



September 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

A Sunnyslope Story

(Faith and the Arts)

By Carol Bowman

For a few moments step into your creative right brain and imagine yourself as a piece of clay. What texture are you? What's your color? How malleable are you?

Biblical scripture tells us that the Divine One knew each of us before we were born and helped us become who we are ...

You may have been shaped by the adults around you...

Your faith may an integral part of your shape ...

Perhaps your gifts are still imbedded in the clay, waiting to emerge...

Feel your own hands shape and stretch the clay that is you.

Imagine the Sacred Spirit working with your hands.

Your heart is present in the molding and shaping.

In the late 1980's, the clay that formed the body of Sunnyslope became more flexible and reshaped itself into a possibility. I think Sunnyslope always has been open to new thoughts, ideas, and action, but this was a little different:

Some years earlier, I had begun clown ministry, and through that expression of what I experienced as "the joy of my faith," I felt that we could be living out the fullness in our hearts more completely. We were, after all, of staid and proper German descent and tended to be locked into a stoic way of doing and being.

I was newly licensed into ministry, and at the encouragement of our pastor, who was also my mentor, I prepared a proposal for the church board that might nurture our children (and by extension, our leaders) into a deeper sense of being through "faith and the arts."

As often happens in this SS community, enthusiastic "permission" (and a budget) were given! — What followed was several years of energized and creative activities that took place during our usual Christian Education hour(s) before worship.

We called it "Sunday Morning Alive. (SMA)" It was an opportunity for kids K-8th grade to be creative. It included varied opportunities to express and experience their faith. Thirty-six families were on our mailing list!!

Each 4-8 week unit, beginning in 1989, we focused on an art that could connect heart with mind and body so enhance the growth of our faith.

- First came a Christmas drama and music with a choir, staging, simple costuming and a worship presentation entitled "The Most Wonderful Birthday of All". We ended with awards and a birthday party for Jesus.
- Next was a unit on clowning, as we became "Clowns for Christ" and often sprinkled worship with silent, thematic vignettes that allowed participants to form their own thoughts about the meaning.
- Then, studying the color wheel and mixing colors, we story-painted murals of Biblical stories, including the creation, Noah and the ark, and David and Goliath in cartoon form by the middle-school group. We talked about what feelings color might evoke.

- The Palm Sunday and Easter season focused on banner-making (We still have the “Love knows no season” banners in sanctuary!
- In May we celebrated God’s world through an outdoor scavenger hunt created by Ken Neher. It included watching, listening, smelling, and touching. We created ant gardens to watch, and each child planted a miniature garden in a dish, with little creatures to stand within.

We were not able to offer everything on our long list of brain-stormed activities, but some other activities included making Joyful Noise with rhythm instruments and bells, a choral reading or two, puppets, poetry-writing, mask-making, story-telling with Dayton Edmonds, (an Oklahoma Native American from Omak), weaving, and creating a giant papier mâché blue whale based on Bob Wells’ book entitled “How big is a blue whale?”

One wonderful by-product of this experiential focus was that nearly every adult was involved in the short-term themes. They, too, were nurtured while supporting our kids in their activities. Laughter and song were everywhere. Intergenerational relationships were born and grew. The timid became stronger. The creative blossomed.

That was a time when together we more fully molded this body of Christ into a shape that was creative, enlivened and experiential... in some small ways our faith became a whole-body experience.

A UCC pastor wrote: *Faith is more than words. It is experience. It integrates our cerebral with our emotion and our bodies. Dance, drama, poetry, music and art may be more appropriate forms of religious expression than systematic theologies, for the arts EXPRESS more than define. Experience is always primary; without it, all our words about God may be empty, (and) meaningless ...* (David Borglum, Tekoa)

The CoB executive of congregational life ministries often acknowledged that art would change — maybe save — the world.

