



JULY 2019

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Jesus prayed: “May they all may be one — Just as you, Abba, are in me and I in you, so may they might be one with us.” - John 17:21

Let's lead with the church leadership's big announcement:

We're looking to hire a new Youth Ministry Leader.

The Holy Spirit sure seems to be moving.

Thanks to many folks' financial generosity, the great work of our ad hoc youth ministry advisory committee, the guidance and input and scrutiny of our Christian Education Committee, led by Dot Willis, as well as the Trustees and Council ...

we are now prepared to hire someone awesome for eight hours a week to lead our middle school youth ministry.

Our hope is that this position can grow to include some work with the other ages of kids. But for now, we want to keep the scope focused on what we know we can hire someone for right now.

So, please spread the word, and hold in your prayer this new endeavor.

In other news:

I bring good word from the national setting of the United Church of Christ. It was a privilege for me to be at the General Synod this past month in Milwaukee. There were a couple tremendous sermons and stories about the challenge of God's Love to us all these days - messages I think you all would find inspiring. These were video recorded and I think I'll do some showings of them after church services in July. Stay tuned.

Powerful things are afoot through our kindred spirits on behalf of the liberating work of Christ, just as powerful things are happening here with lives changed and souls stirred.

The national body voted on several resolutions of Christian witness for our times, in addition to other national business. Some resolutions to lift up:

- *Pledge to work for the protection of immigrant children and their families
- *Supporting survivors of rape and sexual violence through an ongoing church-wide observance of Break the Silence Sunday
- *Recognizing the Mental Health Network and UCC Latinx Ministries as Historically Underrepresented Groups
- *Denunciations of white supremacist ideology and violence
- *Reaffirmation of inter-religious relations, against religious bigotry
- *Using gender expansive language to revise all national church documents
- *Support for bold, coordinated actions to turn back climate change, such as the green new deal framework.

I'm eager to share and to hear whatever questions and curiosities you may have.

Thanks for all you do in our church and our community.

Praying God's blessings upon you,

Pastor Nathaniel



Summer is on. For some this means a dramatic shift in work and focus. Perhaps there are crops to tend, plants to water, children to supervise, friends to walk alongside, family to visit, s'mores to roast. For some in our church family, this summer has brought with it the loss of a loved one, or a friend. Regardless of how life is changing for you this season, I trust that it is providing you with growth and meaning.

Our church continues to grow in meaningful directions. From my vantage, I see promising initiatives sprouting from our com-

munity in a variety of ways. Just this past week I have witnessed important conversations about how we can better maintain contact with all members of our church family. Thank you, Judy, Linnea and Lucy. We have taken greater steps toward renewable energy as our solar array has proceeded closer to full installation. Thanks Erik. Our youth ministry program has taken a major step forward with the completion of our youth leader job description that represents hours of thoughtful work by a special committee. Shouts out to Nathaniel, Marelu, Jen, Courtney and Nikki. A different group of church leaders is already undertaking planning for our 2020 stewardship campaign that is set to roll-out in September. Thanks Jen and Cyndi. Folks are also scheming how to get people together for meaningful fellowship of our church family and friends in the coming weeks.

I hope the water and sunshine of summer bless you with growth and meaning. I am grateful for how God comes through in the countless efforts of so many to guide the growth and impact of our community of faith. Like a tomato in August, you are wonderfully made.

Be well,

JR

♥ Tom Schopp, husband of Linda Schopp, passed away on June 10th. Please hold Linda and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

♥ Longtime member and church leader, Larry Love, died peacefully on June 11th at home, in bed, next to a window, dappled by the sun and shadows playing through the maple trees. He was 85.

His sweet nature was evident throughout his illness until the end. His confidence in the heavenly reunions awaiting him was a source of consolation and peace for him and Mary.

Larry was a father of both biological and foster children. His was a life of public service - he was an Air Force veteran and worked as a statistician for the U.S. Census Bureau and State Department.

Please hold Mary, Steve and the rest of their family in your love and prayers and circle of support.

From Mary:

Thanks to all of you for your expressions of sympathy to me at the loss of my husband, Larry. I appreciate so much your cards, calls, food offerings and love and support. It has lifted me up at this difficult time.





Greetings from your Deacons!

