



## January 2024 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)  
[office@sunnyslopechurch.org](mailto:office@sunnyslopechurch.org)  
[sunnyslopechurch.org](http://sunnyslopechurch.org)

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

Dear Sunnyslope Church Congregation,

First, I have gratitude for time to reset – both on vacation and for continuing education/professional development. We have been on quite a transformational journey this year, and my own life has evolved significantly. It seems that when there is rapid change and growth, the best I can do is to hold on! **Change is demanding- it asks so much of us.** When life is moving swiftly, there is little time to grieve, to feel sad, to process what has been lost along the way until there is some stability in the new shape- a moment to pause and reflect. This is the place I found myself while away and it has stayed with me.

The spaciousness of rest allowed for feelings to arise that just did not have space amidst the movement and demands of the previous year. I am taking time to move through them. **I am slowing down. I am resisting the ‘hustle and grind’ culture which operates as a function of white supremacy and capitalism.** This was made very clear to me by the indigenous teachers at Tierra Nueva in Oaxaca. I have faith that there is enough time to feel, and I know that I am not alone in this process which produces both grief and *sincere* joy. The temptation to rush out of fear is always present to me. The temptation to over-function and ‘fix’ is always looming. But none of this is faithful to the Divine Process we are held by. (*I would even argue it is some form of idolatry!*)

I know I am not alone in the intensity of my feelings, for our whole congregation has had a year of radical change and transformation. There is joy at renewed life and vision. There is grief over some things being lost or fundamentally altered. There is exhaustion as all this change has demanded great effort and energy.

**So, this rainy winter, I invite you to feel your feelings and to slow down where you can.**

According to Tricia Hersey, aka the Nap Bishop, our resting is resistance to a culture that would rather have us perform as machines. In her book [Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto](#), Hersey writes, “Our worth does not reside in how much we produce, especially not for a system that exploits and dehumanizes us. Rest, in its simplest form, becomes an act of resistance and a reclaiming of power because it asserts our most basic humanity. We are enough. The systems cannot have us.”

To this proclamation, I say AMEN. My heart is full of gratitude for you all and I am learning so much about how to be more fully human by being your minister.

May you find rest & may you know you are enough.  
Rev. Dane A. Breslin

## **SPECIAL OFFERING – January 28, 2024**

### **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**

This Special Offering place money into a fund where the Reverend can draw from to help folks in the community who have an emergent need. IE: If an individual comes to the church asking for help with food, gasoline or a bus ticket. The ideas is to help the person get what they need to continue on their journey. The fund is not set up to sustain a person's needs but to help with them with a specific, emergency situation.



**Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service**

## December 2023 Statistics

Date	Attendance	Offering	Special Offerings
12/3	48	\$655	CWS \$10; NCP \$10
12/10	46	\$6,289.38	CWS \$75; NCP \$90; Gillin Memorial \$100 Xmas Basket \$170; Minister \$240
12/17	53	\$1,778.87	CWS \$190; NCP \$90; Minister \$90 COB Minister Assist \$50; UCC retired Veteran \$50;
12/24	41	\$1,023	Packing Friendship \$100
12/31	33	\$2,877	Packing Friendship \$800 Pastor Discretionary Fund \$160

**Building Use: \$ 500**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Esther Gregory  
 1/4 Louise Harlow, Connor Harlow  
 1/5 Chad Stutzman, Adam Stutzman  
 1/9 Ben Green  
 1/10 Anna Whitehall, Kurt Bowman,  
       Kevin Bowman  
 1/11 Jane Tangen  
 1/14 Nancy O'Cain  
 1/27 Carly Neher  
 1/28 Jodi Reed





*Getting to Know...*

*Dick & Kay Anderson*

At 85 I was fortunate to marry the right person on the second try and the 41 years with her (so far) have been the best years of my life. We have enjoyed many adventures and our three families, ten grand children (all grown now) and four great grandchildren (so far). Our story is still unfolding and we enjoy much pleasure and close relationships with our extended families.

After a difficult start, my life really began when I enlisted in the U S Marine Corps at 17, and became a Christian on board a Navy cruiser on the way to the Western Pacific. A Navy corpsman buddy taught me what I needed to do, and I got down on my knees and became a new person. It was like an inoculation that "took". I haven't lived a perfect life, but I've been forgiven, and I've always known how to get back into the grace of God, for which I am grateful. The celebration of the Lord's table is important to me as it is a time for forgiving others, receiving forgiveness myself, healing, and feeding my spirit.

For the last 16+ years my passion has been being a volunteer Medicare counselor, for the Office of Insurance Commissioner in Washington, and 15 years in California for the California Dept of Aging. For 26 years Kay and I were snowbirds in the California desert from the start of November to the end of March. I wore shorts year 'round all those years, and now I've had to learn how to wear long trousers again. Learning is an activity we never outgrow.

