

Beacon

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Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church



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The young people of Blaine Memorial UMC attended Asian American Summer Camp. It was an opportunity for our youth to grow in faith and make friends along the way.

Senior Pastor Reflection From Summer's Gifts to Autumn's Promise

By the Rev. Karen Yokota Love, photos by Hailey Oshita and Rev. Karen Yokota Love

As I look back on this summer, I'm filled with gratitude for all we have shared as a spiritual community — and for the many ways our ministry has come alive. It has been a full and joyful season at Blaine, with opportunities to worship, serve, laugh, learn, and simply spend time together. We've supported our youth, reached beyond our walls, welcomed new people, and made significant improvements to our church home. As autumn begins, I'm grateful for everyone who has helped make this ministry possible and for the many ways God continues to work through our community. I'm excited for what lies ahead.

Sam Grant brought joy and wonderful energy to our ministry as our Summer Youth Ministry Apprentice. With creativity and enthusiasm, Sam helped organize several fun experiences, including a Mariners game and a hike to Twin Falls. These moments reminded us that ministry happens not only within our church walls, but at ballparks, on hiking trails, and wherever we gather.

We sent 13 youth, accompanied by four adult chaperones, including me, to Asian Camp. Camp provided a meaningful space for our youth to build friendships, deepen their faith, and connect with other Asian American youth. It was a joy and blessing to witness them grow closer to God, worship, laugh, and form bonds that will continue beyond camp.

Members of our congregation once again traveled to Mission Guatemala, continuing our commitment to serving alongside others, building relationships across cultures, and sharing their gifts through dental ministry, VBS, and construction work.

We also gathered at Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple for an interfaith service commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Together, people from diverse faith traditions remembered those who lost their lives and the suffering caused by nuclear weapons, while affirming our shared commitment to peace. It was a powerful reminder that, despite our differences, we can find common ground and work together toward a more peaceful world.

Caring for Our Church Home

While summer brought many opportunities for fellowship, service, and ministry, we have also been busy behind the scenes making significant improvements to our church home. Caring for these spaces is itself part of our ministry — it helps us create welcoming places where people can worship, gather, serve and grow. I am deeply grateful to our trustees and volunteers for the time, energy and expertise they have given to this work, helping us steward what we have while preparing Blaine for the ministry God is calling us to in the future.

This summer, the overgrown nursery area bordering the Social Hall was cleared to prepare for battery storage supporting our upcoming solar panel project. New parking lot lights were installed, and our trustees are working toward installing heat pumps. Nearly 300 chairs in the Lee Activity Center were also refurbished, giving them new life and helping us make good use of what we already have.

More recently, our trustees led a Church Clean-Up, trimming hedges, pruning trees, deep-cleaning the

sanctuary and kitchens, power-washing the grounds, and washing the windows. Our church grounds are sparkling!

We also welcomed a new janitor this summer, who has been faithfully caring for our facilities and even tackling those less glamorous jobs — like removing years of stubborn rings from the toilet bowls! We are grateful for everyone who helps care for Blaine and make it a welcoming place for all.

Welcoming a New Season

Recently, we gathered for Rally Sunday, celebrating the beginning of our autumn season and the start of a new school year. It was a joyful day filled with blessings, farewells, welcomes and opportunities to reconnect as a church community.

We blessed backpacks, work totes, devices and school supplies, as our children and youth began a new school year. We offered a farewell blessing to Sam, giving thanks for his summer ministry among us. We also warmly welcomed our new BYG Youth Director, Adam Drake.

Adam brings previous extensive youth ministry experience from El Paso, Texas, with a background in the Anglican Church. He is currently studying at the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology. In addition to

his passion for youth ministry, Adam is also a gifted musician.

Most of all, we are excited for our youth to have the opportunity to get to know Adam and experience the gifts, energy, and enthusiasm he brings to our church community. Please join us in giving him a warm welcome!

