

CONNECT WITH BLAINE!

7 | Pastor Mia: Coram Deo 10 | Anne: The Three Marys







News from our Senior Pastor

New life at Blaine Memorial UMC!

By Rev. Karen Yokota Love, additional photos courtesy of Wikipedia, et. al.

The season of Lent is coming to an end; the days are getting longer, the sun is shining more, the cherry blossoms are in full bloom, and signs of new life are beginning to appear all around us. For Christians, the season of Lent prepares us to receive new life, in particular, one that we experience in the resurrection of Jesus celebrated on Easter Day. New life is all around us as Blaine Memorial UMC reignites activity through our many ministries! The campus is full of activity as we gather together as a faith community while neighborhood community groups are utilizing our campus. The vibrancy at Blaine is energizing. Sukiyaki Dinner preparations are underway and we are thrilled to announce joyfully that we will host a Sukiyaki Take-Out on Saturday, April 29 from 2pm-6pm!

As we close this 40-day Lenten journey, the walk of Holy Week draws us deeper into the story of God's profound love for the world. We will journey through the events of Palm Sunday when our emotions will range from gleeful joy to humble wonder to dark sadness. Good Friday will bring us to the broken, pain-filled sorrow of death.

On Easter Day, the resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals God's gift to us in the truth of the new life of Jesus: the truth that God is a God of love who walks with us and brings us to a place of wholeness, a place of possibility, a place of new life. New life that is grounded in hope and compassion. New life that is deeply connected to God's love and passionate about sharing that love with the world.



Easter Egg Hunt | Last year's Easter Egg Hunt was welcomed with excitement after two years of not having an egg hunt due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to your participation at this year's Egg Hunt in the Courtyard!

New life that reveals God's justice in ways that transform not only our lives, but the whole world.

I invite you to join us in the rituals of Holy Week!



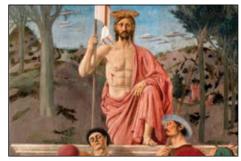
Palm Sunday April 2, 2023 at 10am

Celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with palm fronds!



Good Friday April 7, 2023 at 7pm

We will remember Jesus' sacrifices and unwavering love for us. It will be wonderful to worship, collaborate, and reunite with our friends from Japanese Baptist Church. Join us at 6pm for a simple soup supper meal.



Easter SundayApril 9, 2023, Breakfast at 8:30am,
Worship at 10am

Celebrate the resurrected Christ! Join us for Easter Breakfast. Bring flowers for the Cross. Children are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt in the Courtyard.

Peace to you during this Holy Week and Easter season. My prayer: may your life be transformed by the new life of Jesus, by God's justice, by God's love and passion, and by this truth: Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! 4

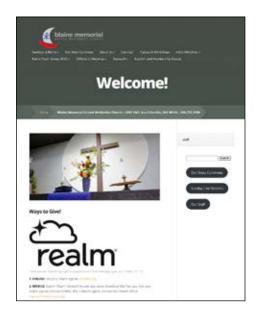
More news from our Senior Pastor

Asian American UMC, blaineonline.org is back!



For the first time in a long time, the New Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM) met on March 2, 2023 for a NFAAUM General Assembly Meeting in Nashville, Tenn. at the GCFA Denman Building. This was the first time the group met in person in more than seven years. We voted on a new name change, had a finance update, and dreamed of a new vision for The United Methodist Church on a

connectional level. More importantly, it was wonderful to see colleagues in person since before the pandemic. NFAAUM is one of the five officially recognized racial ethnic caucuses in the United Methodist Church and seeks to empower and advocate on behalf of Asian American United Methodist laity, clergy, local congregations, and ministries at all levels of the UMC. Rev. Karen is the chair of the National Japanese American United Methodist Caucus.







blaineonline.org

Blaineonline.org | Check out Blaine Memorial's website! Look forward to updated ministry pages, Sukiyaki updates, links to worship services, Sunday Worship resources, and links to how you can help give and financially support the church!

