

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Upcoming Special Events



**3rd Biennial Interfaith Women's Conference**  
**Saturday, October 21**  
**9:00AM-3:00PM**  
*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Tacoma*



**Lead the Way Home Breakfast**  
**Wednesday, November 8**  
**7:30AM-8:30AM**  
*LeMay America's Car Museum, Tacoma*



**35th Annual Interfaith Celebration of Gratitude**  
**Tuesday, November 21**  
**7:00PM-8:00PM**  
*Puyallup United Methodist Church, Puyallup*

**You can now give using your camera or an iPhone/Android QR code reader application!**

Hover over this code and it will open our donation page. >>>



**THANK YOU**  
**FOR PARTNERING**  
**WITH US TO END**  
**HOMELESSNESS.**

**Questions?** Contact Sandy Windley at [sandyw@associatedministries.org](mailto:sandyw@associatedministries.org)

## AM's Board of Directors

### Officers

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*Vice-President:* Gary Gessel,  
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*Treasurer:* Craig Huish, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
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Ahlmahz Negash, Muslim Community  
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Candy Watkins, Tacoma Bahá'í Community

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for supporting our communities!**



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## Paint Tacoma Beautiful: Rising to the Challenge of Neighborhood Sustainability

Tacoma native and veteran Ricky was desperate for a change. He was tired of living in the "ugliest house on the block," and had been looking into exterior painting services. The first quote he received came back high... and the next... and the next. He wasn't sure if he would ever be able to afford to get his house painted.

That's when Ricky heard about Associated Ministries' Paint Tacoma Beautiful program through our partnership with Puget Sound Energy. He dropped off a homeowner application and was connected to AM's Volunteer Specialist Mary Hoffmann, who let him know that his house had been chosen just two weeks after he applied for the program.

Mary met with Ricky and showed him a color swatch from Sherwin-Williams. While he was originally thinking of a light blue color for his house, he quickly changed his mind when he saw the dark blue paint AM already had.

He shared about his first meeting with Mary,

recalling he was "just shocked, surprised, and happy to be picked." Soon after, he met with Heidi Maloney from Unity of South Sound, head of the volunteer crew that would be painting his house. They agreed the project would be completed over four weekends.

When the day came to start, Heidi's volunteer team of 20+ persons came and visited with Ricky. They wrote messages of love, hope, and encouragement on his house in primer, before painting them over later with the blue paint he had chosen.

Ricky remembers this as the best part of the whole experience: "Just the kindness of everyone, it was overwhelming to me, in the best way." Ricky

said the volunteers were positive, happy, and constantly laughing and smiling, even after long days of painting.

Participating in AM's Paint Tacoma Beautiful program has had a significant impact on Ricky's life. When asked about what having his house



*Ricky proudly standing outside of his newly painted home*

*Continued on page 3*

## **Faith Land Stewardship: Rising to the Challenge of Mixed-income Housing**

Even in Pastor Susan's very first week leading Mason United Methodist Church (UMC), it was already clear that there was an opportunity to steward the church's resources in a new way to care for their community. Within a few months, a bold vision began to form. After reviewing budget numbers and surveying her church's building and property, Pastor Susan began looking into potential partners for a new, innovative community space for their church campus within the historic Proctor neighborhood of Tacoma. The vision caught on, and her congregation, business partners, and neighbors alike joined her in her quest to make the impossible possible through the power of partnership.

The goal for this space, currently titled "Project Mason," is to be a place of refuge and resource connection for vulnerable individuals and families living in North Tacoma by providing meaningful ministry, mixed-income housing, spiritual formation, outreach resources, and neighborhood connection opportunities. Pastor Susan and Mason UMC's hope is that it will be "a spirit-centered community for the 21st century," a place to reach out and love people, with its services providing entry-ways into diverse community.

For Mason UMC, caring for their neighbors has always been a priority. With this in mind, they are seeking to create a community-oriented space that connects tenants in need to services like food banks, 12-step groups, and emergency financial assistance. The felt need for mixed-income housing, childcare, and inclusive spaces remains a strong driver of this project, with the primary focus being mixed-income housing that is intentionally diverse in all forms, as well as thoughtfully designed areas such as multi-use worship spaces, green spaces, and meditation spaces.

Outreach resources could include a non-profit/classroom space, public resources, or a community garden. Neighborhood connections could mean utilizing and maximizing the shared space for a variety of events, lectures, meetings, art and music shows, and more.