Ad Board sponsored a Ministry Fair. Church leadership from a variety of Blaine's ministries gathered to share information, answer questions, and invite members to become more involved in the life of our church. It was a wonderful opportunity to discover the many ways we can worship, learn, serve, build community, and put our faith into action.

The BYG hosted a simple box lunch to help raise funds for Asian Camp 2027. Thank you to everyone who supported this effort and helped make it a success!

Thank you for making this summer such a wonderful season. As we welcome autumn, may we carry with us the joy, connections, and blessings of these past months. With grateful hearts and hopeful spirits, we look forward to all that God has in store for us in the season ahead.

The Rev. Karen Yokota Love serves as senior pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC in Seattle.



Blaine Memorial UMC joins Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, faith leaders from both communities, and people of many traditions in an interfaith service honoring Hiroshima and Nagasaki and renewing our shared hope for peace.



WFR and Blaine Memorial UMC raise \$20,325 for families in need!

Team Blaine had a strong turnout at the May 16 ACRS Walk for Rice, with about 35 walkers supporting the ACRS Food Bank at Seward Park. Blaine Memorial's long-standing connection to the event was celebrated, with Mark Mitsui sharing remarks about his father's role in founding the Walk for Rice. Team Blaine raised a record \$20,325,



reaching first place in fundraising and helping provide culturally familiar food to low-income seniors and families.

Scan the QR code to read more.

LAC Chairs Are 'Like New' Now

Over three and a half days in August, 40 volunteers cleaned and re-covered nearly 300 Lee Activity Center chairs, extending



their life while demonstrating good stewardship.

Scan the QR code to read more.



BAZAAR2026

Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church

3001 24th Ave S, Seattle 98144 • 206.723.1536 • www.blaineonline.org

Saturday, Oct. 3 • 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. • Take-out only • In-Dining Available



Available Food Items

- BBQ Salmon
- Yakisoba & Side BBQ chicken
- Vegetarian Yakisoba
- Beef Curry

- Pie
- BBQ Chicken
- Suno Dogs
- Hot Dog, Chips & Drink
- Hot Dog

Booths

- Farmer's Market
- Bake Sale
- Ohagi

Scan the QR code to view updates on Bazaar 2026, including updated menu items!

Bazaar 2026 Beneficiary:

LA RESISTENCIA

By Lesley Okura

After lengthy deliberation by the Ad Board, we'd like to announce that La Resistencia has been selected as our Bazaar beneficiary. We received multiple nominations, all worthy of our support. We prayerfully considered four criteria:

We carefully reviewed each submission and discussed how the opportunity reflects Blaine's vision, values and goals.

What opportunities will our congregation have to engage with the organization beyond a financial gift?

Will the partnership help us become more deeply connected to our community?

What might the relationship between Blaine Memorial UMC and the organization look like?

La Resistencia is a grassroots organization led by immigrants and people of color who have been oppressed by the immigration enforcement system. Based in Washington state, the organization works to end immigrant detention and deportations.

La Resistencia was founded in 2014 to support a hunger strike launched by more than 1,200 people detained in Tacoma who were protesting their confinement. The organization began under the umbrella of the national #Not1More campaign as "NWDC Resistance." It supports and engages with people detained at the Northwest Detention Center who organize for their own survival and protest the detention and deportation system. Its goal



This year's Bazaar beneficiary will be La Resistencia - a grassroots organization dedicated to shutting down the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma.

is to shut down the NWDC and end all detentions and deportations in Washington state.

La Resistencia also partners with Tsuru for Solidarity, an organization that Blaine supported financially and through our church community last year.

The nomination narrative states that "the partnership is ultimately about putting faith into action — building relationships across cultural and social boundaries" and creating "a community where every person is treated with dignity, compassion, justice and love."

The partnership will ultimately "help our church live more fully into our call to welcome the stranger, seek justice and stand alongside our immigrant siblings."

Our Scholarship Recipients for 2026!



