

Beacon

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March-April 2024 • Vol. 45, #3 • blaineonline.org/beacon-news

Day of Remembrance Sunday



We Remember



**Washington State
Fairgrounds**



**Northwest
Detention Center**



Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church



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206-723-1536 • blaineonline.org • blaineoffice@yahoo.com

Instagram: [@blaineumc_seattle](https://www.instagram.com/blaineumc_seattle) • onrealm.org/blainememorial



Earlier in February, Rev. Karen and church members met with the Tsuru for Solidarity leadership to organize for Day of Remembrance and future events.

News from our Senior Pastor

Remembering the Past this Easter Season

By The Rev. Karen Yokota Love, photos by Kai Yamamoto and Ryan Kozu

Easter is days away. Are you ready to receive the celebratory Alleluias? For Christians around the world, Holy Week and Easter are the high holy days of the liturgical year. During the holiest of times, we are invited to prayerfully commemorate and reflect upon the central events of our religious faith: the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, otherwise known as the Paschal Mystery.

Palm Sunday

On Sunday, March 24, **Palm Sunday** kicks off **Holy Week** by recalling the full sweep of Jesus' last week on earth: his paradoxically humble-yet-triumphal entry to Jerusalem. During our **10:00AM Worship Service**, you're invited to wave palm leaves as we reenact the parade that Jesus walked on that faithful day. A big thank you to church member, Christine Yorozu, for generously giving the palm leaves to the church. We'll save those leaves for

next year's ashes for Ash Wednesday. Usually, the Ash Wednesday ashes are created by burning palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration.

Good Friday at Japanese Baptist Church (JBC)

You're invited to the long-standing tradition of Blaine Memorial and Japanese Baptist Church's collaborative **Good Friday Service** on **Friday, March 29**. JBC will host Blaine this year. They are providing a *simple soup supper* at **5:45PM**. Our worship together will begin at **7:00PM** in the sanctuary. JBC is located at 160 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122. We are recommending that we meet at Blaine and then carpool together to JBC due to limited parking.

Together, we will remember Jesus' betrayal by Judas, the arrest by the authorities, and denial by Peter; his interrogation and swift condemnation; and his torture, death and burial.

The Passion Narrative, as it is

called, is a story of inherent drama: popular acclaim followed by public rejection; fear yet resolution at the prospect of suffering; betrayal, desertion and denial by close friends; the release of a guilty murderer named Barabbas (literally, "son of the father") in exchange for the condemnation of the innocent Son of (God) the Father; cries of abandonment, prayers for forgiveness, and surrender into divine trust. Overall, we will remember the great love that Jesus has for us and the sacrifices that he made.

Easter Festivities at Blaine

All of this culminates to Easter where we celebrate the Risen Christ!

Easter Breakfast: Join us for **Easter Breakfast** in the **LAC** at **8:30AM** as the Blaine Youth Group (BYG) will prepare, cook, and serve the breakfast. There will be two opportunities to eat: 8:30AM and after worship!

Flowering of the Cross: One of the most meaningful traditions that we celebrate on Easter Sunday is the Flowering of the Cross. It symbolizes new life in Christ. We invite all who are attending Easter Sunday worship (in person) to bring flowers from your garden (trimmed to a short stem). These flowers will be placed on the cross as you enter the Sanctuary for Easter worship.

Easter Egg Hunt: The Church School invites children to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt in the Courtyard (weather permitting). Please remind children to bring their own baskets, and feel free to invite your grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to join us for the hunt!

Join us as we celebrate the transformation of new life! The Paschal Mystery is so great and dense with meaning that the church dedicates the 50 days of Easter to celebrate it, to give it a chance to sink in. Jesus is raised. We are loved and forgiven by God. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work even now through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, slowly and inevitably transforming the world - and us - into a new creation, just as it transformed his

bruised and battered body. Amen to that. Alleluia!

