

Chronicle

Ainsworth UCC :: August 2021



World Council of Churches Pilgrim Team Visits

As a member of EDAN (Ecumenical Disability Advocacy Network) of the WCC (World Council of Churches) I attended two Pilgrim Team Visits this spring, one to the Arctic Circle, the other to Standing Rock. My Arctic visits introduced me to the indigenous peoples who live in the Arctic Circle between Arctic Village, AK, through Canada, and through Scandinavia as far as the Russian border. Here is a taste of what I learned.

Climate change is changing their lives.

Ice floes don't last as long as they used to. Less snow falls. Permafrost is melting—and sprouting plant life. These factors have changed animal migrations, affecting food and clothing supplies. Villages are flooding.

Over the last two centuries, church and government have worked together to destroy indigenous ways and cultures through mandatory participation in residential schools.

Children were sent to these government- built, church-run schools at age four, graduating with no life skills for living back home. They might know math and some science, but they lacked skills to hunt, fish, and support themselves. Parents who chose not to send their children to these schools would find their sled dogs slaughtered so they would be unable to hunt and get food. On June 3, 2021, 215 bodies of children were found in British Columbia on the former site of the residential schools. This past week three times that number of bodies were found in Saskatchewan.

Outsiders dictate how indigenous peoples are to live.

PETA claims that indigenous peoples use inhumane methods of killing animals and kill for recreation. Indigenous people do not take animal trophies, but instead use the whole car is for food, clothing, sewing thread, and tool making. Films PETA and others have made have resulted in quotas per indigenous people/tribe: four salmon per year to feed 9,000 people; six polar bears to feed and clothe many thousands of people. Now indigenous people must pay \$100 per grocery bag flown in from Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, or Anchorage.

Outsiders determine living standards for indigenous peoples.

Igloos were deemed unhealthy for living in, so now indigenous peoples live in wooden houses, "wooden boxes." Of course expensive fuel heats these buildings. Like food, wood and other building materials must be flown in, raising the cost of housing. The result has been multiple members of multiple generations sharing the same home to make it affordable. Overcrowding has led to violence, addictions, and suicide.

Outsiders have put wind and solar farms on open fields in Scandinavia without asking permission.

Those fields have been used until now to graze reindeer. The result has been loss of land, grazing fields, food, clothing, income lost from tourism.

The preceding examples represent a TINY amount of what I've learned about the peoples of the Arctic Circle.

-Rev Lynda Bigler

Portland Street Response

What does "defunding the police" look like? One example is the Portland Street Response (PSR). It was first proposed in 2019 as an alternative to armed Police Officers to assist people experiencing homelessness or behavioral health issues. A 2017 study by The Oregonian showed that more than 52 percent of those arrested by police in Portland in one year were unhoused.

During the momentum of the Justice for George Floyd demonstrations in 2020, \$4.8M was cut from the Portland Police Bureau budget (of \$225M) and moved to fund the PSR pilot program. PSR is responding only in the Lents neighborhood for now; service requests are made through 911 or the non-emergency number at 503-823-3333.

In May of this year, Portland city Council Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty (PSR falls under her jurisdiction) introduced a budget amendment to add six additional teams by March 2022. With large justice demonstrations waning, Mayor Ted Wheeler, Commissioners Mingus Mapps and Dan Ryan voted "no" pending "further study." Only Commissioners Hardesty and Carmen Rubio voted yes. The Mayor also suggested outsourcing future expansion to non-profits.

The Police have shot and killed two people in mental health distress so far this year, including a man who had called 911 because he was feeling suicidal. Call or email your City Commissioners and let them know how you feel about expanding the PSR. www.portland.gov/streetresponse

-Editor



This summer it seems that we are in a liminal time in so many ways. Liminal is from the Latin limen which means threshold; it is as if we are at the threshold of a new space/time.

