



HIGHLIGHTS

Of the First Congregational Church

March 2018

Message From Your Pastor

Dear Friends at First Congregational Church,

The blessing I have for each of you, as we journey through Lent this month, is best expressed by this prayer from UCC pastor Jim Burklo, from his book "Birdlike and Barnless":

Let us feast on simple pleasures, and fast from all that gets our bodies and souls out of balance.

Let us feast on kindness, and fast from sarcasm.

Let us feast on compassion, and fast from holding grudges.

Let us feast on patience, and fast from anxiety.

Let us feast on peace, and fast from stirring up needless conflict.

Let us feast on acceptance, and fast from judgment.

Let us feast on joy, and fast from jealousy.

Let us feast on faith, and fast from fear.

Let us feast on creativity, and fast from all that deadens our souls.

Let us feast on justice, and let us fast from negligence of the most vulnerable.

Let us feast on service to others, and fast from selfishness.

Let us feast on delight, and fast from despair.

Let us feast on bread and wine in spiritual communion, and fast from all that keeps us from communing deeply with each other and with God.

So that our lives might be sufficient, fulfilled, complete, whole, enough.

Amen!

May this Lent time prepare us to experience again the power of Holy Week and Easter, and to receive anew the salvation we know through Christ.

Peace

Pastor Nathaniel

Two Announcements:

1. Our Lenten series this year will be the UCC's curriculum on faith and white privilege. Meetings are Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm. Childcare is provided. Several folks have expressed interest in exploring together this important way of "Letting God & Holding Fast" in a faithful way, given the ongoing reality of racism in our country.

2. I will be out of town March 14-20. My grandmother in Wisconsin will be turning 100 years old. Rev. Dorothy Knudson will be preaching Sunday March 18, so don't miss it.

**73 S. Palouse Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362**



Moderator's Missive

Dear Church Family and Friends

In February I had the chance to spend close to 2 weeks hiking and backpacking in southern Utah. The dark and bright night sky, the red desert slick rock, the morning call of the canyon wrens, the simplification of days to eating, moving, staying warm, all brought me considerable renewal. There is little extra in this landscape of rock and wind. In entering the desert with open heart and open soul my own garbage got a good clearing out.

In the cold mornings I would seek the first puddles of sunshine. In turning my face and focus to that warm light I felt the sun's benediction. During the days I moved through slot canyons, over large inclines, by hoodoos and arches, and through the winding Grand Gulch. I often walked in the washes of seasonal stream beds. I would pick up rocks, some worked by human hands thousands of years ago. While I walked I also handled sharp memories in my mind, giving them attention, looking from different perspectives, touching the hurtful edges until smoothed, until these memory stones could also travel comfortably with me. At night I watched the heavens illuminate. The humbling vastness is not subtle in its message when viewed from its full dark glory- indeed we are of dust and stardust, and so shall we return.

At the start of the trip I was filled with longing and resentment for what I do not have in my daily home life. Soon I was able to rest in the powerful wanting of what I do have. This has made for a joyous homecoming. It is a similar journey offered to us through Lent. By pairing down, the gifts that sustain and enliven us become more evident. Through whatever territory you travel, may you also find ways to clear out debris and make space for those waiting sparks of divinity.

Emily Dietzman Asmus
Acting-moderator

"From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know; that we are here for the sake of each other-above all for those upon whose smile and well-being our own happiness depends, and also for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy. Many times a day I realize how much my own outer and inner life is built upon the labors of my fellow men [and women], both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received. "

~Albert Einstein

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunday, March 25th ~ 10:00 am

Please join us as we prepare ourselves for Easter. A celebration of palm procession and the retelling of the Passion story



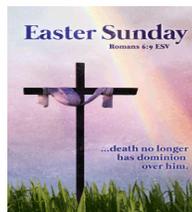
**A Service of Shadow and Light
Thursday, March 29th~ 6:30 pm**

You are invited to share in this special service with us in the Fellowship Hall for the retelling of the story of Jesus' last supper complete with candlelight and communion



Friday, March 30th ~ 4:00 pm

In preparation for the joyful flowering of the cross on Easter Sunday, meet us at our labyrinth on Good Friday for a simple ceremony as we burn the prayers that we have placed on the cross during Lent.