Recapping Day of Remembrance

The wind and the rain sure didn't prevent hundreds of people, including two dozen of our own church members from Blaine Memorial, from showing solidarity and passion at Sunday's two-prong action Day of Remembrance event on Sunday, February 18, a day prior to the actual Day of Remembrance. A consistent theme throughout the day reiterated why it's important to connect past atrocities to the present atrocities and what we can do to make a difference to stop repeating history.

This year marked the 82 anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, authorizing the forced removal and incarceration of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. The very first Day of Remembrance took place in Seattle in 1978, organized by Japanese Americans who would eventually lead a campaign for reparations from the federal government. This year, the Japanese American community of Western Washington commemorates our historical legacy by calling for closure of the Northwest Detention Center, an immigrant prison in Tacoma operated by GEO Group, a private corporation.

Sunday was just one out of a series of events as a part of a week of action. On Friday, February 16, activists blocked entry to the federal building in downtown Seattle to protest proposed funding for immigrant detention. On Tuesday, February 20, activists marched to the King County Airport to deliver a letter to ICE contractor Signature Aviation demanding an end to the deportation flights serving NWDC. The events were organized by Tsuru for Solidarity, La Resistencia, Densho, Seattle and Puyallup Valley JACL chapters, and the Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee demanding the shutdown of the Northwest Detention Center.

The remembrances began with a ceremony in Puyallup, WA at the Washington State Fairgrounds which



Taiko drummers perform at the Washington State Fairgrounds, last February

was once called "Camp Harmony" – a euphemism that was coined by a journalist in 1942. Camp Harmony detained 7,000 Japanese Americans and Alaska Natives in 1942. The ceremony took place in the same spot, 82 years ago, where the Puyallup Assembly Center was erected in 1942. Later, in the afternoon, everyone caravanned to the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA to protest and to be in solidarity with those who are currently confined. The Northwest Detention Center is an immigration prison located in Tacoma, Washington.

"The trauma of family separation, child imprisonment, poor sanitation, bad food, inadequate health care, and uncertain futures continues today at the Northwest Detention Center, just a 20-minute drive from Puyallup," says Margaret Sekijima, a Tsuru for Solidarity organizer and Blaine Memorial church member.

Opened in 2004, the NWDC is privately owned and operated by the GEO Group on behalf of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The NWDC's current capacity is 1,575 people, making it the fourth largest immigration prison in the United States.

In Puyallup, we heard powerful testimonies by many including a riveting testimonial from Mary Abo. Mary shared about her experience

while witnessing her father being taken away by the FBI from her home in Juneau, Alaska. Shortly thereafter, she was shipped and detained with her family to the Puyallup Fairgrounds and the Minidoka Incarceration Camp. A highlight of her story included a memory of how her family was gifted a homemade chocolate cake while at Camp Harmony. The level of compassion and kindness moved her to tears and she's carried that with her throughout her life. She chose to bring a homemade chocolate cake to a detainee from the Northwest Detention Center to pay the kindness forward.

In Tacoma, the echoing sounds of Taiko drums opened our time together to raise the roof with drums and voices, and to remind those held inside know that they are not forgotten. They are not alone.

There were many speakers which included Maru Mora-Villalpando, from La Resistencia. Maru was nearly deported due to her undocumented status. La Resistencia maintains contact with people inside and broadcast a video feed from an incarcerated person to the crowd protesting. Incarcerated people have been frequently going on hunger strikes this year over the center's food and cleanliness.

Connecting and weaving the past atrocities from the First Nation peoples with a land acknowledgment to the Japanese American incarceration and then connecting the parallels of the immigrant prisoners at the Northwest Detention Center was a standout theme for the day.

It is not enough to remember the past injustices but we must work together to stop the current injustices.

May you find hope and peace during this Easter season as we continue to seek justice, love our neighbor, and walk humbly with God. May you look for God in every face you meet. You are called and you are blessed for such a time as this. May it be so.

