

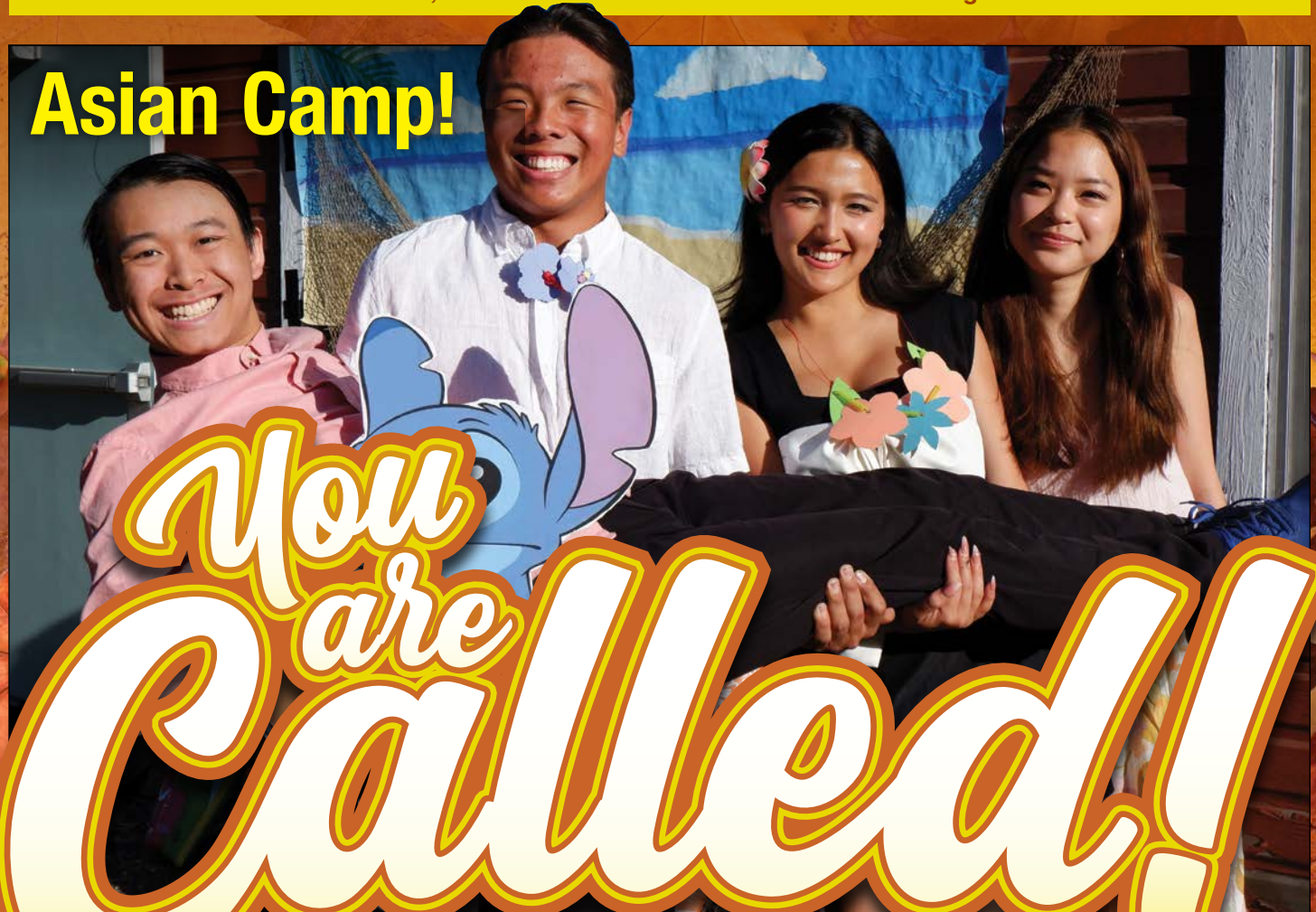
Beacon

Connect with Blaine!

