



blaine memorial
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Beacon

July 2023
Vol. 44 | #6

Walk & Grow with Blaine!

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The
Pacific
Northwest
Annual
Conference
Report

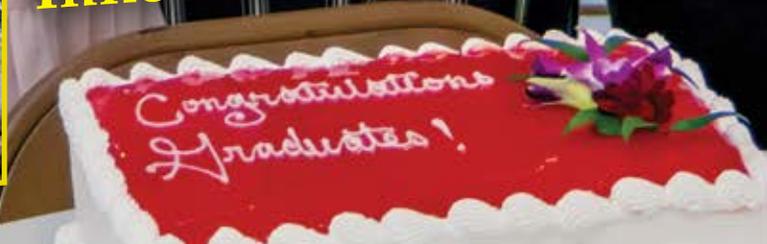


**Team Blaine
raises \$11,800 for
low-income families!**

Growing in Faith



**Rev. Mia: Ordinary Time
Innovation Hub Update!**





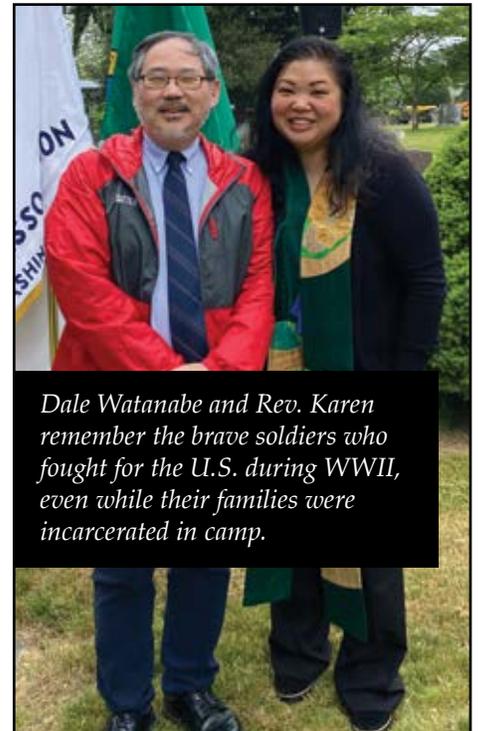
Rev. Mia MiKyung Park, Masato Takahashi, Janet Kometani, Tom Kometani and Rev. Karen Yokota Love honor those who fought in combat and served our country.



Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth preaches his Opening Sermon at PNWAC, Tacoma.



Erika L. Moritsugu, Dale Watanabe, Rev. Karen Yokota Love, and Chaplain Lisa Ishihara each contributed the NVC Ceremony.



Dale Watanabe and Rev. Karen remember the brave soldiers who fought for the U.S. during WWII, even while their families were incarcerated in camp.

News from our Senior Pastor **Together, we rise through faith**

By Rev. Karen Yokota Love

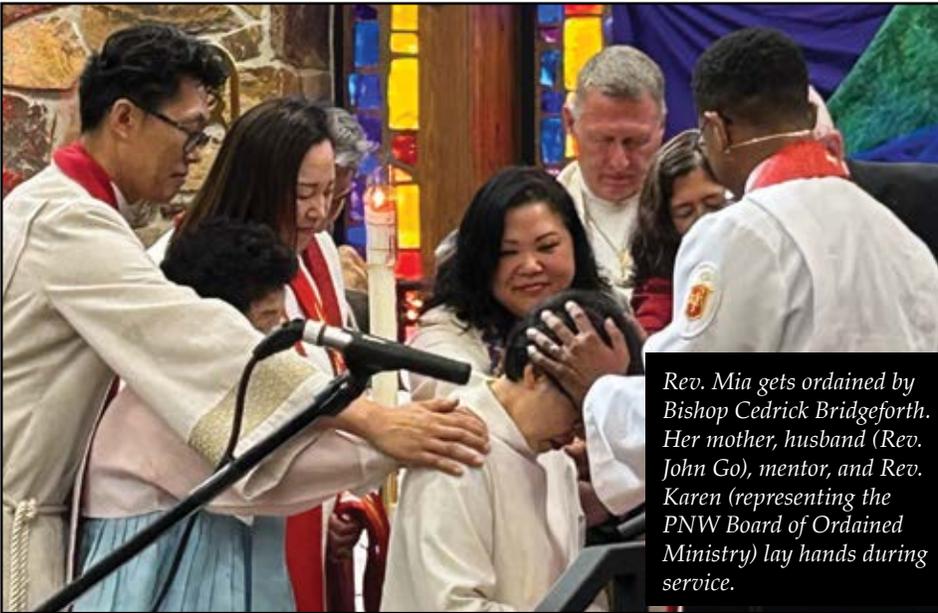
It's summertime. The weather is changing. It's so much lighter, so much later – what a joy! I gazed outside a few evenings ago, assuming that at such a late hour the sun had retired for the day. To my surprise, the sun was shining with no sign of a sunset. I thought, “no matter how I think this should go, the sun will not set until it's ready.” Imagine if we were such pillars of light that we allowed nothing to get in the way of our shining. When the sun rises, nothing can stop it, it is so high that nothing can get in its way.