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



Celebrating Easter at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church

Easter Lilies will once again bring beauty and fragrance to our worship setting for Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. These lilies remind us of the joy of new life in Jesus Christ as we celebrate His resurrection of Easter morning. This year, the worship committee invites you to dedicate an Easter lily plant for the altar.



Easter Lily Order Form | Please print very clearly

I would like to order ___ (qty.) Easter lily plants for the altar on Easter Sunday at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church.

Your Name:

Phone:

In loving memory of:

In celebration of:

In honor of:

I have enclosed \$ _____ (\$12 per plant)

(Checks or online payments preferred. Please note **"Easter Lily"** in the memo.)

How to Order:

- Complete the order form below. The cost for each plant is \$12. You can submit your form by **Sunday, March 24.**
- Send to Blaine Memorial UMC, ATTN: Easter Lily, 3001 24th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144.
- Bring form to the church office.
- Or, place this form in the offering plates by **Sunday, March 24, 2024.**



Easter Sunday Flowering of the Cross

One of the most meaningful and beautiful traditions we celebrate on Easter Sunday (3/31/2024) is the Flowering of the Cross, symbolizing the new life in Christ which transform the cross into a symbol of joy and hope. We invite all who are attending Easter Sunday worship (in person), to bring flowers from your garden (trimmed to a short stem) to be placed on the cross as you enter into the Sanctuary for Easter worship. Thank you!



Educational Scholarships 2024

Application period open through May 15, 2024

By Michelle Vaughan

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:

- *Vera Ing Scholarship*
- *Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church Scholarship*
- *Yasuda Scholarship*
- *William S. Yorozu Scholarship*
- *Robert and Lucy Sato Scholarship*

The Scholarships will be awarded under the following criteria:

Vera Ing Community College/Trade School Scholarship

Established in 2016. Award(s) will be made to those pursuing continued education through community colleges and/or technical/trade schools. Other Eligibility Opportunities/Community Based Internships: There is also opportunity for a scholarship to support an internship for a nonprofit or community organization.

Michelle Vaughan serves as the Chair of the Scholarship Committee at Blaine Memorial UMC.

Robert and Lucy Sato Scholarship

Award(s) will be made to a college undergraduate and/or graduate student pursuing a degree in Engineering, Mathematics, Nursing, Science, Technology or related fields of study.

Yasuda Scholarship

Award(s) will be made to high school seniors or college undergraduate.

William S. Yorozu Scholarship

Awards will be made to a college sophomore, junior or senior and to a graduate student.

Blaine Memorial Scholarship

Award(s) will be made to high school seniors, community college, technical/trade school, and/or college undergraduate or graduate student.

Applications are available through emailing BlaineUMCScholarships@gmail.com or through the church office. All scholarships will consider, but are not limited to, elements such as grades (if applicable), personal essay, church participation and finances.

Applications and two (2) letters of recommendation must be received no later than May 15, 2024 for consideration. We are looking forward to applicants excited about pursuing their education.



The Blaine Youth Group worked extra hard to help support Sukiyaki 2024 preparing delicious food for the community.

BYG UPDATE The Meaning of Lent

By Kaylee Yokoyama, photos by Kai Yamamoto

Upcoming Events

Easter Breakfast Prep
March 30

Easter Breakfast
March 31

As we journey through Lent, we continually remind ourselves of what we give up for Lent this year. When I reflect on Lent, I find that it is a time for me to challenge myself to grow in my relationship with God, through acknowledging the blessings in my life. During this Lent season, we encourage the youth to reflect on the meaning of Lent and how they may practice it through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In February, we had a lesson plan dedicated to Lent in which the youth set

their Lent goals through brainstorming ways in which they can practice Lent through the three pillars. Through this season of Lent in BYG we aim to encourage the youth to meet their Lent goals by providing support and guidance through our check-ins and holding one another accountable.

Blaine recently celebrated our annual Sukiyaki event! Sukiyaki is a fan favorite at Blaine where the youth are able to gather and practice service. Through the dedication of the youth's time and spirits,

the youth held a successful youth booth where they sold waters and sodas. Additionally, the youth also helped out at other stations around Sukiyaki.

