

Soundings



Newsletter of Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

Well. Here we are – this month brings the end of my relationship with you as Temporary Minister.

Things that I thought would be the main cause of stress, back in January – the departure of Rev. Kate, and related kerfuffles – quickly paled in comparison with the onset of coronavirus and sheltering in place.

Yikes. Suddenly having to learn an entirely new set of skills and ways of doing ministry! Online worship! Remote group meetings! Rapidly-changing protocols! My head was spinning for a while there. (It is probably no coincidence that I started my tenure with you with a fine head of brown hair, and now it is completely white.)

And now that this white-crowned head has stopped spinning, it's time to say goodbye to this job. But not to SUUC. After a few months away, I hope and plan to return to my role as Affiliated Community Minister, offering spiritual direction, and teaching a bit here and there – depending on whatever Rev. Thomas and I work out together.

Your resilience, caring, and resourcefulness during a time of grief, confusion, and rapid change have been remarkably inspiring.

Shout-outs of special appreciation:

To the staff: Brandon, Chris, and Wil. I'm so grateful that you guys are self-starters, as I was too overwhelmed to do much proper supervision.

To the coordinators of the Congregational Caring Team (Judi, Carolyn, Shelley, Laura), who do an amazing, heartfelt job of keeping folks connected and aware of each other's needs.

To the Stream Team (Ben, Eric, Sarah, Autumn, and many others), who have been extraordinary in every way during an extraordinarily challenging time.

To Catherine, who as Board President was a steadying, sensible, and sensi- *(continues)*



tive leader during a time of overlapping crises.
To the ever-wonderful Worship Committee.
To the folks who attended my Thursday morning coffee hours week after week.
To the members who are leading the congregation into a lively engagement with the pre-eminent issue of our time, the process of dismantling white supremacy.
To the many people who gave so generously to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, allowing me to give several grants to members in financial need.
And I could go on and on. So many open, generous, caring hearts.

I encourage you to embrace and welcome Rev. Thomas, and also to be aware that as an interim minister, he is only allowed to stay with you for two years.

It's tough – you no sooner get to know the guy than he will be saying goodbye.

But interim ministry is a rigorously tested means for helping congregations assess themselves and their processes so that they can move on into the next stage of their development.

The fact that the interim minister is “pre-fired” gives him the freedom to fearlessly address difficult issues and reflect with you upon what pre-marital counselors like to call “opportunities for relationship growth.” I encourage you to trust and accept both the gifts and the limits of the interim program.

As for me, I will be returning to my originally scheduled program – retirement, or what I am calling “Amanda University.” French, ukulele, urban sketching, science and history are the major subjects; the minors include cycling, kayaking, kite-flying, and preparing for my long-delayed trip to England. (I have only recently discovered that I am officially a citizen of the U.K.! Such a surprise! By the time I can actually travel there, I might actually have my British passport in hand, but am not holding my breath.)

I wish you all delightful adventures and explorations, and I won't say goodbye, since I'm not really going anywhere, just stepping out of this particular role. I look forward to many years of fellowship with you all, my chosen community and cherished friends.

Blessings of health, love, and light to you all, and thank you so very, very much for this unforgettable, precious experience.

Cheers,

Rev. Amanda

Co-President's Report



Our big story this month is that we are looking forward to the arrival of our new Interim Minister. The Board of Trustees has reached an agreement with Reverend Thomas M. Perchlik to be Interim Minister at Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church for two years, beginning August 1, 2020.

Thomas is currently Interim Minister at San Dieguito UU Fellowship in Solana Beach, California. He has already moved to the Seattle area, specifically Bremerton, because he can keep doing his work at San Dieguito remotely in this era of Zoom, and because his family lives in the Pacific Northwest.

He has served UU congregations in six states, since being ordained in 1991, including Cedars UU Church on Bainbridge Island.

Thomas's spiritual practice is grounded in Buddhism, and his primary theology is a naturalistic form of mystical humanism. He also has a rich appreciation of Christian Universalism, liberal Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and some forms of neopagan thought and practice. His focus in public ministry is on building compassion and justice, especially by fighting racism and promoting civil rights and social inclusion. He got his first experience planning worship as a high school student in 1977, planning a service at a conference of Liberal Religious Youth. (That's what UUs used to call the youth ministry.) He says he's enjoyed planning worship ever since.