This year, all our pillars of light are once again, rising! Nothing seems to get in the way of shining for the people at Blaine.

Blaine Memorial UMC members showed up at Lakeview Cemetery for the 78th Annual Nisei Veterans Committee Memorial Day Service. Together we honored relatives, friends, and remembered those who fought in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, served in the Military Intelligence Service and remembered all the Japanese American soldiers who fought and died in wars thereafter. White House Deputy Assistant to President Biden and Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison Erika L. Moritsugu was this year's keynote speaker. Church Member, Dale Watanabe, provided this year's Christian-based message and tied in

the history of his father and relatives who served in World War II. He also talked about the names that are listed on the Honor Roll Wall at the Minidoka National Historical Site in Hunt, Idaho. Minidoka had the highest percentage of incarcerated from the 10 incarceration camps to serve in the military. Dale tied this link to the Nisei War Memorial at Lakeview Cemetery which honors the 56 American soldiers of Japanese origin.

At this year's PNW Annual Conference, Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth announced both Rev. Mia and my appointments to continue to serve as your pastors for the July 2023-June 2024 appointment year. Rev. Jeney and Rev. Mark are also



Rev. Mia gets ordained by Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth. Her mother, husband (Rev. John Go), mentor, and Rev. Karen (representing the PNW Board of Ordained Ministry) lay hands during service.



Rev. Karen, George Yates, and Ron Nobuyama sit together at the Closing Plenary at the PNW Annual Conference at Mason UMC in Tacoma. Rev. Karen is the clergy representative while George and Ron are lay delegates for BMUMC.

appointed in secondary appointments serving at Blaine. I look forward to what this new year will bring for us and the sparks of light that will be ignited through our ministry together!

I also want to take the time to congratulate Rev. Mia MiKyung Park on her ordination as a Full Elder in the Oregon-Idaho Conference. This is a huge accomplishment and milestone in her life! Ron Nobuyama, Lawrence Paltep, and I flew to Meridian, Idaho, to witness Rev. Mia's ordination on June 11. What an exciting moment to witness!

Jr. High Camp, VBS and Asian Camp are standing pillars of light and reminders that we are in the thick of summer. It's wonderful to see our Church School kids, youth and

young adults meeting new friends, reconnecting with old friends while finding new ways to connect with God. This year's VBS theme is *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*, and we are praying that everyone who joins this party will know and experience God's love, presence, and faithfulness.

Our Reconciling Ministries Team continues to shine a light on an intentional discernment process to explore the outreach, affirmation, and intersectional ministry with and for LGBTQIA+ people at Blaine Memorial UMC. We will continue to engage in deep conversations over the summer by discussing what it means to celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness

made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. In our conversations, we continue to discuss what it means and looks like to welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more.

At the end of July, I'll be facilitating a retreat sponsored by the National Japanese American United Methodist Caucus at Lake Tahoe's Zephyr Point. There will be 100 attendees and a few from Blaine Memorial are attending. Other attendees are coming from our sister Japanese American churches including Wesley UMC, Sacramento Japanese UMC, and members from other historical Japanese American churches of different denominations.

As we celebrate Independence Day, I continue to notice that the chains of slavery are just as present as they have ever been – whether it be the inequity that persists in the world, or something as mundane as our slavery to our work or our own busyness. I would like our community to channel the prophet inside of us. I'd like us to slow down and to take this freedom and privilege that we embody to the world and to every interaction we have with every person we meet.