BY GUPDATE BLAINE YOUTH GROUP

By Lawrence Paltep, B.Y.G. Co-Director Additional photos by Kai Yamamoto

Blaine Youth Group (B.Y.G.) is a thriving ministry at Blaine Memorial **UMC**, where youths are supported by leaders dedicated to their faith journey, pastors who nurture spiritual guidance, and families who provide for the needs of the group. The following are some of the photos from the past few months.





Collaborative Youth On February 24 to 25, Beacon United Methodist Church and our B.Y.G. had a collaborative overnight event. About 40 people joined with 25 staying for the overnighter. In the spirit of community, we enjoyed a potluck, sang worship songs, did three devotionals, partook in communion, participated in small group workshops, and played games.

Leaders from Beacon and Blaine Memorial UMCs served dinner to our young people. There were diverse food options for the participants to enjoy.

Youth and leaders introduced themselves and prayed over the various food brought by participants. They were asked to bring food that represented a part of who they are.

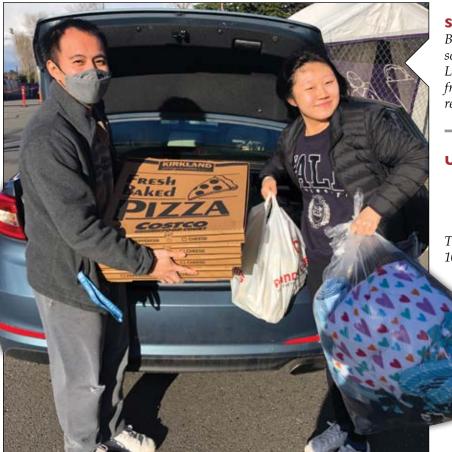
Revs. Karen Yokota Love and Mia MiKyung Park served the youth and leaders communion after the Lenten devotional led by Rev. Karen.







Fun & Games (Above) During a Sunday gathering, B.Y.G. played a game where they tossed a ball in a specific order, passing the ball to everyone as fast as possible, which made people burst into laughter. Who knew you could be silly and serious all at the same time? (Left) In a workshop led by Kai Yamamoto, youth built structures from spaghetti and marshmallows. Aidan and Marcus show the tallest and most stable structure in the group.



Special Delivery | Due to the weather, B.Y.G. could not cook for Tent City 3 residents as scheduled. Instead of cooking and delivering a meal, Lawrence, Gloria, and Pastor Mia delivered pizza, fruit, and 14 blankets for them. Note: The B.Y.G. rescheduled their new service to Sunday, March 26.

Upcoming Plans for B.Y.G.

- **April 8-9:** Easter Sunday Overnighter
- April 16, 23, 30: Fellowship Gatherings **4**

The Blaine Youth Group meets on Sundays at 10:00am in the sanctuary then in the Nishida Room. If you are interested in growing spiritually, learning acceptance of self and others, and developing a love for God and neighbor, contact Lynne Onishi & Lawrence Paltep - co-directors of Youth Ministry at Blaine Memorial UMC (lynneonishi@gmail.com or lawrence.byg@gmail.com respectively).

What does new life look like to you? As we welcome the Easter season and see signs of new life springing up around us, what are you noticing about the world? What are you noticing about yourself? What are you noticing about God?

Our Innovation Hub Team and Reconciling Ministries Task Force continue to wonder about new life in the context of this Church. What is God calling our church to do or be, but in ways that are new? Recently, we've learned how to foster community and belonging for young adults through our monthly activities and how to be both inclusive and faithful people of God through our Reconciling Ministries Bible study series. And yet, we know God has many more dreams for new life in this community! It is up to all of us to listen, discern, and dream alongside God in this innovative work!

Reconciling Ministries Q and A:

We are bringing back our Reconciling Ministries Q and A series this month! In previous newsletter articles, we explained what the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) is and how joining the RMN would change things at Blaine Memorial UMC. This month, we would like to share more about the process of becoming officially reconciling and lay out our reconciling journey at Blaine Memorial thus far.