Art is often subversive, expressing morals and values important to a community. (I think of Czech glass artists during hostile occupation, black babies they put on a propaganda radio tower after the occupation, the French artist, “JR,” who erected the cutout of a boy standing nearly 65 feet tall over a border fence; it was meant to prompt discussion of immigration. He also constructed a table across the border where Hispanic and American folks gathered for a brief time to share a meal. Think of the freedom songs and hip-hop and graffiti of our black siblings... Or the poetry and songs of lament from indigenous people of this country.

My hope is that as a body here at Sunnyslope, we continue to mold ourselves — not just individually, but together, into a new community and that as co-creators with the Divine Spirit we walk into a new day being flexible working within ourselves, within this body, and in the world. And may we always, always be as forgiving as clay!

Interfaith Justice Coalition

The Interfaith Justice Coalition met in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday August 12. The purpose of the meeting was to gain feedback from each other and to identify possible ways to move forward. There were about 30 people present from approximately 6 different faith communities. Through large and small group discussions and brainstorms the group explored how :

- Our faith communities are involved in immediate needs,
- Our faith communities are involved in structural change,
- Our faith communities collectively can be a voice of love, inclusion, and unity in the Wenatchee Valley, and
- Our faith communities can come together.

This was a major brainstorming gathering and the group hopes to move forward and take action on some of the ideas that were generated during this gathering. With such a diverse group of people coming together, the conversation was meaningful and rich!

Come join the Interfaith Justice Coalition on September 16 at 10:00am at Cascade Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

September 2023 Statistics

Date	Attendance	Offering	Special Offerings
Aug. 6 th	50	\$1,501.00	Cashmere Food bank \$20
Aug. 13 th	35	\$2,603.85	Cashmere Food bank \$20 THARS \$20
Aug. 20 th	35	\$385.00	
Aug. 27 th	38	\$1,730	THARS \$45

Building Use: \$ 400

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Amber Gregory
4 Colby Gillin, Brandon Gillin
10 Mallory Gillin
12 Michael O'Cain
15 Craig Gillin
25 Simona Byrd



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

8 Gary & Susan Gillin
16 Ernie & Judy Stutzman
22 Kevin & Cheryl Hall

Rev. Dane Reflection

I had an excellent vacation, and I am so grateful to everyone who helped run last Sunday's service. I am returning refreshed and with renewed zeal for the coolness of the fall and a return upstairs this Sunday, September 10th. Let's take a moment to review where we've journeyed this summer underground.

Along with diving into the Lord's Prayer from the Aramaic, we've started sharing stories from our history as a congregation! Jess Ingman got us rolling by sharing about Sunnyslope's collective courage when walking through the opening and affirming process [*one of the reasons I, and so many of us, are here at Sunnyslope today*]. Jess also requested that we continue sharing 'Sunnyslope Stories' during our services and made it clear that this was essential for members old and new. Thank you, Jess, for pushing for these narratives which formed our community. **It is impossible to know where we are going if we do not know and honor where we have been.**

After Jess, Mary Katherine Deen shared about how Sunnyslope served as a midwife to the birth of "Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice" or "WIJ" for short. WIJ is an organization that serves immigrants in our community and works continually towards making sure that the needs of these neighbors are met. This includes basic resources (like rent, healthcare, legal fees, gas, etc.) as well as advocacy and accompaniment through court hearings, etc. Sunnyslope is the formal and official fiscal agent for WIJ. This means that we are bound and that we have a responsibility to support this work for social justice as a mission of our congregation. **May we continue to faithfully support and seek justice for our neighbors in need as Jesus taught.**

Next, Carol Bowman shared about the congregation's engagement with the arts and the "Sunday Morning Alive" program that connected children with their creativity. She described the many activities that engaged children's hearts and minds with joy, wonder, beauty, curiosity, and awe. As we continue to grow and embrace more children in our midst, may we reimagine and reinvigorate this vital bridge between spirituality and the arts. **May we become channels of divine creativity as we dream a more just & equitable world into being.**