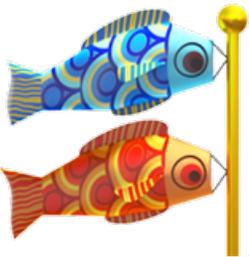
With so much going on in the world, we, who are brave, must continue to be intentional about spreading God's love. We must continue to rise and shine. Let's look even deeper, get even more uncomfortable, and let our little lights come together to create a sun that doesn't go down because someone thinks it should, but a sun that shines, no matter what time of day it is.

It's great to be in community with you and to do ministry with you. Be well and stay healthy. You are loved and a child of God. Be the hope and continue to help your neighbor! Rise up and shine your light of faith!

The Rev. Karen Yokota Love serves as Senior Pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC.



Scan the QR Code to register now!



VBS Collection

We are preparing for this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) from July 10-14! This year's theme is *Food Truck Party on a Roll with God!* We are asking kindly for the following items:

- **Portable Picnic Table with foldable seats:** Needed Saturday, July 8-Sunday, July 16.
- **Koinobori/Fish kite decorations:** Indicate your name on each item.
- **Small packs of snacks including:** granola bars, dried fruit, juice boxes, soda pop. Hygiene products: soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shaving gel, hand sanitizer. Please leave your donations in the black treasure chest box in the Narthex. Contact Pastor Mia at miablaine2020@gmail.com and/or Susan Lee at blainevbs@gmail.com with questions.

VBS 2023 and Asian Camp!

This summer's Camping Ministries and Vacation Bible School schedules are out! Save dates for your children and youth!

July 10-14	Vacation Bible School 10am-3pm, register now: https://blaineonline.org/vbs-2023/
July 23-28	Asian Camp (for incoming 10th grade-2 years post-high school) Register by 6/25/23: https://www.njaumccamps.org/ac-2023-registration



Scan the QR code for more PNWAC 2023 content

 **Rev. Shirley DeLarme**
PNW Conference Secretary



Report of the Annual Conference Secretary

Hi, I'm Rev. Shirley DeLarme, conference secretary. I use she/her pronouns. It's been important this week for us to name our pronouns as a way of letting everyone know, whoever they are, that they are welcome here.

How good it was to meet in person for those who could do so. And how good it was to have options for those who needed another choice. And so, grace began to bubble up, literally. With a children's plastic bucket filled with bubble wands, we were ready to play, to have fun, and to let the grace flow.

In a beautiful service of worship, we joyfully commissioned and ordained some of our favorite people, some of whom were past due because illness prevented them from being here last year for their ceremonies. Grace welled up, and bubbles floated through the air as we laid on hands poured out blessings, and celebrated. Retired

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson added to the grace by preaching for the ordinands and for us all.

But that came after we did some hard work, mixed generously with play and laughter, and a hard pinch of grieving. We were mournful, and we cried together, we recognized so much loss from the pandemic, from violence and church closures, escalating climate change, persistent racism and more. In worship, we lamented and sought hope. And in our work, we took action.

Picking up the theme and Bishop Cedrick's opening sermon, we challenged one another not to look so much in the mirror at that which is familiar and has served for a season, but to look out the window to see what lies ahead, to see who are our neighbors to whom we have not been so good, despite all the good we do. We have some window work to do, lots of window work. And some of that work. In fact,

all of that work is urgent. We must look out and see what is beyond ourselves that needs our urgent 'good neighbor' attention. And not just some of us, but all of us. Not just the ordained or licensed but the laity. Not just some laity, but all laity. Bishop Cedrick added the 'L' to his M.I.L.E., which he began in the previous two sermons this conference season.

In our window work, it is urgent that we eliminate racism, the 'E' in Bishop Cedrick's M.I.L.E., about which we will hear shortly. In our window work, it is urgent that we stand in solidarity with the Filipino people who know so much. So much violence that a state-sponsored by their own state, so we committed to standing with them and asking our congressional representatives to do the same. In our window work, it is urgent that we address climate change as individuals and as clergy and laity, and also in our ministry settings with

our church buildings and parsonages and offices, and also with all those who handle our investments. So, we press one another to divest from fossil fuels with our monetary investments. We petitioned General Conference to add fossil fuel screens to the United Methodist investment screens, and we pledged to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

