

THE TIDINGS

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



Beloved Church,

There is something sacred about walking with God. Not racing ahead. Not standing still. But walking, step by step, breath by breath, revelation by revelation. Scripture reminds us that faith has always been a journey. From Abraham leaving what was familiar, to Moses following a pillar through the wilderness, to the disciples leaving their nets to follow Jesus, the people of God have always been a people in motion. Faith is movement. Faith is trust. Faith is relationship.

Here at Admiral, we know something about that journey. We have intentionally chosen to be an Open and Affirming congregation, not simply as a statement about one group of people, but as a declaration about the kind of church we are called to be: a people open to the widening love of God, affirming the full dignity of every person, and responsive to what the Spirit is doing among us. To be Open and Affirming is not just about who is welcome through our doors. It is about being open and affirming to what God is doing next. Because God is not finished speaking. She is still speaking. Still moving. Still inviting us deeper into justice, compassion, truth, and transformation. And if we are honest, that can be both exciting and unsettling. God's movement often calls us beyond what is familiar and into what is possible.

That is why this month, we will be leaning into the concept of Process Theology. At its heart, process theology teaches us that God is not distant or unmoved, but deeply engaged in the unfolding life of the world. God is in relationship with creation, affected by our joys and

sorrows, always inviting us toward greater wholeness, love, and justice. Rather than controlling every outcome, God moves with us, luring us toward what is life-giving and liberating. This matters for us as a congregation. Because it reminds us that faith is not static. The church is not static. And we are not static. We are always becoming. Always learning. Always growing. Always being invited into new ways of embodying the Gospel.

Process theology helps us understand that the Spirit is active not only in scripture and tradition, but in our lived experiences, our relationships, and our discernment together as a community. It reminds us that God’s revelation is ongoing, and our task is to listen well. So this month, I invite you to listen. Listen for the Spirit in worship. Listen in conversation. Listen in discomfort. Listen in joy. Listen for what God may be making new in you, and in us. As we continue walking together, may we trust that the God who called us is still calling us. And may we have the courage to keep saying yes. In hope and in holy becoming,

Pastor Jermell

May Admiral Events

Worship Sundays at 10:30

Jazz Jam Tuesdays 5 - 7 at the HUB, music and art

Exploring Process Theology Study Thursdays beginning May 14th from 6 - 7pm on Zoom

- May 2** - Games, Games, Games 2-5 at the HUB
- May 3** - “Mothering Sunday”, Communion, First Sunday Potluck
- May 4** - Connections Dinner II at 6:00 at Peggy and Anita’s home
- May 5** Storage Re-Organization Work Party 9 -12 at SJB, RSVP to Anita
- May 5** - Connections Dinner III at 6:00 at Peggy and Anita’s home
- May 6** - Storage Re-Organization Work Party 9 -12 at SJB, RSVP to Anita
- May 7** - WS Garage Sale Work Party at the HUB 10 - 12
- May 8** WS Garage Sale Work Party at the HUB 10 - 12
- May 9** - West Seattle Garage Sale at the HUB 9 - 3
- May 12** - Admiral Neighborhood Assn. Meeting at the HUB 7:00
- May 19** - PFLAG Meeting 7:00-9:00 at SJB
- May 23** - Welcome Table Community Meal in White Center

OFFICE HOURS

Office Manager's Office Hours are Tues.-Thurs, 2:00 - 4:30 PM You can reach the Admiral Church office at 206.932.2928. The fastest way to contact us is via email at admiralchurchoffice@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours are Mondays 10:00 - 2:00 and Wednesdays 10:00 - 12:00 at Freshy's at 2735 California Ave SW. Make an appointment or just stop by. Additionally, individual Zoom sessions are available by appointment. Please call (470)669-0796 or email him at jermell.witherspoon@gmail.com to arrange a time.

TRUSTEES TEAM

Admiral Friends, your Trustees Team (Anita, Peggy, Laura S, Ken and Gerry) has been busy, as usual. As you remember, Trustees Team has three responsibilities:

Monitoring church finances. Pledged income and donations have been doing well, thank you all! However, we do continue to use funds from our Investment Account to augment cash flow for important expenses, such as payroll for our staff. These funds come primarily from Homestead Community Land Trust, as a part of their support of Admiral for the redevelopment project.

Buildings and Grounds. Not much to report here. The roof and gutters are not a problem in the drier seasons. We have reduced insurance on the building and converted to smaller waste receptacles for cost efficiency. Utility costs are down with decreased need for heat, electricity and water with less building use.

