

UCC Officers Share Prayer for Ukraine

Feb 24, 2022

Holy God,

Hear our prayers for all those who will die today because of war in Ukraine and other war-torn countries all over this world. Grant them an end to the suffering of this world and eternal peace that is only found in You.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and all nations – that war and bloodshed can be avoided and a new, just peace can be forged out of this crisis. We ask God to grant wisdom to the leaders of nations, calling them to end provocation on all sides and invest instead in “the things that make for peace” as called for in all our faith traditions (Luke 19:41-2).

We pray for an end to the deep insecurity and mistrust on all sides, and call on leaders to build trust, based not on military might or alliances, but on the basis of our shared future and common humanity. Now is a time in which past harm should be acknowledged and addressed, and new partnerships can be envisioned.

We pray for and call on our leaders to have the courage to take small, verifiable, and independent steps toward peace, inviting others to reciprocate. Now is time to invest in conflict resolution, diplomacy and international cooperation – not more weapons which only escalate tension in the region.

Be with those suffering in ways that we cannot.

Protect them from devastation in ways those positioned in authority will not. Shield and comfort them as they confront the terror of violence that surrounds them. Hold them close to your heart and stay the hand of the enemies against them. Give us the courage and the strength to cry aloud against wickedness in high places that dare to harm others made in your image.

Comfort the children and heed their cries to be saved from harm in this world.

Make us a people who love our children, all of our children, more than we love greed, power, and control. Overturn governments of tyranny wherever they are found. Disrupt the intentions of evil and give us power to stand against demonic forces of greed and control. Grant that peace and justice come to warring nations by the hands of those courageous enough to stand and study war no more. Let Thy kin-dom come on earth as it is in heaven, we pray.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

-The National Officers of the United Church of Christ

UCC Ministries: Texas Transgender Directive ‘Cruel, Harmful, Morally Wrong’

Mar 1, 2022

The United Church of Christ's national ministries and the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition issued the following statement in response to a Feb. 22 directive issued by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. The directive calls on citizens to report the parents of transgender minors to state authorities if it appears the minors are receiving gender-affirming medical care. Texas is not the only state attacking the rights of trans citizens. In addition to various anti-trans laws enacted in 2021, at least 13 states are now considering more. Their effects range from restricting medical care to prohibiting sports participation.

“The National Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Coalition condemn the misguided actions of Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas, who issued a directive that could criminalize parents and their health care providers who offer gender-affirming medical care for transgender children. These actions are cruel, harmful, and morally wrong.

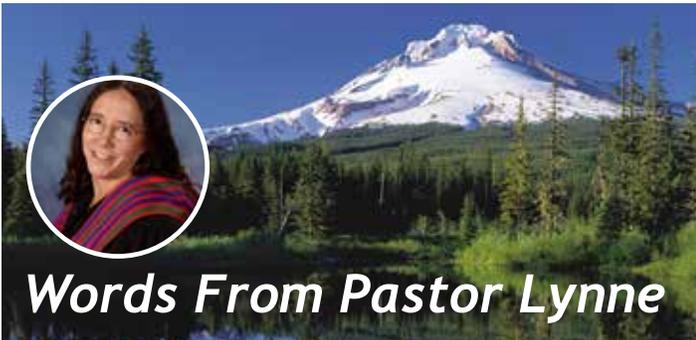
“Trans and non-binary people are beloved by God. Trans and non-binary people are among the neighbors Jesus commanded his followers to love and treat with worth and dignity that human judgment cannot set aside. In alignment with numerous actions of the United Church of Christ (UCC) General Synod, the national setting of the UCC is in solidarity with trans and non-binary children and youth, their parents, caregivers, and health care providers. We love you and support you. We affirm the agency and rights of trans youth and their parents to make decisions together about the gender-affirming medical care they need, and the freedom of certified medical professionals to offer those gender-affirming, and in many cases life-saving, medical services.

“We call on Gov. Abbott to rescind this onerous, harmful directive, and we call on state legislatures in other states to overturn any anti-transgender legislation that may currently exist in their state and defeat any pending anti-transgender legislation.

“Acting in solidarity with young people, their families, and loved ones who face stigma, experience marginalization, and suffer injustice is integral to realizing the vision of a just world for all.”

