

Phil's Thoughts

Many view the 1967 publication of Lynn White, Jr.'s article, "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis," as the beginning of the contemporary environmental movement. In it, White argued that the modern world has accelerated our planet's ecological woes, but that the origins of the crisis are much older than the scientific and industrial revolutions. White posited that the foundation of the problem lay in the version of Christianity that was dominant in Europe and brought to this continent. This expression of the faith is decidedly anthropocentric; according to it, humankind demonstrates its nearness to God by exercising domination of nature. In it's most assertive form, this view of Christianity sees animals, plants, air, water, soil, rocks, and the earth itself to have utilitarian value only. The other parts of creation should be preserved and protected only to the extent that they benefit human life. A medieval historian, White diagnosed our environmental crisis as a spiritual malady. In the debate that ensued after the article's release, White maintained that until we can ask the question, "Do rocks have rights?" and be serious about it, we will have an ecological problem.

Moving to Juneau and having the privilege of living in Tlingit Ani has made it all the more apparent to me that much of our nation's environmental policies

are predicated on utilitarian assumptions. As such, I see them as inadequate, short sighted, and ultimately, spiritually bankrupt. If the Creator "made all that is and called it good," how can we treat anything with disrespect? How can we use creation only for our gain? The late Rev. Dr. Walter Soboleff, our pastor emeritus, often reminded us of the Tlingit worldview that "everything has spirit." Some view this as contrary to Christian teachings about the uniqueness of human beings, but I believe it is a necessary corrective to an isolated understanding of humankind as "apart from" nature instead of "part of" it. The Genesis account of creation states that human beings have been given "dominion" of the world. This is as an awesome and humbling responsibility rather than license to exploit. Will we exercise dominion as loving caretakers or unwise and hurtful dominators?

Our Church Council and Committee on Community Opportunities are pursuing aligning our congregation with the Presbyterian Church (USA) Earth Care movement. In order to be designated an "Earth Care Congregation," we will make various commitments involving our community outreach, education, worship, and use of our building. At its April meeting, the Church Council will consider a motion to adopt the "Earth

Care Pledge" (see p. 3). **And, on April 17, the Sunday before Earth Day, care for the earth will be the focus of our worship.**

The challenges of caring for creation have only grown since White penned his piece nearly fifty years ago, but his primary analysis still holds. There are, of course, numerous, practical steps we can and should take to address the many environmental concerns that beset us, and becoming an Earth Care congregation will assist us in our efforts. More importantly, it will highlight that as a community of God's people, we are called to speak to the spiritual underpinnings of the issues. The distinctive contribution we can make is to wrestle with the spiritual roots of both the problem and our response. In doing so, we reject utilitarian possessiveness, embrace our vocation as stewards of the Creator's handiwork, and align our collective and individual lives with our convictions.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. - Psalm 24: 1

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Youth News from Rev. Melissa Engel

At the end of January, a group of enthusiastic young people met to discuss how we would like our “youth group home,” AKA our room, to look and feel. One of the first visions that surfaced for the room was a tree that was tall with leaves that would be depicted with handprints. I could not have chosen a better image for the Cooperative Youth Group: rooted in love and justice, growing and developing into conscientious, respectful, loving, playful people, branching out by trying new things and meeting new people, and transforming the world by the way we live fully into who we are in relation with others and creation. Each of the handprints will belong to a person in youth group with their name and years in youth group. This image will always be ongoing and growing with all of the people who make up the youth group family tree, each of us connecting, loving, and supporting each other. This vision is still coming to fruition as we figure out how to make changes to the room in a way that still honors the room’s multipurpose functions.

A question that has arisen in the Youth Advisory Council has been: how are the young people in your faith community connecting in meaningful ways to the rest of the congregation? How are you including them as a vital part of your tree? Several ways were named; yet, I always feel like there is more deep-level work to be done. May we remember that our young people are the future, not only of our churches but our communities. Coming alongside them at this crucial time in their development can help

infuse wisdom and insight into their lives (and their view of the faith community) as well as gift us with wisdom of their own.

Upcoming Schedule:

Sun. April 3: At Temple Shalom this week 4:15 PM Mission Trip Meeting; 5:15-7:15 PM Youth Group

Sun. April 10: 4:15 PM Youth Advisory Council Meeting; 5:15-7:15 PM Youth Group

Sun. April 17: 4:15 PM Mission Trip Meeting; 5:15-7:15 PM Youth Group

Sun. April 24: 5:15-7:15 PM Youth Group

Mission Trip 2016 News

Spring cleaning? We've got you covered. Hire the Cooperative Youth Group to help clean your yard/house/grocery shop this spring to help us get to the life-changing experience of being with the people of Costa Rica this June 5-16! Contact Melissa at pastor.engel.ak@gmail.com or (907)500-5263.