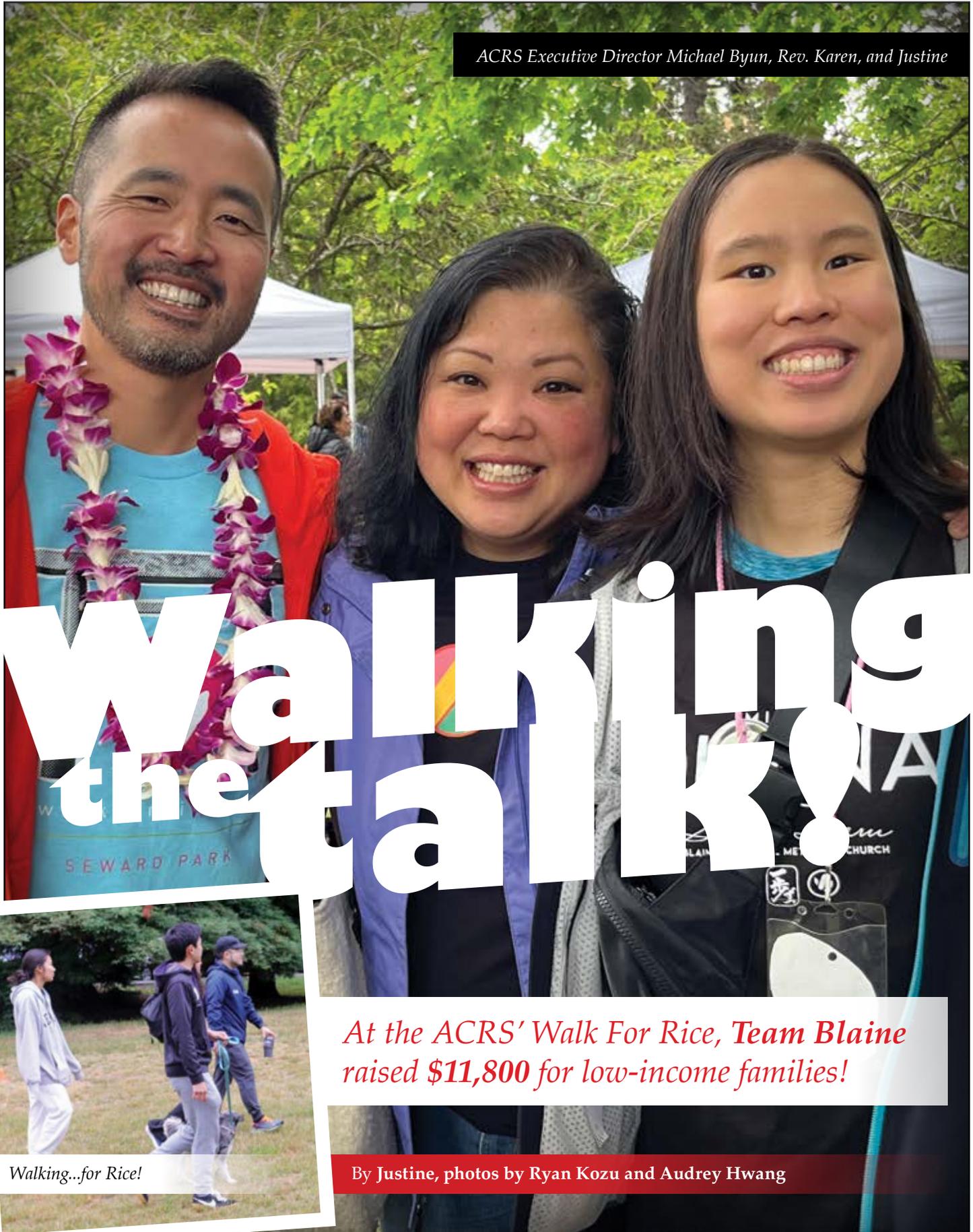
This is big, but not impossible, especially when partnering with other agencies sharing educational resources and the possibility of adding a staff person to facilitate our work for climate justice. Appropriate mundane matters were tended to, routine business matters made no less important by being routine. We provided for retirement benefits and equitable compensation, moving allowances and special offerings. We wrestled over some rules and some issues of fiscal transparency.

And then, since the Board of Ordained Ministry told us we ought to permit some of us to retire, we celebrated our retirees and witnessed the beautiful ritual of passing the mantle from the class of retirees to the class of the ordinance.

It might seem that the work of this 150th annual conference session is complete. But truthfully, the real work is just beginning. The window beckons us to see and go and do likewise.

The Rev. Shirley DeLarme is the Pastor of Port Orchard UMC and served as the Conference Secretary at the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Sessions.

ACRS Executive Director Michael Byun, Rev. Karen, and Justine



walking the talk!