Click link for full statement: bit.ly/3Kb5bYj

-The Rev. John C. Dorhauer



Words From Pastor Lynne

Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday, March 2, with the Service of Ashes at 7:00pm in person. After two years, we feel it is time to come back, especially for this type of service where spacing will be possible, masks and vaccine registration required. In some ways these past two years have been somewhat like Lent. For many, time seemed to slow a bit. We didn't have to deal with the 'normal' business and distractions of social life, fundraisers, etc. Hopefully, we used this time to talk to God more often and maybe even deepen our spirituality—at least we hoped to. I invite you to continue to seek time to talk with God, to do what feeds your spirit and explore new ways to deepen your spirituality.

We are all miracles, and we can help miracles happen. Notice the budding miracles as spring approaches. Take in the resilience of life, of children, yes, even nature against so much challenge.

Our offerings to you during this Lenten season include a series on Critical Race Theory led by Marvin Lynn, Ph.D. which will happen on Wednesday evenings- March 16, 23, 30 and April 6 from 7-8:30pm.

On March 9 we will hold Vespers Service. We also are planning to return to Sunday morning in person worship on March 13. To help protect one another, we will continue to require vaccines and until the mask mandate is canceled will require masks. We ask that people respect the need for many to distance as possible and ask before you hug someone or feel free not to hug. You will hear more about this soon.

Our world continues to try to flood us with disturbing news—war-mongering in eastern Europe, war continues in Yemen and Ethiopia, the gun violence epidemic in our nation is growing, division, white supremacy and hatred still runs rampant across our country and creation is hurting from devastation that humanity has reeked upon it. It is all disturbing. But we are people of faith and our faith guides us to not wallow in disturbance, but to be moved to love, to compassion, to action.

Even as we take time to reflect, we are continually called to look beyond ourselves to see how we can act, what we can do to help make the world a better place. During this time—all times—it is important to look around and see the miracles that surround you and that are you. We are all miracles, and we can help miracles happen. Notice the budding miracles as spring approaches. Take in the resilience of life, of children, yes, even nature against so much challenge. Experience the opportunity of new life and do not forget to love. If we do nothing else, may we love and respect life, creation and one another. May your Lenten journey be filled with love.

-Pastor Lynne 

Shooting of Racial Justice Protesters

On the evening of Saturday, February 19, a group of four women and a man were assembled at the intersection of NE 55th and Hassalo in Portland to temporarily block traffic to allow racial justice demonstrators to safely march down the street. The march was in honor of Amir Locke, a 22-year-old Black man who was killed by Minneapolis police in early February.

While marchers were still assembling in nearby Normandale Park, Benjamin Smith came out of his apartment and shot the five—killing 60 year old June “T-Rex” Knightly and paralyzing another woman. According to people who knew him, Smith detested Black Lives Matter supporters, and had talked about shooting them in the past.

Knightly had been diagnosed with cancer twice, and had just been declared in remission by her doctor. Ms. Knight is survived by her wife, Kat.

-Editor



There is a 24/7 memorial and vigil for June Knightly and the other victims in Normandale Park. Click link for full story and biography: bit.ly/3vy2sUR



SACRED CONVERSATIONS TO **END** RACISM

Lenten Study Series

Is Critical Race Theory dangerous? Why have 36 states passed laws or policies to restrict teaching about race and racism? What is CRT?

Join us for a stimulating dialogue about the latest tactic against anti-racism movements to limit free expression of diverse points of view in schools and elsewhere.

Dr. Marvin Lynn, renown expert on CRT and co-author of The Handbook On Race Theory, will lead four sessions on this important issue.

This Lenten series will occur over four consecutive Wednesday evenings from March 16 to April 6 from 7-8:30 via Zoom. Dr. Lynn's presentations will be followed with a Q and A.

The SC2ER team urges you to send questions about CRT to Joslyn Baker at joslynbaker66@gmail.com or call/text to (503) 799-4749.

The series will cover:

What is CRT?

Sorting fact from fiction—disinformation campaign implications for schools, teachers, parents and students.

The role of the church with CRT—what CRT is and how we can use it as an analytical lens and to talk about outcomes within our own context.

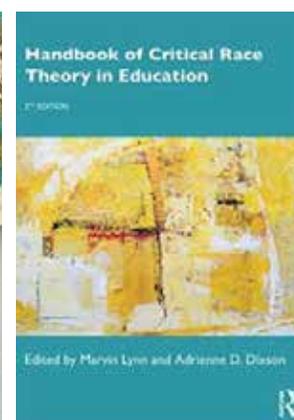
We are fortunate to have this expert resource within our congregation. Resources will be provided. If you want a sneak preview view this Fox News interview with Dr. Lynn and a legal expert: fxn.ws/3pqa2u

SC2ER team is excited to host this unique opportunity to understand this debate that ultimately is a threat to democracy. We hope you join us.