We are transitioning from shut down/quarantine life to returning to in-person life, but with safety in the forefront of our minds. The covid19 pandemic is still very real, and people are losing their lives from it throughout our world. In the work to dismantle racism, there have been a lot of protests and demonstrations, some change, but so much more to go. We are already seeing a lot of effects of climate change, and they are speeding up. The high temperatures across the west are the latest that have hit us near at home. Some movement has happened to slow that process, but very small steps and much more is needed.

It seems we are in the midst of a multitude of pandemics and trying to navigate the liminal parts of the journey.

So what do we do in this liminal time? Someone wrote about meeting God in the liminal spaces and times. As people of faith we are called to discern what God is calling us to through these times. Through study, such as the Liberation Theology Group's Wednesday night study of Howard Thurman's Jesus & the Disinherited to gathering in worship, Bible Study and fellowship opportunities, we have opportunities to hear God's voice. Spending time in nature, prayer, meditation are opportunities to encounter God. Serving others, those in need, working with those who are marginalized, volunteering to help in so many ways, are all ways we can meet God.

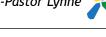
Through this time of phasing-in, I am reminded that I need patience for this journey and call upon all of you for patience too. It is quite an adjustment for our staff and congregation. We are working to get us together, and hoping outside will be a start. We are going to test, try, change, to find ways that we can be together safely. I would especially like to hear from families with young children about what safety protocols do you want us to maintain for you to feel your family is welcome and safe. As we seek to connect with children and youth and look ahead to the coming school year, we want to know how your child/youth would feel welcome to engage in the life of our congregation. Please share with me or Rev. Cecil your desires, concerns, needs of your children.

Through this time of phasing-in, I am reminded that I need patience for this journey and call upon all of you for patience.

Another part of phasing-in, is adjusting to in-person pastoral visits. To assist in this ever demanding task, we are seeking people who would like to be trained for a new Care Team group. We have some former members willing to continue to reach out, but need more people who are willing to provide presence for our members who are in homebound, in the hospital, dealing with grief, or other issues and need a listening ear, a presence. Rev. Eunhye Lee is planning a revised Care Team training with emphasis on self-care, meditation, as well as compassionate care. If you are interested and want to learn more, please contact me.

We have much to be thankful for. Though we have had loss, though we have been challenged by connections issues, weak wifi, mask wearing, quarantining, we are still a strong congregation with so much to give and much to receive. Thank you for being with us on this journey.

-Pastor Lynne



General Synod 2021 passes resolution: "Declaration for a Just Peace between Palestine and Israel"

This resolution we endorsed as a congregation passed at General Synod with an 83% yes vote!

Five other churches and our conference also endorsed it. The resolution will serve as a model for churches to create action steps toward a just peace between Palestine and Israel. Hopefully, other denominations may use it to write resolutions of their own.

The committee first reading the resolution took out the words "sin" and "apartheid" for fear of offending our

interfaith friends and partners. However, the whole General Synod put them back in again after discussion as they saw these terms fitting the circumstances under which the Palestinians live. Friends are truthful with each other in relationships and the dialog continues. The only change the General Synod made was to the section about cessation of aid to Israel. It was changed to cessation of military aid to Israel.

An Ainsworth Palestine Israel Peace Team is working on action steps to share with the congregation in the fall. We can celebrate that we are part of this great witness for peace.

-Peace, Catherine Alder

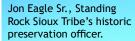


Photo by Stephen Yang for Earthjustice



American History as told by Jon Eagle Sr., elder of the Standing Rock Tribe of the Sioux Nation

Jon Eagle spoke to participants of the Standing Rock Pilgrim Team Visit. This Visit was a World Council of Churches event.

Jon Eagle began by telling us about his people and their view of American History. I am sharing his words here in the order in which he said them. As we celebrate the Fourth of July this year, we may wish to think about what John Eagle has to say.

Up until 1620 or so, life in (what became) the United States was going just fine. There were occasional wars between enemy tribal nations, but they were infrequent. Indian nations were generally seasonally nomadic. They owned no land, used the whole of an animal they killed, and possessed nothing but things they needed to survive: horses and other animals, equipment for hunting, fishing, and cooking, and tents (or wooden buildings) for housing.

