

A publication of **Fairwood Community United Methodist Church**
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The mission of Fairwood Community United Methodist Church is to build community through Christian faith, fellowship, service and social justice where all belong.

**Worship & Christian Education -
Sunday Schedule**

**Sundays at 10:00am
Worship Service in-person or on YouTube
www.youtube.com/
@FairwoodUMC**

The Epistle is published monthly by Fairwood Community United Methodist Church, 15255 SE Fairwood Blvd, Renton, Washington 98058

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Rev. Dr. Ferdie Llenado

Assoc. Pastor:
Pastor Cathy Law

Newsletter: China Krismer

Deadline for copy:
25th day of each month for next month's news.
i.e., June 25 deadline is for the July issue.



Wishing everyone a safe and happy New Year! We are so thankful for your love and support for our church, our pastors and all the amazing volunteers who have touched countless lives in our community.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” — Matthew 25:40

As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:40, when we serve the hungry, the hurting, and the unseen, we are serving Him. Thank you for being His hands and feet in our community this past year.

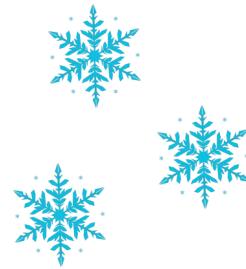
Thank you & God Bless,
China



Rev. Dr. Ferdie Llenado

Let It Go, Let It Be, Let It Come

Pastor Ferdie Llenado



As we greet this fresh New Year, let us once more reflect on the axiom, “Let it go. Let it be. Let it come.”

Let it go. Of course there are memories that are to be treasured, and lessons that are meant to be kept. But the scars that are pulling us down? The old mistakes that are damaging our self-confidence? The regrets that cannot alter yesterday’s disappointments? We need to let them go.

Let it be. Though things are not perfect in the moment, there are still blessings to be celebrated. Those reasons we have for gratitude still beat the impulse to be cynical and jaded. So, let us embrace, affirm, and celebrate the place where 2025 have brought us. Let us live it. Let us give witness to the abiding Grace that has carried us here.

Let it come. After letting go of the past, and letting the present be, we are being encouraged to look forward to the potentials and possibilities that are in store for us this year. This year is a clean slate, a fresh beginning, a new starting line.

In addition, may we also be believers of new beginnings for those who are broken and those who have given up on hope. May we be a source of strength to those who are frightened to dream again. May we be encouragers to those who have given up on prayer, or for those who lost their passion for better living.

In summary, the things in the past that we need to leave behind—let them go. Those that we are doing now that are shining out with life and vitality—let them be. The possibilities in the future that are inviting us to grow—let them come.

Amen.





Pastor Cathy Law

Pastor Cathy's Reflection

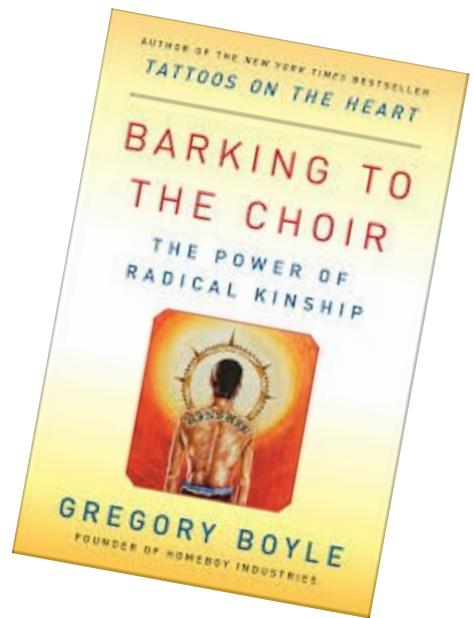
As we approach a New Year, we also enter into the liturgical season of Epiphany which invites us to notice how God shows up in unexpected places and people - celebrating the manifestation and revelation of God. The Magi follow a star not to a palace, but to a child born on the margins. The church, too, proclaims that God's light is revealed—not just to the powerful or the certain, but to seekers and those on the margins. The Magi cross cultural, political, and religious borders to encounter the Christ Child, discovering that God's presence is found not in dominance, but in vulnerability and love. They do not arrive as saviors, but as seekers, seeking the revelation of the holy in their midst.

Epiphany sends the message that *God is with us, especially where we least expect it.* During these six weeks of Epiphany, our Tuesday book study will be exploring the unexpected ways God's revelation and manifestation appear on the streets of Los Angeles as we read one of Father Greg Boyle's books:

"Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship"

Father Boyle is a Jesuit priest and founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. His life's work with former gang members is rooted in a gospel-shaped conviction of kinship, insisting that everyone belongs, even when society says that some people are "too broken" or "beyond hope". He writes: "*The measure of the health of a community is when it stands in awe of what the wounded have to carry, rather than judging how they carry it.*" Father Boyle's experience is that people don't change when they are shamed; they change when they are cherished. Epiphany calls the church to be a place where people welcomed into community as they are.

