

Alki United Church of Christ

6115 SW Hinds ❖ Seattle WA 98116 ❖ www.alkiucc.org

May 14, 2020

Wow. If a traveler from the future had handed us a newspaper from today one year ago we might have collectively decided to move into a sealed bunker!

A world-wide pandemic with mounting death tolls. Stay Home orders that protect our health, but also inflict economic devastation, often on our most vulnerable. Mounting tensions around the world as those who purport to lead find it easier to engage in blame.

Closer to home we find it hard to leave home as a failed bridge isolates us from one another and our larger community. And even closer to home, the resignation of our Minister of Music leaves our own church community reeling, with some of our beloved congregation deciding to move on. It's a lot. A bunker could sound pretty good about now ...

It's in moments like these that our faith is tested. It's in moments like these that we need to pause, take a breath, and listen. For our God, the God of all creation, is still speaking. Still leading. Still our God.

Alki UCC has been the church by the beach in West Seattle for 110 years. In its First Act the church was little more than a Sunday School, around the point on Childers street in a wild frontier town before the old sanctuary was built on our current site in 1926.

After enduring The Great Depression and a World War, Alki's congregation emerged stronger than ever to grow into its Second Act by building our new Sanctuary in 1957. In addition to the phenomenon of post-WWII marriages, affordable housing was abundant in Seattle's Alki area to accommodate the region's many growing, young families. During the 50's, and 60's our church was packed with children in bustling Sunday School classes and Youth Groups.

Sixty years later we find that the church we inherited has challenges as daunting as those our forebearers faced. And like them, we can turn to God to lead us into our Third Act. An Act that will see us building on each other's amazing strengths and the resources at our disposal to find new and exciting ways to continue sharing God's love with each other and the world.

To those of our beloved friends who have expressed their intent to move on, we hold you in our hearts and send wishes for your wellbeing. 2020 challenges our entire faith community to build on the momentum catalyzed by Hope Partnership and our House Meetings, a process that led us to a better understanding of who we are and what is important to us as a congregation.

Our Mission and Redevelopment teams are using that information as a springboard to define our Third Act. Yes, it's a little scary, as uncharted waters are. God never promised anyone that progress would be easy, only that it's worth the effort. Faith, Hope and Love. With those, we have no room for fear.





Stewardship 2020: The Third Act

You'll see details about church finances in next week's mailing. The short story is that we ran a big deficit in 2019-20, and are likely to run an even bigger one in the coming year. Deficits like these are not sustainable, but we have resources to see us through the next few years while our Third Act unfolds.

In the meantime we ask you to prayerfully consider your 2020-21 Pledge to Alki UCC. If possible, we ask you to increase your Pledge from last year to see us through this time of transition and uncertainty.

We also ask that you consider fulfilling your Pledge in the coming year through your bank or credit union's bill payment system. All banks have a process for you to set up monthly payments on the day of your choosing, when a check will be mailed to the church on your behalf. It usually takes just a few minutes to set up. Such regular giving really helps our Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Council by letting them know what to expect month-in and month-out.

We are excited to see where God leads us as a congregation in the coming year. Growing Together, as Disciples of Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,

Your 2020 Stewardship Team:

Gary Gesellchen

Julia Chase

Charley Rosenberry

Laura Petrie



How to donate:

Next week's snail-mailing will include a pledge card to fill out and return. In the meantime, please use one of the following giving options. Thank you.

- Set up payments through your bank or credit union's automatic Bill Pay system. You can probably do that online with a few simple clicks.
- Mail checks made out to "Alki UCC" to 6115 SW Hinds, Seattle, WA 98116
- Make secure, online donations via the donate button on our website's home page: alkiucc.org
- Write "alkiucc" in the message of a text and address to 44321. You will receive a return text with a donations link.

Thank you!