Do you have any items to donate for the silent auction at the benefit concert on April 15? Please contact Melissa using the contact information above.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Benefit Concert for Youth Mission Trip 2016 featuring Fire on McGinnis! With silent auction & bake sale. Friday, April 15th at Aldersgate UMC. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Show starts at 7:00 PM. \$15 tickets sold at the door.

Baptisms and New Members

On Easter we baptized three brothers, Leo, Jake, and Daniel Brown. We also welcomed their mom, Andrea Brown, who joined the church (their dad, Daniel, and grandpa, Daniel, are already members). Also joining on Easter is Matthew Nakamura. Watch for more info about our new members in a future newsletter.



Bread for the World Offering of Letters April 24

Bread for the World (BFW) is a Christian advocacy organization dedicated to ending hunger in the United States and across the globe. BFW members call upon elected officials to adequately fund effective anti-hunger initiatives in our country and internationally. Our congregation is a BFW “Covenant Church” which means we make a specific commitment to support BFW’s advocacy efforts including participation in the annual “**Offering of Letters**” when church members and friends write their senators and representative about the year’s BFW campaign. NLUC

will hold our Offering of Letters in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, April 24 after worship**. This year’s theme is “**Survive & Thrive,**” and it calls upon congress to support robust **funding for nutrition and health** for mothers, newborns, and young children. We will also write in support of the passage **Global Food Security Act** that will ensure continued U.S. investments in agriculture, thus improving nutrition and increasing the productivity of smallholder farmers.

More information about this year’s Offering of Letters will be offered through a Moment for Mission during worship and in a bulletin insert. Whether you have participated in the past or this will be your first time, plan to join us April 24 to write Rep. Young and Senators Murkoski and Sullivan enlisting their help to ensure adequate nutrition for mothers and children throughout the world. Sample letters, background material, postcards and stamp provided!

Earth Care Pledge

As a part of our church’s process of becoming a Presbyterian Church (USA) Earth Care Congregation, at its April 14 meeting the Church Council will consider adopting this “Earth Care Pledge.” If you have thoughts about this to share with the Council, please send them to the church office, nluc@ak.net.

Peace and justice is God’s plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God’s. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

1. Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God’s grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.

2. In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God’s creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God’s call to earth-keeping, justice and community.

3. Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while

meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God’s holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.

4. Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.

Community of Christian Women (CCW) Meeting

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On Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m. in NLUC fellowship hall, June Degnan, founding President and Chairman of the Board of Haven House, will give CCW an update about Haven House. We also will have Mandy Cole, Deputy Director of AWARE, speak about the new housing facility at AWARE.

Please save the date and join CCW in catching up on updates concerning Haven House and AWARE.

For more information call Carol Barril at 586-1002.

Book Study Continues Our study of Brian McLaren's *A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions that are Transforming the Faith* continues **Wednesdays April 13, 20 and 27**. We meet **6:30 – 8 p.m.** New participants are welcome whether or not you are reading. Questions still to address include "The Future," "How to translate faith into action." Join us!

Birthdays



1	Joy Lyon	11	Vance Sanders	20	Martha DeFreest
2	Andi Story		Jane Lindsey	21	Katelyn Thomson
3	Betty McDonough	14	Linda Miller	22	Melissa Engel
4	Rachel Searls		Duff Mitchell	23	Jessica Paris
	Madeline Germain		Jacob Sanders	26	Dick Deems
6	Sally Engstrom	16	Clarence Antioquia		Aislinn Shaul-Jensen
7	Kimberly Homme	17	Ora Bowen	27	Florence Sheakley
9	Betsy Brenneman	18	Barbara Searls	28	Wally Marvin
10	Freda Westman	19	Denali Murray Shapland		

Thank yous

Many people and groups are involved in making sure things happen at NLUC. Each month we would like to recognize some of those individuals and groups for their special services. Special thanks to:

*those who served as Liturgists: Brandy Scott, Tom Perkins, George Reifenstein, Margaret MacKinnon

*those who served as Greeters/ushers: Marianne Mills, Margaret MacKinnon, Judy Knight, Katherine Hope

*Tom Perkins, Jean Overstreet, and Don and Jan Kussart who assembled the February newsletter

*Those who were refreshment hosts: Barbara Searls; Freda Westman; Margaret Pugh; Peggy and KJ Metcalf; the Doogan's, the Morley's and Judy Knight for coordinating our Easter coffee hour

*Those who provided flowers: Denise Carroll, Kate Burkhart

*Special thanks to Judy Knight and Denise Carroll for continued Lenten Lunches support.