His plans for interim ministry include listening to us, individually and in small groups, in a three-part process he calls "Looking Back, Looking Around, Looking Forward," as we consider deeply who we are, how we got here, and where we want to go. The Board of Trustees is set to appoint a Transition Team at its July 6 meeting, and the team will begin work with Thomas to set up appointments and other activities to carry the transition process forward. His first Sunday in the pulpit will be August 9.

He and his wife Amy Genova plan to move to Shoreline, and are looking for a small house or garden-level apartment to rent. They hope to move in mid to late August, bringing their "elder and well-trained dog" Socks. Their budget is \$1800 or less. If you have or know of such a place, please contact Amy at akgenova@gmail.com.

Congregants are invited to check out Thomas's website at <https://revperchlik.wordpress.com/>

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If you're interested in his sermons, there's a good video of him at Cedars in 2019:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKUJjqF6qJ4>

And one from him at Shoreline in 2016:

[https://vimeo.com/157643977?](https://vimeo.com/157643977?fbclid=IwAR2o9PmVYJt7tLIVCQa35AWosPTx7ld8vTBA1WiQx6LNMGA2SO7NgKuPq4w)

[fbclid=IwAR2o9PmVYJt7tLIVCQa35AWosPTx7ld8vTBA1WiQx6LNMGA2SO7NgKuPq4w.](https://vimeo.com/157643977?fbclid=IwAR2o9PmVYJt7tLIVCQa35AWosPTx7ld8vTBA1WiQx6LNMGA2SO7NgKuPq4w)

He also preached at SUUC in February 2019, with the sermon title “Enlarge, Enlighten, Enliven,” but unfortunately our archive says there’s no video.

Thomas enjoys hiking, watching movies, reading science fiction, and playing wooden flutes. He also speaks Spanish, and believes every sermon should contain at least one joke.

Susan was a member of the Interim Search Committee, along with Brian Flaherty, Dana Dorksen, and Libby Gray.

In other news, at its upcoming meeting on Monday, July 6, the Board of Trustees will consider proposed guidelines from our Covid-19 Task Force for basing more of the streaming of our services from our church campus. These proposals, formulated in the wake of the Phase 2 reopening announcements, will call for considered incremental changes to be implemented by the Worship Planning Committee and the Stream Team.

Also at its July 6 meeting, the Board will formally name the members of the 148th Street Bridge task force, a group that will help shape our work with the City of Shoreline to make sure our interests—financial, environmental, and community—are protected.

Members of the congregation are welcome to join the Board meeting for the consideration of these two items, plus naming the Transition Team. The meeting will be at 7 pm, on Monday, July 6. The Zoom link will be posted on the front page of the church website.

Susan Storer Clark, Co-President

Director of Religious Exploration



Greetings everyone.

Last Sunday after a service about teaching Religious Exploration / appreciating our teachers, I had a great discussion with several folks about what their kids are needing from RE now. While it was a joy to get to see and talk to many folks that I hadn't seen for weeks or months, hearing about the many ways people's lives have shifted in recent weeks and months left me feeling a little daunted. While there has always been uniqueness around what families and kids got the most out of in the life of our church, before COVID-19, there was one thing that pretty much everyone at SUUC had in common: Sundays were a time they and their kids could often come to church to participate in the life of the congregation!

That's now been upended and there are about as many different schedules, needs, and preferences around how and when people participate in our church's offering for children and parents. Some people are totally unavailable during the week, while other people carefully guard the free time they have on their weekends after a five days of commitments. Some kids have several Zoom meetings a day while others have no commitments at all. Many parents of kids as young as 4 to as old as 16 have told me that no online offering is really appealing for their child/youth.