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October/November 2025 • Vol. 46, #4 • Download this issue at blaineonline.org/beacon-news

Asian Camp!



Guatemala!



Walk for Rice!



Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church



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Last June, the Blaine Ukulele Group of Seattle (B.U.G.S.) take a lunch break after performing two songs at this year's Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Sessions at Bothell UMC (Bothell, Wash.).



Asian Camp was held on June 29 to July 4, 2025 at Camp Wrightwood in Wrightwood, Calif. Our own Blaine Youth Group participated in different facets of the program to help next generations grow closer to Christ.

Senior Pastor Reflection

Harvesting, Giving Thanks, Being Generous

By the Rev. Karen Yokota Love, photos by Aiden Lew, Jesse N. Love

Fall is a season of change. Autumn reminds us that nothing stays the same and that the cycle of life is continual change. In my best moments, I savor the changes of the fall. In my worst, I desperately hold on to every fading flower. I lament the shorter days as it gets dark at 4:00pm and regret lost opportunities. Sometimes change is hard. Autumn can be a melancholy time. Yet I am always reassured when autumn

comes, in part because it always reminds me of three great lessons in life.

Autumn is a time of harvest. Harvest is the intentional gathering of resources for life. It is a time of remembering, connecting, and savoring. It's no accident that squirrels gather nuts, we pick apples and carve pumpkins. This season is a time to celebrate and appreciate life. It's a time of memories, a time when relationships come to the fore,

accomplishments are celebrated, and setbacks remembered.

Autumn is also a time for thankfulness. Even when the growing season has been a challenge, or things don't turn out the way we would like, it is hard not to be thankful at the harvest. Maybe it is no accident that the Thanksgiving holiday occurs right in the middle of autumn. Life is always more generous than we might realize, especially when we look back on it.

Autumn is a season of generosity, a time when people share the fruits of their labor with others, just as Mother Nature shares hers with us. I don't think it's by accident that most churches, schools, and non-profit organizations do their fundraising in the fall. Fall is a generous season. Generosity has a great power for good, because it involves the process of letting go, relinquishing, giving up something in order to help another. Generosity helps both the giver and the one who receives. All three of these autumn lessons, harvesting, giving thanks, and being generous are central to the teachings of Jesus.

He taught them and lived them. And he challenged his followers to do the same. And autumn is a reminder of lessons that need to be learned over and over.

"For everything there is a season," as the writer of Ecclesiastes says. But what about tomorrow? The day may be shorter or cooler, but there will always be something to harvest, something to share and something to give thanks for.

Summer Celebrations

We had an amazing turnout at the Walk For Rice in June. Thank you to Justine Ing who has organized WFR with the Ing Family for decades. The Blaine Ukulele Group of Seattle performed at the Opening Worship at Annual Conference in June. We sent 12 campers to Asian Camp, one counselor, Aidan Lew, and thank you to Malia Yamamoto for being our adult chaperone. We sent 20 missionaries to Mission Guatemala to work in dentist ministry, construction work, and VBS. We celebrated new births



Blaine Memorial UMC is reducing its carbon footprint with new LED lights!

together, grieved loved ones who passed away, and did day-to-day life together. Thank you to my staff for all the hard work in which they do each day and how they serve the Lord with all of their hearts and souls. I want to welcome back, our resident designer, web master and social media guru, Jesse Love, who took a sabbatical over the summer.

We celebrated the final days of August with a Blessing of the Animals in the Courtyard. The day was perfect.

New Lights, Reducing Carbon Footprint

Throughout the Summer, we continued to make improvements to our church building. If you've wandered around the Office area, there are new LED lights — we will not only be working in much brighter areas, but we will be conserving a lot of energy.

We also decided to reduce the amount of printing that we are doing by having an online worship bulletin only. This has saved us \$6,000 in printing, ink and paper costs in just two months. There will continue to be further changes as we will continue to make upgrades to our buildings as we work to be a climate community resilience hub in the Beacon Hill neighborhood.