**Easter Sunday Service
Sunday, March 1 ~ 10:00 am**

Join us on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection with flowers and chimes. As always, Easter worship is a family service. Childcare is available after the Children's Message for preschool through 2nd grade. Older children are invited to stay for the entire service.



Each Easter we all have the opportunity to take part in decorating the Sanctuary with beautiful spring flowers.

Your financial donation will ensure that all who join us on Easter Sunday will be warmly welcomed by the colorful display of God's creation.

You may designate your donation to be in memory of, in honor of, or in celebration of a person or event close to your heart. A list of all names and celebrations will be inserted in our Sunday bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Please return your donation, along with the needed information listed below, to the church office by Sunday, March 25th. You may also earmark your check *Easter Flowers* and place it in the offering plate on any Sunday prior to Easter.

Your Name:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

In Celebration of:



Easter Potluck

Please join us after worship on Easter Sunday, April 1st. for an All Church Potluck served up with a heaping helping of fellowship,

Please bring your favorite dish for us to enjoy with you!





Deacon's Corner

Greetings from the Diaconate

The season of Lent is upon us as we search for deeper answers and meaning to our faith. Our cross, draped in black, is at the front of the sanctuary. You are invited to fill out prayer request slips and place them onto the cross throughout this Lenten season.

We are grateful and blessed to have our own Rev. Dorothy Knudson minister to us on Sunday, March 18th, in Pastor Nathaniel's absence. Be sure to attend as we hear Dorothy's sermon on this fifth Sunday of Lent!

Palm Sunday is March 25th, the Sixth Sunday in of Lent! We will march and wave our palms as Christ enters into Jerusalem!

Maundy Thursday service, 6:30 pm, March 29th, is always a quiet and somber time as we remember our Lord's last supper and his call to the cross. We will set a table of meager, appropriate food to partake as we recall these last hours and days of our Lord.

On **Good Friday**, March 30th, at 4pm, there will be an outdoor service at the labyrinth where our prayers will be sent up as a burnt offering to our Lord. (The labyrinth is located in the far parking lot, across Marcus street.)

Easter bursts forth in all of its radiance and amazement on April 1st! We will worship with flowers! Music! Joyous hearts! And with feasting! Bring your favorite dish for our Easter potluck following the service!

Request for Donations for Easter Flowers--

Please earmark any donations for "Easter Flowers" with a note on your check or envelope designating the use of your funds. These flowers will decorate our alter and sanctuary on Easter morning! Funds must be received by March 25th, one week prior to Easter. Thank you!

If you have flowers blooming in your yard on Easter morning, we would love to have additional flowers to place on the cross! Your additions will become added blessings to our cross! Bring them Sunday morning.

New Choir Stoles!

The new choir stoles debuted on Transfiguration Sunday, February 11th! Big, big thank you to Melissa Webster, Sue Lundgren, and Gwyn Frasco who made the new stoles!

Dot Willis will have had shoulder surgery February 23rd, before you receive this notice. Becky Kirtley generously offered to take the role of greeter till Dot is able to resume that roll. Thank you Becky! And hold Dot in your prayers for a wonderful outcome to her shoulder surgery!

Submitted by Judy Chacon, Chair of Diaconate, February 20, 2018

Many thanks to the members who used their talents and time to make these stoles for our choir!



Front: Gwyn Frasco; Linda Schopp; Annie Charnley Eveland; Stefanie Crumpacker-Flerchinger; Audrey Renaud; Melissa Webster

Middle: Julie Jones; Jonathan Webster; Holly Cranston; Joyce Schwenke

Back: Terry Rice; Brenden Koch; David Wassenaar; Keiron Wassenaar, Jackie Wood

...And to our choir, who fills us each week with their beautiful voices!