All that changed when white supremacists arrived in the 1600s, armed with their God and their guns. Thus began the Indian Holocaust, during which time more than 1,000,000 tribal members lost their lives. The white supremacists of today are doing nothing different than the Pilgrims did in words and deeds. "The original settlers annihilated one people and enslaved another."

Thus began the Indian Holocaust, during which time more than 1,000,000 tribal members lost their lives.

In 1876, tribal nations won the Battle of Little Big Horn, the only time in history the US Government has lost a war with the Indians. The tribal nations' winnings included large portions of North and South Dakota, and parts of Montana and Wyoming. Tribal nations do not recognize the political boundaries but view this as their lands, a country within a country. "When I was drafted, they asked me if I spoke a foreign language. I said 'yes: English' because it was not my native language. I was disciplined for that."

As white settlers took over an increasing amount of land, tribal members were removed to "reservations." Today, tribal nations refer to these as POW camps or internment camps.

The US Supreme Court denied recognition of the existence of most tribal nations. (The tribe I am descended from is still trying to regain their status as a tribe). Many of those tribal nations who have tribal status today have had to fight for it for a long time through protest and legal action. (For more concerning Oregon's tribal nations, read Standing Tall by Kristine Olson.)

From about 1914 to 1978 the Sacred Sun Dance was banned. This ritual was part of the tribal nation's way of reaching decisions and governing themselves through council meetings.

Today there are seven major tribal nations. Although some were previously sworn enemies, today they overlook those differences to stand united. "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." For the first time in history, all seven nations simultaneously lit council fires at the protests against the pipeline at Standing Rock in November 2016 to let the world know they are now united.

Closing thoughts from Jon Eagle Sr:

The Great Creator made heaven and earth, and all that inhabits it. The Great Creator still inhabits all aspects of nature he created.

When an Indian stands before a tree, the Indian thanks it for its life, the lives who inhabit it, the fruits of its branches. The Indian leaves it alone. To cut or remove that tree is to cut into the Great Creator.

When a white person sees that tree, the white person imagines what can be built with it or done with it. The Indians call that objectifying nature. Objectifying nature has led to climate crisis.

-Rev. Lynda Bigler

Sundays in August					
Aug 1	"Bread of Life" Rev. Cecil Prescod John 6.24-35 Liturgist: Inés Campoverde				
Aug 8	"Getting on My Last Nerve" Rev. Dr. Susan Shaw Mark 11: 11-16 Liturgist: Beth Poteet				
Aug 15	"Blessing the Animals" Church in the Park Liturgist: Jessica Paul				
Aug 22	In-Person Outside (weather permitting) Liturgist: Darilis Garcia				
Aug 29	In-Person Outside (weather permitting) Liturgist: Theresa Holloway-Nunn				

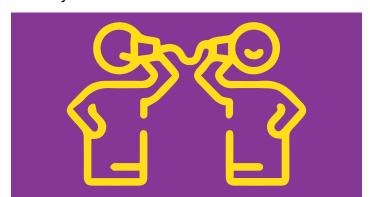
Seeking Spiritual Enrichment? Craving Deeper, More Meaningful Connections With Others in the Community?

We all have a story to tell, but we don't always have an opportunity to be heard and share our story in a safe, confidential, and judgement-free environment. Or perhaps our story is so personal and profound that we prefer to keep it to ourselves while enjoying the histories, herstories, anecdotes, and tales of our friends. Storytelling and story-sharing can be an inspirational way to nurture healing and growth, both personally and communally.

The Ainsworth UCC WISE (Welcoming Inclusive Supportive Engaged) Committee seeks to create a new Spiritual Enrichment Group as an informal way to invite individuals in the community to connect, engage, share stories and experiences, and offer support and encouragement to one another. If you would be interested in joining this Spiritual Enrichment Group, please contact Verlin Byers by email at vvb1969@msn.com or phone 503.317.3973.