While I fully expect people's engagement with the church community to change during a time when so much is up in the air, I want to do everything in my power to make sure that no kid / family goes months or years without having a way to connect with other kids / families at SUUC! After getting the initial slate of Zoom classes off the ground and fitting in a few other offerings such as the pen pal program and the Pippi Longstocking readings, I'm currently working on rolling out some more options to serve different schedules and needs:

Since we've entered phase 2, I've created a Google Map that has a pin dropped on the location of every families with children and youth in our church to arrange safe, socially distanced small group gatherings. I'm sending out an email and text to every family with this information so you can see who else in the church with kids lives near you and arrange in person events to keep your little corner of the church community connected! I'll also be creating a shared document so we can collectively generate ideas for the safest activities we can plan — less tag / wrestling, more bike rides / hiking. If you are willing to invite a few folks out to a small gathering, please let me know so I can keep track of where these are hapening and help you out with any information you need — it's really no more complicated than inviting a few people out to a park! =)

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I'll be offering a recorded story, activity, and discussion questions for families to check out and explore whenever it fits into their own schedule.

I'm trying to start another parent group for after kids are in bed, around 8 or 9pm — a parents' happy hour! The parent group which meets on Wednesdays at 4pm is great but I know that schedule is not do-able for many! Catch up with folks, share your joys and sorrows, and have a drink of your choice in the virtual company of other SUUC families!

Given how much RE is changing and continues to change, I'm going to have a monthly session on Sunday where people who care deeply about our children's program can come to talk about the near future of RE as well as the long-term vision. I'm open to this group coming together to be an RE Committee (or something like an RE Committee) as time goes on. We have not had an active RE Committee for many years now and it's important to me that our offerings for parents and children are responding to your needs — an RE Committee can be an important role in that. The next one of these gatherings will take place on Sunday, July 12 — still working out the exact time, keep an eye out on my weekly emails for information on this.

I really appreciate all the feedback you given me in the last few weeks and look forward to maintaining an RE program that fully brings to life our congregation's vision. Oh, and speaking of that! On June 14, I asked everyone in the service to share in the chat box what they hoped our church's RE program would provide — the two things people said far more than anything else were that they wanted our church to be a place where children would find "love / acceptance / community" as well as learn to be "critical thinkers / inquisitive / curious." There were also quite a few people who expressed wanting their children to see themselves as being part of a larger whole, wanting to actually live out the principles rather than just learn about them, as well as having a strong sense of their own values and how to discern right from wrong. What wonderful aspirations for the children of our church — thank you all for sharing this and helping me to get a better sense of the deeper currents which bring you to and keep you at SUUC!

Take care, stay safe, and stay sane,

Chris Pollina, Director of Religious Exploration for Children and Youth
shorelinedre@gmail.com

Shoreline UU Church Board Meeting Minutes for June 3, 2020

Orientation and Executive Session 6:00 pm

Business Meeting 7:00 pm

Attendance: Susan Storer Clark, Catherine Crain, Dana Doerksen, Marley Banker, Treela McKamey, Brian Flaherty, Rev Amanda Aikman

Visitors: Rick Zander, Jo Moore

Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter:

The board of trustees voted unanimously to approve the Letter of Agreement for Rev Thomas Perchlik to be our Interim Minister for a 2 year term beginning August 1, 2020.

Business Meeting:

1. Opening words (Rev. Amanda)

2. Election of officers

Catherine Crain & Susan Storer Clark Co-Presidents

Dana Doerksen Vice President

Bruce Hunt Vice President-Finance

Marley Banker Secretary

Motion put forwarded, seconded. Motion passes and officers elected

3. Approval of minutes from May 5 and May 12

May 12th minutes approved

May 5th minutes approved

4. Committee liaisons

Board members were assigned to be liaisons to SUUC committees as follows:

Addictions/Recovery Ministry, chair Rev Barbara Cornell	Marley
Aesthetics, chairs Peggy Scott & Krista Tenney	Bruce?
Building and Grounds , chair Bruce Hunt	Bruce
Congregational Life, chair Paul Borrmann	Susan
Endowment, chairs Terry Zimmerman / Rick Zander	Bruce
Fundraising, chair Rick Wilson?	Dana
Comm on Ministry, chair Stephanie Metting	Catherine
Music Ministry, chair Carolyn Wallace	Treela
Care Team, chairs Judi K., Laura M., Carolyn T, Shelley A.	Brian
Personnel, chair Stephanie Metting or Libby G.	Catherine
Religious Exploration Ministry, Chris Pollina	Dana
Rentals, chair Rick Wilson	Marley