Thank you, Blaine Congregation, for continuing to support youth throughout various Blaine events! Please make sure to keep a look out for upcoming BYG events, news, and announcements.

BYG meets on Sundays at 10:00 AM. We will gather in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship service before transitioning

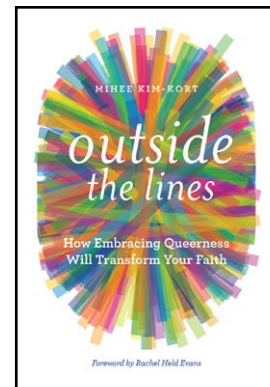
over to the Nishida Room for BYG time after the children's message.

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. BYG has a space for any person who is interested and all are welcome.

Contact Information

Director of Youth Ministry
Lynne Onishi
lynneonishi@gmail.com

Associate Directors of Youth Ministry
Kai Yamamoto and Kaylee Yokoyama
kai.yamamoto@gmail.com, kaylee.yokoyama1@gmail.com



Lynne Onishi recently visited the Farminary at Princeton Theological Seminary where students learn about both theology and ecology.

Innovation Hub Update

Fueling new growth, change for future

By Lynne Onishi

Upcoming Events

First Book Study Meeting
Every Thursday beginning March 7

Young Adult Hike
March 23

Hello! As we journey through Lent and the Easter season, I wonder what kind of reflections you're having about God, your spiritual life, and what it means to be a neighbor. I'm reminded of my time at the Farminary at Princeton Theological Seminary this past Fall. The seminary has its own farm, where students learn about ecology and theology. Our cohort toured the farm and listened as the director, Nathan Stucky, explained the origins of the Farminary and offered words of wonder and intrigue about what God might be communicating through the land.

Through storytelling, quiet reflection, finding peace in the beautiful natural surroundings, and the act of working the land (I was selected to harvest carrots!), I found myself surprised by all that God was telling me about life and death. What does the compost pile of my own life look like? What is dying or dead in my own life? And how might God take that very same material and transform it into fertilizer for new growth?

The Resurrection is a reminder that God springs forth renewal and new life from what

we once thought was dead. But in a world full of so much death and destruction, I struggle to believe that message of hope at times. How can I have hope when Palestinian families are dying underneath rubble, and the world just watches? How will God bring justice, hope, and healing to people living under occupation or to people who have been trafficked and remain unsafe or to people living behind bars and separated from their families because they seek a better life in a new country? Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

It's not hard to see why people of my generation maintain such a cynical view of our world. Death and despair are all around us. And we've simply never seen a world that tells a different story. But what if we could imagine a world that truly reflects the Kin-dom of God? What kind of waste from our world do we need to compost in order to fuel new growth and actual change for our present and our future? May this Easter be a reminder that God is not done transforming death into life.

Spring Reconciling Ministries Book Study

The Reconciling team will begin hosting a new book study this Spring. We'll read and discuss the book *Outside the Lines* by author and pastor Mihee Kim-Kort.

Kim-Kort's book explores the relationship between queerness and spirituality. Queerness is not only an identity that many of us hold but a lens through which we can begin to understand God's love for us.

Books can be purchased at the Church office for \$16.

This book study is open to anyone who would like to participate! The Book Study Group will meet every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM on Zoom. We will read and discuss one chapter per week and open up space for questions, reflections, and sharing with one another.

The Innovation Hub and Reconciling Ministries Teams 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. Questions? Send an email to lynneonishi@gmail.com



By Lesley Okura,
Photos by the Rev. Karen Yokota Love
and Kai Yamamoto

Sukiyaki Dinner 2024 was such a success due to the contributions of many, many volunteers and leadership of the youth, congregation members, staff and friends. It has many moving parts and more than 150+ dedicated individuals--some pitching in more than one committee--made the whole of Sukiyaki come to life.