Rentals. Use of the 4320 building (now called the Admiral HUB) is winding down. Most regular users of the main floor have transitioned elsewhere, including our five 12-Step groups. There are a few more interesting rentals in May and June, including Pam Gerke's "Star Pieces" premiere on May 8, a service dog training class, several chamber music groups, West Seattle Indivisible, a junior high math competition and Tobi Stone jam sessions and jazz music camp!

Anita Shaffer, Trustees Team Leader

“MOTHERING SUNDAY”



JOIN US, for what we Call,
"MOTHERING SUNDAY!" (The
Sunday BEFORE Mother's
Day)

*Admiral Church, Honors
ALL Mother's!*

To those who mother in body, in spirit, in
community, and in love, seen and unseen, we
honor you.

ALSO, Join us after
service, for A special
Potluck!

**Bring a dish that tastes like love.
Your mom's favorite recipe, something that
reminds you of a mothering figure, or a meal that
honors someone you carry in memory.**

**However you come, we'll gather, share, and
remember, together.**

03

MAY

OUTREACH



On May 23rd, Admiral has the opportunity to “Feed the Hungry”!

Volunteer to prepare and donate food to the West Seattle Interfaith Network’s Welcome Table.

A large aluminum pan of any type of casserole is appreciated and will be added to the donations of other small churches like ours to feed over 200 people that day.

Donations should arrive at Body of Christ Church, located at 1320 Southwest 102nd Street, Seattle, WA 98146 by 11:30. You can just drop off or you can stay to help serve food and distribute clothing.

If you want to participate but can’t make the delivery yourself, call Susan Oatis (206)937-9292 and she will make arrangements to get the food there.



Do Justice

Love Mercy

Walk Humbly

FAITH JOURNEY COMMITTEE

The Faith Journey Committee (formerly Faith Journey Team) is made up of Anita, Kathy H, Gerry and Pastor Jermell. Our role is to “collaborate with the Pastor to provide opportunities for learning, exploration, and engagement in support and enhancement of people’s faith journey.” We are very excited to be sponsoring a new Pastor-led book study on the subject of Process Theology. The book is *God of Becoming and Relationships*. Please see separate article in this volume of the *Admiral Tidings*. And do join us!

Anita Shaffer, Faith Journey Committee Chair

PROCESS THEOLOGY STUDY THURSDAYS BEGINNING MAY 14TH

May 14th, we'll begin a new faith formation series exploring **Process Theology** - a way of thinking about God, creation, and our lives as part of an unfolding, living relationship. We'll gather Thursdays from 6-7 PM, on Zoom, for six weeks of conversation and reflection led by Pastor Jermell.

This series is intended as a starting point for our ongoing faith journey together in 2026. Additional programs including book discussions and opportunities to engage questions of justice and race are planned as the year unfolds. We hope you can join us as we learn, reflect, and continue getting to know each other more deeply.

Admiral Church
Virtual Book Study

GOD
of Becoming
and
Relationship
THE DYNAMIC NATURE
OF PROCESS THEOLOGY

Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, DHL
author of *Passing Life's Tests: Spiritual Reflections on the Trail of Abraham, the Binding of Isaac*

We'll be here.
The Spirit will
be here. All
that's missing...
is you!

Beginning May 14, we'll
gather Thursdays from
6-7 PM, on Zoom, for six
weeks of conversation
and reflection led by
Pastor Jermell

**ZOOM: Meeting ID:
859 1849 6924**

All are welcome! come
grow, question, and
discover a God you may
have never met before, or
endeavor to know more
about, alongside a
community of fellow
seekers at Admiral's Book
Study.

Admiral
Church

Check out our Socials
<https://www.instagram.com/admiral>
<https://www.facebook.com/AdmiralChurch>
<https://admiral.church/>

CONNECTIONS TEAM

Your Connections Team (Anita, Peggy, Anne and Cliff) has been busy keeping Admiral Church “connected”... to each other and to our community.

We have negotiated the use of the St John’s Community Room for our weekly Coffee Hours and monthly Potlucks, giving us more space and less post-worship chaos. Yay! This means that we will need more assistance with setup and takedown, however. Look for signup sheets coming soon to a table near you! And thank you in advance. It’s going to be worth it!