Social Action Ministry, chair Krista Tenney	Marley
Finance /Stewardship, chair Bruce Hunt/Earl Davis	Bruce
Welcome Team, chair Rick Wilson	Brian
Worship Planning, chair Dianne Carreri	Susan

5. Financial report (VP/ Finance)

Income/Expense—Bruce presented the financials dated June 1. Operating fund pledges are on track for this year. We are behind on new pledges. Is this something the Welcome Committee can explore? Rentals are behind a couple of months due to closures; this will continue to be a shortfall. Auction hasn't happened as planned so we are missing that money. Risk/Benefit play was a great fundraiser, although Rev Amanda has not received her payment from Brown Paper Tickets. This year's expenses for interim minister will be taken from the Minister line item; this fund has enough funds to also pay for Rev. Amanda's remaining time. We received the PPP loan in the amount of \$46,000 and it must be spent by the end of June. It was booked as income incorrectly in the financials.

Action item (Bruce): PPP loan will be categorized as a debt going forward (and removed from Miscellaneous 7910 line item)

6. PPP Loans, paying Lucy, Monica & Carly; hiring Wil for the summer. Money from PPP will be used to pay staff until the end of June.

Wil offered to work this summer, though he doesn't normally work July and August, in order to provide music for 2 services per month. While the Board is grateful for his offer to continue to work through the summer, Wil is not approved to work in July or August. However, the Finance committee will do an analysis to determine if there is money from PPP to pay Wil and Lucy extra to pre-record music through the end of June that can then be used in future summer services.

Motion to pay Wil and Lucy extra in June to pre-record music for summer services if PPP funds are confirmed. Seconded. Motion passes.

Action item: Bruce will do analysis of PPP loan to make sure funds are adequate. Susan will let Lucy know motion passed and what results of PPP analysis are; Catherine will let Wil know.

Please see minutes from the special Board meeting on 6/13/20 that resolves this issue.

7. Chalice Lighters, Pacific Northwest District. Approval of Nick Aldrich as SUUC representative. ([Information on Chalice Lighters](#))

This program provides grants for UU congregations. SUUC was a participant in this program in the past. Nick Aldrich has offered to be the SUUC

representative and thus renew our church's participation. It is a voluntary choice on the part of members whether to donate.

Motion to approve Nick Aldrich as our rep to Chalice Lighters for a year. Second-ed. Motion passes.

8. Update on ongoing projects and task forces

- a. Roof replacement (Catherine) Roof may be in worse shape than we thought; roofer says repair is beyond his scope and we need to hire carpenters before he can re-roof. As we learn more about the damage, we will have a better idea of the scope of repair needed and potential costs. It would be prudent to begin to explore options for covering costs if the price exceeds the \$175k that the congregation approved for roof repair at May congregational meeting.
- b. COVID-19 Task Force (Susan) Task force is thinking about how to go to different phases of worship as things begin to open up. Also how to address requests from outside groups to use our building (non-rentals). Responses to these requests need to be balanced with the problems presented by COVID and with roof construction.
- c. Bylaws Task Force (Susan) Task force is composed of Susan Storer-Clark Chris Doerksen, Bob Beekman, and Eliza Sutton. State law has changed so that the description of our type of corporation has changed. Chris has made the appropriate changes in our bylaws to address these changes. Goal of the task force is to have proposed changes to bylaws done by September, to be voted on at the December congregational meeting. Question about timeline—maybe wait for the interim minister to help facilitate part of the bylaw discussion, in particular the parts about ministerial authority. It was suggested that revisions be divided into phases, some sections moving ahead as planned, others being delayed to allow for interim minister's input. Susan will bring a revised timeline back to the task force that will reflect more time for discussion with the interim minister.

Action Item: Susan will develop a revised timeline with the bylaws task force.

- d. 148th Street Non-Motorized Bridge Task Force (Catherine) Ryan Dunne & Catherine comprise the task force so far but are looking to add some more members. More to report at a later time.
- e. Staff evaluations (Catherine) Proceeding as planned. Brandon Hunter's and Chris Pollina's are done. Wil Sederholm's is coming up.

