Noe Guzman was a model high school student, athlete and community member in New Haven, Missouri, ten miles down the road from my first pastorate in Washington, Missouri. Noe had spent most of his life in that town of 2000 people. Everyone knew and loved Noe, including the UCC pastor in the town, who happened to be the father of Noe’s best friend.

After a school job fair where Noe impressed a Marine recruiter, Noe decided he would take the test to enlist. His mother tried to discourage him, but Noe thought that was just his mom being a mom. Undeterred and determined to serve his country, Noe completed the first test to become a Marine, then traveled to St. Louis to get his physical.

Thirty minutes after arriving at the building in which the physical would take place, Noe was in handcuffs and being inundated with questions, threats and accusations.

Over the course of the next few days, Noe learned much he had not known before: he had been living in the country illegally since the age of two, his social security number belonged to someone else, his mom had kept his legal status a secret from him all these years. As the facts made themselves known, so did the severity of his situation: Noe faced deportation to a country he’d never known, a language he didn’t (at the time) speak, and a culture very different from the one in which he’d been raised. And all this after he’d simply stepped forward to serve his country (the only country he’d ever known) in the U.S. Marine Corp.

I met Noe at one of Senator Claire McCaskill’s town hall meetings. Amid an angry crowd, Noe boldly stood to share a bit of his story and then point-blank asked McCaskill if she would support a private bill to keep him in the country. Amongst shouts for Noe to “go home”, Claire said she doesn’t like private bills, but that she was leaning in the direction of supporting the latest version of the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors).

Today, we’re still waiting for the bipartisan DREAM Act to pass. The latest version of the act, introduced in a bill in July, now has all eyes on it as President Trump has announced the phasing out of President Obama’s DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) executive order. The fate of many individuals like Noe now depend on this bill being passed.

Already, the uphill battle and expected chess moves related to Southern border security have begun, and our voices will be important in the next six months.

Immigration issues are a matter of faith, as are most political issues. That’s why we talk about them; that’s why I highlight them; that’s why I challenge each and every one of us to weigh our politics against our faith, allowing faith to shape our political views (rather than the other way around). Is it hard? You bet. Is it uncomfortable sometimes? You bet. Does the Bible lead us to clear-cut answers on immigration? Honestly, the answer to that question depends largely on your own interpretation, but I’m glad to point you to a plethora of stories and passages that are deemed applicable.

On the evening of Monday, October 23, from 6:30-8:30, that’s how we’ll kick off our next adult education series, stepping out into the issue of immigration from the pages of the Bible. You can read more about that series in this Congregator. I hope to see you on the 23rd!

Christ’s peace, Leah
**ADULT EDUCATION SERIES STARTING IN OCTOBER:**  
*Welcoming the stranger—a study of immigration.*

In response to the current news and this year’s United Church of Christ theme, “Love of Neighbor”, we will be offering an educational series on immigration, focusing on the plight of undocumented immigrants. We will meet three times in the fall (Monday nights, Oct. 23, 30, and Nov. 6) to study the biblical basis for welcoming immigrants, the history and roots of migration, and the demographic profile of, and challenges faced by, those at risk of deportation. The series will resume in the new year (Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5) with speakers from the Seattle area who will tell us about the needs of, and resources available to, the local immigrant population, and the policy and legal barriers they face in Washington state. **Sign-up for all six sessions will begin on Sept. 24.**

The cost is $20, which includes dinner and materials. And, we may even add a session or two for a related film or fieldtrip. Stay tuned! Contact **Mary Code** with any questions: 206-510-7504 or Codemary55@gmail.com.

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**DON’T FORGET THESE ADULT ED OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP**

**Sign-up** in the Narthex or call the office by Wednesday, Sept. 13th to carpool to Franklin High School to see the Sept. 15th performance of *Blues for Mister Charlie*. A James Baldwin play, this compelling story about the murder of a black musician calls us to engage with one another and take a stand against racism. We’ll meet in the church parking lot at 6 PM. Tickets are on a pay-what-you-can basis.