In Our Hearts & Prayers



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



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

“World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not the absence of violence. Peace is the manifestation of compassion.
~ Dali Lama

Just One Thing



The number of guests who come to our Wednesday Free Lunch Ministry is growing with each month. We need your help and generosity to help ensure that we can continue to provide a hot meal each week to all those who are in need. On the 1st. **Sunday of each month** the “Cornucopia Cart” will be outside the door to the church. We invite you to bring “Just One Thing” to place in the cart. The “one thing” can be any one of the following:

Chicken broth, diced tomatoes, caned white beans, caned black beans, Minestrone (or) Chicken Noodle soup mix, sliced bread, packaged cookies, apple juice.

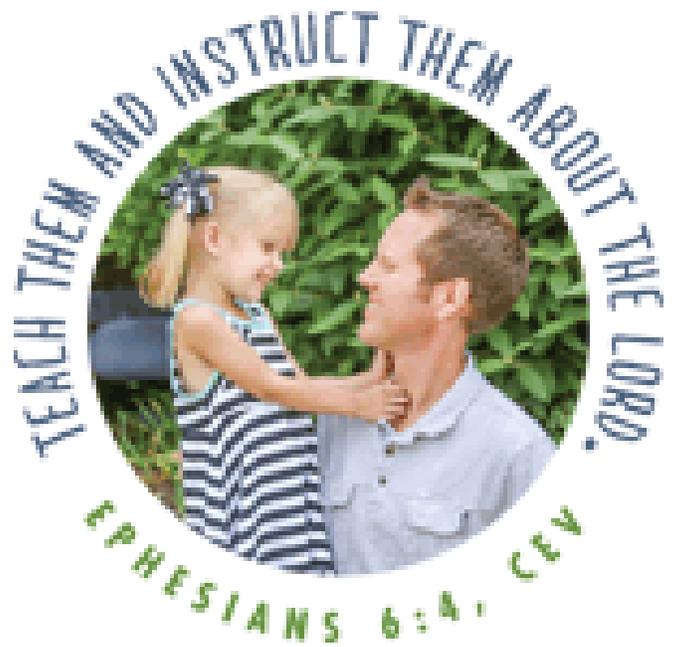
These are the basic kitchen staples that we need to ensure that each of our guests is welcomed each week with a hot meal and something to drink. It is then our joy to give them a warm welcome and a big smile!

Matthew 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Thank you ~ Galen Unruh

Thank you. Thank you!
To those who were able to answer our wishes ~ we know it was no small ask and we appreciate your thoughtful generosity.





Christian Education News Our Whole Lives

March 4, 1:30 pm~5:00 pm

- ◆ Healthy Relationships
- ◆ Relationship Skills

March 11, 2:00 pm~4:00 pm

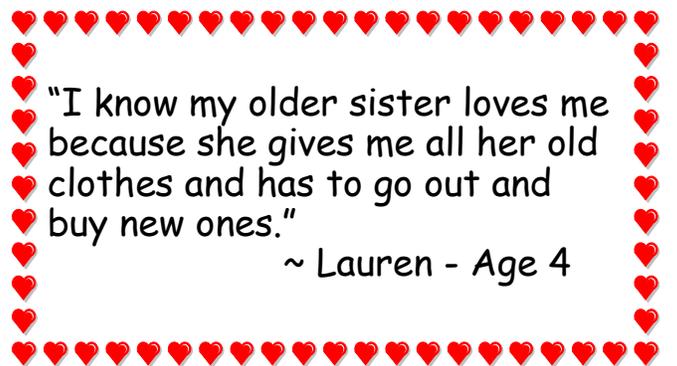
- ◆ Sexuality, Social Media, & Internet

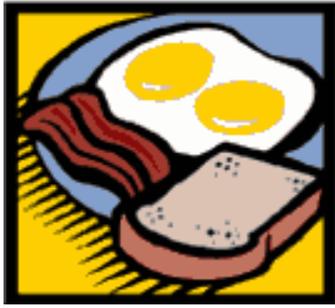
March 18, 2:00 pm~4:00pm

- ◆ Bullying & Bystander Responsibilities

March 25, 2:00 pm~4:00 pm

- ◆ Redefining Abstinence





**Men's
Breakfast**
Saturday
March 10
9:00 am

All men, (members, friends, & visitors) are invited. All you have to do is show up, fill up & enjoy the fellowship!



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



Thursday, March 22nd
7:00 pm—8:00 pm
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.