We will be able to assist Riverton Park United Methodist Church with much needed funds and more than 50 blankets through our collection call-out. This is the second Sukiyaki Dinner post-Covid and our modified in-dining was a welcome addition for our community members that crave the return of a gathering place for a special meal. Additionally, and more importantly, this is the first community event to help kick-off the celebration of the 120th year Anniversary of Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church.

A huge thank you and arigato gozaimasu to all that participated generously with your time, talents and hard work. A big thank you also to our vendors with their generous donations that include SK Produce Company, Red Apple Market and Uwajimaya/Seattle. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the first Saturday in March for Sukiyaki Dinner 2025.

In Christ's name,
Committee Leaders for Sukiyaki Dinner 2024



Blaine Memorial UMC's Girl Scout Troop sells cookies at Sukiyaki!



Church members make ohagi before Sukiyaki opens!



Corky Kozu and another person preparing vegetables for Sukiyaki.



Howard Nakase washes celery for Sukiyaki.



Teresa Yagi chopping vegetables for Sukiyaki.



Barbara Nagaoka chop green onions.



Chops celery for the Sukiyaki.



Dale Kaneko creates a timeline of Blaine's 120 years in ministry.



Volunteers finish packing baked goods.



Ryan Koza seasons and stirs the pork broth for the Sukiyaki.



John Lim and Harry Tong prepare delicious bag lunches for residents of Tent City 3. The children of Blaine Memorial UMC made 80 lunches to serve community.

Associate Pastor's Spiritual Reflection

Lent & Easter: What does God want you to replace?

By the Rev. Mia MiKyung Park

How is your Lent going? I am curious and excited to know how your Lent has been going this year. Lent brings me such a deep sense of self-examination and reflection, which draws me into repentance, renewal, and hope. I like to choose a theme for Lent and Easter each year, and this year, I've decided the theme is "Replacing." As I reflect on the theme, I recognize many aspects of myself that need to be replaced with something else.

I desire to replace disappointment with hope, knowing that God's plans are greater than my own. Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us, "My plans aren't your plans, nor are your ways my ways," says the Lord. "Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my

ways higher than your ways, and my plans than your plans." In moments of disappointment, I seek to replace it with hope, reminding myself that there is a reason to be hopeful in Jesus, who conquers death to prove God's unending and steadfast love.

I desire to replace anxiety with trust, believing that God is in control, and I am a witness to God's mysterious works. The Apostle Paul advises us in Philippians 4:6-7, "Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus." Though challenges may overwhelm me, I remind myself

to surrender my anxiety to God, who listens and answers in God's time.

I desire to replace resentment with peace, finding solace in the words of our Lord Jesus who gives us true peace, saying, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27). In times of turmoil, I find peace in knowing that God's love surrounds me, calming my troubled heart.

Because of God's grace, I am hopeful that I can lay down my disappointment, anxiety, resentment, etc., before God and ask them to be replaced with hope, trust, peace, etc.

I want to ask you: what do you think that God wants you to replace?

Our Church School children made 80 lunch bags for the residents at Tent City 3 on Sunday, February 4. Thanks to all the children, teachers, and dads who joyfully made the lunch bags to donate to Tent City 3. Also, I express my gratitude to those who provided individually packed snacks. I am thankful for this wonderful teamwork at Blaine! As a community, we continue to be the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus, embodying Christ's love and compassion for those in need. The Church School's March memorization verse is Revelation 3:20, where we are reminded, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me." Let us open our hearts to God's presence and allow God to guide us on our Lenten journey of replacing old habits and attitudes with God's love and grace.

God resurrected Jesus from the death which replaces human finitude to God's eternity. I invite all of us to continue replacing what we don't need with what we must have. May this Lenten season be a time of reflection, renewal, and transformation for us all, and may our Easter be a time of hope and rejoicing!

The Rev. Mia MiKyung Park is the Associate Pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC.

Spiritual Formation Center

Easter is Resurrection Day!