-Patricia J. Rumer



Dr. Marvin Lynn



Black Films

On behalf of the SC2ER Planning Group here are a few Black film suggestions for the congregation to view at their leisure.

Black History, Black Freedom, & Black Love

- Amazon Prime. Featuring: Jelani Cobb, Kimberle Crenshaw Williams, Dr. Angela Davis, Sherilyn Ifil, Nikole Hannah-Jones, John McWhorter, and Dr. Cornel West

Amend - Netflix

13th by Ava Duvernay - Netflix

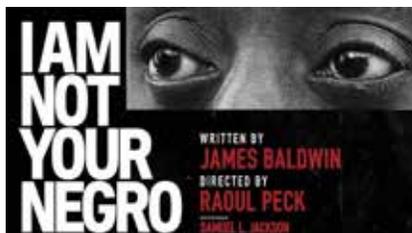
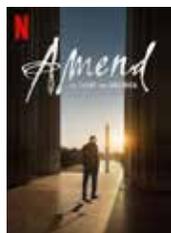
Frederick Douglass in Five Speeches - HBO

Black Boys - Amazon Prime

When They See Us - Netflix

James Baldwin—I am Not Your Negro - Netflix & Hulu

-Judi Pitre



*From the Library Bookshelves***Anita Hill - Believing: Our Thirty-Year Journey to End Gender Violence**

As a teacher, legal scholar, and advocate, Anita Hill has shared thousands of stories of individuals' physical, emotional or verbal abuse. It might be considered "casual" harassment or it might lead to rape or murder. In 1991 Hill testified at the Senate hearings on Clarence Thomas' nomination for the Supreme Court. Her book speaks to a public crisis which touches all women, and transgender or non-binary individuals. Believing is her understanding that "ending gender-based violence is the only way to achieve true equality, across all identities". She calls upon all people to work towards this end.

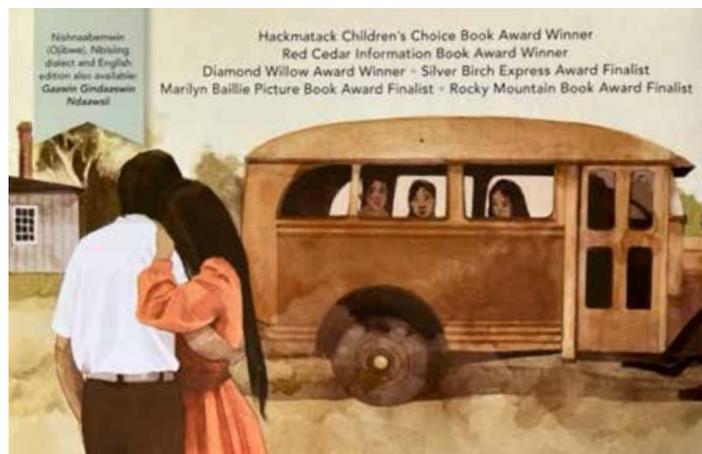
This book is available in the Ainsworth library. If you're looking for ways to fill time at home, or looking for inspiration, or if you want some biographies to read, the library can be used. Please call the church first (503) 284-8767 to see when it's best to arrive. Several new books might be just what you want to read. Or, some old favorites or books you missed might be your choice.

I Am Not a Number - Jenny Kay Dupuis

I Am Not a Number is the short, autobiographical story of author Jenny Kay Dupuis' Granny, Irene. It is a part of history seldom mentioned by native Americans. When Irene became number 759, her hair was cut off and her language was denied her. Descriptions follow of the residential school system, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the response of the United Church of Canada. This might be mistakenly called a "picture book." It is not only for children, however. (I like pictures and short books, don't you?)

Acknowledging this historical reality might lead to a valuable family discussion about our Christian responsibility today, as Ainsworth considers action and repeats our land acknowledgment in worship.

-Ann Bryan Nelson

**Mother Teresa - Come Be My Light**

The Private Writings of the "Saint of Calcutta" reveals personal hopes and conflicts of this well-known spiritual leader. Her repeated requests to destroy letters which she wrote to spiritual directors, show how determined she was to let God be the focus of her work and achievements. Mother Teresa did not want her writings to detract from that focus. However, it is her acknowledgment of darkness and emptiness which may help us travel our own spiritual path. Yes, it can be found in the Ainsworth Library.

Richard Foster's Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth

Richard Foster's Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth was named "one of the ten best books of the twentieth century," by "The Christian Century" journal.