For future meetings – Revisions to Building Security Plan, Bylaw revisions and

possible name change, joys and sorrows evaluation, Policy and/or Bylaw changes for future Congregational meeting.
Thank yous - will be emailed separately

Next Meetings: July 6th, 7:00 on Zoom; August 8th Board retreat. We'll need to schedule an August meeting not on a Monday so Rev Thomas can attend.

Special Board Meeting 6/13/20 via Zoom

Attending: Susan Storer Clark, Catherine Crain, Treela McKamey, Dana Doerksen, Brian Flaherty, Marley Banker

Absent: Bruce Hunt

The Board met to resolve the question regarding PPP funds that was raised at the 6/3/20 Board meeting.

Motion for June 13, 2020 special meeting.

The Board wishes to amend the action in its meeting of June 3, in response to congressional changes in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). SUUC will pay Lucy Wenger and Wil Sederholm as budgeted for 2020, in the budget approved by the congregation in December 2019. That is, Lucy will be paid year round for playing for worship services. Wil will work according to his Letter of Agreement, taking time off between June 30 and mid-August.

Motion seconded, passed with one abstention.

Community Announcements

Women's Circle will not meet on the first Saturday of July since that is the Fourth of July, otherwise known as Independence Day.

Our next Zoom meeting will be on August 1, 2020 at 10 AM. The August meeting will feature Cypress Mendoza and Carrie Simpson on the topic of "**Decreasing Pain Without Pharmaceuticals.**" Cypress uses a wholistic medical approach in her massage therapy practice. Carrie is well versed in the effects of different cannabonoids for the treatment of various ailments.

The Appreciating Elder-hood Zoom sessions in July will begin at noon, on Friday, July 10, and on Friday, July 24.

The actual Zoom invitation will be included in the Weekly Announcements, that are posted on Thursday, 7/9/20, and on Thursday, 7/23/20.

SUUC EVENING BOOK GROUP HOLDS MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION ON JULY 1 **"The owl of Minerva flies at dusk."**



The Evening Book Group (aka "The Owls of Minerva") will meet on Wednesday, July 1, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. by Zoom video conference. This Is How You Lose the Time War by Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone will be discussed. (Or maybe it already has been and we're just trying to change the outcome!) Sarah Dilling will be leading and moderating the discussion of this work of speculative fiction.

We will send out the information about how to log into and use Zoom in our reminder e-mail the weekend before the meeting (the monthly e-mail that includes a non-required poetry selection from the Poetry Evangelist). If you have not been receiving these reminder e-mails, but would like to participate in this book discussion, please contact Bob, [\(206\) 527-7340](tel:2065277340), rlbeekman@gmail.com.

To get you started on our next book selection, on August 5 we'll be discussing the novel Old Baggage by Lissa Evans.

July Worship Services

Services will continue to be held online only every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

We will most likely be holding all of these services on Zoom. The easiest and quickest way to link yourself into the service is to go to the home page of our website at www.shorelineuu.org , scroll down to “Recurring Services and Events” and then click the link that says “Join Zoom Meeting” directly below the service title. If you have any problems connecting, contact the office. office@shorelineuu.org

We hope we will all be able to meet in person again soon, but we are grateful to be able to gather online while we are not able to gather in person! Hope to see you “there”!

Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church

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2020 Board of Trustees:

Catherine Crain & Susan Storer Clark, Co-Presidents; Bruce Hunt, VP-Finance;
Brian Flaherty, Dana Doerksen; Marley Banker; Treela McKamey

2020 Staff

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Rev. April Frazier, Affiliated Community Minister	(C) 206-707-2052 aprillarsonfrazier@gmail.com
Rev. Barbara Cornell, Affiliated Community Minister	(C) 206-510-5690 uubcornell@gmail.com
Wil Sederholm, Choir Director	(C) 206 371-7488 wilholm@msn.com
Chris Pollina, Director of Religious Exploration	(C) 206-240-5500 shorelinedre@gmail.com
Brandon Hunter, Church Administrator	(W) 206-363-7994 office@shorelineuu.org
Amparo Correa, Custodian	
Lucy Wenger, Pianist	
Carly Davis, Nursery Attendant	
Monica Barroga, Nursery Attendant	

Calendar available online at <http://www.shorelineuu.org/calendar.html>