Finally, Marsha Neher shared about Sunnyslope's (all church backpack trips) and how these excursions into the wilderness formed and shaped this community. Wilderness wanderings have brought Sunnyslope folks together for generations and inspired us towards radical transformation and deeper relationships with each other, the Earth, and with God. There is no doubt in my mind that Sunnyslope encountered the Divine in these wild places, as so many of our ancestors in the tradition have. **May we have the courage to step into the wilderness again, to humbly remove our shoes as we walk on holy ground together once more.**

Dear Sunnyslope Congregation- may we burst forth from our underground experience with courage and joy as we face an unknown future together- **for, a threefold strand is not quickly broken.**

--

Rev. Dane Breslin (he/him)
Minister at The Sunnyslope Church
rev.dane.breslin@gmail.com
*A guest on traditional, unceded
Wenatchi/P'Squosa land*

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 evening: Sept 11 (6:30 - 8 pm over zoom)** to complete our reading of the book. The Sept. gathering will focus on this chapter:

- 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) to receive the zoom link.

SEWING CIRCLE

We held our first Sewing Circle gathering on Saturday, August 26th. Nancy and I had a nice visit and discussion.

Our next get together will be:

Date: September 23

Time: 10-4

Where: Church Fellowship Hall

Lunch: Bring a sack lunch. Coffee/tea and dessert will be provided

Project: Fabric, patterns, thread will be provided

Bring: Sewing Machine & sewing supplies

Even if you don't sew, come and see what we're doing and see if this is something you'd like to learn :^)

The focus will be on making Stockings and Pillow Cases for CASA and Placemats for Meals on Wheels recipients. Thanksgiving and Christmas is just around the corner!

Lois Tate

Sewing Circle Organizer

503-819-2546 / LKTate61@gmail.com

Special Offering – September 24, 2023 Garden Terrace, A Caring Senior Community

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in....” **Matthew 25:35**

Garden Terrace’s mission is to provide safe and affordable apartments for folks who are 62 and older but have limited income. While protecting individual privacy, resident leaders, staff and directors strive to foster a caring community experience. This includes resident meals served five times each week.

Garden Terrace exists to provide financially vulnerable seniors a safe and secure community where they can thrive.

And that my friends, in a nutshell, is Garden Terrace. Each Senior we serve is treated with as much dignity and respect as we can muster. With a gift to Garden Terrace you too, can share in providing that ministry of safety and security.

Please make your gift to this month’s Special Offering knowing that you have kept Garden Terrace a Safe Haven for at least another day! Thank you.

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](#)

You can be a walking billboard for our progressive values, whether attending the Farmer’s Market, walking the dog, grocery shopping or participating in a social justice rally or protest.

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



We are pleased to welcome and acknowledge the three members of our community who have chosen to take action and transfer their membership from congregations they were attending prior to joining Sunnyslope Church.

Dick and Kay Anderson transferred their membership from Bloom in the Desert Ministries (UCC) in Palm Springs, California.

Chip Rogalinski transferred his membership from St. John United Church of Christ in Louisville, Kentucky.

We are honored and grateful that they have chosen to be in membership with the Sunnyslope church community.

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



September 2023

September 2023						Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1	2	3 10:30 Worship
4 Labor Day	5 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	6 Chit Chat 4:00 Zoom	7	8 Spring of Life 6-8:30 pm	9 Interfaith Justice Coalition 10-11 am	10 10:30 Worship
11 Cultivating Justice Study Group 6:30-8 Zoom	12 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	13 Chit Chat 4:00 Zoom	14	15 Spring of Life 6-8:30 pm	16 Interfaith Justice Coalition 10-11 am Cascade Unitarian Universalist	17 10:30 Worship
18	19 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	20 Chit Chat 4:00 Zoom	21 International Day of Peace	22 Spring of Life 6-8:30 pm	23 Equinox Sewing Circle 10 am -4 pm	24 10:30 Worship
25	26 Spring of Life 7:00 pm	27 Chit Chat 4:00 Zoom	28	29	30	