Q: What does a church have to do to become reconciling? Where is Blaine Memorial in this process, currently?

A: All churches who are discerning whether to become reconciling



Rev. Mia MiKyung Park, Lynne Onishi, Rev. Karen Yokota Love, Barbara Nagaoka, Miriam Tong, and Anne Arakaki-Lock participated in a zoom Reconciling Ministries Bible Study over Zoom.

Innovation Hub Update Listen, Discern, and Dream

By Lynne Onishi, B.Y.G. Co-Director

are first advised to form a team of congregation members to steer their church's process. Because each church is unique, the team plays an important role in shaping their unique church's reconciling journey. The team's task is to help the congregation make informed decisions about joining RMN. This might mean answering questions from church members or providing education around LGBTQIA+ issues in the church. Churches join the RMN by voting to adopt a reconciling statement, which must receive support from 75% of the congregation. When the team feels like the congregation is ready to take a vote, they help the church set up protocols for voting.

Our Reconciling Ministries Task Force formed July 2022. Since then, we have been dialoguing with you all about what it means to be an accepting and affirming church. We surveyed dozens of you in August and September to hear your questions and concerns about becoming reconciling. We have hosted film and discussion events throughout the year to provide a space for candid sharing and processing. We are currently leading a Bible study that explores how United Methodists can be faithful and inclusive at the same time. We hope these have been meaningful and thought-provoking opportunities for you to share and learn alongside one another. This spring, we will prepare to take a vote. Before we do, we'd like to take a closer look at the Reconciling Statement with you all. Please stay tuned for more news on this!

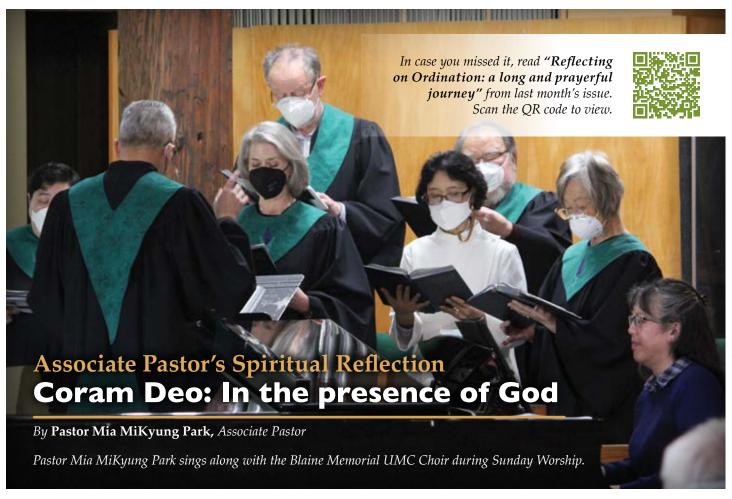


The IH team and RM Task Force are always looking for new folks to join us. If you feel called to lend your voice to these important ministries, we invite you to join us at our next team Zoom meeting. Please contact Lynne or any of the other team members for more information.

Upcoming Events:

- Wed. Apr. 5, 7:00 p.m.: RM Bible Study Session #3 (Zoom)
- To Be Determined: Young Adult event

Contact Lynne Onishi with questions about the IH team or Reconciling Ministries, lynneonishi@gmail.com. Onishi serves as the convener of the Innovation Hub Team.



My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. *I* do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

"Thoughts in Solitude", (1958)

I pray that all of our Blaine Memorial community have a meaningful Lent. Each year I set a Lenten theme and this year's theme is Coram Deo. Coram Deo means, "in the presence of God" and is an idea of Christians living in the presence of, under the authority of, and to the honor and glory of God. During this Lent, I pray to become more attentive in listening to God and I want to be more sincere and faithful in the presence of God each day.

I am grateful to share that I passed the Oregon-Idaho Board of Ordained Ministry interview in February. I feel deeply appreciative and relieved. I want to express my gratitude to the village of Blaine Memorial for your continued prayer and support. It takes multiple villages to equip pastors and I want to say THANK YOU! I am preparing to present myself to the Oregon-Idaho Clergy Session in May, and I need to get 2/3 of their votes. This long path of my ordination journey has been intentional and a life-transforming experience.

