



**January**  
**2020**



## **January**

- 1          New Years Day**
- 13        Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM**
- 11        Second Saturday Get Together (Holiday Un-Decorating of church)**
- 15        Hospitality Meeting 5:30 PM**
- 16        Church Council 7:00 PM**
- 23        SPRC Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 27        Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM**
- 29        Hospitality Meeting 5:30 PM**

### **Standing Meetings:**

**Every Tuesday: Praise Team Practice 6:00-8:15 PM**

**Every Wednesday: English Bible Study 7:00 PM**

# January



## Anniversaries & Birthdays

4 Linda Baxter; 7 Pastor Kevin Lee; 10 Lee Wright;  
13 Sheldon Stephen; 31 Melesiana Kete; 31 Nathan  
(Naca) Cavuilati

## **The Super Bowl (Advent Season) of the Christian Year**

When all the activities of the Advent Season of the year is finished, do you sense the paradox of relief and sadness when the beauty of Christmas is put away for another year? You are in a crowd of saints, if you do. We are touched by the message of Advent, the beautiful decorations and the community gatherings. We are also glad when the numerous energy consuming events in Advent are finished.

One of the ways to deal with those paradoxical feelings is to ask what opportunities God has for us, and me, in 2020. Then plan. After all, most of us want to grow our faith, but not be overwhelmed. We want to participate in community, but not organize the next Super Bowl event. SUMC has many little ways to participate in the life of the church and to feel connected. It would take just 30 minutes coming early one Sunday per month to be a greeter at one of the doors. It would take just a bit of your imagination to think of a phrase that speaks to those driving by the SUMC reader board. (Andy has another great phrase on our reader board right now.) Do you have a short story to share with our young people during Children's Time in the service? Would you be interested in participating in a small group experience for 6 to 8 weeks in Lent? Would you help by praying? Alicia has begun a list of people who are willing to pray for the church and members. You don't have to have an e-mail address to participate. Is your inner rehabilitated adult telling you that you need some music expression? The praise team group has a good time on Tuesday evenings. Do you have a song request for Sandre....or would you like to share your talents with a musical instrument? Call Sandre. Are you a proficient "Instagram" user? Would you spread SUMC news by Instagram? January is a good time to ask yourself how God's love can be reflected through you this year.

Submitted by Janelle

# SOCKS FOR NIGHTWATCH

“In its majestic equality, the law forbids rich and poor alike to sleep under bridges, beg in the streets, and to steal bread.” Anatole France

Shoreline UMC delivered 244 pairs of new socks to Nightwatch at the end of our fall drive. Socks are the most requested item of the homeless people in our streets. “Operation Nightwatch reduces the impact of poverty and homelessness, in keeping with Jesus’ teaching to love our neighbors.” Nightwatch’s vision (per website):

“Imagine no tents

No litter

No people alone under a bridge

No seniors without homes

Because there are friends, housing, health care, treatment for all.

At Nightwatch, we believe all this is possible,

Not simply because we imagine it,

But because God loves us all.”

With this vision Nightwatch offers a shelter, opportunities for ‘clients’ to serve others, launder, shower, get front-line medical care and rest. Always clergy are available. Since 1967 this ministry has gone out to meet people in the places of their need.

I volunteered with O.N. in the 80’s wearing a clerical collar and seeking people in communities around and at bars. It’s a joy to bring Christian witness where it is least expected and most needed. Shoreline has been a part of this ministry for years.

Submitted by Kristin Ellison-Oslin

# Let's Make This a Great Green(er) New Year

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Gordon and I wanted a focus for the New Year, since there are so many things calling for our attention. We chose Climate Change. We've signed up for the Sunrise Coalition and you just may see us out with the kids on some Friday. Soon, we'll have an event at our condo to share with others about the coalition and anyone at SUMC is invited.

Let's gather and exchange ideas! Since we shop at Costco once or twice a month, we get what we can in bulk. Our congregation could set up a sharing club and exchange perishables or what we can't store! While there this Monday, we picked up a calendar with ten (10) suggestions for a green New Year. This month we chose to lift up number 9: "Give single use plastics the boot."