Lent Series

White Privilege: Let's Talk, a Resource for Transformational Dialogue

Wednesday Nights at 6:30 PM
February 28, March 7, 14, & 21

Childcare will be provided.



We will resume our Adult Enrichment
Wednesday, March 28th
5:30 pm

Hi All!

We will have our dive rescue support truck on display in the church parking lot on **Sunday, March 11th** for after/during coffee hour and for Sunday School kids to look at. I will be fully loaded and ready to go as we leave for the season on March 15th. Stop by and take a look. Reminder: Any church members or Veterans that are already certified, are welcome to join us on any of our dives. We have extra gear and can fill tanks on site.

Thank you
Lisa and Will
Blue Mountain Divers

Want to Collaborate and Worship With Other UCC Churches in the Region?

Come to the:
Annual Meeting of our Pacific Northwest Conference
Friday, April 27th -Sunday, April 29th
Yakima Conference Center

You could even serve as .a voting delegate from our church.
Pastor Nathaniel is on the planning committee We'll send out
registration details soon.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/561823c9e4b0448989bf7fcb/t/5a820fc453450a101f9764ff/1518473157354/Invitation+to+AM+18.pdf>

Lenten Prayer by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
And don't live out a faith that dares,
And don't take on the ways of death,
Our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.
If we just dream of what could be
And do not build community,
And do not seek to change our ways,
Our dreams of change are false displays.
If we just sing of doing good
And don't walk through our neighborhood
To learn its hope, to ease its pain,
Our talk of good is simply vain.
God, may our prayers and dreams and songs
Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs —
That works for peace and justice, too.
Then will our prayers bring joy to you.
Amen

“A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.” ~ Pope Francis



Wednesday,
March 14th
through
Tuesday,
March 20th.



Next Council Meeting is:

Sunday, March 18th, 11:30



VOUCHERS

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

Thanks!

March 2018

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



Rummage Sale

March 28 & 29
8:00 am—3:00 pm
March 30
8:00 am—Noon

As always, donations are welcome. However, please **do not** donate winter clothing or any electronics/technology, such as TVs, radios, cameras, etc.

Donations can be delivered now through March 27th. Our doors are open Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am-2:00pm. If you have need to make arrangements or have questions about donation drop-off, you can call either: Irina at 386-4095 OR the office at 525-8753.

If the items are large or heavy, please bring a helper.

If you would like to lend a hand with set-up, you are invited to just show up on Monday, March 26 and/or Tuesday, March 27. If you would like to help on one or more of the sales days, or have any further questions, call:

Sue Gillespie at 540-9813.



Helping Hands



A Great Way to Serve

Liturgist

- ★ March 4 Annie Charnley Eveland
- ★ March 11 Sue Lundgren
- ★ March 18 Bart Preecs
- ★ March 25 John Hughes

Coffee Hour

- ★ March 4 Gwyn Frasco
- ★ March 11 Dorothy Knudsen & Janet Mallen
- ★ March 18 Open
- ★ March 25 Open

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

Volunteer Opportunities



Christian Aid Center

Childcare Helpers-Mornings & Afternoons
Monday through Thursday

Registered nurses to help in our health clinic
Thursday morning and evening shifts

Hairstylist/Barber

To fill out an online application, go to our website at christianaidcenter.org. For more information, contact Jeannette Regalado at 525-7153 ext. 114.

Christian Aid Dinner



Linda Schopp, Jill Juers, Gwyn Frasco & Lee Coleman

On our designated Sunday for preparing dinner at the Christian Aid Center the mercury was dropping fast. About sixty guests came into the dining hall shivering and more than ready to warm up, inside and out. We didn't disappoint them. We served a piping hot casserole of Spanish rice, cheese to sprinkle on top, peas and baby corn on the cob (an unusual hit), hot garlic bread, a green salad, pineapple chunks, and a variety of cakes. The work crew included Gwyn Frasco, Linda Schopp, Jill Juers, and Lee Coleman.

Next month, on March 18, we could use a few volunteers .