The group will meet either weekly or every other week, depending on the level of interest. Day and time to be determined.

-Verlin Byers



Food Donations

Summer is not over and school is still out. People in Oregon are still hungry. Remember them in your grocery list and trips to the store.

Kids are active during the summer. They need protein. So pick up some extra canned protein this month and drop it in the food donation bin outside the library door at church. (Remember to call ahead, wear a mask, and sanitize your hands).

Examples of canned proteins include:

- Tuna fish
- Chicken
- Sardines
- · Red, black, garbanzo, navy, and baked beans
- · Peanut butter
- -David Hathaway and Rev. Lynda Bigler

New Books in the Library

The WISE Working Group is adding resource books about mental health to the church library. Here is a review of one of them:

Christ on the Psych Ward by David Finnegan-Hosey

One day during his first self-committal to a hospital psych ward, the author felt the urge to harm himself once again. He stole a plastic knife from the cafeteria and took it to the bathroom with him to use it there. First he discovered that plastic knives will not do what he had planned/hoped to do to his body. Next he discovered there are no locks on psych ward bathroom doors when a nurse came in to check on him. She helped him get into the hallway where he curled up on the floor beside the nurse's station, the nurse sitting beside him. Later he drew a picture of this experience, writing below it "Christ on the Psych Ward". He goes on to say that if you don't think Christ is on the psych ward, then you have never needed a nurse when you are in crisis. The author weaves the personal story of his mental health journey with commentary about mental health care, Bible interpretation, and theology in a very enjoyable, readerfriendly way.

His first mental health break arrived during his first year in seminary. Looking through the lens of mental health diagnoses, the author reinterprets parts of the Bible for us, opening up new ways to read and understand them. We learn how and where he found Christ on each psych ward he stayed on. During his hospitalizations he found it necessary for his recovery to find new ways to read the Bible and re-examine his views of God. This book is a celebration of his path toward recovery and his new normal.

I absolutely loved this book. So well written. So readable. So informative.

-Rev. Lynda Bigler

Calling All Musicians

AINSWORTH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST JOB ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Please send resume with references, cover letter and a recording if available to: Ainsworth United Church of Christ; Attn. Music Director Search Committee, 2941 NE Ainsworth St., Portland, OR, 97211 or pastor@ ainsworthucc.org

AINSWORTH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST JOB ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PIANO ACCOMPANIST

Please send resume, cover letter and a CD or recording if available to: Ainsworth United Church of Christ; Attn. Rev. Lynne Smouse López, 2941 NE Ainsworth St., Portland, OR, 97211 or pastor@ainsworthucc.org. For application, call 503-284-8767.



The Rev. Andrea Cano Anounced as EMO's Interim President

We are thrilled to announce that The Rev. Andrea Cano has agreed to be the interim president of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). She will start July 12 and serve in this position for about a year as we search for our next permanent president.

Andrea is bilingual and bicultural, with roots in Mexico. Originally from Los Angeles, she settled in Portland in 1999 after years of international service and travel with the Geneva-based World Council of Churches, and working for NGOs in Quito, Ecuador, and Guadalajara, Mexico.

A former chair of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, she has extensive experience leading nonprofits, including the Oregon Farm Worker Ministry and the National Microradio Implementation Project. She has also been involved in the Nonprofit Association of Oregon, Rose Villa Senior Living Center, National Policy Consensus Center, and Providence Center for Health Care Ethics.

Andrea is a founding member of the Latina Associates for Collaborative Engagement (LACE). She cherishes the goal of creando un mundo donde todos pertenecemos [creating a world where all belong], with equity, accessibility and authentic inclusion as Oregon becomes more richly diverse in all of it expressions.

Ordained with the United Church of Christ, Andrea is also a board-certified clinical chaplain and a member of the state of Oregon's Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council. She is currently involved at Ainswoth United Church of Christ, the faith community that hosts EMO's HIV Day Center.