Epiphany also shines light on systems that deny belonging. Boyle's stories expose how poverty, racism, mass incarceration, and violence distort our shared humanity. To follow the Epiphany light is not only to feel compassion, but to seek justice—to ask how we, as the church, can help dismantle injustices and build communities of healing instead.



Join us in January for Vital Conversations on Immigration

Sunday mornings 11:30am-12:30pm, January 11 - February 1

This Christmas season we remember that we are a people of faith who are shaped spiritually by biblical stories of refugees and migration. We remember that the Holy Family had to flee to Egypt in the shadow of violence under King Herod soon after baby Jesus was born. We recall stories of Abraham and Sarah's pilgrimage to stories featuring both Naomi and Ruth as courageous migrants/refugees/immigrants, to Jesus' ministry as a wandering teacher who crossed borders, broke barriers, and called us to love boldly.

In order to fulfill the grant requirements from the grant proceeds our church received from General Commission on Religion & Race for our Asylee program, we are required to offer this class on Vital Conversations on Immigration to both our congregation and the community. Please consider joining the discussion.

Scripture is filled with movement, displacement, and divine accompaniment. And yet, too often, our communities respond to today's immigrants not with compassion, but with fear; not with welcome, but with walls. This series of Vital Conversations on Immigration from the General Commission of Status and Race is so important for "such a time as this". It offers us an invitation—a sacred opportunity—to go deeper into discipleship and understanding of those who have been pushed to the margins.

While immigration is definitely a political issue, it is also a theological and spiritual issue deeply rooted in our Christian faith. Throughout scripture, God calls us to welcome the stranger, care for the sojourner, and recognize the sacred worth of every person. Yet in our current context, immigrants are often criminalized, excluded, and dehumanized. In the face of such injustice, the Church must not remain silent.

Our Social Principles of the UMC affirm (¶163.G): "We oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize, or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants, or refugees. We challenge policies that call for the separation of families... and we oppose the existence of for-profit detention centers for such purposes."

Our hope is that the conversations we have regarding immigration, may hold the potential for deeper understanding, healing, growth, and transformation. As a Church that embodies justice, mercy, and hospitality, we are called to also be people who welcome, who advocate, who accompany, who declare: "You are beloved. You belong. We acknowledge you."

During these sessions, we will examine:

- The biblical and theological foundations of welcome, hospitality, and justice
- Why people migrate and how global and national systems shape those decisions
- The deep connection between migration, displacement, and land—particularly in Indigenous communities affected by colonization and forced relocation
- How race, culture, and power intersect with immigration in the U.S.
- How the Church can move from acts of compassion to systems change and prophetic witness
- What it means to build congregations of true welcome, accountability, and inclusion

For more information, take to Pastor Ferdie, Pastor Cathy, Armando Espinoza, or Cathy Russell

CONFIRMATION 2026



Starting in the new year, Pastor Cathy and Pastor Ferdie, along with other adult volunteers and mentors will be facilitating a Confirmation class for youth in 6th grade or older.

Confirmation is a meaningful step in a lifelong journey of faith, not just one decision to be confirmed (or not). Confirmation is not about having all the answers. It's about learning how to ask faithful questions, how to live with compassion, and how to keep showing up to God's grace. It is the beginning of an ongoing conversation about what it means to follow Jesus, to live out our baptismal vows, and wrestle honestly and authentically with our questions and doubts, and listen for God's call in our lives. Confirmation is a sacred process in which Confirmands will be encouraged to reflect on, discuss, serve, and connect what they are learning to the real life around them. Through the process of going through Confirmation classes, they will begin to claim faith as their own with curiosity, creativity, and spiritual growth.

Confirmation is not something young people do alone. Faith is formed in community. The entire congregation will be asked to pray for our young people as they enter into this bold step in discipleship, and some adults in our faith community will be asked to serve as mentors to journey alongside our young disciples. Together, we will model what it looks like to grow in faith, ask questions, and show up for one another.

We are excited to walk this journey with our youth toward a deeper, more mature faith that will continue to grow for a lifetime. If you have questions or would like to learn more about our confirmation process, please talk to Pastor Cathy, Pastor Ferdie, Kristin Thorsness or Jenny Blake.

Confirmation classes will start early in the new year (most likely the beginning of February) with Confirmation Sunday being held on May 24th when we celebrate Pentecost.