Whenever I became vulnerable and discouraged, God's grace lifted me up and guided my steps. The past seven years have been a unique wilderness and words from the Apostle Paul gave me strength and hope. The Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 1:6, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" and Philippians

Continue to An Intentional Time, page 11

Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church

3001 24th Ave South Seattle 98144 | 206.723.1536





April 29, 2023

Food pick up at the Lee Center Gym 2-6pm Take Out Only

Sooked or Uncooked Per ticket

\$20.00



Ohagi, Tsukemono, and Blaine Memorial Cookbooks Other sale items include: Baked Goods, Traditional

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Rainier Valley Food Bank.



Sukiyaki Dinner 2023 Updates

Scan this QR code to view the latest info and more! Share this link with your family and friends!



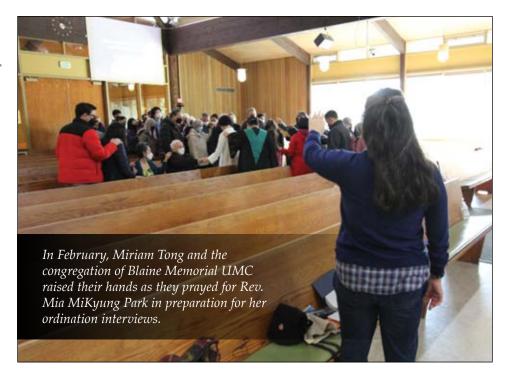
An intentional time of Coram Deo

Continued from page 7

3:10-14, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters. I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

I experienced Coram Deo, God's presence, in my wilderness. I waited for God's next move, prepared, and walked along the way with God. During this Lent, God invites me to submerge in this deep and intentional time of Coram Deo once again. I am excited that God will continue to give me hope in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus and will continue to do good works in me and through me.

The memorization verse for Church School last March is 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no



record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

During Lent, we follow the footsteps of Jesus who took 40 days of intentional time of Coram Deo. I pray that we become more grateful, faithful, and joyful as we walk this Lenten journey, including Holy Week, as a faith community. May God continue to bless and guide our faith journey as we live our daily lives as Coram Deo.

Pastor Mia Park serves as the Associate Pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC.

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Deo, God's presence, in
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along the way with God.

The Rev. Mia MiKyung Park reflects on the Lenten season

Sixth Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday	Resurrection of the Lord	Second Sunday of Easter
April 2, 2023	April 9, 2023	April 16, 2023
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54 	 Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10 	 Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31
Third Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023	April 30, 2023	May 7, 2023
 Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35 	 Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10 	 Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

As a Church and people who believe in the power of prayer, let us continue to lift up these persons in the joys and concerns that they are experiencing in their lives.

Those mourning the passing of a loved one

- Bob K. Watanabe, 98, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at his home in Bellevue, WA. He is survived by his children, Linda Watanabe, Paul Watanabe (Diane), Donna Sekijima (Bob) and Susan Bryant (Chuck); seven grandchildren and seven greatgrandchildren. Bob enjoyed bowling, clam digging, and Masutake hunting. He loved his family with all of his heart. A private memorial service will be held at a future date at Blaine Memorial UMC.
- Christine Joy Yada, 73, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 10, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Jeff, children, Jason and Shelley, sister, Julie Tanagi Lock, and sister-in-law, Gail Yada Hikida. Christine enjoyed shopping, reading, going to Hawai'i, and loved cooking and feeding her family and friends. A private burial service was held at Evergreen Washelli on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. A public memorial service will be held at Blaine Memorial UMC on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 3pm with light refreshments to follow.
- Masa Hirano, 101, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at her home in Clyde Hill, WA. She is survived by her daughter, Carrie Dodobara (Gary); three grandchildren: Steve Dodobara (Mindy), David Dodobara (Rajae Chbihi), Lisa Simpson (Mike); and seven greatgrandchildren: Kenji, Cash, Ryan, Samya, Emma, Gunnar and Decker. Masa enjoyed activities with her seven greatgrandchildren and loved the fellowship with the Tuesday Ladies for many years. A private memorial service will be held at Evergreen Washelli in the near future.
- George Kaminishi, 97, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at his home in Seattle, WA. He is survived by his wife, Laura, who he was married to for 70 years. George is also survived by his children, Karen, Kris (Allan), Amy and grandchildren, Brian, Kevin, Clark and Grant. A private memorial service will be held at a later time.

