

SHARANTELLA

Easter Sunday

Join us for Easter this coming Sunday (see page 4 for more details)

Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast from 8:30-9:30 am

Easter Service: 10:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt: 11:15 am



Shalom

United Church of Christ

April 2026 Newsletter

OFFICE HOURS- TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
9 AM – 12 AM – (509) 943-3927
505 McMurray St.
RICHLAND, WA 99354
SHALOM@SHALOMUNITEDCHURCH.ORG



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April Birthdays

- Jim Dyson 12
- Sheila Dunlop 14
- Jim House 17
- Alan Robertshaw 21
- Brigette Miller 23
- Ally Dearing 24
- Cyrus Gibbons 25
- Levi Patton 25
- Kay Hendrickson 28
- Brian Rathbone 28

Looking Back

March was filled with a lot of Joy

Worship services included beautiful music, special speakers, and Palm Sunday. Lora Rathbone, Eva Moos, and Judi Johannesen led the March 15th service while Pastor Melanie was at the PNC-UCC Annual Meeting with our four delegates, Haley Ann and Hunter Wallace, and Joe and Tabitha Andrews.

So many Shalomites joined the protest on Columbia Center Blvd with a few of us wearing our Shalom shirts.

Pastor Melanie closed out the month with an amazing Children's Chat on Palm Sunday where the kids led a parade through the sanctuary and into the Narthex waving their palm leaves.



Sparks, Spirit & Shalom

Practicing Resurrection

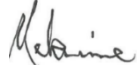
Every Easter I am drawn to Wendell Berry's poem "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front:" "Every day do something that won't compute. ... Be joyful, though you have considered all the facts... Practice resurrection."

Our beliefs may diverge widely about how we understand the biblical accounts of Jesus' resurrection. But when it comes to the renewing hope of Spring, few of us question the need, the joy, the hope, of a fresh start. Berry's prescription to "practice resurrection" invites us to let go of dogma and creeds that divide us, and focus instead on living out the hope of our faith.

My most memorable experience of practicing resurrection did occur on Easter, but not in a church. In 2014, Grandfather Mountain State Park in North Carolina was getting ready to pave part of the property to create a new access and more parking for the Profile Trail. We learned in late winter that one of the park rangers would be utilizing volunteers to rescue some of the native plants before they were bulldozed that spring. Many rescued plants would be retained on site for replanting nearby, while volunteers would be permitted to take others home. This was especially appealing to Cath and me, since our own yard was in pretty sad shape that year. The landslide and flooding had only recently been mitigated by bulldozers rerouting the stream, regrading the earth, and otherwise stabilizing and protecting our property. So we eagerly signed up for this volunteer project, and joined the ranger on site four or five times that spring, including Easter Sunday morning, digging up plants for rescue re-homing.

Some of the vegetation had not sprouted enough yet for us to even know exactly what we had recovered. But we carefully dug up chunks of earth, kept them cool and moist, carried them home, and replanted them under our Hemlocks and around our newly aligned streambed. Amazingly, almost all survived, and continue to thrive. Years later, those rescued ferns, mosses, blood root, trillium, trout lilies, creeping phlox, false hellebore, club moss, flowering raspberries, rattlesnake plantains, and other native plants that have made their home with us, and now with those who bought the property from us, are practicing resurrection. What a beautiful, miraculous expression of hope!

Practicing resurrection is a way to live out our belief in second chances, unexpected opportunities, and new possibilities that come out of darkness and doom. It is a way to refuse to be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief, corruption, and violence. In whatever ways we can, may we focus on practicing resurrection in our lives and our everyday interactions with our human and more-than-human companions on this journey.

Shalom, 

Looking Forward

Maundy Thursday

You won't want to miss this Maundy Thursday. Join us this Thursday at 6:00 pm at Shalom for soup and bread supper followed by a presentation of "Have You Seen My Son?" performed by The Shalom Troupe, directed by Joyce Bean. This will be a powerful contrast to Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday

Join us this Sunday for Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast from 8:30-9:30 am. The congregation is asked to contribute by bringing bread and/or fruit. The eggs (option of plain or made with herbs) and ham will be provided by Church Life. The breakfast will be followed by the Easter Service led by Pastor Melanie. Middle and High Schoolers will be hiding 1,000 eggs during the service (It's been a rite of passage for kids to grow into this group!). Children in Elementary School will be hunting for eggs following the service. Older children in this group will hunt in the front yard and younger kiddos will hunt in the back.