Connections Team is also hosting three congregational dinners to help better connect us to each other and to our new Pastor Jermell. One was held on April 30, the other two will be on May 4 and 5. Hope to see you all there! This is one of the benefits of being a cozy, intimate congregation!

Another thing your Connections Team does is to offer rides to appointments and meals to those for whom this would be a blessing. If you are able to participate in this form of service, please contact any of us to volunteer!

And thanks to Elise Piraino for the beautiful and thoughtful birthday and special occasion cards she sends to all of us on behalf of Admiral Church!

Anita Shaffer, Trustees Team Leader

CONNECTION DINNERS

The last 2 Connections Dinners at the home of Anita Shaffer and Peggy Rich will take place on May 4th and May 5th at 6:00 by invitation. These are social events, not meetings! Come and get to know each other better and enjoy an evening in a casual home setting. All food will be provided, just bring your lovely selves. The first dinner was a smashing success, enjoyed by all!

SIGN-UP: HOST POTLUCKS AND COFFEE HOUR

In an effort to lighten the load of the Worship Support Teams, the Congregational Connections Team has volunteered to take responsibility for the monthly First Sunday Potlucks and weekly Coffee Hours.

The Team's first action was to alleviate the chaos of setting up in our worship space, so beginning May 3 we will meet after worship in the SJB Community Room.



We will have sign ups for Potluck and Coffee Hour Hosts at the Welcoming Table by the Admiral Chapel entrance. The Hosts are the organizers of the get togethers. Their job is essentially to recruit others to help set up and clean up before and after our social times together. Those who sign up to be Hosts will receive a list of what needs to be done. Any of us could be Hosts. Some would not be able to do the physical set up and clean up - that's why we have each other! Just asking usually gets results!

MUSIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Music Advisory Committee was formed about 12 years ago to provide support, both financial and hands-on/brainstorming, for our fine Admiral Music Program. The MAC is made up of our Director of Music Ministry Sam Peters, our Pastor Jermell, several members of the Choir (Peggy, Kathy, Uta and Anita) and several non-Choir members (Wes, Bridgett and Tobi). Space and time constraints have not permitted any big projects recently, but the MAC has been actively supporting requests from Sam for funding for soloists and special music. We have also been instrumental (yes, I know that is a pun...) in finding storage and adoptive homes for our Admiral organ and pianos. Who knows what's next?!

Anita Shaffer, Music Advisory Committee Chair

MAKING MORE ROOM



As we all know our worship space in the Admiral Chapel at SJB is pretty small. We also know that we need to grow our church to survive! When visitors come to our space they need to feel that there is “space for them” in order for them to return. Soooo...we need to make more space with what we have. If we were to clear our most of the materials stored in the Chapel by moving it downstairs to the office, we could put another row of chairs in our space.

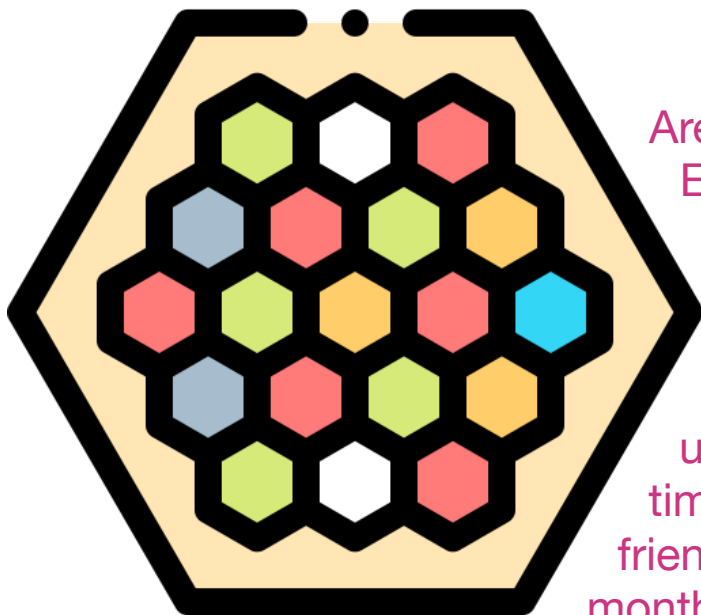
Sooo...we need some help doing just that - moving the bins downstairs, moving table out of the space, and moving shelves. To do this work we are having a couple of Work Parties the mornings of May 5th and May 6th from 9:00 - 12:00. If you would volunteer on the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table it would be much appreciated. We have hand trucks and an elevator! We can do this!