Those experiencing health concerns

- Suma Yagi, who is recovering from multiple surgeries.
- Shigeharu Ago, father to Yuki Sofronas who is recovering from being hospitalized in Japan.

Those in cancer treatment or remission

- Quy Phi Nikki Palmer Linda Perry
- KT Aegerter Chuck Sitkin Dean Tsuchida
- Doris Fraley

Those in a nursing home or care facility

• Dorothy Akiyama



Those with health concerns, Recovery

- Connie Sekijima Greg Ogata Tami Mitsui
- Wyman Martin Marcia Takahashi

Celebrations

• Congratulations to all who are celebrating April birthdays and anniversaries!

For our United Methodist Church:

• We continue to pray for the safety of our LGBTQI+ siblings and for a just, inclusive future within The United Methodist Church. We pray that we are guided by love and the hope for a world where all people are celebrated and loved, where their rights are secured and where their sexual and gender diversity is valued.

For our community, nation, and world:

- Prayers for families and friends who are grieving for the loss of the three children and the three adults who were shot in the deadly mass shooting at Covenant Presbyterian Church Elementary School in Nashville, TN on Monday, March 27, 2023. Prayers for the families of victims, for the Covenant family, for the courageous officers, and for the family of the shooter.
- Prayers for the many victims affected by the vicious tornadoes that struck Mississippi on Friday, March 24, 2023 killing 21 people and left more injured without a home. Continued prayers for those who survived who are attempting to regain a sense of normalcy despite demolished homes and businesses.
- Prayers for everyone grieving the loss of the seven people who were pronounced dead after the explosion at the R.M. Palmer Company chocolate factory in West Reading, PA on Friday, March 24, 2023.
- Prayers for every person who is experiencing ongoing chronic pain. May they know that there are people who can relate to their pain that others cannot see.
- Prayers for all people searching for their next job.
 We pray for patience and tenacity while navigating uncertainty for what will come next.

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Events on this ca	The Church Office	If you have quest
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Events on this calendar may have changed during time of publication. Contact the Blaine Office for questions. The Church Office is open Tuesday-Friday (10am-12pm, 1pm-4pm). If you have questions, please call 206-723-1536 or email blaineoffice@yahoo.com.

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26	27	28	29	30	31	• Newsletter submissions due (for the May issue)
PALM SUNDAY • Idam, In-Person & Online Worship • Idam, Church School Gathering • Ipm, Blaine Basketball	3 • I0am, Zoom Yoga • II:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga	• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	• 9am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen • 10:30am, Pickleball • 7pm, Reconciling Ministries Bible Study	• 7pm, Blaine Basketball	GOOD FRIDAY -6pm, Simple Supper Meal -7pm, In-Person & Online Worship	•6pm, BYG Overnighter
EASTER SUNDAY 8:30am, Easter Breakfast 10am, In-Person & Online Worship 10am, Church School Gathering 11am, Easter Egg Hunt	• I0am, Zoom Yoga • II:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga	• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	• 9am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen	• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 7pm, Basketball	4	• 3pm, Christine Yada Memorial Service (Public)
• Ibam, In-Person & Online Worship • Ibam, B.Y.G. Gathering • Ibam, Church School Gathering • Ipm, Blaine Basketball	• 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga	• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	• 9am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen • 10:30am, Pickleball • 6pm, SASC Meeting • 7pm, Ad Board Meeting	20 • I2pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 7pm, Basketball	21	• I0am-2pm, Campus Clean-up Work Party
13a • Ioam, In-Person & Online Worship • Ioam, B.Y.G. Gathering • Ioam, Church School Gathering • Ipm, Blaine Basketball	10am, Zoom Yoga 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga All-Week Su	• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	24 · 7pm, Choir Rehearsal Rev. Karen All-Week Sukiyaki Preparations. Contact the Blaine Memorial Office for more info.	27 Memorial Office fo	28	Sakagaki -29 -2pm-6pm, Sukiyaki Take-Out
30 • Idam, In-Person & Online Worship • Idam, B.Y.G. Gathering • Idam, Church School Gathering • Ipm, Blaine Basketball	Looking Ahead • Deadline, Beacon newsletter, • Deadline, Educational schola • Deadline, Cookbook recipes,	n newsletter, May 1 tional scholarships, 200k recipes, May 31	3 May 17	4	ıo	9

