

## November News



### **Children and Youth Art Contest**

The UCC is launching a national art contest for children and youth that is part of a larger campaign that will generate hope in making a difference when confronting the climate crisis. How to participate? Draw or paint about climate hope, environmental justice, or protecting the Earth. Sunday school class and youth group participation encouraged. Winners will be selected in November. [Register to learn more.](#)

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Greetings, Pacific Northwest Conference!

Three and a half weeks ago, the N-Sid-Sen Search Committee had our first meeting and launched into a very aggressive search for an Acting Managing Director of N-Sid-Sen – someone who could – ideally – help us through the next six to nine months and be followed by a Designated Managing Director who might serve 2-3 years. Our task was great, and our runway short for having someone in place once Mark Boyd transitions to Pilgrim Firs at the end of November.

In this time, we have consulted with the Outdoor Ministries Association of the UCC, the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Association, volunteers and pastors within our own Conference of churches, as well as several camp managing directors at other UCC camps. We talked with about 18 people we felt promising for the role. Three conversations continued and we ended up pursuing one candidate in particular last week. Unfortunately, after some discernment, that candidate has removed their name from consideration.

You could say that we've returned to square one at this point, but we'd disagree. As we talked to people, we found offers to help. Seven of these offers have now yielded a short-term volunteer camp hosting plan that is being coordinated with Mark Boyd for N-Sid-Sen's coming low season. Alongside this plan, there has emerged renewed interest in revitalizing our Conference Outdoor Ministries Committee, and already, volunteers have stepped forward sooner than usual and with big "yeses" for directing some of our summer camps. There are a couple volunteers ready to work on the website and promotional materials. Others are on standby, ready to offer their gifts and abilities. It's been so encouraging to witness the love and dedication beginning to pour forth (though we know more will be needed). You and God's Spirit among us are making paths forward we didn't see at first possible!

Our Conference Minister and Board knows that we cannot expect to maintain a volunteer structure for N-Sid-Sen operations for but a few months. But with the short amount of time this buys us, we are shifting gears. We will now be setting aside the search for a short-term Acting person and instead engaging an open and denomination-wide search for a Designated N-Sid-Sen Managing Director. This person could serve us for 2-3 years, after which time they would be eligible for consideration in the settled position.

The Conference Board and Search Committee are working on revising the position description and creating a site profile for release, and we will share that as soon as it becomes available. Those interested in the position will be invited to submit a résumé with relevant work experience and three phone references as an initial step. These can be sent to [nsidsensearch@gmail.com](mailto:nsidsensearch@gmail.com)

We appreciate your prayers for this search, for the months ahead at N-Sid-Sen, for Mark and Julie Boyd as they transition to life at Pilgrim Firs, for our blessed volunteers and for whomever out there will eventually become our Designated Managing Director. Your

support, encouragement and suggestions for persons we should be approaching are welcome.

With renewed vision, our Search Committee feels confident in what lies ahead for N-Sid-Sen, and we pray you do too.

With care,

Rev. Leah Atkinson Bilinski, N-Sid-Sen Search Committee member



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

*Ordination*  
OF  
*Elyse Lauregui*

Eagle Harbor Congregational Church

NOV  
**13**  
2022

AT 4 PM

105 WINSLOW WAY W.  
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA

Reception to Follow

Clergy are invited to robe and process.

Elyse Jauregui is being ordained into her current position as a hospice chaplain with Envision Hospice of Washington. She also serves at Eagle Harbor Congregational Church as Spiritual Formation Leader. Elyse has been serving in various facets of ministry since 2010 and graduated with her Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2015. She currently resides in Silverdale with her husband, Mike, and their pets. Elyse is excited and grateful to be taking this next step in her ministerial journey!



## The Signs of Changing Times



The steady flow of Change

The signs above each marked the north entrance to N-Sid-Sen. The oldest one on the left we found underneath the one on the right. If these signs could speak, imagine the changes they have seen. Through the transitions from WNI to PNC they have guided folks in. As new Managing Directors came and renewed programs or even started new ones the signs have reflected that change.

Change, transition, restart, renew, these and many similar words do we hear all around us. That steady flow of change has touched us all in so many ways. Within our families, careers, schools we live it. Within our churches large, small, and in between we see and feel it. Within our Conference we experience it. And in our camps, we are moving into it.

In the camps change is the constant we count on and work within. A different group every week, sometimes every few days, with a different focus, a different intent and yet with the same desire. The same one I believe we all seek. A chance to step aside, slow down and breathe. That can only happen with and within change. It is in the pausing that we can begin to hear what our souls are calling for. The challenge is to see change for the bridge that it is, and then being willing to step upon it.

Julie and I accepted the change that called us to N-Sid-Sen in April of 2012 convinced we knew what we were embarking upon. Silly us. While we did understand the job ahead, we were not prepared for the profound difference it would have on our lives. It took me a full year to realize I was not welcoming folks to camp. Rather they were welcoming us into their home on the lake. Slowly as we stumbled into this change of perspective, we found ourselves discovering a new family each and every week. Reconnecting with folks from across the conference, the country

and even the globe was a delightful bridge that we easily embraced. Soon it was not change, instead it was the norm.