About Our 2026 Educational Scholarships

By Michelle Vaughan

Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church Educational Scholarships support a variety of educational opportunities.

Blaine Memorial Scholarship: For high school seniors and college, trade, undergraduate or graduate students.

Vera Ing Scholarship: For community college or trade school students and community-based internships.

Robert and Lucy Sato Scholarship: For undergraduate or graduate students pursuing engineering, mathematics, nursing, science, technology or related fields.

Ted and Margaret Yasuda Scholarship: For high school seniors or undergraduate students pursuing continuing education at an accredited institution.



Marcus Corsilles

Thank you, Blaine, for your support during this school year. The support and sense of community you have given me have motivated me to continue to succeed. Thank you as well to the Scholarship Committee for giving students like me the opportunity to continue our education.

I also want to thank the Yasuda family for providing scholarship opportunities to those of us beginning our college careers. I plan to use these scholarship funds to help pay for my next quarter of college as I work toward a degree in history.

Once again, thank you, Blaine, for all your support. I hope you will continue to support me throughout my college journey.

Emma Hearn

It has been a privilege to grow up in this community for the past 12 years and to call Blaine my home church. Thank you for the support and love you continue to show me, even though I am attending college out of state. Whenever I visit home during my breaks, your warmth and curiosity about my life at school remind me that I have a loving community in Seattle.

This scholarship will help my family with tuition at the University of Michigan, where I will be entering my second year and studying public health.

Again, thank you for your prayers and support. I love and appreciate you all!





Lynne Onishi

Thank you once again for your support as I enter my third year of the Master of Divinity program at Claremont School of Theology. I want to extend an especially big thank you to the Ing and Sato families for your kind and generous support. The scholarship funds will go toward my tuition, housing and books this year.

You all have been an integral part of my ministry journey. I am grateful and blessed to be part of this community, which has continually helped me grow in my leadership. I praise God for your love and encouragement, which have nurtured my faith during this challenging phase of seminary and vocational discernment.



Allyson Sofronas

I want to thank you for the pivotal role you have played in my faith journey and for your support throughout this past academic year. I am also thankful for helping me stay grounded and grow closer to God. I want to express my gratitude to the Yasuda family, as well as the Blaine congregation.

This fall, I will be entering my junior year, where I will continue working toward my degree in industrial design and a minor in business at the University of Washington.

Again, thank you for your continued support and generosity. I am incredibly grateful for your guidance and support as I continue my education.



Malia Yamamoto

I will be attending Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science for my second year of medical school. I would like to thank everyone for all the support you have shown me over the past few years as I have worked toward my goal of attending medical school.

In particular, I would like to thank the Sato family for their support as I enter this upcoming school year. With your help, I will be able to continue learning and growing. I hope that one day I can return all the care and love you have shown me.

I look forward to seeing everyone again soon!



Aidan Lew

I would like to thank the Blaine Scholarship Committee for awarding me the Blaine UMC Scholarship for the 2026-27 school year. This church community has been integral to my transition into adult life.

Throughout my time at the University of Washington, I have been able to learn so much about myself and strengthen my connection with God through the fellowships and clubs I have joined. Receiving this scholarship supports me in my academic pursuits, as well as my continued professional development through the Foster School of Business and extracurricular student organizations focused on growing my faith and continuing my path with God.

I will continue to do my best to make you all proud.

Michelle Vaughan serves as scholarship chair for Blaine Memorial UMC.



Adam to the rescue! With great fruit comes great responsibility.



Zahra: saving the day, one superpower at a time!



Evan and Gibson stepped up in a big way to help our youngest heroes learn, laugh, and have an amazing time!



Creating their own capes and discovering that every hero has a special purpose! Hazel, Zahra, and Penny are ready for Hero Central!

VBS 2026! **Hero Central:** **Discover Your Strength in God!**

By Sai Hanaoka, additional photos by Sylvia Wong

This summer, children discovered their God-given strengths through Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God! Based on Psalm 34:14b, "Do good; seek peace and pursue it," the program helped children explore biblical heroes who used their unique abilities to glorify God.