We want to acknowledge and thank Dot Willis for being our Greeter. She has been early to church, set up, and ready to greet us as we walked through the doors for years now. We will miss that smiling welcome! Dot remains busy with Christian Education Board, teaching Sunday School and serving on the Board of Deacons. Thank you, Dot, for years of greeting us all and your continued service to the work of this church!

Hospitality Teams may be our new look. We have been in discussions about reworking our configuration for greeting and ushering. As we try this out, you may find the greeter at the other end of the atrium, nearer the sanctuary. Your Hospitality Team, will include one person handing out bulletins in the narthex (probably two on special holidays) while the other will be greeting at the west end of the atrium. Pastor Nathaniel would like to see a Hospitality Team training session. This would inform the team of “best practices” to express our welcome and meet the needs of our guests. This is a work in progress but we may begin trying out bits and pieces.

Maryann Duffy has worked with the Diaconate this past year to create a beautiful set of chalices and pitcher for communion services. Maryann is a local potter, friend of many in the church, who has worked diligently to create a design, just right for this community of faith. The July 7th communion will be the first use of these instruments of our worship. Many thanks to Maryann for her fine work, her spirit, and her gifts which have blessed this church.

A date has been set for September 25-27, 2020. That is 2020, next year, for our First Congregational Family Church Camp at N-Sid-Sen, “point of inspiration,” on Lake Coeur d’Alene, near Harrison, Idaho. A big thank you to Judy Gibbs for planning and coordinating this event. Judy and her husband, Ron, plan to take a trip up to N-Sid-Sen just to see the facility as most of their camping was at Pilgrim Firs, another UCC camp on the west side of the state. Hopefully you had a chance to meet Mark Boyd and his wife when Mark preached here on April 7th. Mark is the camp director at N-Sid-Sen. Church camp gives us the opportunity to grow our spirituality in new ways, and grow our sense of family, while experiencing the beauty of God’s creation all around us. Set the date!

A pet blessing service has been requested by several members. October 6th will be the date!

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and give you peace.

Amen

Judy Chacon, Chair, board of Deacons



2019 N-SID-SEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER Lake Coeur d'Alene

Spring Retreats

Clergy Retreat	April 22-24	"Coming Together"
Women's Retreat	May 17-19	"Weave us Together"
Work Camp	June 10-15	"Working Together"

Summer Camps

Curriculum Theme: "Peace Works, Empowering the next generation of Peacemakers"

Intermediate Camp (Entering Grades 5-6)

July 7~ July 13

Junior High Camp (Entering 7th, 8th, 9th grades)

July 7~ July 13

Kid's Camp (Entering Grades 2-4)

July 14 ~ July 17

Senior High Camp (Entering Grades 10-Entering College)

July 14 ~ July 20

Emerging Adult Retreat

July 19 ~ July 21

Family Camp #1

July 20 ~ August 3

Family Camp #2 aka Camp Together

August 4 ~ August 10

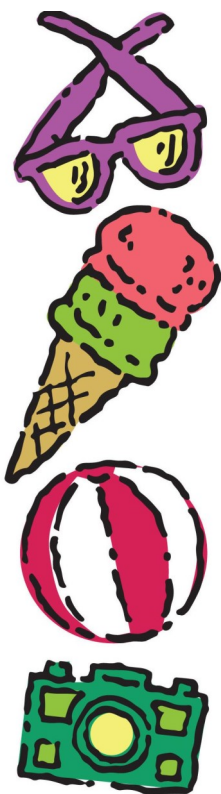
Fall Retreat

Fall Youth Event (Jr. & Sr. High)

September 20 ~ September 22

Registering

If you're interested in attending one or more of these camp experiences, It's easy! Just log onto www.n-sid-sen.org and click on the camp you wish to attend and then "Register for this session". It's THAT easy!



Aaah, summer - that long anticipated stretch of lazy, lingering days, free of responsibility and rife with possibility. It's a time to hunt for insects, master handstands, practice swimming strokes, conquer trees, explore nooks and crannies, and make new friends.

Have a great memory-making summer!