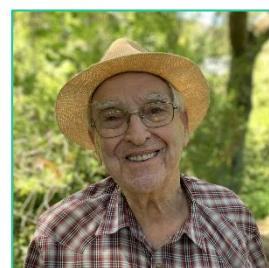
Bring a flower for a special activity before the Easter service. Feel free to bring more for those who weren't able to. Details on what to do will be given on that morning. A reminder email with Easter details will be sent this Friday.

Egg Donations

The CE Committee will be holding its annual Easter egg hunt immediately following service Easter Sunday! We'd like to thank everyone who made this year's egg hunt possible through gracious donations of candy and plastic eggs. We kindly ask that children and families please return the plastic eggs the following Sunday.

Celebrating the Life of James Dyson

There will be a service for James (Jim) Dyson at Shalom on Saturday, April 11th, at 1 pm followed by refreshments. Join us in person or virtually (click [HERE](#) to join us virtually). Click [HERE](#) to read Jim's obituary posted on [legacy.com](#).



New Puzzle Club

Join us every second and fourth Friday (beginning April 10th) at 6:30 PM for Puzzle Club! Enjoy coffee, tea, friendly conversation and good music while you assemble one of our many puzzles—or bring your own! Work individually or with a partner or two! We'll supply puzzles of all types and skill ranges—so don't fret!

Shalom Movie Date

Join us April 18th at 1:30 pm at the AMC theater for a showing of 'The Mario Galaxy Movie'. We encourage everyone to dress up as their favorite Mario character or wear their Super Mario merch! There will be a sign-up on the signing table for planning purposes. If you aren't able to sign up but would like to attend, please come. We will have plenty of seats.

Save the date for Peace Village –August 3-7

Shalom United Church of Christ in Richland and Community Unitarian Universalist Church in Pasco are excited to offer Peace Village this year—a summer day camp for kids that focuses on mindful movement, conflict resolution skills, media literacy, and connection with nature. Registration will be opening soon, so please save the date for your kiddos and also consider how you adults can support the effort. We are expecting 50 children, so we will need many, many adults to help make this a safe and exciting adventure for those kids this summer. Details below:

Who: All kids in the Tri Cities ages 6-13 are eligible to attend as campers; registration available starting April 13

What: Peace Village Summer Day Camp

When: August 3-7, 9am-5pm

Where: Shalom United Church of Christ, 505 McMurray Street, Richland, WA

Why: To give kids a fun and safe environment in which to make new friends, learn practical peacemaking skills, and enjoy their summer

How much: \$50 per child for the week; some scholarships available

Contact person: Camp co-directors Judi Johannesen and Regina McConaghy

Take Action- Through Justice and Social Action

Contact Gretchen Hormel to join the JSA Zoom meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Indivisible Tri-Cities Representative Speaks

During the March 19 JSA Committee Meeting Chuck Wood, cofounder of Indivisible Tri-Cities, presented an overview of the group's focus and activities since its inception in February 2025. Indivisible Tri-Cities is one of more than 2,500 Indivisible groups that have formed nationwide since 2017. The organization's work is structured around three core pillars: Community, Elections, and Protests. Through its community efforts, Indivisible Tri-Cities has hosted or participated in more than a dozen major events, building partnerships with local organizations such as LULAC, the NAACP, PFLAG, and immigrant support networks. The group actively engages in cultural and civic events, including the Pasco Cinco de Mayo and Fourth of July parades, Juneteenth and Pride festivals, and Armed Forces Day, while also hosting educational presentations on social justice, history, and immigrant rights. Within its Elections pillar, the organization promotes informed and active voter participation. It has hosted candidate forums, developed nonpartisan voter guides, and organized initiatives to increase voter turnout, clarify ballot issues, and strengthen public understanding of the electoral process. Through its Protests pillar, Indivisible Tri-Cities has organized and hosted 14 peaceful demonstrations in Richland and Kennewick, aligned with national movements and ranging in size from 100 to more than 4,000 participants. Notable events include "Hands Off Our Democracy" (1,000), "Making Good Trouble" in honor of John Lewis (1,300), and "No Kings" events (3,000 & 4,000). The group organized a third local "No Kings" event on March 28, which was the largest coordinated national protest in American history.

Earth Month

The United Church of Christ Honors Earth Month. "April is Earth Month, and for congregations, it can be a great time to further discern how to best answer our first calling as Christians: the caretaking of God's creation."

