

THE TIDINGS

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

Too Good to Hold

Admiral Church's Stewardship Campaign

Theme Scripture: Matthew 5:14–16

14 You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.



Dear Admiral Family,

As we enter stewardship season, we do so with great hope and expectation for the beautiful fruit it will produce. This isn't your average stewardship letter. Then again, we aren't your average church. This year our stewardship theme is **Too Good to Hold**, because after praying, dreaming, worshiping, laughing, crying, serving, and building together, we came to one simple conclusion: What God is doing here is simply too good to keep to ourselves. Jesus tells us not to hide our light under a basket. Why? Because light was never created to be hidden. It was created to illuminate, to guide, to warm, and to help others find their way home. That is who Admiral Church has become.

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." – Martin Luther King Jr.

Every Sunday, we gather as a community of love, hope, and justice, a people who strive to truly see one another and honor each person as God's beloved. At Admiral, our faith is not measured by fear, but by our commitment to embodying Micah's call to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." Here, questions are welcomed, authenticity is celebrated, and every person, every race, every gender identity, every sexual orientation, every age, every ability, every story, is a reminder of the goodness God placed within all.

That's too good to hold.

But our ministry doesn't end when worship does. Outside these walls, we are building genuine relationships with neighbors. We are showing up in moments of joy and moments of grief. We are feeding people spiritually and practically. We are partnering with organizations that seek justice. We are creating a healthy community in a world where isolation so easily can be the default. Perhaps one of the most remarkable things happening through Admiral is that we are dreaming beyond ourselves. Through our partnership in creating permanently affordable housing, we are helping ensure that future generations, including communities that have too often been pushed to the margins, have opportunities to build stability, dignity, and wealth. That is Gospel work. That is stewardship. That is justice lived out. We are a church that worships on Sunday and imagines equity for generations on Monday... **That's too good to hold.**

You want to know a secret? Stewardship has never been only about paying bills. Stewardship is about participating in God's unfolding story. It's about asking: "What has God entrusted to me that was never meant to stay with only me?" Because the truth is, our gifts are too good to hold. Your compassion. Your wisdom. Your creativity. Your laughter. Your experience. Your time. Your generosity. Your prayers. Your presence. Your beautiful, eclectic, wonderfully unique self. Every one of us carries something this community needs. The light you carry may be exactly what helps someone else find hope. The smile you offer may be exactly what reminds someone they belong. The conversation you have at coffee hour, may become someone's first experience of genuine community. Each financial gift you make becomes the ministry that changes someone's life years from now.

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." – Martin Luther King Jr.

The volunteer hour you give may become the reason someone walks through our doors and discovers they have always been loved.

Don't keep your amazingness to yourself.

Stewardship is not simply giving money, but offering our Time, Talent, and Treasure, so that God's love keeps moving through the world. Every act of generosity says, "I believe what God is doing here deserves to grow." Every gift says, "I believe more people deserve to experience this community." Every volunteer hour says, "I want to help make room at the table." Every pledge says, "I believe tomorrow can be even more beautiful than today." We have watered something extraordinary together. Now imagine what could bloom if every one of us decided not to hide our light.

Imagine new neighbors finding home. Imagine more children growing up knowing they are loved exactly as they are. Imagine more seniors finding community. Imagine more people discovering faith without fear. Imagine justice taking deeper root in West Seattle. Imagine generations looking back and saying, "Because they were faithful, we flourished." Church family, this ministry is far too beautiful to remain exactly as it is. Admiral Church United Church of Christ, is meant to grow, to stretch, to welcome, to heal, to transform.

The fruit we are producing, is what manifests when ordinary people decide to share the extraordinary gifts God has already placed within them. So, as we begin this stewardship season, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you will invest in the future of Admiral Church. Not because we need something **from you**. But because we believe God wants to do something **through you**. Your light is too good to hide. Your gifts are too good to keep. This community is too good to hold. Together, let's continue building a foundation of faith, forming a community of radical belonging, and becoming the kind of church our world desperately needs. With gratitude and hope.

Cue the music...  walks away humming, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine..."

The Stewardship Committee

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." – Martin Luther King Jr.

This Vision Statement of Admiral Church (adopted in 12/2008)

**Following in Christ's footsteps,
we will make a difference:
inspiring each other to live transformed lives,
reflecting God's light,
reaching out to the un-served and the unseen in our
community, and
seeking diversity, peace, and justice in our world,
with courage to be bold and to take risks,
trusting in God in the present and the future.**

How do you think we are doing on living into our vision for ourselves that was written eighteen years ago? I think we are doing pretty well! Just reading the Stewardship Letter for 2027, I can't help but think about how proud I am of Admiral Church and all that we have done and are doing to live into these words. As we get closer to the beginning of the Affordable Housing Project, I find myself a little sad because the old church held some great memories for me, but also very excited about the future of what Admiral Church will become in a few short years. The in-between time of transition has gone well so far and we have no reason to believe that that will change. We just need to continue to be "the little church that could" make a difference.