May you continue to have a blessed autumn season and a wonderful month of gratitude as we thank God for the abundance of blessings!

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



Blaine Memorial UMC raises \$12,700 for Walk for Rice!

By Justine Ing

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 strong turnout on June 28th at Seward Park - with over 30 walkers this year, we were one of the largest teams walking on a beautiful Saturday morning to support the ACRS Food Bank.

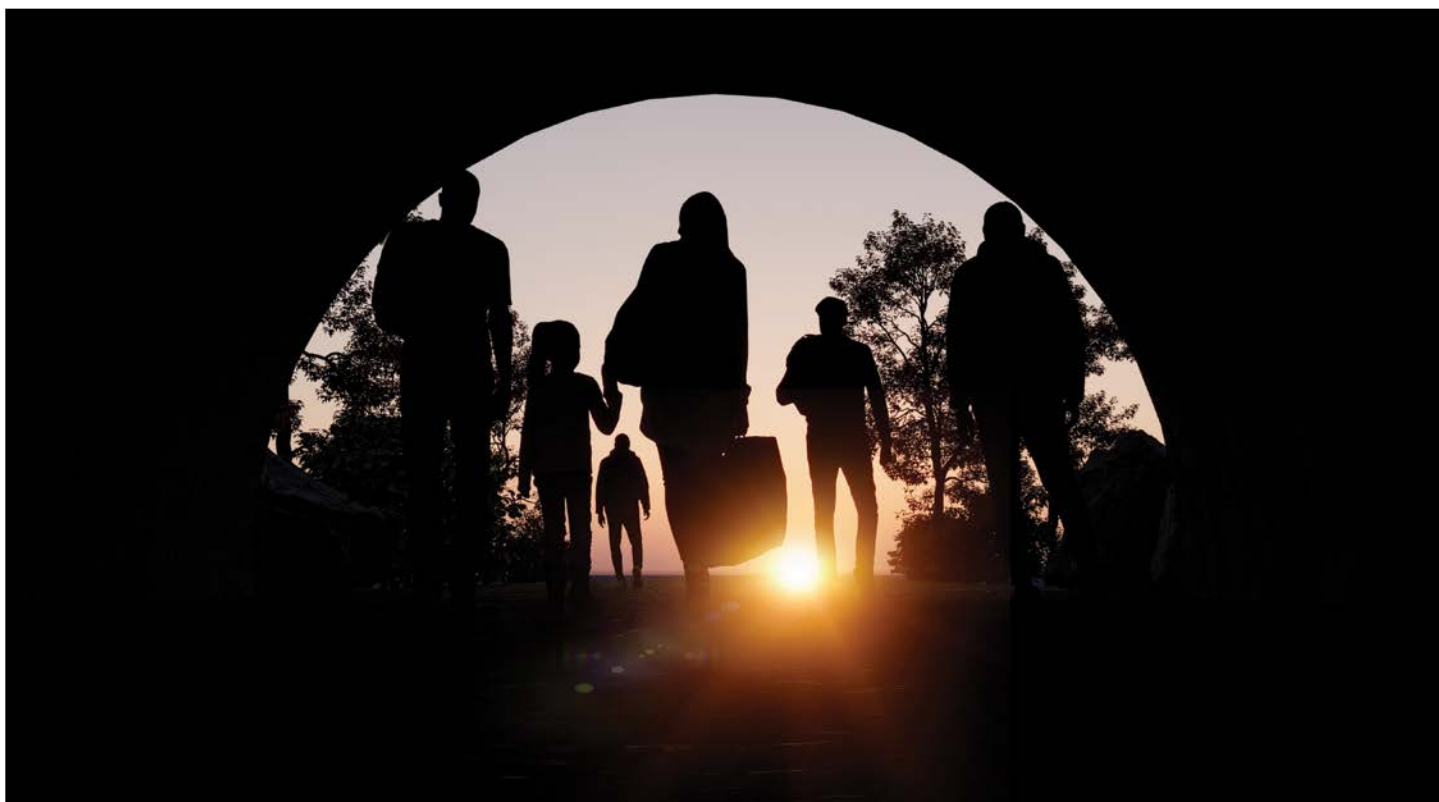
At the closing ceremony, Team Blaine was recognized by ACRS as being in Second Place among all Walk for Rice fundraising teams - as of this writing, we've raised over \$12,700! We far exceeded our fundraising goal - WAY TO GO, BLAINE COMMUNITY!! Our donations will help ACRS to provide culturally familiar food for low-income seniors and families for