Like a mini family reunion transition each time we reconnected, sharing laughter, successes, and struggles. We watched some groups grow and add more events, we saw some move on or even fade away.

We welcomed new groups and new events. All the time the camp was adapting and changing as well.

Bringing youth from the west side of the conference over for summer camps

Helping smaller churches come to camp by sharing the space.

Welcoming faith leaders from all faiths for personal sabbath time.

Adding Buddhists and Jewish retreats along with many others

Building even stronger connections with the local community

Providing space on site for volunteer fire fighting trainings

Adding more Montessori classes in the spring

Bringing Scout groups onsite

Adding more work camp events

Establishing a Stewards group to assist with forest management

Creating space for a Nurse's Health Center

Upgrading water systems, cabins, sound equipment

Establishing training protocol for lifeguards and all volunteer staff

This has been an incredible adventure for us. With all the joys and struggles that that entails. From snowy winter days to blistering hot smoky summer days. From the peals of delight as campers hit the beaches to the quiet reflectful times of youth at prayer. From heartwarming weddings to chilling autumn baptisms, you have been with us every step of the way. And for that we are eternally grateful.

And now almost 10 years later Julie and I begin another adventure intertwined with all of you. We begin anew at Pilgrim Firs December 1. We look forward to beginning a new adventure with all of you and so many others.





#### UCC Webinar—Centering Africa at the UN Climate Conference

In November, leaders from the world's nations will be convening at COP27, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. While this summit has been described as "the African COP," activists from the continent have asserted that they are already being shut out. In this webinar, we will center the climate concerns and issues faced by Africa, the continent that bears the least responsibility for the climate crisis yet is most vulnerable to its destructive impacts. The webinar will be on Wednesday, November 9th at 1 pm ET/12 pm CT/11 am MT/10 am PT. [Register for this webinar to learn more!](#)

[Hyperlink: [https://UCC.zoom.us/webinar/register/2416633314850/WN\\_BFZCu0svSQ-nLO3i3GBroQ](https://UCC.zoom.us/webinar/register/2416633314850/WN_BFZCu0svSQ-nLO3i3GBroQ) ]

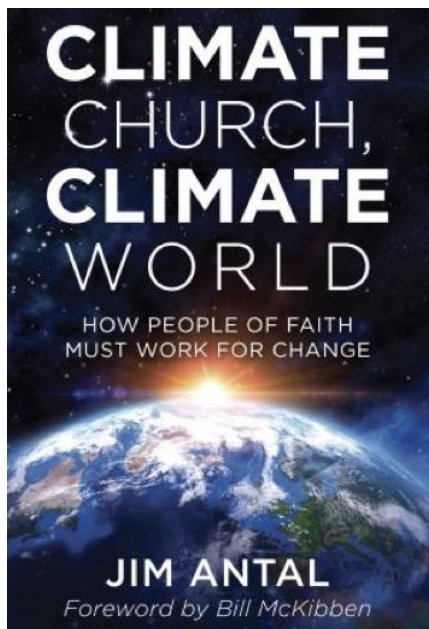


## Applications open for new Executive Director

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ has opened applications for a new Executive Director. The application deadline is Nov. 25. The start date is Dec. 19. The ONA Coalition is the largest and fastest-growing LGBTQ-affirming church movement in the world. It supports not-yet-ONA congregations on their path towards an Open and Affirming covenant, and supports existing ONA congregations with resources and training programs in mission, ministry and advocacy. The Executive Director implements the Coalition's strategic goals and objectives and provides direction and leadership toward the achievement of the organization's mission and vision.



Click here for more information: <https://bit.ly/3WdILg9>



### *Local Events*

First Congregational Church in Bellingham is hosting a seminar with UCC Leader and Activist, **Rev. Dr. Jim Antal.** ([more](#))



## **November Celebrations**

Best wishes to our clergy and their partners on their special days.

### ***Ordinations***

3	Robert Jackson	54 years	17	Jerry Chang	3 years
4	Marj Johnston	15 years	19	Stephen Haddan	22 years
4	Roderick Mackenzie	63 years	19	Genavieve Heywood	33 years
4	Georgann Peck	10 years	19	Debra Jarvis	33 years
7	Craig Rennebohm	52 years	20	Kerby Avedovech	12 years
8	Catherine Foote	30 years	25	Robert Rieke	49 years
13	Richard Gamble	34 years	26	Patricia Knorpp-Williams	40 years
16	Ed Evans	26 years	30	Andrew Gill	10 years
16	Dan Stern	36 years			

### ***Birthdays***

5	Kirk Kassner	13	Pat Bennett	22	Jodie Hollinger-Lant
6	Lois Brown	13	David Isla	26	Gail Crouch
8	Cindi Abbott	14	Iona Parker	23	Beth Plumbo
9	Wayne Wilson	14	Sam Rennebohm	25	Beverly
12	Thomas Carson	18	Daniel Schnabel		Jenden-Riedlinger
12	Patricia	18	Carol Taylor	26	Harold Bergmann
	Knorpp-Williams	18	Greg Turk	29	Evelyn Kroehler
12	David Kratz	20	Catherine Foote	30	Melvin Lovelace

### ***Anniversaries***

14	Joan Sulser & Kurt Jensen
21	Fred Hutchinson & Ruth Bishop
28	C. Floyd & Jean Emerson