many of our members volunteer their time to record the funds, write and cash checks, help with grant writing. It is astounding.

Soon we had a group trained and we began our work. This work continued, the seed that was planted grew. THEN THE PANDEMIC HIT. We could no longer accompany people to the courthouse as courthouses were closed. We worked with our Latino community partners to determine who we could best serve. As many of the immigrants lost their jobs, many were tasked with schooling their children at home with no internet connection or devices, many became very sick with no access to health care, many died with no funds for a funeral. Many were not eligible to receive any kind of government services or funds. The needs were great.

It was decided we would try to raise \$25,000 between Go Fund Me and donations to Sunnyslope. We were blown away by the response of our community. More than \$250,000 came to Sunnyslope, 10 times what we were expecting. The plant grew and grew. Cheryl Hall, our financial secretary, tracked and recorded all funds. When I suggested we pay her for her work, the response was always, No, this is our work. This is what people in Sunnyslope do. I was and continue to be grateful, humbled and so, so proud to be a part of this community.

Let us fast forward to the summer of 2022. WIJ has progressed to less fund raising and more grant driven educational events. An advisory board is recruited. I was happy to agree to serve on the advisory Board along with four other amazing people. One of the other Board members was a young man named Dane Breslin. Dane and I had a delightful conversation at the picnic and agreed to have coffee that next week for Dane to interview me for a project that he was working on with Jess Ingman. We met and Dane asked me, where do you get your support for your social justice work? I did not hesitate to say, Sunnyslope Church. The Holy Spirit was with us that day as it only took us an hour of conversation for us to figure out that Sunnyslope was looking for a new minister who could help us be more active in our community. Dane was looking for a church where he could serve being his true authentic self. And that, my friends is how we found Dane and Dane found us.



If Sunnyslope had not planted that small seed, if Sunnyslope had not supported me in the work of WIJ, if I had not felt the strength of their support, seen with my own eyes how everyone stepped up to the plate to support hundreds of our immigrant neighbors, we would not all be here together today.

The motto of the United Church of Christ is: **We do not put a period where God has put a comma.** The motto of the Church of the Brethren is: **Continuing the work of Jesus – Peacefully. Simply. Together.** Here at Sunnyslope we do our best to walk the talk and live out these words. I can hardly wait to see what our next story here at Sunnyslope will be. Amen!!

### July 2023 Statistics

Date	Attendance	Offering	Special Offerings
July 2	44	\$ 1,077	
July 9	43	\$ 82	UCC Grant \$4,000
July 16	44	\$ 1,822	CASA \$25 Cashmere Food Bank \$25
July 23	40	\$ 437.41	Cashmere Food Bank \$120
July 30	47	\$ 1,530	Cashmere Food Bank \$90

**Building Use: \$ 400**

### *AUGUST BIRTHDAYS*

15 Leanna Remington  
 18 Riley Harlow  
 18 Don Douglass  
 19 Emily Deen  
 25 Cody Gillin  
 31 Ed Deen



### *AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES*

12 Ken & Marsha Neher  
 27 Steve Kinzie & Debbie Roberts  
 28 Tom & Jane Sorenson

## SEWING CIRCLE

I have been kicking around the idea of a “Sewing Circle”.

The general vision I have for the group is to plan and create handmade things (i.e. quilts, placemats, stockings, pillowcases, etc.) for donation to organizations that gift these types of items. This would be a group that enjoys using a sewing machine, knitting and/or crochet needles, hand embroidery, needle and thread. Are you new to this craft? I envision this Circle to be a great place to learn from each other.

All that are interested in joining me in the creation of this group are invited to attend a Brainstorming Planning session to explore this idea. The coffee/tea will be on and goodies will be provided.

Date: August 26

Time: 10 – 12 AM

Location: Church

The room located at the bottom of the stairs in the southwest corner of the building will be the supply and work room for this group.

I am excited to explore the possibilities for a creative group like this. If you have questions, give me a call/txt/email.

Cell #: 503-819-2546 / email: LKTate61@gmail.com

Lois Tate

Hospitality Committee Chair



## *Getting to Know.....*

*Lois Ruggles*

I am 92 years old and it takes me by surprise. I'm of the human race and respect all life including plants.

I was raised the first 15 years of my life in Panama. My father was a diesel engineer at the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest hydro/diesel power plant in the world. When I was a kid, I heard that President Roosevelt and the President of Panama were driving through town in a motorcade. So, I pinned down my unruly hair, put on my clean shorts and top and went out in the street waving an American flag. I had played with the President of Panama's niece, and when they saw me, they stopped and talked for about 15 minutes.

When I was 15, my mother and I moved to the United States. Originally, we moved to Los Angeles, but ended up moving every three weeks. I went to 16 or 17 different high schools as a freshman. I was ahead of the other students in my studies as the schools in Panama were very good.

I raised 5 children. I worked as a Mental Health Counselor in Addiction, taught school at Renton Community College for 12 years and received an LPN license and delivered babies. When I was twelve years old and in Costa Rica with my mom (who was a nurse), I helped her deliver a breech baby in a one room home. When we got home from delivering the baby, my mom looked at me and said that we had saved two lives that day. After that I was hooked on delivering babies.

I love my 2 dogs and 2 cats. Especially my Terrier. During the isolation that came with Covid, he kept me good company and we talked back and forth a lot! My dogs have a pampered addiction to hamburger and rice!