During Lent, this book might help you move further along spiritual paths of prayer, self-examination, study, solitude, service, and celebration...

It is considered to be a "classic introduction" to Spirituality by many Christian authors. Inward disciplines, outward disciplines, and corporate disciplines, are the three divisions Foster discusses which lead to a balanced spiritual life. He presents examples of ways to incorporate disciplines into daily life. During Lent, this book might help you move further along spiritual paths of prayer, self-examination, study, solitude, service, and celebration, among the other disciplines. Of course, there are many other fine books in our library for reading during Lent.

-Ann Bryan Nelson

Sundays in March

| | |
|--------|--|
| Mar 2 | Ash Wednesday Service 7PM |
| Mar 6 | "Testing...Can You Hear Me?" Luke 4:1-13 Liturgist: Larry Harmon |
| Mar 13 | "Challenge & Protection" Luke 13:31-35 |
| Mar 20 | "Open Table" Isaiah 55:1-9 Liturgist: Eldon Potter |
| Mar 27 | Cesar Chavez Sunday Guest Preacher TBA Liturgist: Darilis Garcia |

New Feature

Ainsworth UCC History Corner



Second Reformed Church, started forming in the late 1890s and dedicated their new building on Columbia Blvd. on October 23, 1904. Within years they began to outgrow their tiny church and purchased land on the corner of Ainsworth and 30th Avenue. In 1936, the education portion of the building was dedicated. Preparations began to add the sanctuary which had a capacity of 280 and was dedicated in 1949. In the mid 1950s, recalling Christ's prayer, 'that they may be one' the evangelical and the reformed joined with Congregational Christians to become The United Church of Christ. The Second became Second United Church of Christ.



St. Andrews Community Church began in early 1964 when a group of friends were looking for a new church. On March 12 people began to meet at Mr. Edward and Jewell Johns home. The group quickly began to grow, and they began meeting in the Norse Lodge Hall as the Andrews Community Church with Rev. Courtlandt Cambric at the pulpit. Four years later they needed a larger space and moved into the building at 4800 NE 30th Avenue.

Their congregation outgrew the space and had heard that the church down the street was struggling. Most of the congregation had died or moved to the suburbs and the church needed the money, so they rented space to St. Andrews.

The community noticed that white folks entered the building first thing Sunday morning and as they left, St. Andrews, a mostly black congregation entered for their service.

Oh, it was a contentious transition. Mostly in regard to sharing space and scheduling. Rev. Cambric and Rev. McGettigan brought John 17:20 to mind, '...That they may all be one.' There was a major change of Reverends and the communication continued. Finally, it was decided to get serious about combining the two churches. An interim minister was called to help with the process. Rev. Phil Oliver* began with insisting that there would be no more tenant/landlord relationship. Each church had their own process of deciding on this idea, with both churches agreeing with stipulations and losing a few members. Two years of healing, letting go of treasured possessions, old beliefs, of resistance to change...and allowing God to move among the people creating a new community of love, trust, faith, and hope.

Councils met together, Sunday school classes were shared, there were small groups and large groups meeting together. Rev. Oliver and Rev. Osborne worked together throughout. The combined council decided it was time to take a vote and the two congregations met for a shared service and then each retreated to separate rooms to dissolve their own churches and begin the process to becoming one church.

The vote was an impressive YES.



The long arduous journey of writing a constitution and by-laws began with surveys that the congregation could use to decide their preference of shared traditions and their vision of this church. 13 goals were established.

A democratic process was launched to name the new church—Ainsworth United Church of Christ held a celebratory dedication in April of 1985.

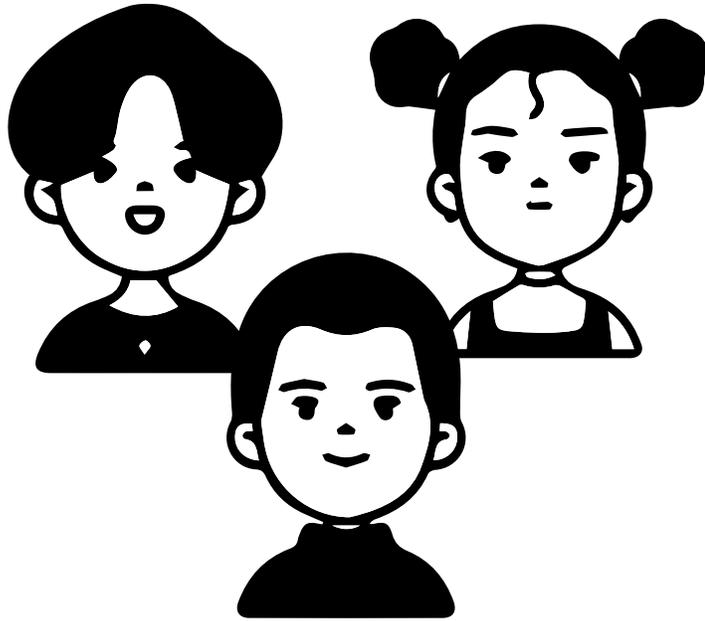
*Rev. Phillip Oliver wrote 'A New Birth of Hope' about the process. A copy is in a cupboard in Cambric Parlor.

