



November 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

When you invest in the Sunnyslope Church, you are investing in PEACE, because...



The Sunnyslope Church is the legal fiscal sponsor of WIJ (Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice), which is meeting the immediate needs of our immigrant neighbors AND pressing for structural changes to immigration & healthcare policies. Through WIJ we provide resources to our local immigrant community initiatives which are building resiliency. *By investing in this church, you are investing in opportunity, equity, and justice for our immigrant neighbors.*

...the Sunnyslope Church participates in Packing Friendship, a hunger relief program, providing food for children who are at risk of going hungry over the weekends. *By investing in this church, you are increasing food security for children in this neighborhood.*

...the Sunnyslope Church is an open & affirming congregation that celebrates the unique theological perspectives of LGBTQ+ people while lifting us up as faith leaders. We also support the Wenatchee Youth Community, an interfaith LGBTQ+ youth group for middle and high school students that meets monthly. *By investing in this church, you are investing in queer clergy, queer sanctuary & queer joy!*



...the Sunnyslope Church is an inclusive, faith-based presence at community events & a prophetic voice for justice in the valley.

As a community, we have shown up for Wenatchee Pride, Juneteenth, Trans Day of Visibility and the YWCA March Against Racism (*to name just a few*). *When you invest in this church you are investing in a community that insists on equity and justice for systemically oppressed communities while speaking out against white Christian nationalism.*

...the Sunnyslope Church has a Cultivating Justice Team which creates faith-based spaces to learn about and practice antiracism and decolonization. We understand that it is our responsibility to learn how to repair and move toward healthy relationship with our siblings who are black, indigenous, and people of color. *When you invest in this church you are investing in the decolonization of Christianity and in the active and the ongoing practice of antiracism.*



...the Sunnyslope Church is a member of Faith Action Network (FAN) and the Interfaith Justice Coalition (IJC).



We join with local and state-wide faith communities to organize for progressive policy change. When you invest in this church you are investing in clergy and congregations speaking truth to power for a wide range of justice issues. *Together, we are creating a loud and dynamic counter narrative to White Christian Nationalism.*

**this year we represented the 12th district with other communities for Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia.*

...the Sunnyslope Church has deacons, a garden, hybrid services, a nursery, and coffee & snacks! We offer support and pastoral care to elders, childcare for little ones during services, a garden for produce, beauty (and more!), and a time of fellowship after services. *When you invest in this church you are investing in an inclusive and engaging space for all generations both in-person and remotely.*

...the Sunnyslope Church supports other organizations doing amazing things locally and globally! From Garden Terrace providing affordable housing for low income seniors here in Wenatchee to the UCC and COB denominational efforts nationally, our congregation supports the good work of others through our special offerings and our volunteers. *When you invest in the Sunnyslope church you are investing in the work of so many incredible organizations seeking to support those in dire need.*

When you invest in The Sunnyslope Church... You are investing in contemplation & action.

When you invest in The Sunnyslope Church... You are investing in a movement, not a museum.

When you invest in *this* little church on the hill, which is on a journey into the way of Jesus, You are investing in new life, in new visions. You are investing in Peace. Amen



Honored to be with you all on this journey, Rev. Dane A. Breslin

+

Budget Narrative for the Sunnyslope Church

Ken Neher, Moderator

It's Stewardship Season at the Sunnyslope Church. It's the time of year that we emphasize how we care for the time, talent, and financial resources God has entrusted to each and every one of us. For the next few weeks, we will be sharing short stories and narratives to help us understand how our church community uses its resources -- offerings that we collect, our building, and how we support others in Wenatchee and around the world.

You may or not know that hiring Dane was the culmination of many years of preparation and cultivation of our attendees and leadership. And I want to remind people that Dane committed to three years, and one year is nearly over. The three-year time period was to rediscover our purpose or to close up shop. We planned to use up most of our resources in that time and if still struggling to survive we would likely shut our Brethren and United Church of Christ doors for good.