By Anne Arakaki-Lock

It was prophesied in the Old Testament:

"I know my Redeemer lives, and that in the end, he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh, I will see God." Job 19:25-26.

God's timing is always so perfect. As I am writing this article, at the same time I'm now getting text messages from my cousin about my aunty's memorial service and inurnment in Hawaii. As I contact the pastor, think about the program, and select Scriptures, as I think about the eulogy, I am so at peace and joyful.

You see, my Aunty became a Christian later in life, enjoying her newfound faith before her dementia set in. We went to church together when I was there caring for my mom. Aunty enjoyed going to the church at Kahala Mall. She often told me that she would pray. There was always something or someone to pray about. So as her memorial was



being discussed last week, my uncle didn't hesitate. He wanted a Christian service for her. I praise God for this.

I know where Aunty is. In fact, as family will be flying in from Seattle and the Bay Area to join our Hawaii ohana, we will look forward to an Easter-like day in Hawaii at Diamond Head Cemetery. Yes, it will definitely be a celebration.

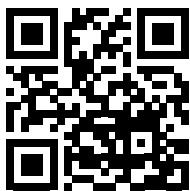
I love knowing that my mom and dad, Jesus, are with her now. It is comforting. There is no guessing

where Aunty is and how she's doing.

Easter, Resurrection Sunday marks Jesus' victory over death, showing us his power to conquer evil and to give us a pain free, loving, beautiful everlasting life with him. Aunty's last few years with Alzheimer's Disease were rough. But now, she will live a wonderful life in eternity with God. "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain" Revelation 21:3-4.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'" John 11:25-26

Anne Arakaki-Lock is a member of Blaine Memorial UMC.



blaineonline.org

Connect with Blaine Memorial UMC!

Visit Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church on Facebook for the latest news on church events and more. Also bookmark blaineonline.org for video links to Sunday Worship Services, church stories, and ways to give.

The latest issue of the Beacon can also be found through these resources! Need help accessing our pages? Contact blaineoffice@yahoo.com or talk to any member of Blaine Memorial UMC's staff to assist!



[www.fb.com/blainememorialchurch](https://www.facebook.com/blainememorialchurch)

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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

- Margie Smith, 99, a beloved church member, passed away peacefully on December 25, 2023. Margie is survived by daughter Anita Kuroiwa-Schiff (Stan); grandson Dustin Paul Kuroiwa; and her little dog, Bella; in addition to an extended family too numerous to list. There will be a public Celebration of Life service on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 1:00PM at Blaine Memorial UMC. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church.
- Lucy Sato, 96, a beloved church member, passed away peacefully on December 18, 2023. She lived a full, beautiful life. Our prayers go out to the Hayasaka and Sato families. Lucy is survived by her children, David (Terry), Dean, Stan, Joan, Richard (Trinh), Sam (Janet), Mike (Joanne); thirteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She loved her family with all of her heart. The immediate family held a private burial service on March 9, 2024 in accordance with Lucy's request. She will be laid to rest joining her late husband, Robert Sato at the Washington Memorial Cemetery. Remembrances may be made to: Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, Nisei Veterans Committee or a charity of your choice.

Those in cancer treatment or remission

- Jennifer Lew • Tony Yasuda • Katie Tat
- Duong Nguyen • Quy Phi
- Nikki Palmer • Linda Perry
- Chuck Sitkin • Dean Tsuchida

Those with health concerns, recovery

- Sumi Yoshioka • Pui Chung Ngao Wong
- Madison Kelly • Greg Ogata • Sam Wakasugi
- Suma Yagi • Wyman Martin
- Marcia Takahashi • Rev. Shigeharu Ago

Celebrations

- Congratulations on the success of Blaine's Sukiyaki Benefit Fundraiser! This ministry to the community was a marvelous success as we met and greeted old friends and made new ones. Riverton Park UMC Migrant Support Services is this year's beneficiary. Thank you for raising funds to help the migrants who are living outside of the church and thank you for the abundance of blankets! Thank you to all of the volunteers who put their faith and heart into this ministry event!