-Colleen Davis

Youth Group

Is there a young person in your life in middle or high school? We'd love to grow our youth group. We provide a welcoming, affirming, emotionally safe and fun space for youth to connect and explore. We have believers, non-believers, and everything in between. Help us expand our community and bring a youth to church! Email jjwentworth@hotmail.com or text 503-516-5198 for questions or info.

-JJ Wentworth



Shawn Burchfield, Mabel Johnson, Shelly Penix, Ron Pleas, Anita Chimuku, Herdy Koenig, Jean Bucciarelli, Barbara & John Rogers as they move to the East Coast, Rev. Chuck Currie, Rev. Teresa & Stephanie Holloway-Nunn, Vilma Renfro, Dianna Gray, Chelyn Joseph, Shannon Hillis, Jean Scott, Craig & Claire Chabala, Kathy Harmon, Phyllis Nielsen, Elisabeth Goodling, Mary Takayanagi, Ceilidh Kirk, Marceline Garry, Angela Eagan, 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 the Normandale Park shooter and all gun violence and their families, the UCC in all its settings, the people of Ukraine and Russia, the Earth and all Creation.

March Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Milo Gunderson 3/3 | Catherine Alder 3/16 |
| Marvin Lynn 3/3 | Morrine Osborne 3/16 |
| Becky Martin 3/4 | Junhee Park 3/17 |
| Maya Stephens 3/6 | Shelly Penix 3/17 |
| Amarilis Garcia-McMillian 3/10 | Norma Godfrey 3/17 |
| David Lomnicki 3/10 | Emily Stephens 3/18 |
| Bob Bigler 3/11 | Ellen Hansen 3/25 |
| Eldon Potter 3/11 | Linda Forbes 3/26 |
| Michelle Puggarana 3/12 | Chelyn Joseph 3/27 |
| Louise McHarris 3/13 | Jean Scott 3/27 |
| Byron Hagman 3/13 | Kamil Lopez 3/29 |
| Christine Putnam 3/14 | Caroline Resari 3/29 |
| Myrna Rattle 3/15 | Olivia Putnam 3/29 |
| Nichole Smouse-Lopez 3/15 | Shannon Hillis 3/30 |
| | Teddy Singleton 3/31 |

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

Contribute to 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

March 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p><i>6</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Worship</p> | <p><i>7</i></p> | <p><i>8</i></p> <p>6:30 AM Sabbatical Working Group</p> <p>6:30 PM Officers Meeting</p> <p>4:00 PM Faith Formation</p> | <p><i>9</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Vespers</p> | <p><i>10</i></p> <p>11:00 AM Fellowship & Ministry</p> <p>2:00 PM Shelter Working Group</p> | <p><i>11</i></p> | <p><i>12</i></p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>13</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Worship</p> | <p><i>14</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Nominating Meeting</p> <p>7:45 PM Trans Day Planning</p> | <p><i>15</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Church Council</p> | <p><i>16</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Lenten Program on CRT</p> | <p><i>17</i></p> | <p><i>18</i></p> | <p><i>19</i></p> <p>10:00 AM WISE</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>20</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Worship</p> <p>Spring begins</p> | <p><i>21</i></p> <p>6:30 PM SC2ER</p> | <p><i>22</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Church Council</p> | <p><i>23</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Lenten Program on CRT</p> | <p><i>24</i></p> | <p><i>25</i></p> | <p><i>26</i></p> <p>Zoom info to come</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>27</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Worship</p> <p>Cesar Chavez Sunday</p> | <p><i>28</i></p> | <p><i>29</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> | <p><i>30</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Lenten Program on CRT</p> | <p><i>31</i></p> | <table border="1"> <caption>Apr 2022</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
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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: March 25

Submission is easy!

Email to Nick Putnam at: mnrnicklp@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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