**Attend** one or all of the six films on Islam being shown at Admiral UCC, at 7 PM on Fridays, Sept. 8-Oct. 13.

**Tour** the Redmond Mosque on Oct. 21. To reserve your spot for the tour, dinner, and discussion and participate in a carpool, sign-up in the Narthex.

**Save the date** of Saturday, Nov. 4, to attend a lecture on the “The Legacy of The Reformation” hosted by University UCC Congregational Church. More details to come!

Mary Code
CROP WALK OCT 1... SAVE THE DATE

The CROP Walk will be here before we know it – please put Oct. 1 on your calendar!

When we take part in the CROP Walk for Hunger, we are part of something much greater than ourselves. CROP Walk is a national organized effort to fight hunger through Church World Service. Part of the money generated supports our community food banks, and they also fund programs around the world where food insecurity is greatest.

Did you know that our Fauntleroy Congregation is one of the top 25 contributing churches in the US? Last year, we donated $6,865. Imagine if we could raise $7,000 this year – that amount can provide an entire village with clean water in a developing country.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to make this our best year ever! Alina Guyon, Coordinator

MINISTRY SUNDAY SCHOOL
FOCUSES ON CROPWALK!
(See above article)

This vibrant church engages the gifts of all ages so well—including the gifts of our youth and children on Ministry Sundays! Several times a year, one of the ministries or ministry task forces takes over the Sunday School classes for the morning. All of the kids gather in Fellowship Hall during worship, and the ministries introduce their members to the kids, share a little about why they are so passionate about what they do, and then invite the kids to help them with a project that serves this or the wider community.

Our first Ministry Sunday School will be Sept. 24. During Sunday School, the Service and Outreach Ministry will teach us about the CROP Walk, the all-church event on Oct 1. We’ll help make signs for the walk so that we can be a visible witness to the international anti-hunger work of Church World Services and many local agencies, such as Mary’s Place, Northwest Helpline and the West Seattle and White Center Food Banks.

All the gifts of all the people of all ages—that’s the goal. Be sure your kids are here to be a part of this particularly vibrant church on Ministry Sundays! (Of course, it takes a lot of hands to support the gifts of so many kids at once. Want to help out on these occasional special Sunday School events? Let me know.)

Karyn Frazier

LITTLE PILGRIM SCHOOL

WE HAVE A NEW TEACHER!

Little Pilgrim School is pleased to introduce new teacher Anna Lynch, who will begin her first year as assistant teacher in the 2-3 year old program. Anna began working with children early on; teaching swim lessons while attending high school, and then working with the City of Seattle’s Special Populations Program while she studied nursing at BCC. After college she worked as a Registered Nurse for 10 years in Oncology and Cardiothoracic Surgery. After becoming a parent, it became clear that her place would always be working with children. As her kids get older, and after serving on the Little Pilgrim School Standing Committee for the past 5 years, she is excited to further her involvement in the school by being in the classroom.

In her spare time, Anna likes to be with her husband and two kids as much as possible, preferably hiking, camping, or backpacking. She also enjoys the challenge of running marathons and ironman triathlons. We are excited and blessed that Anna is joining us in the classroom this year!

Lorrie Cook

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

A NEW SISTERS GROUP

A new sisters group, facilitated by Jenny Mandt and Wendy Cwinar, will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 PM in the BRR, beginning Sept. 11. The group will provide an opportunity to participate in crafts and book discussion while building friendship and community. Also, members will have the chance to share concerns/prayer requests so we can support each other through the week in prayer.

RECYCLE ROUNDUP

The fall Recycle Roundup, hosted by our Green Committee, will be Sunday, Sept. 24, 9 AM – 3 PM. We expect to have up to 400 vehicles loop through our main parking lot for the energetic crew from 1 Green Planet to unload tons of recyclables for free, responsible disassembly and reuse.