Andrea worked as program staff for EMO over 15 years ago and is excited to be back, helping to steward EMO during this interim period.

-Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon press release

Volunteers Needed

Back-up support for Zoom/live stream worship

Please reach out to Laurel Durham (laureldurham@ hotmail.com) for more information and to let her know of your interest.

Back-up help for live streaming/videography and sound management

David Nichols and Janet Morris have been tireless in their efforts, but would like to train some others to help out when they need a break. Please let David Nichols david@kgaybc.com or me know if you are interested.

Ainsworth UCC's FaceBook Manager

If you feel comfortable using social media and are interested in making sure the community (both our church community and beyond) are updated on the events/ activities we are engaged in, including with community partners on social media, we would greatly appreciate you being the point person for our Facebook page! If interested and able, please reach out to Laurel Durham (laureldurham@hotmail.com) Laurel can share more details on the account, etc. This is a fun way to serve the church from home or anywhere you are. Thank you!

-CommTech Ministry Team



Reparations Sunday

"We envision a world that is accountable for past harms including slavery, colonialism, genocide, and other material and moral abuses. These past harms create the present conditions in which we live and impact our future. We envision a world where reconciliation is possible because racism is no more."

The National Days of Reparations for Faith-Based, Spiritual and Ethically Centered Communities or #ReparationSundays serve as a path toward educating and building a culture of reparations.

Every year there are two Reparations Sundays. Each date begins with a period of preparation and is planned on historically significant dates. In the summer, we begin with Juneteenth June 19, as a period of preparation leading into the August Reparations Sunday. The period of preparations involves internal investigation, education, reflection and planning in your community for Reparations Sunday. This August 22, 2021, #ReparationSunday corresponds with the International Day for the abolition of Slavery.

To learn more visit grassrootsreparations.org/

-Editor

The Chronicle is Back!

Hi all, Nick Putnam, your humble Chronicle editor here. This August edition of The Chronicle was originally intended as a July/August Summer edition. I experienced a detached retina in my right eye which required a two-week which turned into a four-week recovery due to the surgery having to be repeated. During this time I was unable to be upright and in front of a computer. This followed a detached retina in my left eye earlier in the year. Apparently, 2021 is the year when the warranty on my eyeballs expired! Thanks to all of your prayers I am back in action with a belated Summer edition of The Chronicle.

Are you a creative person? Do you have a news item? Send your stories, (brief) poems, interesting photos or artwork for publication in the AUCC Chronicle for sharing with our Church Community.

Email to: mrnicklp@gmail.com

-Editor

July Birthdays

Ines Campoverde 7/05 Adwoa Lynn 7/30 Debra Carline 7/05 Nicole Marshall 7/09 Anita Chase 7/09 Benjamin McHarris 7/03 Peter Chimuku 7/29 Robert Montgomery 7/16 Yolanda Clay 7/06 David Nichols 7/02 Frances & Katherine Currie Merrick Osborne 7/23 7/08 Vilma Renfro 7/18 Annie & Ross Danielson 7/08 Dave Sutton 7/03 Selina Davis 7/12 Sue Sutton 7/13 Ian Doescher 7/09 Natalie Tanner 7/11 Sharon Grant 7/04 Ron Taylor 7/18 Susan Hathaway 7/27 Jeff Vasey 7/22 Lori Hays 7/24 Vicky Vasey 7/18 Donna Hazlitt 7/09 Christopher Jordan Volpe Tim Hill 7/08 7/18 Marcus Welch 7/20 Traci Hodgson 7/05

August Birthdays

Stella Holmes-Wood 7/21

Liz Currie	8/16	Jeannie LaFrance	8/27		
Graham		Addison Loveless 8/09			
Doescher	8/10	Veronica Marshall	8/13		
Kaitlynn Durham	8/22	Alexander			
ZuZu Ellick	8/05	McPherson	8/11		
Scott Gunderson	8/03	Donald Parks	8/21		
Violet Hahn-		Ben Puggarana	8/06		
Francini	8/30	Caleb Putnam	8/26		
Kathleen Harmon	8/28	Adelina Taylor	8/12		
Rev. Teresa L.		Happy Birthday	to All!		
Holloway Nunn	8/13	,,,,			

Managing Strong Emotions and Crisis

Tough situations are part of everyday life—here are a few tips for communicating when intensity increases.