I like Sunnyslope Church because they don't condemn anybody. I believe the Divine sent teachers everywhere, even before Christ. While growing up, my mother was a Christian Scientist, and my father did not call himself a Christian, but he had a deep faith which was not limited to a political agenda. If you could take the politics out of the bible, he believed it was a very beautiful book. I like the fact that Sunnyslope is not an angry place.

My dream for Sunnyslope church is this: May there always be a shelter overhead for a place to gather. May Sunnyslope be free of financial worries so they can grow spiritually. And I wish there was a magic formula for eliminating anger. Although there is a place for anger, i.e., anger can move mountains and be useful, but then it must be let go and dissipate. If anger lingers and festers it becomes harmful.

Sunnyslope church has good energy. I try hard to keep positive energy in and around me all the time.

The **Cultivating Justice** contemplative book group will continue our engagement of **“Me and White Supremacy”** by **Layla F. Saad**. The group will gather throughout the summer on the following **Monday evenings: Aug 14, 28; Sept 11 (6:30 - 8 pm over zoom)** to complete our reading of the book. The July gathering will focus on these chapters:

- Aug 14: “You and Optical Allyship, You and Being Called Out/Called In, You and White Feminism” (Day 19, 20, 21, 22)
- Aug 28: “You and White Leaders, You and Your Friends, You and Your Family” (Day 23, 24, 25)
- Sept 11: “You and Your Values, You and Losing Privilege, You and Your Commitment” (Day 26, 27, 28)

We realize that summer schedules are variable but hope that you can join us as much as you are able! You are still welcome to join if you haven't attended before -- pick up a copy of the book and contact Jess ([jess.h.ingman@gmail.com](mailto:jess.h.ingman@gmail.com)) to receive the zoom link.

**Rev. Dane** will continue to host the theological study group on **“Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul”** by John Phillip Newell. In August, we will alternate between being on zoom or being in person, but it will be the same content. You may attend any and all gatherings! Hopefully this offers flexibility and accessibility so that all can participate.

☺ **Note: all in-person gatherings will be at the church.**  
**Contact Dave with any questions or zoom information.**  
**([rev.dane.breslin@gmail.com](mailto:rev.dane.breslin@gmail.com))**

**August 1pm-2pm**

**8/2- Only In-person – Chapter 3, Part II**

**8/9-Only Zoom -Chapter 3, Part II**

**8/16- Only In-person- Chapter 4**

**8/23- No meeting**

**8/30 – Only Zoom- chapter 4**

**Special Offering – August 2023**  
**Word Made Flesh (THARS) Burundi**

**Word Made Flesh Burundi exists to pioneer a new path to peace by providing resources for trauma healing and reconciliation in Burundi and the African great Lakes region.**

Registered locally as Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS), WMF Burundi is comprised of psychosocial practitioners and peacemakers who contribute to healing and peacemaking in Burundi and the Great Lake Region of Africa. We use a holistic approach to bring people from all walks of life to psychosocial healing and resolution of differences. This new path to peace is based on the understanding that the seeds of tomorrow's wars grow the soil of today's unhealed traumas.

The seeds of tomorrow's peace grow in the soil of today's healing and reconciliation.

Our Activities and Objectives:

- Establish Community Therapeutic centers where groups, families and individuals who need psychosocial assistance are helped to become psychologically, spiritually, and economically resilient.
- Facilitate and coordinate workshops on trauma healing.
- Train key community members on trauma healing.
- To build capacity to fight against trauma through workshops and promote effective methods for a healing process, using music, community therapeutic theater, cultural values, literature, dances, games, and sport.
- Promote a reconciliation and conflict transformation processes through the Alternative to Violence Program.
- Sensitize the public and the international community to respond to trauma problems in Burundi.
- Sensitize and educate the community and its leaders about the problems related to the well-being of the children and the role to be played by the community.
- Sensitize and train the population on the methods of caring for the environment by an appropriate agriculture.

For more information visit the Word Made Flesh Burundi Website:

<https://wordmadeflesh.org/partners/burundi/>



# INTERFAITH JUSTICE COALITION

North Central WA

Join us as we connect  
over coffee across  
different faith  
communities and explore  
how we can collectively  
be a unified voice of love,  
inclusion, and justice  
together.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023

10-11 AM

SUNNYSLOPE CHURCH  
3330 SCHOOL ST., WENATCHEE



## 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- Interim	Treasurer	2023
Christina Davitt	Worship	2025
Ed Deen, Interim	Property	2023
Janet Stutzman	Social Action	2023
Lois Tate	Hospitality	2025
Lori Nitchals	Deacon Representative	
Stephanie Critchell	Christian Education	2025
Sasha Sleiman		



# August 2023

August 2023						Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 10:30 Worship
7 Cultivating Justice Study Group 6:30-8 Zoom	8 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	9 Theological Study Group 1-2 pm  <b>Chit Chat 4:00 Zoom</b>	10	11 Spring of Life 6-8:30 pm	12 Interfaith Justice Coalition 10-11 am	<b>13 10:30 Worship</b>
14	15 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	16 Theological Study Group 1 – 2 pm  <b>Chit Chat 4:00 Zoom</b>	17	18 Spring of Life 6-8:30 pm	19	20 10:30 Worship
21 Cultivating Justice Study Group 6:30-8 Zoom	<b>22</b> Spring of Life 7:00 pm	23  <b>Chit Chat 4:00 Zoom</b>	24	25 Spring of Life 6-8:30 pm	26 Sewing Circle 10-12 am Fellowship Hall	27 10:30 Worship
28	29 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	30 Theological Study Group 1-2 pm <b>Chit Chat 4:00 Zoom</b>	31			