



WSUU NEW MEMBERS WELCOMING CEREMONY

Sunday, April 22nd, 2018

We joyfully extend a loving welcome to the following New Members into our Westside UU community. Please introduce yourself and make a personal connection with these new friends who have honored us by joining as active pledging members.

Kelley Brendler-Hall moved to Seattle from Louisville, KY last August for a promotion opportunity with the Federal Government. Kelley and her wife Patti have 3 adult daughters and five grandkids. Kelley is originally from Florida and you will see her sporting her University of Florida Gator garb around town as an avid Gator fan. Kelley, Patti and their dog Winnie have enjoyed exploring Seattle and look forward to their first summer in the Pacific Northwest. Kelley is delighted to have found her spiritual home here at Westside.

Connie Craig grew up in Indiana attended different universities and getting a degree in nursing in the 70's. In between schools, she lived in Japan for 4 years and Vancouver, B.C, for 2 years. Connie's son, Tao, was born in Vancouver and daughter, Paisley, was born in San Francisco in the summer of love. Her daughter has since changed her name to Cynthia. Cynthia moved to Seattle in August 2017 to be closer to her son. She feels a great affinity to the Pacific Northwest, and to the wonderful people here at Westside. Connie says "I am finally home".

Sara Betts is a native Washingtonian who moved to Seattle in 1995. She is a proud mom to her daughter Edie and happy to be part of a recently blended household with Vade, Ona, and August. In the workaday hours, Sara is an instructional coach in Highline School District, where she supports teachers by building on student strengths. Sara has attended Westside intermittently for several years, and is glad to finally make the church part of her Sunday morning routine. She looks forward to forming connections with other Westside members and to supporting the creation of more love and justice in the world.

Vade Donaldson first attended Westside in January 2017 and happily joins the congregation today alongside his partner Sara, together with their three children, Ona, August, and Edie, a newly blended family. Vade grew up in the 9th generation of his family from Walla Walla, where the 11th generation now takes root. A lawyer, general contractor, runner, gardener, and cook, his titles "partner" and "dad" matter most. He joins Westside UU because this community inspires and challenges him to be better at both.

Katharine Grubb grew up in Spokane, and got her BA at Western. She served in AmeriCorps for one year, and has called Seattle home for 17 years. She lives in Highland Park with her boyfriend, James, and Formosan Mountain Dogs, Samba and Sammy. Some of Katharine's skills

include playing ukulele, tour guide, haiku poet, boat handler, and she is a certified professional in human resources. Katharine has type 1 diabetes, and uses an insulin pump and continuous glucose monitor - she's happy to talk with anyone about it. Katharine is eager to make new friends, and find opportunities working for social justice with Westside.

Maria Garvey-Caruso grew up on the East Coast spending time in MD, FL, NYC and VT. Last year she moved to Seattle, scratching an old itch to see what it was like to live in the Pacific Northwest. She is delighted to be close to family here, as she and her wife Margaret start a family of their own. Maria is an animal lover and former professional dancer who now works as a physical therapist. She grew up feeling like church was not a place where she was accepted and because of those messages resisted all things church. UU is different and she can tell that their supportive and caring actions reflect their mission. Maria looks forward to raising her baby Florence in the Westside community.

Margaret Garvey-Caruso ventured from Vermont to Seattle with her spouse Maria in 2017. She enjoys music, motherhood and discovering beautiful places to play in the "church of nature." Margaret works in the international migration field and also cares deeply about the impact of climate change on the health of our planet. She celebrates diversity and believes our highest purpose is to love and be loved. Margaret is happy to be joining this warm congregation.

Linda Buckingham grew up in Tacoma and moved to Seattle where she graduated from the U.W. She and her husband, Patrick Riedl, recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Prior to retiring, Linda worked as a Risk Management medical liability consultant. She and her husband live in the Admiral District and enjoy traveling, gardening, homemaking and walking their dog Pippin. Linda embraces the Seven Principles of U.U. and is looking forward to joining the Westside community.

Susan Conn grew up in CT, left in a blizzard, and has lived in WA for 40 years. Besides her library work, she finds pleasure in March Madness, cats, birds, yoga and Hallmark Christmas movies. After attending Westside on and off for 10 years, Susan is happy to return to such a thriving congregation! I'm looking forward to learning, playing, and serving this welcoming community.

Lane Holdcroft was born in Korea where his father worked to improve local agriculture production. After living in Korea for 7 years, he moved to Virginia, Ethiopia, Michigan, and the Philippines. He received B.S. degrees from Washington State University and Pacific Lutheran University. He has worked as a rancher, electrical engineer, database administrator, and programmer. Most recently he has been involved with video server production and support. His hobbies include electronics, computers, photography and video. WSUU is the first church in which he has agreed with all of their principles and he also really appreciates the very accepting nature of the people here.