

Sunday Services 9:30 and 11:15 am

Sunday, October 25

Rev. Jon M. Luopa, with guest Rev. Margaret Keip, will present a dramatic reading of "*The Mountain (Mt. Rainier) That Was God.*" Music provided by the Loft Choir.

Sunday, November 1

Rev. Jon M. Luopa will be in the pulpit. Music provided by the Bell and Loft Choirs.

Sunday, November 8 MUSIC SUNDAY

Join the Loft Choir, soloists and orchestra for our Fall Music Sunday.

We will present two cantatas by J.S. Bach - #78 "*Jesu, der du meine Seele*" and #147 "*Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben.*" Bring your friends and arrive early for a good seat!

Sunday, November 15

Rev. Dr. Alicia Grace will be in the pulpit. Music provided by the Intergenerational Choir.

Sunday, November 22

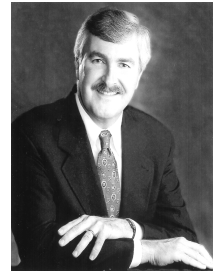
Janine Larsen, District Executive of the Pacific Northwest District, UUA, will give the sermon. Rev. Jon M. Luopa will assist in the service. Music provided by the Loft Choir.

*We are a people who thrive
by nurturing the spirit within,
healing hurts, restoring hopes,
and celebrating our lives together.
We strive for justice in the world by building
caring communities,
honoring our heritage, and
leaving a legacy of love.*

SENIOR MINISTER'S MESSAGE

By Rev. Jon M. Luopa

Dear Members and Friends:



It is not unusual for persons who are in crisis to visit a church when they are in need of help. This holds true as much for members of a congregation as it does for those people who are unattached to any particular religious group. Frequently, folks "off the street" will come by and request assistance. Over the years I have met many such persons. When they have come to us at UUC, and we can help them, we do so.

Sometimes these people will just show up on Sunday morning. They ask someone to help them find the minister. This happened just a few weeks ago. One of our longtime members found me before the service and informed me that someone wanted to speak with me. I invited this man into my office. While I had not met this individual before, I expected to hear a story very similar to stories I had heard before. But this time I was in for a big surprise.

This man, probably in his early forties, told me that when he was a teenager he ran with a gang in our neighborhood. Each of these youth had a drug problem. To finance their habits they would cruise the halls at UUC on Sunday mornings and steal money from purses and coats. He assured me that they never stole money from the collection plate.

He was clean now and wanted to pay back some of the money which he had stolen. He handed me \$400 in cash. I thanked him and told him that this money would go into a fund we use to quietly help people who are in crisis. He smiled at this news, as the money closed the loop.

And then he surprised me even more! He asked me to forgive him. As if returning the money was insufficient, he wanted to heal the emotional burden as well. And I, as the representative of the community, did forgive and release him. I am still stunned by this encounter.

I told him that what he had done that morning required great courage and strength of character. That it was evidence of real transformation in his life. I also said to him that we were proud of him and rejoiced in his new life.

If pain is not transformed, it is transmitted. When pain is transformed, we experience something like freedom.

May it always be so!

Blessings,

Jon