



# MAGNOLIA

United Church of Christ

WE WELCOME YOU TO COME & JOIN US  
WHERE SPIRIT AND COMPASSION MEET

**No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!**

### **Our Vision**

God enlivens us to rise up to be a Christ-inspired, joyous community of faith where spirit and compassion meet.

### **Mission**

We gather in the mystery and wonder of God to deepen our faith, seek justice, welcome all, grow community that sustains us and share that all are beloved of God.

### **We're So Glad You Are Here**

**All are welcome here.** As bearers of God's good news, we welcome and respect all ages, genders, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, marital statuses, physical and mental abilities, political affiliations, and classes. We believe all people are made in the image of God.

At Magnolia United Church of Christ, we recognize that everyone has their own spiritual journey, and we are all in different places along the way. **We honor each person's sacred path**, and we strive to be a place where all are met with kindness and respect, where all voices are valued, where questions are encouraged, and where uniqueness is celebrated.

We take learning, growing, and serving seriously, while having fun along the way. We gather to worship a God who is bigger than we can know or comprehend. Worshiping God helps us live deeply, and with compassion.

We are proud to be part of the **United Church of Christ**; at the same time, we are an organic and ever-changing expression of the varied spiritual journeys, gifts, and calls of our members and friends. We take the Bible seriously but not literally.

## **About Us**

We are an **Open and Affirming** congregation and have been since 1993. This means we are committed to our affirmation and welcome of all people including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer folk. We are also a community that recognizes it is critical to do the hard work of **dismantling racism** in our lives and in our communities so all of God's beloved people can flourish.

**We are inclusive** in outlook, respecting other faiths and traditions as paths to God. **We are aware of the joys and struggles of life**, and to the causes and concerns of the world. Our spiritual lives are rooted in the practices of worship, prayer, and community-building, and those push us to seek justice, make peace, and love our neighbors and enemies. We also love to have fun, and music and laughter and the sharing of food are big parts of our lives together at Magnolia United Church of Christ.

## **Statement on Racism**

Magnolia United Church of Christ recognizes the painful reality of racial violence, inequality and injustice being at a tipping point. We pledge to work toward needed changes in all of our national, regional, and local systems and within our own hearts, so this reckoning moment does not pass by as it has so many times in the past.

We call for racial equality not only within the law enforcement and the judicial systems, but also healthcare, economics, and education. We will listen to and study others' experiences and views, and especially seek out those that are different from our own, even if those exchanges are uncomfortable. We will explore the complexity of our own privileges, assumptions, and biases. We will vote and encourage and assist others to exercise their right to vote.

As Maya Angelou said, "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage need not be lived again." In this process, we strive to love each other more fully, as God has enabled us to love, rooted in an honest but compassionate relationship with one another.

## **A Greening Congregation**

We are called to live in harmony with the environment, respecting and honoring the gifts of God's creation. As people of faith, we affirm that all of

God's creation is sacred. As a community of faith, we engage in activities that protect God's creation and conserve resources. Our care for creation is expressed in many ways. Creation care is woven into elements of our worship, such as prayers, sermons, and music. A progressive and actively supported recycling initiative is carried out on several levels; recycling bins are everywhere, church facility users as well as members are encouraged to recycle, and use of paper products are discouraged. In addition, we are part of the Greening Congregations Program offered in partnership with Earth Ministry.

## **Worship**

**Worship is our steady heartbeat.** Music old and new, readings from Scripture and poems from contemporary texts, people to support us, candlelight and music, sunlight, and silence. God is everywhere, but sometimes in the sacred space of the sanctuary, we have more of a chance to notice. We gather for worship at 10:00 am every Sunday in our beloved Sanctuary and also stream the service live on Facebook. Everyone is invited to participate as much or as little as comfort level allows; worship comes with no requirements about age, beliefs, membership, or baptism. We use inclusive language as we experience God as both Mother and Father, and also to acknowledge the equality of all people.

**We invite children to be active participants in our worshipping community.** All ages are welcome, especially babies. At the back of the sanctuary, there are children's welcome activity baskets to engage little hands and minds during the service time.

We celebrate **Communion** on the first Sunday of the month. We do this to remember the meal shared between Jesus Christ and his disciples. Communion Sunday means different things to different people, including rebirth, sustenance for life's journey, a recommitment to one's faith, and much more. At MUCC, the main thing to remember is we believe this is God's table where all people are welcome. We share grape juice and gluten-free bread.