Peggy Rich, Moderator

Summer Food Drive

The Summer Food Drive has wrapping up with over \$2,000 donated to the White Center Food Bank for the purchase of meat, eggs, fresh vegetable and fresh fruit for their clients. Great job! The money will enable the food bank to buy much more fresh food from wholesalers than we know.



"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." – Martin Luther King Jr.

OUTREACH TEAM

Helping Hand Fund

CAN YOU LEND A HAND?

Did you know Admiral Church has a Helping Hand Fund? It is administered by the Outreach Team (Susan Oatis, Leader; Team members Peggy Rich and Anita Shaffer). Generous donors to this fund bless our community in so many ways! YOU could be one of them!

Here is a recent story of how the Helping Hand Fund was able to provide a blessing to someone in need. If you were in worship on Sunday, you may have noticed the gentleman who came in and sat in the front row on the left side of the sanctuary. He seemed unwell, and representatives of the Outreach Team were able to determine he was hungry, dehydrated and exhausted, unable to find a safe place to sleep. Using money from the Helping Hand Fund, we were able to provide him with a motel room, food and a mobile phone and then assist him toward resolving a situation which had been preventing him from traveling back east to family.

E Manuel was very grateful. In a text to me, he said: “I appreciate you all for listening to my needs and I feel accurately assessing them, as I feel folks can make a lot of assumptions. I am human and I need to be loved, also. Thank you.”

Do you want to be part of offering Admiral Church’s blessing to God’s children like E Manuel? You can contribute to the Helping Hand Fund! It is now in need of replenishing. Your check or online donation designated for Helping Hand will make a difference in the lives of those walking challenging paths. Reach Out!!

Outreach Team welcomes new members! Just talk to Susan Oatis to become a part of this inspiring ministry. THANKS!!

Anita Shaffer for Outreach Team

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

CONNECTIONS TEAM



The Connections Team has taken on the organization of the Potluck and Coffee Hour sign-ups for after church socializing. Two weeks before a new month begins a sign-up sheet for hosting these social events will be presented and passed around during church and coffee hour. Those who sign up will be sent a sheet of directions detailing the tasks involved so that they can plan efficiently.

Please consider signing up to help spread the work load of those who have been doing it for years. It isn't difficult and it will help A LOT!

TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Everything we will need from inside the old church building has been moved out and put in storage. The bell is all safely tucked away. The doors and, possibly, the cross will be managed later by Homestead and Third Place Design.

Homestead Community Land Trust will be putting signage at the property at 4320 SW Hill Street on September 15th. Drive by and see what it says! Expect official property donation exchange soon! It's actually happening!!!

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." — Martin Luther King Jr.

CONNECTIONS TEAM

CONNECTIONS TEAM EVENTS

Your Connections Team and a dedicated group of volunteers succeeded in putting Admiral Church's "Best Foot Forward" at two West Seattle events in August.

ALKI BEACH PRIDE on August 19 was a crazy, fun splash at which West Seattle showed off its PRIDE and its beautiful beach to a diverse and exuberant crowd. Admiral Church's booth was bedecked with rainbow flags, balloons and impressive displays of our Affordable Housing redevelopment project. Volunteers in bright Admiral tee shirts got plenty of opportunity to talk to interested folks and hand out brochures about the project, the WA Reparations course and the Food Drive.

Thanks SO MUCH to our dedicated volunteers! Peggy Rich and Anita Shaffer concept and creation; Anita Shaffer and Ken Kriekenbeck set-up; Pastor Jermell, Ken Kriekenbeck, Elise Piraino, Stephanie Trinneer, James South, Steve Azzola, Wes Andersen, Allison Reid, Anita Shaffer booth staffers; Peggy Rich transportation; Anita Shaffer and Miguel (friend from PFLAG) take-down.

ADMIRAL BLOCK PARTY on September 25 was an event produced by the Admiral Neighborhood Association to showcase our beautiful Admiral area and its merchants and organizations. What a blast! Admiral Church had great booth position just north of the Admiral Theater and took advantage of the opportunity to display our Affordable Housing project and answer lots of questions from fascinated neighbors and friends. The response was uniformly positive! And we had a chance to show off our Admiral Church tee shirts again! Ha!

Thanks to the stalwart volunteers for this event as well; you will note some incorrigible repeaters, ha. Peggy Rich and Anita Shaffer concept and creation; Anita Shaffer and Mike Piraino set-up; Pastor Jermell, Tobi Stone, Ken Kriekenbeck, Elise Piraino, Mike Piraino, Laura Sutkus, Susan Oatis, James South, Steve Azzola, Allison Reid, Anita Shaffer booth staffers; Ken Kriekenbeck, James South, Steve Azzola, Anita Shaffer take-down.