many months. ACRS will continue to accept 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 Ing served as Team Captain for this year's Walk for Rice and is a member of Blaine Memorial UMC.



Associate Pastor's Spiritual Reflection **You Are Called:** How do we strengthen the body of Christ?

By Rev. Job Pangilinan



We Are Called

It is an honor to serve at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church in my first appointment as its associate pastor and as a newly commissioned provisional member of The Pacific Northwest Conference.

I'd like to share with you a reflection I originally wrote for The National Association of Filipino American United Methodists (NAFAUM). It explores what it means to be called — not just to a role in the Church, but to a life shaped by Christ's mission in the world.

For the sake of clarity, let me outline what I hope to share. First, I want to name the reality of our current moment — in our communities, our nation, and our world. Second, I'll reflect on our missional calling from a Biblical and contextual lens. Finally, I invite you to join me in wrestling with what it means to live out this mission — to embody the prayer of Jesus: that God's kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven.

Our Situation

We are still living through the echoes of the pandemic's devastation. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2020 the actual global death toll likely exceeded 3 million — 1.2 million more than officially reported ([read more, http://bit.ly/3Wi3nVC](http://bit.ly/3Wi3nVC)). So much pain, so much loss — unseen, unacknowledged, unresolved. And now, our world feels like it's unraveling into war. What some once called an "age of turbulence" has shifted into something far more violent. According to Al Jazeera, by 2023 there were nearly 60 active armed conflicts around the globe — more than ever before ([read http://bit.ly/47exzpK](http://bit.ly/47exzpK)). Civilian deaths spiked by over 30% in just one year, driven by escalating violence in the Middle East, North Africa, and Eastern Europe.

And right before our eyes, we witness a hardening of policies against migrants — people fleeing that very violence and oppression — while nationalist ideologies masquerade as patriotism. These are the times we live in. This is the world we are called to love.

Our Missional Goal

Even as churches split and communities polarize, we are united by a common mission — one that Jesus made clear. We are called to love: to love God, to love our neighbors, to love even our enemies. Christ doesn't call us to an abstract ideal. He calls us to a radical practice — a lived love that feeds the hungry, quenches the thirsty, welcomes the stranger, cares for the sick, and visits the imprisoned. Christ is present in the least of these. (Matthew 25:35,36)

That mission has never changed. What has changed is how we define it — whether we widen the circle or shrink it, whether we include or exclude, whether we let our dogma dictate our compassion. Let's be honest — how we define love has fractured the Church throughout history. As Methodists, our own story is filled with splinters and schisms. The body of Christ has been broken — not just in bread, but in relationship.

Living the Mission

So how do we keep strengthening the body of Christ when we keep drifting apart?

I find hope in the partnership of Peter and Paul. They were different in so many ways — Peter, called to the Jews; Paul, sent to the Gentiles. And yet, they recognized the urgency of the Gospel and the power of unity. Their shared mission didn't erase their differences — it made space for them.

These hits close to home. I was raised a conservative Christian. I struggled deeply with non-traditional practices and progressive theology — especially when it felt like it deviated from the teachings I had grown up with. LGBTQ inclusion? Same-sex marriage? Divorce? Interfaith relationships? Islamic faith? You name it — I wrestled with it.

But by the grace of God, I can see more clearly now. I now worship with the LGBTQ community. I do church collaboration with those in same-sex marriages. I am a divorcee myself. And I pray with people from other faiths — who have a true heart for one God.