At the ACRS' Walk For Rice, Team Blaine raised \$11,800 for low-income families!

By Justine, photos by Ryan Kozu and Audrey Hwang



Walking...for Rice!

THANK YOU, BLAINE COMMUNITY!

A big THANK YOU to our Team Blaine walkers and the rest of the Blaine community for everyone's amazing support with this year's ACRS Walk for Rice! Team Blaine had a fantastic turnout on June 17th at Seward Park - with close to 50 walkers this year, we were the largest team walking on a misty Saturday morning to support the ACRS Food Bank. At the closing ceremony, Team Blaine was recognized by ACRS as being in second place among all Walk for Rice fundraising teams for raising over \$11,500! That is the most Team Blaine has raised in the nine years that I've been walking in the Walk for Rice - WAY TO GO!!



Team Blaine members socializing before the walk

Our donations will help ACRS to provide culturally familiar food for low-income seniors and families for many months. ACRS has not yet reached their \$325,000 fundraising goal, and they will still be accepting donations during the summer, so it's not too late to donate to Team Blaine and the Walk for Rice. Thanks so much for your support of this important community resource!

Justine serves as the captain for Team Blaine for this year's ACRS' Walk for Rice.



Team Blaine had a strong showing with over 45 walkers at Seward Park!

BYG UPDATE BLAINE YOUTH GROUP

By Kaylee Yokoyama, Associate Director, BYG

It's already that time of the year again! It's summertime! We're looking forward to the warmer weather, and time to relax, reflect, and prepare for the upcoming youth ministries next year. This also means that summer camps, retreats, and activities are coming up. BYG will be packed full of exciting opportunities such as Vacation Bible School, Junior High Camp, Asian American Summer Camp, and getting prepared for the upcoming school year. During the summer break, the BYG leadership team will also take the time to debrief, reflect, and plan for the upcoming year.

This month is also special because we are celebrating graduates within BYG! These graduates include:

- **Allison Hall**, graduate from Bellevue High School
- **Michelle Yokoyama**, graduate from Seattle Pacific University with a degree in Nutrition and Dietetics
- **Malia Yamamoto**, graduate from the University of Washington with degrees in Biochemistry and Sociology
- **Jem Miyake**, graduate from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo with a degree in Environmental Management and Protection.

We had the opportunity to celebrate some of these graduates' wonderful accomplishments with a BYG graduation celebration on June 17th in the Social Hall, with BYG graduates, family, and friends. We enjoyed playing trivia about the graduates, having a delicious meal together, as well as spending time with one another. We are proud of these graduates and excited to see what's next in their journey! We wish the graduates well in their future endeavors and know they will do great things!

Another exciting part of summer youth ministries is the camping ministry, such as Junior High Camp and Asian Camp. Junior High Camp was held June 25-30, while the high schoolers are preparing to head to Asian Camp later this month. This month we are also hoping to clean up the BYG room to prepare for the upcoming school year. It is always nice to start the year off with a clean and organized room, so we are hoping to clean the BYG room before we begin again!

Thank you for your continued support of BYG, which has allowed the youth the opportunities to attend camp, grow their faith, and develop meaningful relationships. Thank you Blaine Memorial congregation for supporting the youth in their passions and growth. Long story short be sure to keep your eyes open for updated announcements, fundraisers, and news!



BYG Graduation Celebration 2023 Celebrating Graduates: Allison Hall, Malia Yamamoto, and Michelle Yokoyama!

Important Dates for July 2023

July 10-14	July 23-28	TBD
Vacation Bible School 10am-3pm	Asian American Summer Camp	BYG Room Clean up

We are looking forward to a spectacular summer! BYG will not meet on Sunday mornings throughout July and August.



We encourage youth and families to attend worship together at 10:00 am in-person and via live stream! Blaine Youth Group (BYG) is a place where youth (6th-12th grade) are invited into a loving community and celebrated as they are. BYG provides a safe environment for youth to build lasting friendships, grow spiritually, learn acceptance of self and others, express compassion for the world, and develop a love for God and neighbor. BYG has a space for any person who is interested.

Directors of Youth Ministry: Lynne Onishi (lynneonishi@gmail.com), Kai Yamamoto (kai.yamamoto@gmail.com), and Kaylee Yokoyama (kaylee.yokoyama1@gmail.com).





Reconciling churches are everywhere! These colorful doors displayed at University UMC in Austin, TX (a reconciling congregation) share a message of inclusion for all.