Nice work, All! We got the word out about our uniquely Spirited and Beloved Admiral Church!

Anita Shaffer, Connections Team Leader

["We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." – Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

FAITH JOURNEY, SACRED RECKONINGS AND RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEES

WA: REPARATIONS STARTING SEPT 24!

Have you wished you understood more about what it could mean for the United States to make reparations to the descendants of enslaved persons? To really make amends for the untold sufferings of their ancestors, with whose blood and toil our nation was built? To make amends for years, decades, centuries of economic, social, educational, medical, housing, legal and citizenship injustice, all still ongoing?

Have you wished you could be an ally in bringing about that reparative justice, but just didn't know where to start?

Well, here's a great place: Beginning on September 24, brought to you by your Faith Journey, Racial Justice and Sacred Reckonings Committees, is this 8-session Zoom education and action series:

WA: REPARATIONS is a series of eight Thursday evening Zoom sessions from 6-7:00 pm. Each evening will be led by experts on this topic and will include personal testimony and interactive action planning, as well as education. Here are the subjects for these sessions:

- Sep 24 Foundations: How the System was built; implications for WA State.
- Oct 1 Bondage, de facto bondage, employment and work conditions.
- Oct 8 Land: The promise, the reversal, the subsidy.
- Oct 15 Housing in WA: Covenants, redlining and displacement.
- Oct 22 Health, medical exploitation and the health gap.
- Oct 29 Citizenship: Schools, the ballot and the call.
- Nov 5 Reparations and reparative justice on the way.
- Nov 12 Wayfinding forward.

Leaders include Rev Elizabeth Gordon, Michael Gordon, Rev Craig Rennebohm and Rev Jermell Witherspoon.

[“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” – Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

The sessions are free, though registration is requested, to enable break-out planning. Please see our admiral.church website.

Two books can be read, at recommendation of the course leaders, as background: : “From Here to Equality” by William Darity; “Getting to Reparations” by Dorothy Brown. These are available online or in the Admiral Church sanctuary (\$20 to Peggy Rich). The books are not required, however, and you can still get a lot out of these sessions, even if you have not had time to read them yet.

PLEASE JOIN US! Your heart tells you this is the right path forward. The Jesus path. Follow it! Learn more! And **ACT! REGISTER TODAY!**

Anita Shaffer, Faith Journey Committee Chair



[“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” – Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

PFLAG MEETING MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21st

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 Monday night, Cori and Pastor Jermell 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.

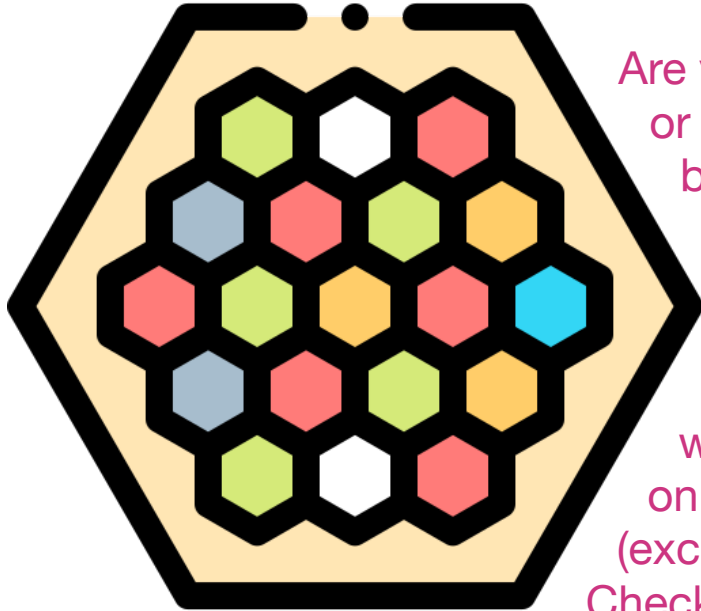


Please join us for our next PFLAG meeting on Monday, September 21st @7:00 PM! Supporters are welcome!

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

GAMES, GAMES, GAMES

SEPTEMBER 12th from 2:00-5:00. (Note date change)



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 (except this Saturday)! Check with Laura Sutkus for location.

TOBI'S JAZZ HANG

Tuesdays 2-9

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.



"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." – Martin Luther King Jr.



OFFICE HOURS

Office Manager's Office Hours are Tues.-Thurs, 2:00 - 4:00. Closed Monday and Friday. 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. Make an appointment or just stop by. Additionally, individual Zoom sessions are available by appointment. Please call (206)471-1597 or email him at jermell.witherspoon@gmail.com to arrange a time and location.

***Admiral Congregational
United Church of Christ
3050 California Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98116
(206) 932-2928
admiralchurchoffice@gmail.com***

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” – Martin Luther King Jr.