Throughout the year, we will have special-themed services such as our **Blessing of the Animals** where we recognize all of God's creatures, **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Services** with other faith communities, **Domestic**

**and Gender Violence Awareness** and **Mental Health Services** where we lift up our voices in the call for justice and compassion for all and, of course, contemplative, and joyous **Easter** and **Christmas Eve** services.

## **Music**

Magnolia United Church of Christ views music as a key part of the worship experience. Many Sundays throughout the year, small groups of singers or instrumentalists provide musical offerings. The pianist-organist enriches worship with contemplative music and leads the congregation in hymns each week, both traditional and contemporary. The choir sings weekly except during the summer, drawing from a variety of styles: classical to contemporary, traditional to popular. Requests for favorites songs are welcomed. We have a choir that typically meets regularly for rehearsals Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm and Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.

The Sanctuary at MUCC also is an ideal location for concerts. Local and visiting ensembles have enjoyed the clear acoustics and have “borrowed” our piano and organ.

## **All the Ways Love Flows forth from our Community!**

The Magnolia UCC Community has an incredible tradition of supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. Here’s a bit of an overview of all of the ways that the MUCC generosity flows into our community and our world!

**Monthly Giving Group Donations:** Each month the MUCC Giving Group coordinates a special collection for a community organization that is serving our most vulnerable neighbors. We have collected for the Ballard Food Bank, Queen Anne Helpline, Byrd Barr Place, Food Banks in the Central District, Mary’s Place and more! We try to coordinate with these agencies to fill a specific need that they are experiencing whether it be medical supplies for a clinic, weekend grocery bags for kids or personal care supplies for girls and women. Each month, you can find out what the donation focus is in our MailChimp’s and in the monthly newsletter.

**Annual Salmon Dinner:** Each year, MUCC hosts an incredible Salmon Dinner where we don't just experience great food but also donate 100% of the proceeds to support targeted organizations. We typically raise over \$15,000, sending it out into the world to help both local, national, and international organizations.

**Welcome Baskets for Interbay Village:** Volunteers shop for and prepare welcome baskets for the new residents joining the community down at Interbay Village. Additionally, since 2015, we have advocated for this community of formerly homeless neighbors now living in tiny wooden houses. We provide meals, clothing, supplies, and help improve and maintain their buildings and grounds.

**Mary's Place:** As families transition from homelessness into permanent housing, we gather furniture and household supplies to welcome families into their new homes. We hold an annual underwear drive for bras, underwear and socks, helping the women of Mary's Place feel dignity when they receive comfortable wardrobe basics.

**Service Sunday:** Once a year instead of holding a church service, we are the church out in neighborhood. We coordinate with the larger community on service projects that include habitat restoration in local parks, blanket-making for those experiencing trauma, visiting the Seattle Animal Shelter, and assisting with the animals inside and projects outside, and packaging emergency supply bags for our homeless neighbors.

### **Compassionate Partnerships**

We are proud of our partnerships with the following non-profit organizations who share our building and add creativity, love, and light on a daily basis:

**Magnolia Cooperative Preschool:** The Magnolia Co-op Preschool is a vibrant program supporting over 150 children and celebrating 76 years of learning and growing with children and their parents in MUCC's building.

**BSA Troop 80 and Female Troop 8800:** Established in 1921 and believed to be one of the oldest continually operating Boy Scout troops in the USA, these troops have nurtured and designated more than 100 Eagle Scouts over the years.

Additionally, **various other groups** use our building, including Al Anon; Girl Scouts of America; League of Women Voters; Local Piano & Violin Teachers / Musical Groups; Magnolia Chamber of Commerce; Magnolia Community Council; Magnolia Summerfest Committee; Magnolia Little League; Various other community meetings, lectures, concerts, weddings and events.

### **Opportunities to be Involved in the Life of the Church**

There are many ways to be involved in the life of the MUCC community, ranging from small group experiences to classes to serving on committees. Here are some of the ways you can be involved!