The UCC's fourth annual Earth Summit. Theme: "A Future with Hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). To ground and inspire us as people of faith in difficult times. April 25, 9am PT. They will also recognize our newest Creation Justice Churches and our first Climate Hope Affiliates.

Webinar Registration - [Zoom](#)

Use Earth Month as a Launching Pad! For those wondering what can be done to further climate justice under the current administration, Climate Hope Affiliates is a national chapter based program of the UCC and Creation Justice Ministries that has been engaged in successfully advocating with Congress this past year.

Shalom Honors Earth Month

Aid Africa- trees. Fruit, Fuel and Fighting Climate Change! We raise and distribute seedlings to provide communities with the fruit, fuel and shade communities need to thrive. Just \$35 can help plant 20 seedlings in a village reforestation project. If you would like to donate, make your check payable to Shalom UCC: Please write "Aid Africa - Trees" in the memo line.

Yard Sign - "Mother is STRESSED... be the change for climate!"

Repercussions of climate change are pushing Mother earth's weather systems to the edge, and as a result, stressing families around the globe. We all need to do our part to reduce the impact. This sign will be posted throughout April on Shalom's front yard. It's part of Shalom's effort to inspire our congregation, grab attention, and bring new people through our doors.

4th Annual Earth Month Event

This event will take place at the REACH museum. April 18, 12-4pm at the REACH Museum. FREE. Presentations by students, Nick Zentner on geology, and Climate Action by Dr. Steve Ghan, EV show, music, food, and much more. See Tri-Cities Earth Day guides, and grab a list of events for earth month on the JSA table in the narthex.



Shalom Recycles! See bins for paper and cans by the restrooms. Coffee grounds are used for compost.

Faith Action Network

The 2026 Washington Legislative session ended on March 12 with many FAN priority bills passing the House and Senate. "Because of your advocacy, we passed bills that protect immigrant rights, expand affordable housing, and move us toward a fairer tax code. These are more than just "wins"—they are direct improvements to the lives of our neighbors."

New state laws!

- **Create a statewide energy assistance program for low-income households. *HB 1903*.** See the fact sheet [here](#).
- **STEP Housing *HB 2266*:** to expand urgently needed housing and shelter options. See the fact sheet [here](#).
- **Immigrant Worker Protection Act *HB 2105*.** Require employers to notify workers when federal officials request their employment information. See the fact sheet [here](#).
- **Require that data centers comply with Washington's 100% clean electricity law, Will also close other loopholes (*SB 5982*).** See the fact sheet [here](#).
- **Restrictions on Masking by Law Enforcement Officers.** SB 5855. Effective date 3/19/2026. Limits the use of face-concealing masks by law enforcement during routine public interactions to ensure officers remain identifiable and accountable to the communities they serve.
- **Regulate how public agencies can use Automatic License Plate Readers data (*SB 6002*).** See the fact sheet [here](#).
- **The Millionaire's Tax *SB 6346*.** Tax annual earnings over \$1 million and reduce B&O taxes on small businesses. See the [FAQ document](#) from the WA State Budget and Policy Center.

One FAN priority bill has not been signed by the governor: SB 5974 Standards for Law Enforcement Leaders (accountability standards for law enforcement leaders). If he neither signs nor vetoes this bill, it will become law.

Opening the poetic space in churches: UCC launches online poetry collective

by Donna Jackson | published on Mar 24, 2026 ([Click Here to See Article](#))

From Genesis to Revelation, one-third of the Bible is filled with poetry, beckoning souls to soar, sigh and sing. The ancient texts, particularly within the Old Testament, awaken slumbering emotions and set loose new ways of living in the world.

"Poetry can deepen the connection with self, with others and with God," said the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President/CEO of the United Church of Christ, in a video greeting celebrating World Poetry Day, which was held on March 21. World Poetry Day was created by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1999.

Thompson, who is also a passionate reader and prolific writer of poetry, viewing the art form as a spiritual gift that is "grounding and healing," noted the relevance of this year's World Poetry Day theme of poetry as a bridge for peace and inclusion.

"Poetry can be disruptive, offering deeper insights into realities other than our own. That disruptiveness is the prophetic witness," said Thompson.

Thompson also noted how poetry is "a platform for expression, for exploration and for encountering the divine." It is a platform Thompson, who has a library app on her phone to discover and access new poetic voices, invites more UCC congregations to engage with during Sunday worship, in poetry groups, or in online forums such as the newly launched [UCC Poetry Collective](#).