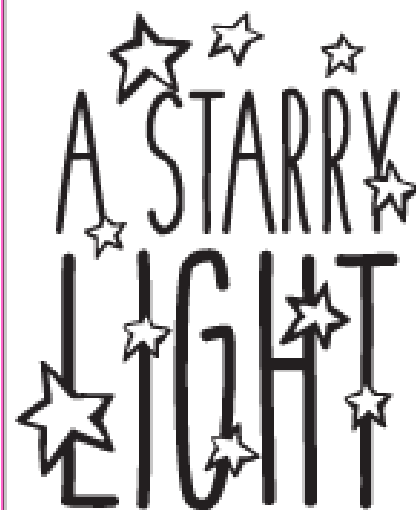
A child can teach an adult 3 things:

- ~To be happy for no reason.
- ~To always be curious.
- ~To fight tirelessly for something.

Paulo Coelho



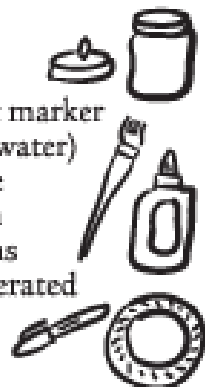
"Prayer is kinda like high-speed internet."



Summer is the perfect time to gaze at the wonders in the sky. Make this craft as a reminder of God's handiwork — including you!

What you need:

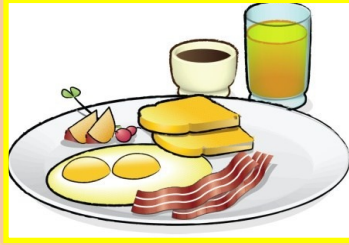
- Glass jar
- Permanent marker
- Glue (and water)
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Star sequins
- Battery-operated tea light



What you do:

1. Around the jar's opening, write in permanent marker: Shine ... like stars in the sky. Philippians 2:15
2. Pour some glue on the plate. Thin with some water.
3. "Paint" the outside of the jar with glue and then sprinkle on some sequins. Let dry.
4. Add the tea light and give your bedroom a starry glow at nighttime.

Eating well , being around the table with the family, or friends, or relatives—it doesn't get any better. ~Lydia Bastianich



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, July 13th at 9:00am

All the men (members, friends, and visitors) are invited to share breakfast on the second Saturday of each month. All you have to do is show up and be ready to enjoy the food & fellowship.



In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.
~Khalil Gibran



Dances of the Universal Peace

**July 11th at 7:00 pm
In the Chapel**

Everyone is invited! The Dances are simple, and easy-to-learn circle dances. We use sacred phrases, chants, movements, and music from the world's wisdom traditions.

~ Led by Rena Coon

Open Coffee With the Rev.

**Tuesday, July 2nd
8:00am-10:00am
Olive**

Pastor Nathaniel is looking forward to visiting with whomever wants to drop by and talk about life. Stop by and have a chat!



Share with all the word of God you have received with joy. Believe what you read. Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach.



Newsletter Submissions

Deadline

Tuesday, July 23rd

Please plan on having your submissions in by that date.




Trustees Meeting
No meeting this month

Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 pm

Deacons Meeting
No meeting this month




To share your pictures, events, happenings, stories, jokes...
Please

We can bring positive energy into our daily lives by smiling more, talking to strangers in line, replacing handshakes with hugs, and calling our friends just to tell them we love them.

Brandon Jenner

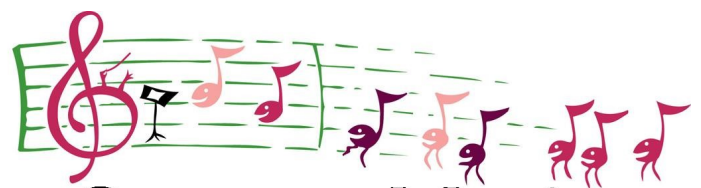
JULY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

VOUCHERS

Please have your vouchers turned in by the dates indicated above.

Thanks!



Summer Music

With our choir off for the summer, we can **always** use special donations to help us bring guest musicians to worship.

Just put "Summer Music" on the memo line of your check, on an envelope for cash OR go to the green **Online Giving** tab at our website:

www.firstchurchuccww.org



Summer Book Group

"The Death & Life of Aida Hernandez" by Aaron Bobrow-Strain

Dr. Bobrow-Strain spoke on this in church on June 30th, if you would like to delve deeper, we will be holding a reading about and discussing this topic in our upcoming Summer Book Group.