- Congratulations to all who are celebrating March and April 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.

For our community, nation, and world

- Prayers for all of the tornado victims in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Arkansas. Prayers as they rebuild and recover after the aftermath of the swath of storms. Prayers for the families who lost loved ones.
- Prayers for all of the detainees who are currently imprisoned inside the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, WA. Still hearts that are anxious about the dangers they face in the inhumane living conditions. May they receive the proper care, clean clothes, healthy food, and good hygiene that is absolutely needed. May they know your unbinding love during these troublesome times.
- Prayers for comfort and relief for those challenged by serious and chronic mental and emotional illnesses. Give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care.
- Prayers for our unhoused siblings in our neighborhood, in the City of Seattle, in the state of Washington, and across the country. May we improve systems so that our unhoused can be housed.
- Prayers for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the violence and war. We pray for peace and reconciliation for people in the Israel-Hamas War. We pray for those who are dead and for the families who grieve. We pray for peace between the two regions.
- Prayers for the 82nd year of the EO 9066 Day of Remembrance on February 19, 2024, when our nation was gripped with wartime fears and uncertainty and our ancestors were assembled and sent to incarceration camps. Let us learn from past errors and know that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. May we be moved to be allies, to speak up and speak out, and to ensure that such an injustice is not repeated for any group of marginalized people.

March-April 2024

Visit blaineonline.org/calendar for updates. The Church Office is open Tuesday-Friday (10am-12pm, 1pm-4pm). If you have questions, please email blaineoffice@yahoo.com or call 206-723-1536.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| March 24 Palm Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deadline: Easter Lily Orders due!• 10am, Hybrid Worship• 10am, Church School• 1pm, Blaine Basketball | 25 Church Office Closed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am, Zoom Yoga• 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga• 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting | 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal | 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/Rev. Karen• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting | 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele | 29 Good Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7:00pm, Good Friday Service @ Japanese Baptist Church | 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easter Breakfast Prep  |
| • Blaine Memorial UMC is closed during Holy Week. | | | | | | |
| 31 Easter Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:30 am, Easter Breakfast• 10am, Hybrid Worship• 10am, Church School• 11:30am, Egg Hunt• 1pm, Blaine Basketball | April 1 Church Office Closed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga• 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting | 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal | 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/Rev. Karen• 10:30am, Pickleball• 6:30pm, SPRC Meeting• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting | 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele• 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball | 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1pm, Pickleball | 6 |
| 7 Communion Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am, Hybrid Worship• 10am, BYG Gathering• 10am, Church School• 1pm, Blaine Basketball | 8 Church Office Closed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga• 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting | 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal | 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/Rev. Karen• 10:30am, Pickleball• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting | 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele• 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball | 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1pm, Pickleball• 7:30pm, Volleyball | 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9am, Okinawa Kenjin Kai of Washington State |
| 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am, Hybrid Worship• 10am, BYG Gathering• 10am, Church School• 12pm, Girl Scouts• 1pm, Blaine Basketball | 15 Church Office Closed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga• 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting | 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal | 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/Rev. Karen• 10:30am, Pickleball• 6pm, SASC Meeting• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting | 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele• 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball | 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1pm, Pickleball• 7:30pm, Volleyball | 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4pm, Private Party |
| 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am, Hybrid Worship• 10am, BYG Gathering• 10am, Church School• 1pm, Blaine Basketball | 22 Church Office Closed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga• 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting | 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal | 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/Rev. Karen• 10:30am, Pickleball• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting | 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele• 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball | Upcoming Events <ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 24: Palm Sunday• March 29: JBC Collaborative Good Friday Service• March 31: Easter Sunday• May 1: First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month | |



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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 UMC celebrates God's gift of diversity and values the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We 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.

We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

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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.