"It's not just about keeping bottles and bags from clogging oceans and overflowing landfills. Many plastics are made of substances derived from natural gas and crude oil – non-renewable resources. Avoid common culprits like plastic straws, plastic bags, and plastic take-out utensils and containers; replace these plastics with your own reusable water bottles, coffee cups, grocery bags, and glass storage containers."

Easier said than done! Gordon claims that we have no 'single use' plastics because we always reuse and reuse. Well, I wash what we recycle and can tell you even bags get by. Even so, we replaced our 'to go' thermos cups this Christmas. Since we love sparking water, we bought a Soda Stream for the Orthodox Christmas (otherwise known as Epiphany) and refill the plastic bottles left over from our bad habits.. These are such small steps, they mean little alone, but if enough of us do it, we can make a difference.

Your faith calls you to make a difference in the world. Honoring God's gorgeous creation will call people who want to see Christians loving God in this way.

Submitted by Kristin Ellison-Oslin



# Recology's Focus on Improving Recycling Program

Recology, the company who provides service for SUMC solid waste disposal and recycling, has sent all customers a notice of an initiative to improve recycling by keeping non-recyclable materials, such as garbage and food waste, out of the recycling containers.

The short list of materials that are accepted in your recycling container (blue) are as follows:

- \*paper
- \*glass(bottles, jars)
- \*cardboard
- \*plastics (bottles, jugs, tubs)
- \*metal (aluminum, tin cans)

All of the above should be **EMPTY, CLEAN, and DRY**. Water bottles are a problem: moisture left in the bottle easily contaminates the paper in the bin inside the church and the container outside the church. We could have 2 bins (1 wet bin and 1 dry holding bin) under the table in the kitchen. This will require us to be more diligent about removing as much liquid as possible from bottles and placing those into the wet bin for drying.

Common contaminants that are **NOT** accepted in our blue recycling container:

- \*plastic bags or wrap
- \*styrofoam (Clean styrofoam can be recycled at the Recology Store on Aurora. Give to Janelle.)
- \*pizza boxes (Pizza boxes can be placed in the green bin for composting.)

Starting in March 2020, Recology staff will visually review the material in the blue container. If the container has 5% or less visible contamination, no action will be taken. If the visual appears to be more than 5 %, we will receive a notice on the container and a contact by phone or letter. After 3 follow-up assessments, a fee of \$25.00 per cart may be assessed to dispose of the materials as garbage.

In addition, the Recology Store on Aurora is giving a workshop on Saturday January 18 from 9AM to 10AM. We will also be inviting their education department to give a demonstration at the church in the near future.

Submitted by Janelle

# The United Methodist Split that Wasn't (yet)

It's been a busy news week for The United Methodist Church, and a frustrating one for people trying to distinguish fact from fiction, and possibility from promise.

While the structure and decision-making processes of The United Methodist Church have some internal logic, they are not intuitive. Many good United Methodists struggle to follow along with our system of governance; secular reporters even more so.

So, despite what many people saw in the news this week, The United Methodist Church hasn't split up. A decision like the one envisioned in "[The Protocol...](#)" can only be enacted by General Conference when it meets again this May in Minneapolis. It is unlikely to be a straight path from here to there.

In this week's News Digest, you'll find a number of news reports with local leaders trying to explain what did happen, and UMNS reports of a church trying to wrestle with the same. [A planned livestream](#) with protocol developers next Monday will hopefully provide an avenue to answer more questions.

If you have limited time, our siblings in the Desert Southwest Conference have pulled together [an excellent FAQ on the Protocol](#). I'm adding a link to it on our [GC2020 resource page](#); check it out!

Ministry continues in spite of denominational turmoil. My favorite surprise discovery this week was [Bay View UMC's great example](#) in a spotlight on local church prison ministry in Washington State. God continues to call us to offer hope to a world in desperate need of it; no need to wait for General Conference on that count.

Before you recycle this issue of the PNW News Digest, be sure to also check out a number of events happening between now and July. Registration is now open for events like the [Early Response Team training](#) in May, and closing soon for February's [Women in Ministry Retreat](#). Don't miss out!

*grace&peace*

**Patrick Scriven**

Director of Communications & Young People's Ministries