Journeying in faith with you,
Pastor Cathy

Will You Join the Team?

We serve, as needed, to help ease the burden of families who are coping with the loss of their loved one. We invite you to join us.

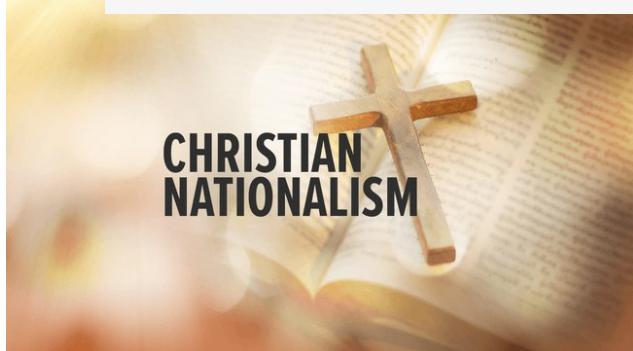


Ways you can help at a Celebration of Life service and at the Reception that follows the service:

- Greet.
- Usher.
- Direct parking of cars.
- Help set up for the Reception.
- Prepare food - traditionally cookies and finger sandwiches.
- Serve beverages.
- Clean up.

Thank you, everyone. You are a blessing to the families we serve. You are appreciated.

Cynthia VanDevender,
Memorial Services Coordinator
cynth.neal@gmail.com



What is Christian Nationalism and How Should we Respond?

The Heart for Others team will host an informational video screening to better understand Christian Nationalism and our faithful response. The screening will be after service, **at 11:30am, in the Sanctuary, on Sunday, 1/25**. Watch church communications for more details as we approach the date.



Can you help by making a batch of muffins or prepare and serve a lunch to the Latino/Hispanic pastors of the conference? We will be hosting a

workshop here at Fairwood on Saturday January 10, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contact Cathy Russell

cathyrussell@comcast.net or

425-681-4479 to lend a hand or for more information.



Allayna's West Bank Expedition

Plan to join us after worship on Sunday, January 4th, for a presentation from Allayna Farmer, one of our former youth, now working on her Master of Social Work in Philadelphia.

Allayna traveled to the West Bank with the Sabeel delegation to meet with people, communities, and organizations who specifically want international visitors. (Sabeel is a Christian-based organization working towards religious liberation for Palestinians.) They planned to create a bridge between Americans and Palestinians and to develop effective advocacy work upon return to the United States. Allayna will share what she learned in a Zoom presentation, so you can join in-person or on Zoom. Watch for more information in the weekly newsletter emails!



To provide financial support for those affected by recent heavy rains and flooding across our area, you can donate through a couple United Methodist channels. Our PNW Conference is already working to assist people.

Four volunteers from Fairwood Community UMC (Don M, Bill B-H, Joe M and Mark W) are already part of an "Early Response Team." In addition to our PNW Conference, you can support our UMC denomination-wide relief work done by United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Support the **Pacific Northwest Conference Disaster Response Fund (Advance #352)** or the **UMCOR Advance #901670**. Gifts to these two funds help provide immediate assistance to evacuees and survivors, as well as prepare for continued response as conditions allow. Give online through our church website's GIVE page (fairwoodumc.org/give) or place checks/cash in the offering plate, designated for either fund.

For more information, see the message from our Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth: [article](#)



HOW CAN WE HELP OUR VISITORS FEEL WELCOME?



As we move into the Advent season when we typically see more visitors than the rest of the year, we are praying for these guests and considering what the congregation can do to be welcoming and ready to receive them. **If you are able**, perhaps you can park in the back lot to leave more spaces in the front of the church. You might also sit in the front rows or move to the middle of the rows to make space for our guests. Thank you for helping us to build community!

GREEN TEAM NEWS

Sharon Kenyon,
H# 425-271-2080 / C# 425-306-7089
kenyonjs@comcast.net



Again, thank you to our fall leaf workers!
May their Thanksgiving blessing be- no more fall leaves.

Let us know if you can help this winter. Are there any youth who need a service project?

Have a beautiful Green Christmas with some green ideas!



Consider stuffing the stockings with a gift card saying:

- ✿ A donation of a cow, goats, fish, bees, etc. has been made.
- ✿ A donation of planting trees has been made.
- ✿ A donation to (an organization they might like) has been made.
- ✿ A family trip to snow, zoo, botanical garden, aquarium, etc.



2026 Calendar and Extra Christmas Cards Collection -
We have already delivered many to the Salvation Army Food Bank.
Joe M. will continue to deliver them weekly, as he volunteers there.
Look for the Calendar box in the shopping cart or by front door.