For this church to survive in the form it is in, we need money. Our budget for this current year is \$154,000. The largest part of our income is from annual pledges of the members, close to \$60,000. **Pledges help us to plan the budget for next year.** Each household or individual during this season discerns and reports to the financial secretary/treasurer how much financial support we can expect from them in the coming months. We use those numbers to budget for the coming year. The next largest part of this year's budget is about \$50,000 we plan to use from our savings which only holds \$106,868. Other income is from loose offerings in our weekly worship service (\$9,000), building use fees (\$6,000), and some carryover from last year (Around \$10,000).

Where does that \$154,000 go you ask? The largest part is for our professional pastoral leadership and two part-time staff members -- Secretary and Custodian. Not only do we pay salaries, but also pay social security and expenses required to do the work, the pastor housing allowance and health insurance. All the employee expenses total just over \$100,000. About \$15,000 goes annually to maintain this facility; Natural gas, water, electricity, garbage, telephone and internet, postage, office supplies, insurance, property maintenance, and other miscellaneous odds and ends. Sometimes we need to add in major one-time expenses like connecting to the new sewer and repairing or replacing one of our three furnaces.

We give just over \$8,000 to our denominational partnerships, both the Church of the Brethren and United Church of Christ, nationally and the COB district office and UCC conference. That also supports the Open and Affirming organizations in both denominations. Also in that \$8,000 are smaller gifts to Wenatchee Immigrant Justice, Bethany Theological Seminary (COB), University of Laverne, that provides accessible and affordable education (and is a COB related school in Southern California), and finally we support On Earth Peace, a peace and justice organization related to the Church of the Brethren. And we also use funds internally for general programs of the church, such as Christian education, worship services, celebrations and hospitality, music, curriculum, pulpit supply (guest speaker expenses), and nursery attendant. That amounts to \$3,350 this year. I need to mention a couple of other people that serve the congregation that in other churches would likely be paid positions costing as much as \$10,000 a year or more. Our musicians are simply volunteering their time and talent, as well as our audio/video operators. What a blessing they are for our times together. And other volunteers greet and usher on Sunday mornings, bring snacks for after church, serve as deacons caring for the members, and the list goes on and on.

I'd like to finish up by throwing out a thought that we can't un-think, like Ben mentioned a few weeks ago in the Sunday service. What if this year we received enough pledges of support that we don't need to use any of the church's savings accounts and instead had that available to do God's work in the community? That would be possible if the average pledge this year was \$215 per month per household. Wouldn't that be something?

There will be pledge cards available in the next few weeks so please prayerfully consider what your household can pledge or invest in this place next year. Wenatchee and the whole wide world need this congregation.

October 2023 Statistics

Date	Attendance	Offering	Special Offerings
10/1	44	\$1,864	Garden Terrace \$70 T-Shirt project \$80
10/8	46	\$5,705.62	
10/15	47	\$207.47	
10/22	53	\$1204.38	Foster Kids \$20 Cob Ministry Assistance \$25 UCC Veterans Fund \$25
10/29	45	\$545	COB Ministry Assistance \$ 34 UCC Veterans Fund \$ 34

Building Use: \$ 400

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Lois Brown
- 18 Jerry Harlow
- 21 Robin Ainsworth
- 24 Anthony Martinez
- 28 Quentin Casas
- 28 Lois Tate



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Kristi Bahr & Krista Gallentine



Getting to Know...

Christina Davitt

Question: Who are you and what do you love?

I am a lesbian elder, raised Catholic, oldest of ten children, started reading Scripture in church and crafting worship services at Girl Scout camp when I was 13. I left the Catholic Church because of the overt homophobia there. I joined the Unitarian Universalist church for about 10 years, where I was in leadership both at the local (worship and Board) and district/regional levels. I left that faith because of the hidden homophobia we uncovered there. I believe in God, his son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. I have had the Holy Spirit's help on many occasions when I least expected it. I am a hula dancer, I can pa'i (drum) and chant, practicing both ancient sacred (kahiko) hula and modern (auana) hula. I work as an elder law attorney, certified professional guardian and I am a former geriatric nurse practitioner. I am a wife and a mother of a lovely 26 year old daughter. I love my family, my dogs, and being outdoors.

Question: Why Sunnyslope Church?