Visit www.fauntleroyucc.org/events or consult a roundup poster in the building for the long list of what 1 Green Planet can take and the short list of what it cannot. When in doubt about bringing something, call 1 Green Planet at 425-996-3513. The company will take anything on the “Do” list, even if market conditions change between now and our roundup.

If you can help for an hour or two, let Chris Mahar know (206-458-3088 or crmahar@gmail.com). You’ll have a great time interacting with the hundreds of people who typically come from throughout West Seattle for this Earth-friendly event.

We need your help. Please sign up for an hour to hand out Green Ideas and guide cars into our parking lot or take donations at the unloading end.

Our Green Committee has been active for many years, monitoring and improving our own recycling efforts, providing education and “greening” opportunities for us, and connecting with other community sources like Earth Ministry. If you would like to learn more about our mission, please join us for a meeting on Sept 17, following worship, in the Fish Bowl. We will be brief and focused. Topics for review/discussion will be: the Round Up and coverage with volunteers, our ideas and plans for the rest of 2017, and next year’s Green Committee aspirations and leadership.

Call Chris Mahar (206 458-3088) or email me at crmahar@gmail.com with questions/suggestions. Thank you.
OVER THE FENCE

PEOPLE NEWS

Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers. Surgery went well! It was the best outcome possible. I’m feeling good and am very grateful.

Bob Embrey

PLANT SUPPLIES NEEDED

One of the schools our congregation supports through the Homelessness Task Force, Highland Park Elementary, offers a "cool down" area where students in need of a timeout can plant and cultivate flowers and vegetables. It’s a simple but effective tool to refocus youngsters under stress for many reasons on their schoolwork. If you have extra small pots, potting or starter soil, trays, and/or seeds to help keep this resource available all school year, please drop them by the church office or bring them on Sunday.

Thanks!

Judy Pickens

LAST CALL FOR ARTISTS

The deadline to apply for the 10th annual Fauntleroy Fine Art and Holiday Gift Show is Sunday, Sept. 17. West Seattle and Vashon artists and makers of artistic crafts, working in any medium, are welcome to be part of the Nov. 10-12 event. For details and the application form, visit www.fauntleroyucc.org or call 206-932-5600.

Judy Pickens

A WEDDING THANK YOU

To all of you for the best wishes as we prepared for my youngest daughter’s wedding, so full of fun, color, dancing, celebration, and laughter;

To those who provided the patient guidance, joyful music, glorious flowers, inspired suggestions, and heartfelt blessings that made the day both memorable and sacred;

To those—so many!--who served with such graciousness—who surrounded us with hospitality and welcomed our friends and families as if they were your own;

To those who set up and cleaned up to save us the heavy lifting and smiled through it all;

For your love—so much love—that was almost too much to take in… thank you with all of my heart,

Karyn

MYSTERY MONEY

Your church treasurer has a request. Every once in a while we receive a donation in the form of a check and we’re not quite sure what the purpose of the donation is. Please be sure to include a note in the memo line on your check to help us out. It could be that the money is intended for your pledge, for a special fundraiser, or is an unspecified general donation.

At the end of each calendar quarter we print out a report that shows all the donations everyone has made. If you see something odd or have a question about anything, feel free to contact me. Jeff VanGilder, treasurer@fauntleroyucc.org

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

This coming Sunday, October 1, congregations around the globe will celebrate World Communion Sunday. On this Sunday, we will remember that around the globe—in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy—the Lord’s Supper is celebrated throughout Christendom.

As we begin to plan toward a worship service that helps us feel our worldwide communion with other Christians, I’d like to put out a request: I’d love for our communion table to overflow with breads from around the world. Perhaps you have a favorite bread from your own ethnic heritage or simply a region of the world you’d like to honor at our shared table.

If you’re willing to add to the feast, please contact the church office to let us know. Thanks!

Leah