Details on meeting times for the book group to be determined. Beth Call has copies available to loan or buy at a discount. There is a sign-up sheet in the Atrium for those who would like to get a copy of the book through the church.

"Taking us into detention centers, immigration courts, and the inner lives of Aida and other daring characters, The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez reveals the human consequences of militarizing what was once a more forgiving border. With emotional force and narrative suspense, Aaron Bobrow-Strain brings us into the heart of a violently unequal America."



Plan Ahead

Reminder to consider
joining a Dinner Group

when sign-ups begin in September.

There were 3 dinner groups this past year. My husband, Ron, and I participated in two. Start a conversation with Melissa & Johnathan Webster, Gwyn Frasco, Becky & Sam Kirtley, Courtney Kress-Van Slyke, Cheryl Pira or Heidi & Kyle McFarley and ask them to share their experiences in the laughter, good food and making new friends. It's a wonderful way to "feed our souls" and help us on our journey of faith at First Congregational.

All adults are welcome and encouraged to participate in the dinner groups. The "rules" are simple. In each group one person/couple rotates hosting each month. They prepare the main entree and the others fill in with a vegetable, appetizer, dessert, etc. It's a BYOB, if you wish.

Look for the announcement in the fall to sign-up for the 2019/2020 season!

~ Judy Gibbs



Thank you, Carmen Davila for faithfully providing us with beautiful flowers to enjoy each week!





Back To School Bash

Our annual Lincoln Terrace School Supply Drive has begun! Look for the big backpack in the atrium to see what these 20 students need to walk into their first day of class better prepared for success.

We will collect supplies June 30th through **August 4th, the day of our sorting party** ~ we invite all youth — rising intermediate through secondary — to help fill backpacks after church.

August 21st we will deliver the backpacks to Lincoln Terrace and join in their **Back-to-School Bash BBQ**. Your contributions help this project provide young change-makers in our congregation the opportunity to confront the complexities of poverty, learn the importance of serving with humility, and celebrate our Lincoln Terrace neighbors.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 525-8753.

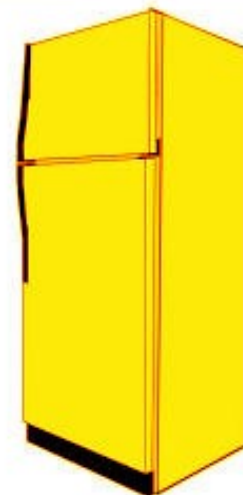
Thank you so much!



Do You or Someone You Know...

have an extra refrigerator in good working condition that could be donated to our kitchen?

If so, please call 525-8753
or
e-mail office@fcchurch.net



Thank You~



Theater at the Spire

Friday, August 3rd, 7:30 pm

First Congregational Church

Anna Newbury, actor and movement artist, will perform.

Everyone is invited to join us as we enjoy an hour of inspiring performance art at this free event.

Donations to help support the Wednesday Soup Lunch Ministry will be gladly accepted.

Save the Date

More details to follow as available.

About Anna Newbury



A director, actor, movement specialist, & teacher; Anna is a New York and Northwest based artist, currently attending the Asolo Conservatory M.F.A acting program on a full-ride scholarship in Sarasota, Florida. She received her B.F.A in Theatre Performance from Central Washington University. In addition to working on her Masters in Acting, she is an RYT-200 certified yoga teacher, and is Advanced Actor Combatant certified with the Society of American Fight Directors.

Her training and instruction are multifaceted and based on a plethora of methodologies and influences. Among these influences are Viewpoints work, and the acting technique based on the *Art of Creative Experiencing* developed by Nikolai Demidov. As always, she loves to spend time in the Northwest and in Walla Walla working with some of the most wonderful collaborators and the diverse artistic community of performers.



TALES FROM THE BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS

After a two day journey, Chip and I drove the winding back road to the Van Slyke cabin, 100 miles from Cedar Lake. Char and Steve were there with hugs for weary travelers, and Chip was free to run with her friends Izzy and Bubba. After a delightful evening and a sleep accompanied by loon calls, we headed to our camp near Ely, Minnesota.

Driving down the final dirt road, it was as if we had never left. Wilderness cabins are timeless and welcoming. As I unpacked the Prius, Chip ran for miles, visiting her favorite trees, rocks, and water. My dripping wet, happy pup reappeared with a yummy winter killed deer leg bone that she will chew for days. This beats city days.