UCC poetry Facebook page is launched

At the end of February, the UCC national offices launched a Facebook group called [UCC Poetry Collective](#) to facilitate the sharing of poetry.

Camp News

Summer Camp is coming up quickly! Camp Sunday will be May 31st

Today, April 1st, is the deadline for Early Bird Registration! Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

2026

REGISTER TODAY

PILGRIM FIRS
camp & retreat center

You & Me Camp | July 5-8
grades 1-4* with an adult

Kids Camp | July 5-8

REGISTER AT PILGRIM-FIRS.ORG

**CAMP IS A PLACE
TO LAUGH,
SING, PLAY,
AND PRAY TOGETHER!**

*We can't wait to
see you there!*

N-SID-SEN
Camp & Retreat Center

You & Me Camp | July 19-22
grades 1-4* with an adult

Kids Camp | July 22-25

Intermediate Camp | July 12-18

Junior High Camp | July 12-18

Senior High Camp | July 19-25

Family Camp | July 26-Aug 1

Camp Together | August 2-8

Women's Retreat | May 15-17

REGISTER AT N-SID-SEN.ORG

*ENTERING GRADES

Take a look at other events such as the Women's Retreat, "Giving Back" Camp (Work Camp) on June 14-20, and Pride Camp, found [HERE](#).

Need a Campership? Click [HERE](#) to fill out the form. Please register before requesting a campership.

Shalom Community

Shalom Community Google Group -

The Shalom online community hosted through Google Groups is a free and optional program for Shalom members and friends to engage directly with each other for informal discussions, sharing information about events, and developing connections. Although we can use Google Groups to remind each other of meetings and happenings at Shalom, the focus is on opportunities to support and connect with each other outside the church. For example, you might share a photo of a newborn grandchild, request a ride or assistance, announce a community event, let folks know you have an extra ticket to a ball game or concert, or share something of value you'd like to give away.

To see past posts, click [HERE](#). If you are not a member, you will be unable to read this page. Please read the [Covenant of Participation](#) and contact Shalom United Church of Christ for permission to join. Click [HERE](#) to learn how to use this Google Group after you join.

Ongoing Activities (youth activities are highlighted in Teal)

SUNDAY

Sunday Morning Service — Please join us in person or online at 10:00 am. The Worship Service can be accessed directly from our [website](#), Worship Service email, the BoxCast app (on an Amazon Firestick, Roku, or Apple TV device), or our [Facebook page](#).

Ginny's Room/Nursery — From 9:00 am through the end of Feedback (about noon), infants through 2nd graders are invited to stay with our friendly youth staff in the nursery in Ginny's Room.

Learning Community — Children meet in the Learning Community across from the ADA bathrooms following the service. Grab some treats and join the fun. Email Michelle at youth@shalomunitedchurch.org for more information.

Refreshments after Worship — Coffee and tea will be served, alongside treats brought from the congregation, after worship. *Look under "Chances to Volunteer and Serve the Church" if you are interested in bringing in treats.*

Feedback Conversation- 11:15 am – 12:00 pm — Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the service. On the first Sunday of the month there won't be Feedback, to give all a chance for fellowship after the service. For more information or questions email Shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org

MONDAY

Sacred Text Reflections- 10:00 am — Join the insightful discussions following the lectionary scripture. Contact Kay Hendrickson for details. Kayh428@gmail.com; (509) 531-6449.

Bridge — Join us for a game of Bridge and socialize each Monday from 1-4 pm.

Pub Theology — Pub Theology will meet 6:30 pm-8:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month at Round Table on G. Way in Richland. Pub Theology is a great time to engage with people in conversation about philosophical perspectives and life experiences. If you would like more information contact Lorinda Ferland, at lorindaferland@yahoo.com.

Monday Evening Bible Study — The bible study is taking a break while we look at new programming and identifying another day and time.

TUESDAY

Refuge and Respite – Shalom's Mindfulness Meditation group will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm. Contact Lorinda Ferland, Haley Ann Mead, or Cath Hopkins for more information.

Stitchery Social Group- 7:00 pm — Would you like to socialize with friends while engaging in activities like knitting, sewing, weaving, or crocheting? A gathering of like-minded individuals takes place at Shalom in the Library every Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Bring your projects and join us. Call Mary Fraser for more information.

WEDNESDAY

Deadline for submissions to updates — Click [HERE](#) to use the Google Form to submit information for the update by noon on Wednesdays.