Kay's passion is gardening, landscaping, and making our home comfortable and cheerful. She also sings with Applaires and the Senior Center Singers. She has always been the fun grandma and our grandkids would cry when their parents came down the driveway to take them home.

We chose Sunnyslope Church because Kay saw an article in the local paper that talked about the "queer pastor". We looked at each other and said, "That must be the place for us!" We have gay and lesbian grandchildren and we would never go to a church where they would not be welcome. They are precious to us and beloved of God, and really nice people, and we support them being who they are. Many years ago, Kay and I worked with a Presbyterian youth group, and we had a sort of motto, "God don't make no junk!" Everyone is a child of the Creator, and everyone is precious in the Creator's eyes, and in our eyes. Especially children. One of the things we appreciate about Sunnyslope are the young families and the children. Especially the children.

We hope for more people who need a place where their fears, and hurts, and needs can come and be accepted into the beloved community, where they can receive healing and acceptance, and love. You know, a lot of churches convey the message of who is acceptable and who is not, based on appearance or need or personality. What we should strive to be is a place where the ugly, the needy, the forlorn, the wounded, can come to be enfolded into the arms and healing grace, the fabulous welcome of the beloved community. I think that is who we are as a congregation. And that is why we chose Sunnyslope.

Dick & Kay Anderson



## 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](mailto:jess.h.ingman@gmail.com) if  
you would like a registration  
link or have questions.

### **Advocacy 101 with FAN**

**Wednesday, January 10 (7:00-8:00 pm) or Thursday, January 11 (noon-1:00 pm) over zoom**

*Join other advocates across the state to learn how to advocate during the legislative session. Both new advocates and returning ones seeking to refresh their knowledge are welcome. FAN staff will present some of the tools we use throughout the session, with a chance for Q&A. FAN's legislative agenda and policies will not be discussed in depth, though we will share with you how to find more information. Please bring your questions! Register online: <https://fanwa.org/interfaith-advocacy-day/>*

### **FAN's Interfaith Advocacy Day**

**February 8, 2024 (9 AM-3 PM) at the United Churches of Olympia and the State Capitol in Olympia, WA.** Together we bring voices of compassion and justice to our elected leaders and put our faith into action! On Interfaith Advocacy Day, we will be able to:

- Join plenaries and workshops that will explore the issues on FAN's 2024 Legislative Agenda
- Meet with advocates from your legislative district to prepare for your legislative visits
- Meet with our legislators or their legislative assistants from the 12th District!
- Lunch will be provided.
- Due to the generosity of our donors, there is no cost this year to participate in FAN's Interfaith Advocacy Day
- Carpool: if you are driving and have additional seats or if you are in need of a ride, let Jess know ([ingman@fanwa.org](mailto:ingman@fanwa.org))
- It's a 3.5 hour drive from Wenatchee, so if you're interested in arriving the night before, FAN can help arrange for a guest room at Gwinwood Camp and Conference Center in Lacey, 20 minutes from the capitol. Last year the cost was \$35/person, and Jess will have the updated cost available in the coming days. Contact [fan@fanwa.org](mailto:fan@fanwa.org) if interested.

**Register online: <https://fanwa.org/interfaith-advocacy-day/>. Registration deadline is January 29. This year we are limited to 200 participants due to regulations at The United Churches of Olympia. We encourage you to sign up early so that we can guarantee you a spot.** After you register, you will receive more information via email as February 8 approaches, including details on the agenda, workshop topics, and times of your legislative appointments.



## 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**

### Sunnyslope Leadership Team 2024

Name	Position	Term
Rev. Dane Breslin	Minister	
Janet Stutzman	Chair	2024
Mary Katherine Deen	Moderator	2024
Carol Bowman	Scribe	2024
Cyndi Garza	Treasurer	2024
Christina Davitt	Worship	2025
Althea Alpin		
Ken Neher	Property	2024
Kayla Ellingford		
Jaime Krish	Social Action	2024
Lois Tate	Hospitality	2025
Lori Nitchals	Deacon Representative	2024
Carrie Gavin	Christian Education	2024



# January 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 <b>.New years Day</b>	2 Spring of Life 7 pm	3 Leadership Team Meeting 6 pm (Zoom)	4	5 Muslim Prayer group 12 – 1 pm	6	7 10:30 Worship
8 Cultivating Justice 6:30-8 pm	9 Spring of Life 7 pm	10 Advocacy 101 with FAN 7-8 pm (Zoom)	11 Advocacy 101 with FAN 12-1 pm (Zoom)	12 Muslim Prayer group 12-1 pm	13	14 10:30 Worship
15 <b>Martin Luther King Day</b>	16 Spring of Life 7 pm	17	18	19 Muslim Prayer group 12-1 pm	20	21 10:30 Worship
22 Cultivating Justice 6:30-8:00 pm	23 Spring of Life 7 pm	24	25	26 Muslim Prayer group 12-1 pm	27	28 10:30 Worship
29	30	31				