My understanding didn't flip from one extreme to the other. What changed was my vision — a broader lens shaped by the love of Christ working across the entire spectrum. I now stand fully in support of the Reconciling Church movement in The United Methodist Church, not because I abandoned my convictions, but because I saw God's love and grace at work in people I once struggled to understand.

At Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, I was taught something simple but profound: If you can't see Christ from where you are standing in the church, move closer. James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you." That's the church I believe in — the body of Christ, where Christ is the head (Ephesians 1:22-23) and we are the hands, feet, and heart of his mission in the world.

Conclusion

And so, even in the face of all this — war, division, personal hesitation, and theological tension — we are called. Not because we are already ready, or worthy, or wise, but because we are willing. Willing to wrestle with the questions. Willing to draw near when the way is unclear. Willing to love beyond our boundaries and listen beyond our biases.

The call of Christ hasn't changed — to love God, to love neighbor, to embody mercy and justice in a hurting world. What changes is how we choose to live it.

We are called to unity, not uniformity; to grace, not gatekeeping; to presence, not perfection.

And maybe — just maybe — the very act of answering this call, even when we feel unqualified or unsure, is how we become more fully the body of Christ in the world today.

Pastor Job Pangilinan serves as the Associate Pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC in Seattle.



This year, members of Blaine Memorial UMC supported Tsuru for Solidarity and others to protest the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash. "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." -blaineonline.org

I am reminded that "Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character ..." (2 Timothy 3:16). I just have to pray and depend on the Word of God (Jesus) who speaks to me through the word of God (the Bible). *How often do I go through life looking for direction and searching for guidance? Always!*

I know that no matter what God has me doing, or what God's purpose for me is, I always have to rely on God for direction.

While reading the scriptures this morning, God led me to Exodus 2 and 3: Moses and the burning bush. This bush kept on burning, so Moses went over and checked it out and spoke to God. Moses could see what God was saying. Moses' heart was burning because he knew that his people were being oppressed. He saw it for a long time, though had to be convinced to do something about it. (Read Exodus

Spiritual Formation Center

What is Your Burning Bush?

By Anne Arakaki-Lock

In a time of difficulty and conflict, how can we respond in ways that reflect justice and love?

further to see how God helped Moses.)

So for us at Blaine Memorial UMC, is it possible that our news media is God's burning bush? The burning bush reminds us each day of the ongoing oppression, injustice, and

threats of conflict around us. When Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth and Rev. Karen speak about our church's "Ministry that Matters," in the M.I.L.E., seeing the injustice and oppression around us is a step towards connecting with God's heart. I can feel His breath of justice and love, urging me to do something.

Each of us will respond in our own way. One step is to encourage you to seek your own burning bush, then seek how God will help you to act, just as God provided the resources for Moses to help his people seek freedom.

We can join others at the NW Detention Center to support incarcerated immigrant friends. Tsuru for Solidarity can use more financial support, big or small. You can always be of service and do something for your neighbor.

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

Lectionary Readings | https://bit.ly/vanderbilt_library

All Saints Day | Nov 01, 2025

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost | Nov 02, 2025

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost | Nov 09, 2025

Haggai 2:1-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98; Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost | Nov 16, 2025

Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost | Nov 23, 2025

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Thanksgiving Day | Nov 27, 2025

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100; Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35