STYROFOAM COLLECTING AFTER CHRISTMAS
Save any of your Christmas present styrofoam and other styrofoam and we will deliver it in January.
Look for the styrofoam collection box after Christmas!





Meals-in-a-Bag for Vine Maple Place



United Women in Faith is excited to be putting together **Meals-in-a-Bag** for Vine Maple Place! **Recipe lists** for the items are available in the Narthex—pick one up and join in the fun. You can drop off your contributions in the collection box in the Narthex, or come be part of the action on **January 8th** during the UWF meeting in the Parlor from **10:00 a.m.**



Shrove Sunday Waffle Breakfast

Lent traditionally involved abstaining from rich foods like meat, eggs, butter, and sugar, so Shrove Tuesday became the day to use them up with indulgent dishes, traditionally pancakes. To include more of our church community, we are celebrating with Waffles on Sunday instead.

Join us after worship on **Sunday, February 15**, for a joyful Shrove Waffle Breakfast in the fellowship hall! This tradition is a chance to gather as a congregation, share a meal, and celebrate community together. Fresh waffles hot off the griddle will be served, along with orange juice to brighten the morning.

To make the table even more abundant, we invite you to bring breakfast dishes such as quiche, sausage, baked goods, or fruit trays. If you have a waffle iron, bring that to help us cook! It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy good food and warm fellowship as we prepare for the Lenten season. We look forward to seeing you there!



We are celebrating **January** birthdays! If yours is not shown, that means we don't have that information for you. Please notify the office at office@fairwoodumc.org so we can update our records.

Happy Birthday to:

Aeris Reid
Audrey Link
Lydia Thorsness
Stan Ferguson
Sharon Dennis
Joe Harmon
Cynthia VanDevender
Linda Carlson
Roman Barringer
Rosemarie Pangilinan
Lori McEwen

Greg White

Mack Yager
Jack Yager
Kaylee Spates
Makenna Spates
Deanna Adams
Glenn Clements
Cyndi Ewing
Diana Bofferding
Pat Truitt
Susan Schickling
Tom Kelley

If you prefer to not have your birthday on our list, please notify the office at office@fairwoodumc.org in the two weeks before the Epistle is due to come out.