High School Youth Group — the High School Youth Group meets weekly on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm. Contact Michelle Sinnes, youth@shalomunitedchurch.org, for more information.

Shalom Choir Rehearsal— The choir meets on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

THURSDAY

Weekly Update — is delivered in the morning by email. To be added to the email list, contact the office.

Shalom Handbells Rehearsal— The group meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm at Shalom.

THURSDAY continued...

Grief Support Group— The group now meets on Thursdays at 2 pm at Shalom. All who are dealing with the death of a loved one or another serious loss are invited to attend. Contact pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org with questions and the meeting location.

Psychic Exploration — The group meets on the second Thursday of the month. For more information contact Pastor Melanie at Pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org.

FRIDAY

Third Friday Book Group — The Shalom Third Friday Book Group will meet in the Shalom library at noon on Friday, April 17th, to discuss “Grandma Gatewood’s Walk” by Ben Montgomery. This is an inspiring story of the woman who saved the Appalachian Trail. She not only hiked the trail alone, but she was also the first person - man or woman - to walk it twice and three times. Then, at age 71, she hiked the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail. Bring your lunch and join the conversation. For more information, contact Brenda Dau at brenda@bdaumail.com.

Puzzle Club — Join us every second and fourth Friday (beginning April 10th) at 6:30 pm for Puzzle Club! Enjoy coffee, tea, friendly conversation and good music while you assemble one of our many puzzles—or bring your own! Work individually or with a partner or two! We’ll supply puzzles of all types and skill ranges—so don’t fret!

SATURDAY

Saturday Morning Mystics– learning, self-discovery & fellowship 11:30 am— Please call or text Dana Sprenkle MID for more information and the link to join.

Join a Committee

SERVE ON A COMMITTEE!

Shalom’s committees are bustling with activity, continuously relying on the dedication of volunteers to drive their efforts forward. Each committee is eager to welcome new members, excited for the fresh ideas, new perspectives, and the enthusiasm they’ll bring. There are numerous opportunities to make a meaningful impact, both in significant and subtle ways. If you’re unsure where your talents might shine brightest, consider attending multiple meetings. Feel the welcoming atmosphere, engage in lively discussions, and discover where your contributions can truly flourish. Your involvement could be the spark that lights the way for new initiatives and enduring friendships.

Christian Education - The CE Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm in the Learning Community at Shalom.

Church Life - Church Life meets on the first Sunday following the service in the library.

Justice and Social Action - The JSA meets online on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. To get the Zoom link, contact Gretchen H. GHormel@outlook.com

Outreach/Inreach - The Outreach/Inreach Committee meets online on Wednesdays at 10 am. To get the Zoom link, contact Diane V. dianevanderburg@gmail.com

Property - Property meets on the first Sunday following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Worship – The Worship Committee meets at Shalom and online on the 2nd Thursday of the month at noon in the library. To get the Zoom link, contact the office, shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org.

W.I.S.E. - The WISE (Welcoming-Inclusive-Supportive-Engaged) Task Force meets at Shalom on the 3rd Friday of each month at 3:00 pm in the library.

Shalom Council – While you must be voted on by the congregation to be on council, everyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Shalom’s council meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Shalom and online at 6:30 pm. To join on Zoom, contact the Shalom office shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org

Chances to Volunteer or Serve the Church

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS!

All treats, fruit, veggies, and finger food for Sunday refreshments after the service are donated by the congregation. Church Life Committee will provide coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Sunday morning refreshments during the fellowship hour after the service are a beloved part of Sunday mornings and we want to thank all of you who have donated finger food. Cash donations in the basket on the table go towards the coffee, teas, and creamer. If you have questions, call Mary Fraser at (509) 539-9807.

WE NEED YOU! CONSIDER JOINING THE VIDEO AND SOUND CREW

We have a fun and exciting opportunity for you to help with Sunday services. Not only do Sound and Video techs make services available online but also those who are watching from the Narthex. This is a great behind-the-scenes task, perfect for anyone who doesn't necessarily enjoy the spotlight. Contact the office to schedule your training.

SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who has already agreed to serve this month. Please consider helping in this way. Sign up using Sign-Up Genius, and you will receive a reminder before that Sunday. ([Click HERE- to sign up](#)). Also online are descriptions of the responsibilities ([Click HERE for descriptions](#)). Grab a fridge magnet from the front table in the Narthex that has the QR code to the sign-up, so you can easily sign up right from your phone.