We will also be doing some calling to our physically able members if we do not get some volunteers.

If you have questions, contact Anita (206)300-6974 or Peggy (206)460-3021.

GAMES, GAMES, GAMES

MAY 2nd at 2:00-5:00



Are you an old-fashioned gamer?
Expert or beginners are welcome.
Hands on boardgames, traditional games, new games, card games, whatever type of game you like to play - this is your chance to show us what you've got! Come share a fun time with church friends and their friends on the first Saturday of each month!

ADMIRAL'S JAPANESE MAPLE'S NEW HOME



"Your tree now lives in a beautiful garden in Snohomish. These are very good customers of ours and excellent tree stewards so I was very happy when they decided on your tree! I can assure you it has many good years ahead of itself and will be well loved by its new family. Please let everyone in your church know!"

PFLAG MEETING MAY 19th at 7:00-9:00
At the Admiral Chapel at SJB

PFLAG is changing location to the Admiral Chapel at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in May. On every third Tuesday night, Cori and Anita will be there to provide peer-to-peer support, publications, toolkits, and other resources to make sure that the family members of people who are LGBTQ+ get the support they need.



Please join us for our next PFLAG meeting on Tuesday, May 19th @7:00 PM (note time change)! Supporters are welcome!

STAR PIECES MAY 8 FROM 6-9 AT THE HUB

World Premier



by Pamela Gerke

written, composed & illustrated by Pamela Gerke

music recording designed by Pamela Gerke & Tom Fallat, with a cast of thousands!

Friday, May 8, 2026

6 - 9pm

Admiral Hub

4320 SW Hill St, Seattle, WA 98116 (West Seattle)

Please RSVP: info@HeartsHealthArts.org

Please join Pam Gerke for a celebration of the completion of “Star Pieces”, a creative piece in a unique format: a “comics musical”!

At this Premiere the creator, Pamela Gerke, will narrate the story as we view the illustrated pages on a movie screen. When each song appears in the story we’ll hear its recording.

Join us at the Admiral Hub at 4320 SW Hill Street:

6pm: Doors open; please join us for champagne and hors d’oeuvres.

6:30pm: The Premiere will begin and run approximately 2 hours.



“Star Pieces” is produced by HEARTS: Health & Arts

<https://heartshealtharts.org/>

The World Premiere is hosted by Admiral Church

<https://admiral.church/>

MOTHER EARTH SPRING COMMUNITY CONCERT
ALKI UCC, MAY 14 AT 7:30
6115 SW HINDS ST.

You're invited to a concert at Alki UCC!

Daniel Self, Music Director
Alki United Church of Christ (Alki UCC)
6115 SW Hinds

Information: <https://www.alkiucc.org>

The Earth Mother program, featuring the Alki UCC Community Choir and friends, celebrates themes of nature and motherhood through a range of provocative and compelling contemporary choral works by living composers.

A Green Voice by Mari Isabel Valverde
Earth Song by Frank Ticheli
Fire from "The Elements" by Katerina Gimon
The Music of Living by Dan Forest
The Rose by Ola Gjeilo
They Are Mother by Jennifer Lucy Cook
The Water Is Wide by Rene Clausen

Free Admission/Donations welcome



TRASHASAURUS REX CONCERT MAY 29 7:00



T

Let's go together and cheer for Rev Allysa and the band! (Gentle heads-up: some spirited language may occur!)

Do Justice

Love Mercy

Walk Humbly

TOBI'S JAZZ HANG
WHERE "CREATIVES" GET TOGETHER
AT THE ADMIRAL HUB
Tuesdays 5 - 7

Tobi Stone holds a weekly jazz improv jam for all ages in the Sanctuary. Jazz standards and rare swing tunes- easy sight reading, fun jamming! Beginners learn from advanced students, and advanced players get a chance to play with others. Call Tobi with questions at 206.412.0145. All are welcome, so dust off that clarinet, saxophone or piccolo and join Tobi for a relaxing, fun evening. Listeners are welcome.



TOBI STONE'S SPRING STUDENT SHOWCASE JUNE 7TH 3:30-5:30 SJB PARISH HALL

Do you wonder what Tobi Stone has been up to at Admiral HUB! Come June 7th from 3:30 - 5:30 to here her students as they are progress id showcased. Tobi is a patient, talented teacher. Come support her efforts in teaching both children and adults in our community!

**Worship Service
every Sunday @ 10:30
www.admiralchurch.org**



***Admiral Congregational
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