*Pastor Susan and her team are rising to the challenge of neighborhood sustainability through Project Mason*



*Project Mason will be a space for embracing all who seek a safe place to simply be*

Spirituality is at the heart of campus, where the "secular and sacred beat as one." Project Mason will be a place where unity is emphasized and diversity is honored. In this space, a unique community will be built through healthy relationships connected to spirit-centered living. Project Mason is committed to attending to the physical needs, emotional stability, cultural values, global concerns, and spiritual growth of those living on campus, as well as the Proctor neighborhood.

This project centers around themes and ideas of "sanctuary" and "resurrection," offering a holistic vision for community living. The Project Mason campus hopes to meet people well on their journeys to wholeness and health by breaking down the walls that threaten to divide people and prioritizing and celebrating diversity, journey, and story.

Mason UMC's recent step towards providing mixed-income housing opportunities is a step we at Associated Ministries have observed several faith communities take in new and invigorated efforts to steward their unused or underutilized land to care for the most vulnerable. Congregations are continuing to seek development, financial, and outreach partners in this work.

Since the beginning of time, people of faith and goodwill have been called to love their neighbors in the most difficult of circumstances, acting as agents of healing, restoration, and peace-building. AM is honored to come alongside Mason UMC as they live out this commitment through the creation of Project Mason. We remain devoted to being an effective convener of faith communities – and our community at large – inspiring all interfaith partners to work for the common good and to have a part in their community's flourishing.

Visit Mason's website to learn more:  
<https://www.masonchurch.org/>

## *Director's Corner*

### **Challenges Bring New Opportunities**

*By Michael Yoder, Executive Director*

Our theme for 2023 has been "rising to the challenge." And when we chose it we had no idea how many challenges we would actually face this year! Settling into a "post-pandemic" rhythm of life has been an interesting process, to say the least!

The stark reality is that, as emergency pandemic funding comes to an end, there are considerably less resources available to fund homeless services in Pierce County. Due to reductions in public funding, we've had to scale back some programs at Associated Ministries in recent months. And yet tragically, the needs we see are greater than ever.

Which is why our partnership with you is more important than ever. Many individuals, faith communities, businesses, and family foundations have stepped up in unprecedented ways to help fill the gaps. Thank you so much for your generosity!

What has become very clear is that we need to find new ways to do new things to meet new needs. My role

as the director of AM gives me a key seat at the table for many of the conversations taking place throughout our community; there is a growing commitment to work together better in order to impact the lives of even more of our vulnerable neighbors. I am committed to continuing to serve as a leader in those efforts.

At the same time, we've been doing considerable introspection and planning at the Board and leadership levels within AM during 2023. In the coming months we'll be sharing about the exciting work we've been doing to revise our mission and vision statements to reflect what we believe AM is being called to do to serve our community in the years ahead.

I know that AM will continue to innovate to meet the new challenges being faced by our community, because that is exactly what we have ALWAYS done throughout our 54 year history. We remain committed to help build a community that is more humane, compassionate, and just... even if that goal has never been more challenging than it is right now.

Thank YOU for standing with us and enabling us to continue to rise to the challenge!

### *Paint Tacoma Beautiful. Continued from page 1*

painted meant to him, he shared that he's "not embarrassed anymore" and is proud to go on walks and engage with his neighbors again. He said he was considering moving to an apartment complex, but is so glad that he didn't because he now has a place to call his own that he thinks "looks really nice."

When reflecting on his experience with AM, he shared that he couldn't be more grateful, saying, "...[you]

couldn't find anyone nicer, from Mary to Heidi to the volunteers." Each summer, our Paint Tacoma Beautiful season is made possible by the support of our community – homeowners, AM staff, volunteer crews, interfaith donors, corporate sponsors, and more.

We would especially like to acknowledge our sponsors that provided paint and supplies for this year's projects: The Home Depot Foundation, Sherwin-Williams Paint Store, S & M Real Property Investments, Miller Paint, Mallory Paint Store – Benjamin Moore, City of Tacoma, Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority and Rodda Paint. Thank you to everyone who helped us to paint 17 homes in just four months. We are excited to return next year to paint even more houses like Ricky's!



*Several volunteers from Unity of South Sound writing messages of love, hope, and encouragement in primer before painting Ricky's house*