325 S. 1st Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362



(509)526-4169
lindaornelas.lo@gmail.com

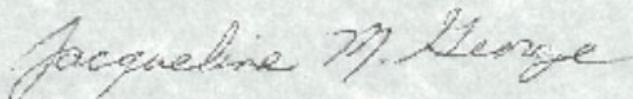
First Congregational Church
73 S Palouse
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Parish Members,

On behalf of the Pantry Shelf, we thank you for the support that you have given our organization. The Pantry Shelf continues its mission to provide nutritious food for those in difficult situations. In 2017 we were able to serve 7,950 individuals with 162,003 pounds of food. The Pantry Shelf is open 3 days each week, weather permitting, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00-3:00 p.m. You are welcome to tour the facility at any of those times. Through wonderful donations from Univera Serve First we have been able to purchase two new refrigerators and freezer units that have allowed us to store more food for our clients. We also began providing toiletries, diapers, and other items not available with food stamps.

First Congregational donated \$1,200.00 to further the goals of the Pantry Shelf during 2017.

Your generosity and continued support is appreciated.



Sincerely,

The Pantry Shelf of Walla Walla is a 501(c)3 organization
Tax Id Number 91-2143214

Our Sincerest Appreciation to the boards & committee members listed below, who work hard behind the scenes to help make our church run smoothly. That appreciation and our apologies are extended to those who were not included (indicated in red) in last month's Highlights! Thank You.

The following Officers will begin or continue another 2-year term:

Moderator - J.R. Van Slyke
 Vice Moderator - Emily Asmus
 Treasurer - Kim Croft
 Financial Secretary -Bernie Newman
 Asst. Financial Secretary - Jonathan Webster
 Head Usher - Sam Kirtley

2018 SLATE FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Members of boards and committees serve a 3-year term ending January of the year following their name

Trustees:

Dana Taggart - Chair 2021
 Michael Gillespie 2021
 Doug Taggart 2021
 Jean Pennington 2019
 Gail Nielson 2020
 Mary Wilen 2020
 Sarah McClure 2021
 Emily Asmus 2021

Diaconate:

Judy Chacon -Chair 2020
 Melissa Webster 2019
 Dot Willis 2019
 Daniel Taggart 2019
 Mary Wilen 2020
 Linda Schopp 2020
 Jackie Wood 2020
 Art Davila 2020

Sue Lundgren 2020
 Paulette Newman 2021
 Terri Rice 2021
Annie Charnley Eveland 2021
Julie Jones No Term

Expiration

Mission and Social Concerns:

Heidi McFarley –Chair 2020
 Lee Coleman 2019
 Courtney Kress 2019
 Sue Denman 2020
 Sue Gillespie 2020
 Bart Preecs 2020
 Nicole Gryler 2020
 Beth Call 2020
 Punky Adams 2021
Galen Unruh 2021

Music:

Steve Wilen -Chair 2021
 Parke Thomas 2020
 Mary Ann Piver 2020

Christian Education:

Dot Willis –Chair 2021
 Linda Schopp 2021
 Tara Wyrembelski 2019
 Jennifer Rickard 2019
 Margaret Thomas 2020
 Gwyn Frasco 2020

...And Affirming:

Jane Drabek -Chair 2019
 Will Lambert 2019
 Lisa Anderson 2019
 Tara Wyrembelski 2019

Pastoral Advisory

Nicole Gryler –Chair 2021
 Steve Wilen 2021
 Jonathan Webster 2019
 Carolyn Dietzman 2021

Nominating Committee:

Becky Kirtley –Chair 2021
 Melissa Webster 2021
 Courtney Kress 2021

HOW THE INTERNET STARTED ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE...

In ancient Israel it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy. And Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com. And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew to the People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drum heads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

And that is how it all began.

Thanks for the chuckle, Gwyn!



March Birthdays



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



Abundant Blessings in the coming year!

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

2018 Church Officers

Moderator	J. R. Van Slyke
Past Moderator	Mary Wilen
Vice Moderator	Emily Asmus
Clerk	Larry Frank
Treasurer	Kim Croft
Financial Secretary	Bernie Newman
Asst. Fin. Secretary	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	Parke Thomas

Church Office Hours

Tues - Fri
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.