*And many thanks to KJ and Peggy Metcalf for putting up the cross and the beautiful spring Easter display.

If you have a suggestion for a thank you, call Christina at the church office, 586-3131 or e-mail her at nluc@ak.net.

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<p>JPPJ - Juneau People for Peace & Justice</p> <p>SPRC - Staff Parish Relations Committee</p> <p>CPM - Committee on Property Management</p> <p>ACOA - Adult Children of Alcoholics</p> <p>ANS - Alaska Native Sisterhood</p>				<p>CE - Christian Education</p>		<p>1 7 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12 ACOA</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>4 Heartstrings</p>	<p>2 9 Bartlett Dads</p> <p>2 Theatre Practice</p>
<p>3 10 Christian Education</p> <p>11 Worship</p> <p>7 Israel/Palestine Presentation</p>	<p>4 11 Lifering</p> <p>1 Bartlett Toddlers</p> <p>3:30 Cub Scouts</p> <p>5:15 JPPJ</p> <p>6:30 ANS Camp 70</p>	<p>5 3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>5:15 Climate Change</p>	<p>6 12 ACOA</p> <p>5:30 Chancel Choir</p> <p>6 Haven House</p>	<p>7 9:30 Lectionary Study</p> <p>10 Weekend Food Bags</p>	<p>8 7 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12 ACOA</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>4 Heartstrings</p>	<p>9</p> <p>3 Juneau String Ensemble rehearsal</p>	
<p>10 10 Christian Education</p> <p>11 Worship</p> <p>4:15 Youth Group</p>	<p>11 11 Lifering</p> <p>1 Bartlett Toddlers</p> <p>3:30 Cub Scouts</p> <p>5:15 JPPJ</p>	<p>12 12 Interfaith Council</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>7 Mudrooms</p>	<p>13 12 ACOA</p> <p>3:30 Girl Scouts</p> <p>5:30 Chancel Choir</p> <p>6:30 Book Study</p>	<p>14 9:30 Lectionary Study</p> <p>10 Weekend Food Bags</p> <p>5 Church Council</p>	<p>15 7 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12 ACOA</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>4 Heartstrings</p>	<p>16 10 Community of Christian Women meeting - .p. 3</p>	
<p>17 10 Christian Education</p> <p>Earth Care</p> <p>11 Worship</p> <p>4:15 Youth Group</p>	<p>18 11 Lifering</p> <p>1 Bartlett Toddlers</p> <p>3:30 Cub Scouts</p> <p>5:15 JPPJ</p> <p>5 SPRC</p>	<p>19 3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>5:15 Climate Change</p>	<p>20 12 ACOA</p> <p>5:30 Chancel Choir</p> <p>5:30 Becoming an Outdoor Woman</p> <p>6:30 Book Study</p>	<p>21 9:30 Lectionary Study</p> <p>10 Weekend Food Bags</p> <p>6 Haven House</p>	<p>22 7 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12 ACOA</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>4 Heartstrings</p>	<p>23</p>	
<p>24 10 CE</p> <p>11 Worship</p> <p>12:15 Offering of the letters</p> <p>Deacons</p> <p>4:15 Youth Group</p>	<p>25 11 Lifering</p> <p>1 Bartlett Toddlers</p> <p>3:30 Cub Scouts</p> <p>5:15 JPPJ</p>	<p>26 3 Violin Lessons</p>	<p>27 12 ACOA</p> <p>3:30 Girl Scouts</p> <p>5:30 Chancel Choir</p> <p>6:30 Book Study</p>	<p>28 9:30 Lectionary Study</p> <p>10 Weekend Food Bags</p> <p>5:30 CPM</p>	<p>29 7 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12 ACOA</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>4 Heartstrings</p> <p>5:30 Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 5 Juneau Pride Chorus Concert</p>	

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Sunday Services streamed at

<http://livestream.com/nluchurchjuneau>

**Newsletters and Juneau Empire articles also can
be found on our website:**

northernlightchurch.org or you can find us on face book.



Sunday Schedule

Christian Education 10am

Worship 11 am

*No matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*