Single Ladies Luncheon

When: January 12
Where: Asteca Mexican Restaurant
(at Southcenter)
17555 Southcenter Pkwy
Tukwila, WA
Time: 11:30
imonson@comcast.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>JANUARY</p>	<p>Every Tues AA Meeting @ M7 & Nursery Every Thurs AA Meeting @ M7 7pm-8pm</p> <p>Every Sunday: Guitar Ensemble @ Choir Room 6:30pm-7:30pm</p> <p>Daily: Asylee Mission: Kitchen, MPR & Parlor 7:00 pm - 9:00 am (except Saturday 10:00am)</p>			<p>1 Office Closed - Winter Break Pastor Ferdie Vacation 10:00am - 11:30am UWF Team Mtg - via zoom</p> 	<p>2 Pastor Cathy's Day Off</p>	<p>3 Pastor Ferdie's Day Off</p>
<p>4 Communion Sunday 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service (in-person, YouTube youtube.com/@FairwoodUMC) 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School (Children grades 5-6 / usage 8:30am - 11:30) - BH-5 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School (Children grades K-4 / usage 8:30am - 11:30) - BH-2 11:00am - 5:00pm Joyce Mong's Memorial Service - Sanctuary, Kitchen and MPR (Usage 11:00am - 5:00pm) 11:15am - 11:50pm Youth Choir - Choir Room 11:30am - 12:30pm Allayna Famer Palestinian Advocacy Report - BH2 (usage 11:15am - 1:00pm) 11:40am - 12:40pm Trustees - M7</p>	<p>5 Pastor Ferdie Superintendent Duties 12:45pm - 3:15pm Game Group - Parlor 7:00pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop 455/8455 - M7, Sanctuary, Narthex</p>	<p>6 Pastor Ferdie Superintendent Duties 9:30am - 11:00am Tuesday Book Study - Parlor (usage 9:15am - 11:15am) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Community Fitness Program 7:00pm - 8:00pm El Dios Viviente - Sanctuary</p>	<p>7 Pastor Ferdie Superintendent Duties 10:00am - 12:00pm Quilt Group - BH2 7:00pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir Practice - Sanctuary</p>	<p>8 10:00am - 12:00pm UWF/UMW General Meeting - Parlor 6:30pm - 8:00pm SPRC - M2</p>	<p>9 Pastor Cathy's Day Off 9:30am - 12:00pm Remove Christmas Decorations - Sanctuary, Narthex, MPR, Storage (usage 9:30am - noon)</p>	<p>10 Pastor Ferdie's Day Off 10:00am - 2:00pm Hispanic PNW Annual Conference - Sanctuary, MPR, BH Kitchen & Parlor (usage 9:00am - 3:00pm)</p>
<p>11 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service (in-person, YouTube youtube.com/@FairwoodUMC) 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School (Children grades 5-6 / usage 8:30am - 11:30) - BH-5 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School (Children grades K-4 / usage 8:30am - 11:30) - BH-2 11:15am - 2:00pm FCUMC CAP Team Meeting - M7 11:15am - 11:50pm Youth Choir - Choir Room 6:30pm - 7:30pm Guitar Ensemble - Sanctuary 6:30pm - 8:30pm Worship Committee - BH2 (usage 6:00pm-9:00pm)</p>	<p>12 Pastor Ferdie Superintendent Duties 11:30am Single Ladies Luncheon 7:00pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop 455/8455 - M7, Sanctuary, Narthex</p>	<p>13 Pastor Ferdie Superintendent Duties 9:30am - 11:00am Tuesday Book Study - Parlor (usage 9:15am - 11:15am) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Community Fitness Program 6:30pm - 8:00pm Finance Committee - Zoom 7:00pm - 8:00pm El Dios Viviente - Sanctuary</p>	<p>14 Pastor Ferdie Superintendent Duties 10:00am - 12:00pm Quilt Group - BH2 7:00pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir Practice - Sanctuary</p>	<p>15 10:00am - 12:00pm Quilt Group - BH2 7:00pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir Practice - Sanctuary</p>	<p>16 Pastor Cathy's Day Off</p>	<p>17 Pastor Ferdie's Day Off</p>
<p>18 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service (in-person, YouTube youtube.com/@FairwoodUMC) 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School (Children grades 5-6 / usage 8:30am - 11:30) - BH-5 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School (Children grades K-4 / usage 8:30am - 11:30) - BH-2 11:15am - 11:50pm Youth Choir - Choir Room 11:30am - 1:00pm Heart for Others - BH2 (usage 11:00am - 1:30pm)</p>	<p>19 Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed Pastor Ferdie Superintendent Duties 12:45pm - 3:15pm Game Group - Parlor 7:00pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop 455/8455 - M7, Sanctuary, Narthex 7:00pm - 8:30pm Saints & Sinners Family History small group - Zoom</p> 	<p>20 Pastor Ferdie Superintendent Duties 9:30am - 11:00am Tuesday Book Study - Parlor (usage 9:15am - 11:15am) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Community Fitness Program 7:00pm - 8:00pm El Dios Viviente - Sanctuary 7:00pm - 8:30pm Membership & Evangelism - Zoom</p>	<p>21 10:00am - 12:00pm Quilt Group - BH2 11:00am - 12:00pm Missions & Social Justice - Zoom Mtg 7:00pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir Practice - Sanctuary</p>	<p>22 3:00pm - 4:30pm Care Team - Zoom 7:00pm - 8:30pm Book Club - BH2 / Zoom (usage 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm)</p>	<p>23 Pastor Cathy's Day Off</p>	<p>24 Pastor Ferdie's Day Off 10:00am - 1:00pm PEO - MPR, Parlor and Kitchen (usage 9am - 1pm)</p>
<p>25 Epistle Deadline 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service (in-person, YouTube youtube.com/@FairwoodUMC) 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School (Children grades 5-6 / usage 8:30am - 11:30) - BH-5 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School (Children grades K-4 / usage 8:30am - 11:30) - BH-2 11:15am - 11:50pm Youth Choir - Choir Room 11:30am - 1:00pm Christian Nationalism Information Video Screening - Sanctuary (usage 11am - 2pm)</p>	<p>26 Pastor Ferdie Superintendent Duties 7:00pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop 455/8455 - M7, Sanctuary, Narthex</p>	<p>27 Pastor Ferdie Superintendent Duties 9:30am - 11:00am Tuesday Book Study - Parlor (usage 9:15am - 11:15am) 6:00pm - 7:00pm Community Fitness Program 7:00pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop meetings - Sanctuary 7:00pm - 8:00pm El Dios Viviente - Sanctuary</p>	<p>28 10:00am - 12:00pm Quilt Group - BH2 7:00pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir Practice - Sanctuary</p>	<p>29 7:00pm - 9:30pm Canfieldwood HOA Annual Meeting - Sanctuary</p>	<p>30 Pastor Cathy's Day Off</p>	<p>31 Pastor Ferdie's Day Off</p>