Gentle Remenders

Apply for Educational Scholarships 2023!



Application period is now open, May 17, 2023 is the deadline for Scholarships!

The Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church Educational Scholarships are designed to support the mission of the church through supporting a multitude of educational opportunities. We are proud to have helped students in their pursuit of continuing education since 1968. We encourage all applicants; from those just entering their next phase of education to those returning to complete or pursue continued education.

We are blessed to offer the following scholarships: the Vera Ing Scholarship, Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church Scholarship, Yasuda Scholarship, William S. Yorozu Scholarship, and the Robert S. Sato Scholarship.

Scan the QR code to visit blaineonline.org for more information.

Submit recipes for BMUMC's cookbook!

Your favorite recipes and stories are needed for our new cookbook! Send in your submissions by May 31, 2023!



Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church will release a 120th Anniversary Edition of "Let's Dine!", the latest in a series of cookbooks produced by Blaine Memorial over the past 70 years.

This cookbook will commemorate the 120th Anniversary of Blaine Memorial, with a scheduled release of January 2024. We are seeking submissions for the 2024 cookbook and are calling on you to contribute!

Scan the QR code to visit blaineonline.org for more information.





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April 2023

Connect with Blaine! (7)





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All are welcome here!

Our core belief is that each person is a beloved child of God - whose giftedness we value and whose presence and participation are a blessing to our community, and to the Kin-dom of God in the world.

Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church affirms our core value of Radical Hospitality, and as a community, we are an inclusive Church

that welcomes and extends every part of its ministry to all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, income, age, generation, political affiliation, theological stance, sexual orientation or gender identity.



Ministry Staff Team

Senior Pastor, Editor Associate Pastor Choir Director Church School Superintendent B.Y.G. Directors Pianist Office Assistant Bookkeeper

Lay Leadership Team

Administrative Board Ad-Board Vice-Chair Staff Parish Relations SPRC Vice-Chair Board of Trustees Finance Committee Lay Leaders Annual Conference Delegates Rev. Karen Yokota Love Rev. Mia MiKyung Park Eugene Onishi Sai Hanaoka Lynne Onishi, Lawrence Paltep Kathy Onishi Yuki Sofronas Mimi Mar

Brad Miyake Lisa Mar Sally Sekijima Arlene Naganawa Ron Nobuyama, Brian Okura Bob Sekijima, Gayle Miyake Eugene Onishi, Kathy Onishi Ron Nobuyama, George Yates

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Ways to Give "Every person must bring a gift in proportion to God's blessings upon you." (Deut. 16: 17)

- **ONLINE**: Click the Realm logo at blaineonline.org or scan the QR code on the left.
- **MOBILE:** Download the free "Realm Connect" app. Use your sign-in and click GIVING. Contact the Church Office, blaineoffice@yahoo.com for a Realm sign-in.
- **TEXT**: Text BLAINE to 73256. Click the link you receive and follow the prompts.
- MAIL: Mail a check to: Blaine Memorial UMC at 3001 24th Ave S. Seattle, WA 98144.