



*First Congregational
Church
Highlights Newsletter
January 2020*



Blessings this New Year, Dear friends.

As part of the Children's Pageant before Christmas, on the Sunday of Advent with the focus on the Peace of Christ, the children and adults reflected on the ways we make peace. We all wrote on stars the ways we make peace or resolve to make peace in the world. Now, through the season of Epiphany, these stars will be displayed in the church atrium, reminding us of our resolution to share the Peace of Christ.

So, let me share what people wrote on their stars:

The kids shared:

"I make peace by:

Being a good friend; Forgiving; Being nice; Praying; Listening; Sharing; Loving Jesus; Telling people that I love them; Shaking hands and saying hello!; Leaving letters in library books; Giving happiness to people around me; Helping my friends; Being in the woods; Being kind; Giving food to people who need it the most."

The adults shared:

Adults:

"I make peace by:

Taking a moment to sit in silence and send loving thoughts to the world; Loving others; Listening and asking questions of others; Seeking resolution to conflict; Letting go of my pride in being right or looking to have wrongs amended, but rather working towards the peace I wish to live; Having a thoughtful and caring heart; Being in stillness with a receptive heart; Snuggling with my grandson; Listening and witnessing; Welcoming others with a smile and open heart; Working for a just world; Sharing the love of God."

How do you experience the Peace of Christ? How will you help make peace this moment, this month, this year?

Peace,

Pastor Nathaniel

p.s.

I will be taking a vacation December 30th-January 3rd. Then I will be away until January 9th at a training with the UCC's Next Generation Leadership Initiative.



Moderator's Missive

Dear Church Family,

A new year is upon us. As you read this, you may be contemplating doing a thing or two differently in 2020. January can be good for that, a time for self-inventory, a time for reflection. If you find yourself in this place right now I hope you will also take the time to celebrate and feel a deep peace for all of the great things you have been a part over the past several months. A new year should also hold ample opportunity for the validation of the vitality that courses through each one of us.

As church moderator, I am joining other church leaders in turning my attention to the annual meeting we will be having together on Sunday, January 26th. As encouraged as I was by all our faith community had done by this time last year, I am in awe of what's transpired in 2019. Together, we have fed thousands of meals to hundreds of hungry, grateful souls; hosted 12-step groups that extend hope and support to scores of people in recovery; reduced our carbon footprint by installing a solar array; designed nourishing worship services that instill hope and love; graduated a second cohort of OWL-certified youth; launched a thriving youth ministry; launched a thriving ladies' luncheon ministry; formed a new building subcommittee to offer TLC to our classic church facilities; modeled an ethic of gratitude; prepared music that regularly touches the soul; and gathered together for dinners, potlucks and fellowship hours. I have forgotten as much as I have remembered in this list. And I am particularly grateful for all of the hands and the hearts that carry this work forward, most often with smiles on their faces and love in their hearts. Thank you all.

We have wrapped up another stewardship season. The support you all have shown for the strength and spirit of our faith community is truly inspiring. We may have fallen just short of our financial "goal," but I am inspired by the eighteen new people who have decided to pledge their financial support for the work we are doing together. I have little doubt that where the gospel is present, the resources will be there too. The Spirit is doing great things in our church, and I hope you are as pleased as I am to be working alongside great people in answering the call to follow Jesus' example.

Here's to another blessed year!

Peace,

JR

Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence. ~ Henry David Thoreau



2020 Greetings from your Deacons!

Wishing you all the best in this New Year!

Your deacons, like many of you, will evaluate this past year and make new plans for 2020! We want to look for ways to be more efficient with our time and energy while also making improvements in areas that tend to fall through the cracks. It is exciting to see past ideas coming to fruition and new energies shaping our path forward. If you have ideas regarding our worship life, fellowship, nurture and care of members and seekers or our public outreach, please share your thoughts with your deacons for consideration. We look forward to hearing from you. Little seeds, thoughts shared, have ways of growing roots, and with time, produce fruits.

A wonderful, glorious, huge thank you to everyone who helped make our celebrations throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons possible! THANK YOU!

We plan a New Member Welcome on January 19th. If anyone is looking forward becoming a member, or just interested in knowing more, please speak to Pastor Nathaniel, Judy Chacon or any other deacon. Let us know your questions or wishes.

On Monday, January 6th at 9:30 am, we welcome helping hands to take down our decorations and store them away for next year. Meet us in the sanctuary.

Watch for news of our First Congregational Church Camp at N-Sid-Sen, September 24-27, 2020. Put the date on your calendar! Judy Gibbs is the planner for this event.

A new team has formed to welcome all on Sunday mornings. Our Greeters Team is Melanie Plantaric, Priscilla Ingebrigtsen, Jane Drabek and Margaret Thomas. Many thanks!

A small change will be noted on the new volunteer signup for Coffee Hour. We want to provide an option for people to “request a partner” to host the coffee hour. When requested, feel free to sign up as a co-host.

May the Lord bless our hearts and minds with love for each other and the world around us. May our Lord shed his grace on you, that you will know you are loved.

Happy New Year!

Judy Chacon, Chair, Board of Deacons

REMINDER

Committee and Board Chairs

Annual Reports are due no later
than

Wednesday, January 10, 2020

Thank You



All Congregation **ANNUAL MEETING**

Meeting will be held
immediately after worship on
Sunday, January 26th

We will be:

- ♦ ♦ Approving our annual 2019 operating budget.
- ♦ ♦ Nominating & electing board officers for 2020.
- ♦ ♦ Accepting the Annual Reports of all boards & committees.

Please plan on attending - your
vote is important!