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November 2025

If you have questions, please email office@blaineonline.org or call 206-723-1536.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						All Saints Day • 9am-11am, Pickleball • 10am-Noon, Worship Committee Work Party
2 Communion Sunday, All Saints Day, Daylight Savings Time • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 10am, BYG Gathering • Worship Committee Meeting • 1pm, Blaine Basketball	3 Church Office Closed • 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball • 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	4 • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	5 • Announcements due • 9am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen • Memorial Service (Private) • 10:30am, Pickleball • 8pm, Zoom Church School Meeting	6 • 11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	7 • 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Asian Volleyball	8 • 9am-11am, Pickleball
9 Camp Sunday, Veterans Sunday • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 10am, BYG Gathering • 11:30am, BYG Mtg. • 1pm, Blaine Basketball	10 Church Office Closed • 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball • 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	11 Veterans Day Church Office Closed • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	12 • Announcements due • 9am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen • 10:30am, Pickleball • 8pm, Zoom Church School Meeting	13 • 11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	14 • 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Asian Volleyball	15 • 11am, Dale Tom's Public Memorial Service
16 Lee Activity Center 25th Anniversary! • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 10am, BYG Gathering • LAC Celebration, 11am • 1pm, Blaine Basketball	17 Church Office Closed • 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball • 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	18 • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	19 • Announcements due • 9am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen • 10:30am, Pickleball • 8pm, Zoom Church School Meeting	20 • 11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	21 • 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Asian Volleyball	22 • 9am-11am, Pickleball
23 • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 10am, BYG Gathering • 1pm, Blaine Basketball	24 Church Office Closed • 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball • 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	25 • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal • Kimball Thanksgiving Meals Delivery	26 • 9am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen • 8pm, Zoom Church School Meeting	27 Thanksgiving, Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 • 9am, Greening of the Church
30 Advent Begins • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 10am, BYG Gathering • 1pm, Blaine Basketball						

December 2025

Visit blaineonline.org for more information

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
	1 Church Office Closed • 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball • 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	2 • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	3 • Announcements due • 9am, Coffee & Prayer w/Rev. Karen • 10:30am, Pickleball • 8pm, Zoom Church School Meeting	4 • 11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	5 • 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Asian Volleyball	6 • 9am-12pm, Preschool Holiday Concert (Private) • 9am-11am, Pickleball		
7 Second Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 1pm, Blaine Basketball	8 Church Office Closed • 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball • 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	9 • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	10 • Announcements due • 9am, Coffee & Prayer w/Rev. Karen • 10:30am, Pickleball • 12pm, ACRS • 8pm, Zoom Church School Meeting	11 • 8am-4pm, ACRS • 11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	12 • 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Asian Volleyball	13 • 9am, Preschool Holiday Concert		
14 Third Sunday of Advent • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 12pm, Girl Scouts • 12pm, Children's Play • 1pm, Blaine Basketball	15 Church Office Closed • 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball • 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	16 • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	17 • Announcements due • 9am, Coffee & Prayer w/Rev. Karen • 10:30am, Pickleball • 8pm, Zoom Church School Meeting	18 • 11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele Gigs • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	19	20 • 10am, Celebration of Life of Grace Mandac Adriano		
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Music Sunday • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 1pm, Blaine Basketball • 1pm, Longest Night Service	22 Church Office Closed • 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball • 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	23 • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	24 Advent ends, Christmas Eve • Announcements due • 4pm, Christmas Eve Family Service • 7:30pm, Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Church Office, Campus Closed, December 25, 2025 - January 5, 2026			26	27 CI-PNW 2025 “Balikbayan” @ Lake Retreat Camp (Ravensdale, WA)
28 Church Office, Campus Closed, December 25, 2025 - January 5, 2026 CI-PNW 2025 “Balikbayan” @ Lake Retreat Camp (Ravensdale, WA)	29	30	31 New Years Eve					



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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.

Ministry Staff Team

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Choir Director
Church School Superintendent
Pianist
Office Assistant
Bookkeeper

Rev. Karen Yokota Love
Rev. Job Pangilinan
Eugene Onishi
Sai Hanaoka
Kathy Onishi
Yuki Sofronas
Mimi Mar



Lay Leadership Team

Administrative Board
Staff Parish Relations
Board of Trustees
Finance Committee
Lay Leaders
Annual Conference Delegates

Brad Miyake
Arlene Naganawa
Ron Nobuyama, Brian Okura
Harry Tang
Eugene Onishi, Kathy Onishi
Ron Nobuyama
George Yates



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, office@blaineonline.org 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.