**MUCC Yoga:** Weekly on Wednesdays at 10:00am in Pilgrim Hall, this group meets to help improve their movement, breathing, and flexibility by working through yoga videos shown on our big screen projector. *For additional information, contact Bob Flack at [flackbob@yahoo.com](mailto:flackbob@yahoo.com)*

**Evening Circle of Stones:** This group meets once a month (via Zoom), the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. to provide fellowship and friendship. *For additional information, contact Rev. Michael Haven at [sophiamichel52@gmail.com](mailto:sophiamichel52@gmail.com)*

**Book Group:** Our book group meets monthly on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm for a potluck dinner followed by the book discussion. Book selections include fiction and non-fiction works. *For additional information contact Marilee Gibbs at [marileegibbs@comcast.net](mailto:marileegibbs@comcast.net)*

**Men's Group/The Knights of the Square Table:** This informal men's social group meets in-person the first Wednesday of each month. *For additional information, contact Tom Ranken at [tom@jthomasranken.com](mailto:tom@jthomasranken.com)*

**Giving Group:** This group meets monthly to work on coordinating the outreach to our most vulnerable neighbors through monthly collections and drives. *For additional information contact Pastor Marci at [marci@magnoliaucc.org](mailto:marci@magnoliaucc.org)*

**Sacred Silence:** At 11:00am each Wednesday, MUCC's parlor is open to those who wish to sit in silence and reflection. *For additional information, contact Pastor Marci at [marci@magnoliaucc.org](mailto:marci@magnoliaucc.org)*

**Bible Study:** On most Tuesday we gather via Zoom at 1:00pm to learn about a specific book of the bible or theological topic. Past topics have included a study of the Book of Revelation, the Book of Isaiah, The Gospel of Mark, and classes on Heaven/Hell. *For additional information contact Pastor Marci at [marci@magnoliaucc.org](mailto:marci@magnoliaucc.org)*

**Worship and Arts Team:** The Worship and Arts Team meets monthly, the first Sunday of the month after immediately after worship services, to help plan all of our worship experiences. All are welcome to come, be creative and inventive as possible, and help the Pastor prepare meaningful worship experiences for our community. *For additional information contact Pastor Marci at [marci@magnoliaucc.org](mailto:marci@magnoliaucc.org)*

**Pub Theology:** Each month, on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. we meet to share a beverage, experience community and discuss a probing theological question. During the summer months we will meet at a local brewery and enjoy the warm evenings and during the Fall and Winter we gather on Zoom. *For additional information contact Pastor Marci at [marci@magnoliaucc.org](mailto:marci@magnoliaucc.org)*

**Prepare Welcome Baskets for Interbay Village:** On a regular basis, we shop for and prepare welcome baskets for new residents coming to live at Interbay Village. *For additional information contact Sue Olson at [eesueolson@comcast.net](mailto:eesueolson@comcast.net)*

**Help with our Sunday service by preparing Communion or being a Liturgist:** Each Sunday we invite a member of the congregation to assist with our worship experience. Also each month, we have Communion preparers who set up the bread and “wine.” *For additional information contact Pastor Marci at [marci@magnoliaucc.org](mailto:marci@magnoliaucc.org)*

**Creation Justice:** We are called to live in harmony with the environment, respecting and honoring the gifts of God’s creation. We affirm that all of God’s creation is sacred. As a community of faith, we engage in activities that protect God’s creation and conserve resources. We are led by our Creation Justice team. *For additional information contact Pastor Marci at [marci@magnoliaucc.org](mailto:marci@magnoliaucc.org)*

**The Facilities Team:** This team helps us preserve, and maintain our beloved building and grounds. *For additional information contact Roger Seeman at [rseeman@comcast.net](mailto:rseeman@comcast.net)*

**Communion Ministry:** Help prepare monthly Communion. *For additional information contact Rev. Michael at [sophiamichel52@gmail.com](mailto:sophiamichel52@gmail.com)*

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Join in the MUCC Prayer Shawl Ministry. The intention is to gift a community response to an individual need. We knit for our own pleasure and as a Spiritual practice. We would like to form a group of knitters who would like to meet regularly to knit together in quiet prayer. We could do this in person or on Zoom. Our purpose in meeting is to support each other and to pray together while we knit. This infuses the shawls with our intention to gift comfort and support. If you would like to learn to knit, Rev. Michael is glad to teach. Printed instructions are available, and you are warmly welcome to meet and discuss this ministry to see if it fits with your life and interests. *For additional information contact Rev. Michael at [sophiamichel52@gmail.com](mailto:sophiamichel52@gmail.com)*

**Coordinating Council:** Our Council guides the life and work of the church and meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Positions include: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Past Moderator, Treasurer, Secretary, and Members-at-Large. The congregation votes on these positions each June at our

Annual Meeting. *For additional information contact Pastor Marci at [marci@magnoliaucc.org](mailto:marci@magnoliaucc.org)*

*If you are not on our mailing list and would like to become more connected with us, please email [contact@magnoliaucc.org](mailto:contact@magnoliaucc.org) to be added!*



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