A group of Blaine young adults and friends went hiking at Twin Falls and enjoyed a lunch together on Sunday, June 25.

Innovation Hub Update

New Summer Ministry Ways!

By Lynne Onishi

Greetings from the Innovation Hub! We're all looking forward to another summer of hikes, movie nights, fellowship, and adventure. We're grateful and excited to be doing ministry in new ways that will speak to young people and folks of all ages. Here are just a few highlights of our summer so far. Take a look!

Film Nights:

The Innovation Hub is excited to put on more film and discussion nights this summer! As I'm writing this, the team is planning for a

documentary screening and time of discussion around LGBTQ+ folks in the church.

Young Adult Hikes:

Summer is in full swing as our young adult hiking group hits the trails after a long winter season of indoor activities. This hiking ministry provides opportunities for young people to get outdoors, experience creation, and come to know one another more fully as we share in conversation and reflection.

RM Straw Poll:

On Sunday, May 21, the Reconciling

Ministries team conducted a straw poll to learn about your attitudes about the reconciling statement and possible affiliation with Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). This is an important step in our congregation's discernment process. It is not an official vote, but rather a way for our team to hear from you as we plan our next steps.

The straw poll ballot asked congregants to read a "reconciling statement" and then choose a number 1 through 5 to indicate current disagreement or support. We also included space for comments and questions for the team. Of the 73 ballots submitted, 66 ballots indicated support for the statement and affiliation with RMN. There were many important questions raised, and the RM team wants to be intentional about addressing your concerns so everyone in our church feels informed.

Most of the questions we received revolved around the impact of affiliating with RMN. While there's no way to know exactly how affiliating with RMN will impact our unique congregation, we can look for some resources and words of wisdom from other churches who have done this already. Our team is currently reaching out to other local churches who have been through the process, and we are hoping to put together a panel of church leaders to help answer some of your questions. We also want to offer you more space for questions and conversations with our team. The RM team will be hosting a drop-in time during fellowship hour some weeks after worship service. Please be on the lookout for additional details about 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 (lynneonishi@gmail.com) or any of the other team members for more information.

Lynne Onishi serves as the director for the Blaine Youth Group and is the Innovation Hub and Reconciling Ministries Convener.



Associate Pastor's Spiritual Reflection

A Time to Grow!

By the Rev. Mia MiKyung Park

The Revs. John Go and Mia MiKyung Park share their summer garden veggies.

After Pentecost, the season in the church calendar is known as Ordinary Time, and its liturgical color is green. This color symbolizes the hope of new life that we attain through Jesus Christ. Green represents nature, growth, rebirth, health, hope, and various positive elements associated with overall well-being. Ordinary Time falls between the seasons of Christmas and Easter, during which we engage in observing, discussing, and actively participating in God's ongoing work in the world. It is a time of growth (Scan the QR code above to learn about "Ordinary Time").

This spring, my spouse and I planted around 15 lettuces in our small, raised vegetable bed. Not too long ago, we harvested about 10 lettuces. When we first planted the tiny lettuce plants we received from our friend, they appeared fragile, and I doubted if they would survive.

However, through John's tender care, determination, and providing them with enough water, they began to take root and grow. After a while, he applied fertilizer when they seemed to not grow as expected. When I look at our small vegetable bed, I am reminded of our children and youth in the faith community and how we can support and help them grow, flourish, and bear fruit. I believe the education of children and youth requires fertile soil of home, school, church, or other spiritual spaces. At church, they can deepen their faith, explore their spirituality, and engage in the community of faith near and far. The faith community offers a supportive network of guidance, mentorship and a sense of belonging. It is within these spaces we provide opportunities for young people to learn about compassion, grace, forgiveness and the values that form the foundation of their characters. I am grateful

for Blaine Memorial where we strive to be a rich and abundant soil for our young people and adults as well.

As the school year quickly approaches its end, I am humbled to recall the memories from the past school year. I am grateful for our dedicated Church School Teachers who continue to plant seeds of God's grace and love in the hearts of our children. Our Church School Teachers meet every Wednesday evening via Zoom for check-ins and to discuss upcoming Sunday activities and events. I am deeply thankful for our Church School Superintendent, Sai Hanaoka, who teaches, guides, and supports our children and teachers. Additionally, I express my heartfelt gratitude to our BYG directors and leaders for their dedication. They gather via Zoom every Monday to check in with each other and discuss upcoming BYG activities. I am excited to prepare

for this summer with all these dedicated leaders and congregations as we seek God's guidance. This summer holds much excitement as we make arrangements to send eight youth to Jr. High Camp, six high schoolers to Asian Camp, and prepare for Vacation Bible School. What a wonderful teamwork we are witnessing as a part of the wonderful team with God and families. We are all wonderfully and fearfully created in God's image (Psalm 139:14).