Thank You



All Church Potluck Sunday, January 26th Directly Following the Annual Meeting

Please bring a dish that
will serve 12 so that all
may enjoy this shared
feast!

Sponsored by the Board of
Christian Education

*Let nothing disturb thee
Let nothing frighten thee
Everything is changing
God alone is changeless
Patience attains the goal
One who has God lacks nothing.
God alone fills all our needs.*

- Saint Teresa of Avila



A colorful illustration of eight diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle and jumping joyfully. They are all smiling and have their arms raised. The children are wearing different colored dresses and shirts. The background is white.

Please pray for discernment as we go through the process of intentional project design, and if you have thoughts to share with us, please do!
Margaret (509) 386-0399



www.meaningfulmovies.org

Social Justice Documentary Film,
and Community Discussion

Showing This Month

“Dolores”

Saturday, January 18th, at 6:30 pm

First Congregational Church

73 S. Palouse Avenue, Walla Walla

o

Dolores Huerta is among the most important, yet least known, activists in American history. An equal partner in co-founding the first farm workers unions with Cesar Chavez, her enormous contributions have gone largely unrecognized. Dolores tirelessly led the fight for racial and labor justice alongside Chavez, becoming one of the most defiant feminists of the twentieth century—and she continues the fight to this day, at 87. With intimate and unprecedented access to this intensely private mother to eleven, the film reveals the raw, personal stakes involved in committing one's life to social change.

To learn more about this movie or about Meaningful Movies, visit our websites.

<https://meaningfulmovies.org/>

<https://meaningfulmovies.org/neighborhoods/walla-walla/>

See you at the Movies!!

Congratulations!!!

New granddaughter

Born in Vancouver, WA

December 6, 2019

8 lbs. 4 oz, 20

Parents:

Joshua & Shannon (Taggart) Barnes,

Big brother:

Jackson Barnes

Grandparents:

Doug & Dana Taggart

Uncle:

Daniel Taggart

Welcome to the world!

Christmas Basket Follow-up

Hurray! The Christmas Basket program was a huge success! All of the gift tags were taken and the beautifully wrapped gifts came in on time!

Many thanks to Nancy Kress, her band of elves and most especially to all of those who gave of themselves with gifts, donations, and time.



"There are only two ways to live your life, one as though nothing is a miracle.

The other is as though everything is a miracle."

~ Albert Einstein



Men's Breakfast



Saturday, January 11th at 9:00am

All the men (members, friends, and visitors) in our church family 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 fellowship.



Ladies' Lunch

*Monday, January 13th
12:00 pm*

Lunch is provided, please come and enjoy the food, fellowship, and laughter.

After lunch, if you can, stay and take part in this month's project. It's a lot of fun!



A Note of Thanks and Best Wishes

After 14 plus years of service to our church, Irina Kostenko has decided that it's time to take a break, get some rest and then decide what new adventure is in her future.

We thank her for all of her hard work and dedication over the years. She holds a place in the history of this church. She will be missed very much.

Irina, it's hard to believe that the time has come to say good-bye. Enjoy your well earned rest! Don't be a stranger.



Christmas Caroling at Wheatland Village



A group of Caroling Christmas “Elves” visited Wheatland Village and shared some Christmas cheer through music. As you can see, much fun was had and their visit and music was much appreciated!



New Member Welcome
Sunday, January 19th during service

If you are interested in joining our church, please contact
Pastor Nathaniel. He can be reached at any of the following:

Our office 525-8753 or office @fcchurch.net
also

608-469-1406 or pastornathanielmahlberg@gmail.com

Kindness
is never
wasted.

Christian Aid Dinner



Fixin' Chicken & Dumplings

Marty Manahan
Patricio Morales
Laurie Manahan
Courtney Van Slyke

Patricio Morales
Courtney Van Slyke
Marty Manahan
Dave Cartwright



Dave Cartwright
Marty & Laurie Manahan
Courtney Van slyke
Patricio Morales



Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, January 8th, 6:00 pm

Council Meeting

Sunday, January 19th, 11:30 am

Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, January 8th, 6:30 pm

January 2020

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!



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, January 21st

Please plan on having your submissions in by that date.



Therefore we pledge to bind ourselves to one another, to embrace our lowliest, to keep company with our loneliest, to educate our illiterate, to feed our starving, to clothe our ragged, to do all good things, knowing that we are more than keepers of our brothers and sisters. We are our brothers and sisters.

~ Maya Angelou

Open Coffee With the Rev.
Tuesday, January 14th
8:00am-10:00am
Coffee Perk

Pastor Nathaniel will be out of town-
 at the NGLI Training-UCC on the
 first Tuesday of this month.
 Please note the amended date.



Thankful for Our Volunteers



*"Love
each other
as I have
loved you."*
JOHN 15:12, NIV



A Great Way to Serve

Liturgist

January 5	Open
January 12	Open
January 19	Open
January 26	Galen Unruh
February 2	Open
February 9	Open

Coffee Hour

January 5	Open
January 12	Diana Schmidt
January 19	Open
January 26	Open
February 2	Open
February 9	Open

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

Seen at our Children's Christmas Pageant
How to make peace, in the words of a child.

"I make peace by ...giving food to people who need it the most."

Very wise words



Christian Aid Dinners

Every 3rd Sunday of the month, volunteers from our church prepare a much appreciated meal at the Christian Aid Center. It's rewarding and it's fun. If you are interested, please add your name to the sign-up sheet that is in the Atrium every Sunday. If you can't get in, you can call our office at 525-8753.

Our goal is to have 4 people each month.

Sunday, January 19

Dave Cartwright
Patricio Morales



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

Admin. Asst.	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.