Meanwhile I found that all our cabin had come through the winter with flying colors. No damage. Next we walked the many paths and found no down trees to clear. We carried a kayak to the water and hopped in (Chip's favorite transportation) and paddled to our landing across the lake. I hiked our wilderness trail and found only two trees to clear. As I sawed and cleared, my little dog explored for miles. Just as I headed for the kayak, she returned, and we headed back to the cabin.

I dangled a thermometer in the lake and found that the temperature was 58 degrees. That is pretty cold for swimming but, for bragging rights, I plunged in for a few strokes while Chip, who always swims with me, looked on and barked "I'll pass today!"

The day was warm, but by morning it was 35 degrees. No ice, but chilly. The next several mornings were just as cold. The sun rises across the lake, so each morning after a run, we hopped into the kayak and paddled into the sunlight ... nature's warming oven.

During the late evening of June 2, some loons began a long yodeling call ... more than usual. The rest of the morning we paddled to their nesting island, and a loon was in its nest. I can report to the Loon Watch Research the day they laid eggs. Hopefully in 21 days we will have a baby or two to follow through the summer.

The hummingbird feeder has visitors constantly. They are all ruby throats in this area. The red breasted nuthatches and chickadees are at the feeder. Those little guys are so amazing, for they all winter over and survive the Minnesota cold and snow. They are all very cheerful now.

Chip and I are eager for our next adventures, for arrival of campers and visitors, and for settling into our wilderness woods and lakes.

Greetings to you all, and much love.

Lee. And Chip, too

Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.
~John Muir



Cedar Lake in
early morning

Chip waiting to
chase squirrels
and go for a
morning swim





Willing to Serve

A Great Way to Serve

Liturgist

July 7	Annie Charnley Eveland
July 14	Jen Rickard
July 21	Open
July 28	Open

Coffee Hour

July	Trustees
August	Christian Education
September	Nominating & Pastoral Advisory
	Picnic in the Park
	Deacons

Sign-up sheets are available in the atrium each Sunday following worship or you may call the office at 525-8753.

Another Great Way to Serve Wednesday Soup Lunch

Soup Makers

July 3	Open
July 10	Bernie Newman
July 17	Galen Unruh
July 24	Rodger Stevens
July 31	Open



Volunteer Opportunities Christian Aid Center

Receptionist (week day afternoons)
Women's Bible Study Leader (Monday mornings)
Childcare Helper (Thursday mornings)
Registered Nurses (Thursdays)
Storage Room Organizer

For more information, contact Jeannette Regalado, Volunteer Coordinator, at 525-7153 ext. 114. You can fill out an application at christianaidcenter.org.
Thank you.

Jeannette Regalado
Volunteer & Donor Relations
Christian Aid Center
(509) 525-7153 ext. 114



"In every community, there is work to be done.

In every nation, there are wounds to heal.

In every heart, there is the power to do it."

— Marianne Williamson



In order to protect the privacy of our members and friends, we do not display personal information in the web version



You can read Pastor Nathaniel' s sermons in his online blog at:
<https://thedandelionwayblog.wordpress.com>
Or hear them on our website at:
www.firstchurchuccww.org.



First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Ministerial Leadership

Minister Rev. Nathaniel Mahlberg

2019 Church Officers

Moderator	J. R. Van Slyke
Past Moderator	Mary Wilen
Vice Moderator	Jennifer Rickard
Clerk	Larry Frank
Treasurer	Kim Croft
Financial Sec.	Bernie Newman
Asst. Fin. Sec.	Jonathan Webster
Head Usher	Sam Kirtley
Diaconate	Judy Chacon
Christian Ed	Dot Willis
Trustees	Dana Taggart
Mission/Social Concern	
	Heidi McFarley
Music	Open
. . . and Affirming	Open

Staff

Office Manager	Gayle Kubrock
Bookkeeper	Kim Croft
Custodian	Irina Kostenko
Organist	Jackie Wood
Choir Director	Julie Jones
Webmaster	Emily Asmus

Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
9 am - 2 pm

Pastoral Assistance

Church Office 525-8753
Rev. Nathaniel Mahlberg
(608) 469-1406

We celebrate our diversity as an expression of God's Creative love. We welcome persons of all age, race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, and physical and mental ability.