The Church School memorization for June is John 10:10 where Jesus says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

This Ordinary Time will be a wonderful time of experiencing God's abundance through the life of Jesus, whom we follow and resemble. Because of the life of Jesus, our true selves are restored and rebuilt by God's grace, growing as "we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ," as the Apostle Paul directs us in Ephesians 4:13. May this Ordinary Time be extraordinary as we continue to grow as faithful stewards of our gracious God. Let us embark on the summer with hope and prayer, embracing the blessings that await us. Have a blessed summer!

The Rev. Mia MiKyung Park serves as Associate Pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC.

July Lectionary

Season After Pentecost

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 2, 2023

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 9, 2023

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 or
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or
Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or
Psalm 128 1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



A drive in Rocha Pinto towards Luanda, Angola (Africa) and away from the sunset. Courtesy of Al Monte Gomes/Wikipedia.

Spiritual Formation Center Loud and Clear

By Anne Arakaki-Lock, photo courtesy of Wikipedia

This past Tuesday, Terri Pittman and I paid a visit to one of our beloved elders. It's a privilege to visit as many friends we know. Don't we learn and gain something from them every time? Here was our big takeaway on this visit.

The three of us were chatting at the dining room table about an accident that our elderly friend had just avoided. She explained how she stopped her car on the side of the road one day and started getting out on the driver's side. Though the other car was driving "fast" as she described, she claimed it was her fault. She explained how she had opened her door and the other car clipped her side view mirror as she was about to step out. Fortunately, she was not hurt. But when the other driver stopped and examined his damaged car, she immediately apologized. In turn though, his mirror was broken, she was surprised that he had played down the damage to her. She showed us her own car in the driveway and brushed off the little scratch on her side view mirror.

Our friend then looked at Terri and me and asked, "Isn't it true: '...a soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.?' " We both nodded in total agreement.

But the story doesn't end here: that night I was doing my morning devotions (yes, I was late that day and did my devotions in the evening when I got home). The reading for that day was Proverbs 13, 14, 15. Do you think that was a coincidence that earlier in the day I had just heard Mrs. H quote Proverbs 15:1? The verse wouldn't have stuck as well if God hadn't used an angel to say it out loud to me earlier that same afternoon.

Sometimes, in fact, very often for me, God times His lessons so I can hear him even better.

Anne Arakaki-Lock serves as a member of Blaine Memorial UMC's Congregational Care team.

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July 2023

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Hybrid Worship with Communion 10am, Church School 1pm, Blaine Basketball 	<p>3</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Zoom Yoga 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga 7:30 pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting 	<p>4</p> <p>Church Office Closed Independence Day</p> 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am, Coffee & Prayer 10:30am Pickleball 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball 		<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beacon Newsletter articles due!
<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Hybrid Worship 10am, Church School 1pm, Blaine Basketball 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Zoom Yoga 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga 7:30 pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting 	<p>11</p> <p>• July 10-15: No Sports Activities in the LAC due to Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am, Coffee & Prayer 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>VBS Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Hybrid Worship 10am, Church School 1pm, Blaine Basketball 	<p>17</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Zoom Yoga 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga 7:30 pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am-12pm, Private Memorial Service, Sanctuary 7pm, Ad Board Zoom Mtg. 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am, Coffee & Prayer 10:30am Pickleball 7pm, Zoom Ad-Board Meeting 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am-6pm, Private Event, Social Hall
<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Hybrid Worship 10am, Church School 1pm, Blaine Basketball 	<p>24</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Zoom Yoga 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga 7:30 pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am, Coffee & Prayer 10:30am Pickleball 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Hybrid Worship 10am, Church School 1pm, Blaine Basketball 	<p>31</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am, Zoom Yoga 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga 7:30 pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting 	<p>Save the date: Sunday, August 6, 10am, Blessing of the Animals Worship in the Courtyard!</p>			
		<p>• July 23-28 Asian Camp (for incoming 10th grade - 2 years post-high school). Registration is closed.</p>				