Sunnyslope is the queer sanctuary I was looking for - a blend of Christianity and supportive community. The first Sunday we attended was Rev. Dane's first Sunday, and Ben Green, Carol Bowman, Dane and Jameson Varpness listened to our story and warmly welcomed us into the community. We stayed and have been happy here. I am currently the chair of worship and love being involved with crafting Sunday services. The connections I find when preaching and giving out communion are true gifts.

Question: What do you dream of for this community?

I dream of a full church with solid financial support that grows and thrives in our second century, embracing our faith and our neighbors in need.

Special Offering
Christmas Baskets
November 26, 2023



During November, our Christmas Baskets Special Offering provides funds to purchase food gift cards for the families we support through our Advent (Christmas Time) Giving Tree. Guaranteed! We will be supporting individuals in our community during advent. Please be sure to watch and list for how our 2023 advent Giving Tree will payout!!

Please send your Christmas Baskets Special Offering to Sunnyslope church, 3330 School Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801
If you have questions, suggestions or general inquiries please contact Janet Stutzman.

Sunnyslope Church Shirts and Mug are now available online!

On behalf of Sunnyslope Church, Lori Nitchals has set up an online store to give congregants an opportunity to purchase Sunnyslope Church tee shirts, long sleeve shirts, and hoodies in a variety of colors for adults and youth, as well as mugs. You can choose to have the graphic on the front or on the back of your shirt. Your order will be shipped directly to you!

Here is the link to order- [The Sunnyslope Church | Official Merchandise | Bonfire](#)

All profits will be donated to the Sunnyslope church by Lori.



O God of Wisdom

To your table
you bid us come.
you have set the places, you have poured the
wine,
and there is always room,
you say, for one more.

And so we come.
from the streets
and from the alleys
we come.

From the deserts
and from the hills
we come.

From the ravages of poverty
and from the palaces of privilege
we come.

running,
limping,
carried,
we come.

We are bloodied with our wars,
we are wearied with our wounds,
we carry our dead within us,
and we reckon with their ghosts.

We hold the seeds of healing,
we dream of a new creation,
we know the things
that make for peace, and we struggle
to give them wings.

And yet, to your table
we come.
Hungering for your bread,
we come;
thirsting for your wine,
we come;
singing your song
in every language,
speaking your name
in every tongue,
in conflict and in communion,
in discord and in desire,
we come,
O God of Wisdom,
We come.

By Jan Richardson



Thanks for all your hard work and support for the inaugural year of our church garden! We have put the garden to bed for this year and are looking forward to next season.

The garden has been a wonderful way to see the congregation come together. I have loved watching folks join outside after worship to harvest and take part in the bounty!

The majority of this year's project was last minute. Isaiah had a vision and by the time we had our ducks in a row and beds on the ground we were on Mother Nature's timeline to get things moving. There is much to be discussed for ways to better maximize the garden project next year.

Moving into next season, we would like to reduce waste and better utilize the produce we grow. A growth area would be communicating to the greater congregation that anyone is welcome to take produce home with them. And perhaps there are also opportunities to donate excess produce to local organizations providing food to those who need a meal.

Additionally, the garden project provides opportunities for connection with the Spring of Life congregation, as well as learning opportunities for those in our congregation who wish to better understand the science behind soil, growth, or even methods for cooking and preparing different vegetables. This garden project holds so much potential and with some planning over the winter, we hope to take it up a notch next year!

We have yet to land on a name for the church garden, so if you have ideas, send them our way! Perhaps once we have some suggestions, we can put out a poll for folks to vote on their favorite name.

If you'd like to join the Garden Team and be involved in the winter planning for next season, feel free to text me at (509) 679-4296 and I'll keep you in the loop!

*Thanks again for your support!
Naomi Ellingford*





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	
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



November 2023						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 All Saints Day	2	3	4	5 10:30 Worship Dane Anniversary Potluck
6 Leadership Team mtg.	7 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	8	9	10	11	12 10:30 Worship
13 Cultivating Justice 6:30-8 pm	14 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	15	16	17	18	19 10:30 Worship
20 Dane at Minister Cont. Ed retreat	21 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25	26 10:30 Worship
27 Cultivating Justice 6:30-8 pm →	28 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	29	30			