Children entering Kindergarten through Sixth Grade for the 2026–2027 school year gathered each Sunday from July 12–August 23. Through Bible lessons, activities, and fellowship, they learned that everyone has God-given gifts and strengths that can be used to serve others and make a difference.

Hazel says, "I learned that God made me special and gave me strengths that I can use to help other people."

A big thank you goes to all our Church School teachers who worked behind the scenes to prepare lessons, activities, and materials and helped make this meaningful experience possible for our children. Their time, creativity, dedication, and care helped bring Hero Central to life!

It was a joyful summer of discovering faith, building friendships, and learning how to use our God-given strengths for God's purposes.

Sai Hanaoka serves as Church School Superintendent for Blaine Memorial UMC.



Summer Youth Ministry Apprentice Sam Grant served with Blaine Youth this summer. Clockwise from top left: eating Korean fried chicken, hiking at Twin Falls, attending a Mariners game, and sharing plenty of smiles along the way!

BYG Update

Reflections of a Spiritual Summer at Blaine

By Sam Grant, additional photos by the Rev. Karen Yokota Love

My time working with Blaine and BYG is coming to an end in a couple of weeks, and I have been reflecting on my experience this summer. Though my time working with Blaine was short, it has had a meaningful impact on me and has influenced me to remain a part of the community moving forward.

I had the chance to meet so many wonderful people through this opportunity and truly find a sense of community as I made my move to Seattle. I came to Blaine somewhat by chance. For the past several months, I had been working with the Puyallup School District, serving directly with children and families. Since I had the summer off from school, I was looking for summer work when I found out that Blaine was looking for someone to lead the Blaine Youth Group (BYG). I had worked with youth in several capacities in the past, but this was my first opportunity to work with a church in this way.

From my very first Sunday leading BYG, it was immediately apparent how welcoming the Blaine community is. Whether it was spending time with the youth and young adults in the Nishida Room during worship or meeting members of the congregation at the reception afterward, I quickly felt welcomed and included.

During my time working with BYG, in addition to leading Youth Group sessions on Sundays, we also had the

chance to spend time together outside of worship. Early on, we had the opportunity to attend a Mariners game with about 10 members of BYG. Though the Mariners did not give us much to be excited about that day, losing 8-0, it was still a great time to bond and enjoy the stadium. A few weeks later, some of us went on a hike at Twin Falls in North Bend. It was another great chance to bond, be out in nature and enjoy some delicious milkshakes afterward.

The story of my time at BYG would not be complete without mentioning all the great food I enjoyed with various groups. To my pleasant surprise, I quickly learned that sharing a meal is one of the many ways community is built here at Blaine. Whether it was going out to eat after worship, sharing a meal at a potluck or grabbing food after an event, I knew I was being welcomed into the community whenever someone offered me a plate or invited me to join them for a meal.

Though this marks the end of my working role at Blaine, it will not be a goodbye. I look forward to remaining a part of the congregation, continuing to get to know everyone and finding new ways to be involved in the community. I am grateful that I happened to find Blaine this summer, and I look forward to what is ahead.

Sam Grant served as Summer Youth Ministry Apprentice for Blaine Memorial UMC.

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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 Kingdom 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
Choir Director
Church School Superintendent
Pianist
Office Assistant
Summer Youth Ministry Apprentice
Youth Director
Bookkeeper

Rev. Karen Yokota Love
Eugene Onishi
Sai Hanaoka
Kathy Onishi
Yuki Sofronas
Sam Grant
Adam Drake
Mimi Mar

Lay Leadership Team

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

Brad Miyake
Arlene Naganawa, Susan Lee
Ron Nobuyama, Howard Nakase
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 P.O. Box 24065, Seattle, WA 98124.
- **In-Church:** You can place your gift in the offering plate, every Sunday during Offering.


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Connections