March Council Meeting Summary

COUNCIL MEETING — March 12th, 2026

OLD BUSINESS: WISE has discussed deescalation and crisis response training, service animals during worship, chose wording for the May yard sign for Mental Health month, and will be working with JSA with the One Parish One Prisoner program. **Peace Village:** a logo is being created, and volunteers have been identified to fill various roles.

NEW BUSINESS: Unhoused Update: a camping Policy was approved by council (see [HERE](#)). **Fund Allocation for the Projector Purchase** was decided and approved by council. **Jim Dyson Bequest** was discussed and a team has been identified to decide on where the funds more appropriately fit as well as looking over endowments.

TREASURER'S REPORT: February income was low due to the last Sunday falling on the 22nd. Expenses were typical for the month.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Melanie led weekly worship services throughout February, transitioning from Epiphany to a Lenten focus on spiritual practices. Melanie has provided pastoral care, hosted a new members' course, officiated at a wedding, continued facilitating the grief group, and met with 14 individuals for "get to know your pastor" visits. Melanie continues to support the Peace Village steering team as they prepare for summer camp.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Planning of Peace Village is continuing. The committee discussed Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. The AMC theater has been rented out for an all ages showing of "The Mario Galaxy Movie."

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE: The committee helped with planning, organizing, and executing dinner for the Lenten Film Series, and Ash Wednesday, and looks forward to helping with Maundy Thursday, and Easter Breakfast.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The offering was faithfully counted and deposited.

JUSTICE & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE: During our February meeting, the Justice and Social Action (JSA) Committee learned about the One Parish One Prisoner program that is provided by Underground Ministries (<https://www.undergroundministries.org/opop>). The JSA and WISE committees are hoping that seven members of Shalom are interested in committing to walking alongside one currently incarcerated person on their journey home to our community. He will be released to Benton County this fall. The committee meets on Zoom on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in attending, contact Gretchen Hormel.

OUTREACH/INREACH COMMITTEE: O/I continued to meet weekly to discuss concerns and needs of the congregation. The advertising taskforce changed the sign to Choose Love for February.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Regular maintenance and groundskeeping, including pruning trees and bushes took place. The Youth Room and Classroom doors were assessed to be switched.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: The committee is working on advertising the OGHS special offering. Pledges have stayed the same and 25% of payments of those commitments have been paid.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Special services such as Ash Wednesday, Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Easter were planned. Camp Sunday, Mental Health Sunday, Laity Sunday, and more were discussed. The committee continued to look at ways to get more volunteers to sign up.

The next Hybrid Council meeting will be on Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 pm in the Shalom Library and on Zoom.

Ongoing Opportunities to Give

Disaster Relief:

Help others in need across our nation and throughout the world, by donating to the UCC Disaster Ministries by selecting "Emergency USA" or "International Emergency" at: www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation/

Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition (TCIC):

Help TCIC's work in assisting individuals on a one-to-one basis as well as large group advocacy. Donate by sending checks payable to: Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition at 5425 N Rd 68 Suite D #130 in Pasco, WA 99301

Thank You for Your Support



Click here to use Tithely

<https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=515ecc7c-6865-11ee-90fc-1260ab546d11>

Checks can be sent to 505 McMurray Street, Richland, WA 99354

Options for giving include:

- ✓ Shalom's 2026 General Fund to support Shalom's programs for all ages
- ✓ Support tree planting by Aid Africa to provide fruit, fuel, and fight climate change
- ✓ Remembering a loved one with a gift to Shalom's Memorial Fund
- ✓ Major Maintenance / Improvements, a restricted fund to save for Shalom's facility needs

In Tithely, choose from the menu of options under "Give to:"

- 2026 General Fund
- Aid Africa - Trees
- Shalom Memorial Fund
- Major Maintenance / Improvements (MMI)

With your check payable to Shalom UCC, add an appropriate memo.

Hanford High School Snack Update Keep those snacks coming!

Students will need the food support and extra calories over the next couple months as they face state testing, AP testing, and end of semester finals. For some kids, knowing there is community support for them is a big deal. Don't let them sit through class hungry. There is a bin in the Narthex labeled HHS Snack Support ready to receive individual serving size granola bars, chips, apple sauce, meat sticks, and more. Think like a hungry teen on the go.



If you have questions or would like to provide monetary support, reach out to Phyllis B. or Gretchen H.

***The newsletter was created by Lauralee Sorenson and edited by Rachel Reeder and Lora Rathbone.
Thank you to all who contributed information and pictures.***