- Speak calmly and quietly
- · Respond to rage with quiet reassurance
- Be willing to repeat yourself
- · Listen carefully, don't interrupt
- Be respectful
- Do not challenge other people's truth
- · Do not try to hurry to a resolution
- · Be patient and take your time

Courtesy of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Multnomah. www.namimultnomah.org

-Susan Madison



Ross Danielson Shelly Penix, Ron Pleas, Anita Chimuku, Jean Bucciarelli, Verlin Byers, Lynn Soliday, Jackie Dvorak, Ruby Haughton-Pitts & sister Felicia, Chelyn Joseph, Shannon Hillis, Jean Scott, Rev. Chuck Currie, Rev. Teresa & Stephanie Holloway-Nunn, Craig & Claire Chabala, Mabel Johnson, Kathy Harmon, Phyllis Nielsen, Elisabeth Goodling, Ceilidh Kirk, Ann Pine & Becky Martin, Marceline Gearry & family, Shiloh Rockey, Katie Ferris, Nichole Smouse-López, Kamil López, Health Care providers, First Responders, Farmworkers & Food processing workers, all who have been impacted by covid-19, disasters, victims of gun violence and their families, immigrants and refugees, the UCC in all its settings and the Earth and all Creation.

Need or want to submit to the Prayer List?

If you want prayers said for yourself or others, we can get those prayers sent out on the prayer chain.

Contact Peggy West at: jpwest@teleport.com or call her at 503-659-7922.

"People we pray for regularly come to receive a very special place in our heart and in the heart of God, and they are helped. Sometimes, this happens immediately and sometimes over time." -Henri Nouwen

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed nes day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
10:00 AM Worship	12:30 PM Michael Eagan Spirit Force	10:00 AM Bible Study	11:00 AM CHEW w/Lynda	7:00 PM Vespers					
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
10:00 AM Worship	6:30 PM	10:00 AM Bible	11:00 AM CHEW	7:00 PM		1 1			
Rev. Dr. Susan Shaw Preaching	Phasing-In Work Group	Study 7:00 PM	w/Lynda 6:30 PM Faith	Vespers					
		Pastoral Relations	Formation Ministry Team						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
10:30 AM Church @ Wilshire Park		10:00 AM Bible Study	11:00 AM CHEW w/Lynda	7:00 PM Vespers		10:00 AM WISE Meeting			
"Blessing the									
Animals"									
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
10:00 AM Worship In-Person Outside	11:00 AM Palestine Israel Peace Team	10:00 AM Bible Study	11:00 AM CHEW w/Lynda	11:00 AM Thursday Fellowship		Leadership Retreat			
*Weather Permitting	r cucc icum			7:00 PM					
				Vespers					
		M							
29	30	31		Jul 2021	Sep 2021				
10:00 AM Worship In-Person Outside		10:00 AM Bible Study	S M	I T W T F S	S M T W T	F S			
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Shawn Burchfield

Custodian Ben Chimuku

AUCC Webmaster Caleb Paul and Kathy Tymoczko

Chronicle Editor Nick Putnam The Chronicle is a publication of Ainsworth United Church of Christ, a multiracial, multicultural, open & affirming congregation.

Mark your Calendars.

Next Submission Deadline: August 23

Submission is easy!

Email to Nick Putnam at: mrnicklp@gmail.com

Please include your name and phone number on all submissions.

Remember to support Ainsworth in your will. Consider a bequest to "Ainsworth United Church of Christ."

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Also online at: www.ainsworthucc.org





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