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 loved ones

- **June Sato**, 94, passed away peacefully and with grace at her home in Laguna Niguel, CA on Thursday, June 15, 2023. June is survived by her husband, Frank, four children, a son who predeceased her, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. June and Frank celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 14, 2023, so June waited until that significant day passed before she joined her son and the other angels in Heaven. The family had a small Celebration of Life service on June 24, 2023 for immediate family.
- **Fumiko Kimura**, 93, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 surrounded by her loving family. Fumiko is survived by her brother George, son Richard (wife Marcia, children Alyssa, Kelsi, and Caleb), son Howard (wife Florance, children Jennifer and Kyle), and daughter Jeanne (husband Mark), four great-grandchildren. A private family funeral service was held recently. In addition, a Puget Sound Sumi Artists (PSSA) Reception Invitation with a memorial and dedication to Fumiko will be on Monday, July 10, 2023 from 6:00PM-8:00PM at the Premier Gallery Puyallup Activity Center at 210 West Pioneer, Puyallup, WA 98371. Fumiko was an active member at Whitney Memorial UMC, formally located in Tacoma and Puyallup, WA.
- **Miyeko Mochizuki**, 96, passed away peacefully at Seattle's Nikkei Manor on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023. She is survived by her children, James (Susan), Ken, and Alan (Stacey); grandchildren Aaron (Karyn), Nathan (Elaine), Tyler and Sydney; and two great-granddaughters. She was predeceased by her parents, Shigematsu and Asao Nakano, sister Lilly Chiyeko Nakano, husband Eugene and daughter-in-law Merry Mochizuki. A private memorial service will be held at a future date.
- **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, Paul (Diane), Donna Sekijima (Bob) and Susan Bryant (Chuck); seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Bob enjoyed bowling, clam digging and matsutake hunting. He loved his family with all of his heart. A private memorial service was held on Saturday, June 10 at Blaine Memorial UMC.

Those in cancer treatment or remission

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

Those in nursing homes or care facilities

- **Dorothy Akiyama**

Those with health concerns, recovery

- **Connie Sekijima** • **Greg Ogata** • **Tami Mitsui**
• **Wyman Martin** • **Marcia Takahashi** • **Jim Roney**
• **Suma Yagi** • **Rev. Shigeharu Ago** • **Emi K.**

Celebrations

- Congratulations to **Rev. Mia MiKyung Park** who was ordained on Sunday, June 11, 2023 in Meridian, ID as a Full Elder in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church!
- Congratulations on another successful completion of the **PNW Annual Conference Sessions** which took place in Tacoma, WA from June 13-15, 2023! This year's Blaine Memorial UMC representatives were Rev. Karen Yokota Love, George Yates, Ron Nobuyama and Lynne Onishi.
- Congratulations to **Kyle and Emi Suzuki** on the birth of their daughter, **Margaret Aina Suzuki**, born on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at six pounds, 10 ounces. Her sisters, Clare and Alice are singing with joy! We also give praise of jubilation to her grandparents, **Stephen Sumida and Gail Nomura!**
- Congratulations to **Harry and Dawn Sakaguchi-Tang** on the birth of their son, **Wyatt Tang**, born on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at seven pounds, two ounces. Mom and son are well and the Tang Family is celebrating with joy!
- Congratulations to all who are celebrating **July birthdays and anniversaries!**

For our United Methodist Church:

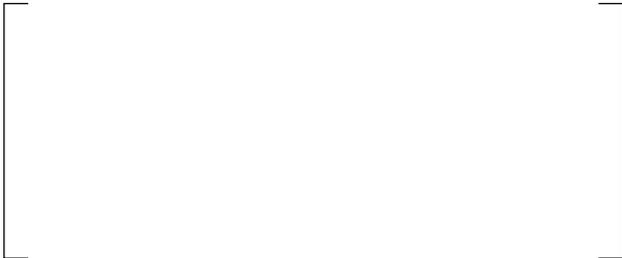
- We continue to pray for the safety of our **LGBTQIA+ siblings** and for a just, inclusive future within The United Methodist Church. We pray that we are guided by love and the hope for a world where all people are celebrated and loved, where their rights are secured and where their sexual and gender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



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July 2023



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Bob Sekijima, Gayle Miyake
Eugene Onishi, Kathy Onishi
Ron Nobuyama, George Yates

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.



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.

