



First Congregational Church

Highlights Newsletter

May 2019

Happy Easter!

Our celebrating of the redeeming and renewing work of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday was made the brighter by the announcement that our church is going solar.

Wednesday of Holy Week a crew of church folks unloaded 60 365-watt panels from the truck that hauled them from Boise, to store them in our basement.

Now we need to *Raise this Solar to the Roof!*

Because of some generous gifts and the good work of Dr. Erik Gryler in finding new state-of-the-art panels at a discount, you can

Adopt a Panel

With a donation of \$155.67

You are most welcome to give less or more.

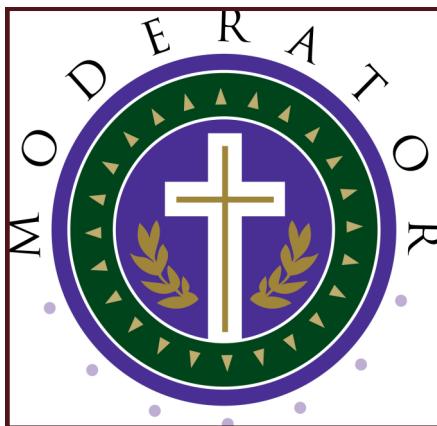
We'll have a permanent display thanking donors. We are also pursuing sustainable energy grants, so please hold that effort in prayer.

When these panels are installed on the south roof of the Fellowship Hall, they will generate 40% of the building's electricity, saving \$2,000 a year in utilities for decades to come. Just as important, this effort is a public demonstration of our commitment to be responsible stewards of God's Creation.

Many thanks are due to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Erik Gryler, the leadership of J.R. Van Slyke, the intelligent guidance of our Board of Trustees and Church Council, the discernment and enthusiasm of the many Church Members who participated in our open meeting to discuss the proposal, the generosity of early donors, and to the guys who pitched in to offload the panels - Erik, JR, Jon, Marshall, Kyle, Eric, Patricio, Terry, and Judah.

Let me know about any questions you have about the plan!

With Faith in God as the Source of Ever-Renewing Life,
Pastor Nathaniel



As we enter into the solemnness of this Holy Week, which this year is further subdued by the destruction of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, I am nonetheless buoyed by the energy of spring at First Congregational Church. The Lenten season has provided us the opportunity for somber reflection, but it has also reminded us of God's goodness in the promise of Jubilee, the gift of his Son, and redemption as the last word in our struggles. I am grateful to all of you as we emerge together from the dark of short, cold days to the promise, light, and warmth of the season at hand.

We have much to be thankful for at this moment. Not only are

there many things taking place within our church, but there are also a growing number of hands and shoulders that are helping bear the weight of the good work our church family is doing. I will not get into names for fear of forgetting the numerous deeds and doers who are at work in our midst. But let me chronicle just six hours in the very recent life of our church. Last Sunday I returned to church in the afternoon to grab my son from another important session of OWL to notice that a work crew had tackled the overflow parking lot (which doubles as our labyrinth walking space), leaving it clean and tidy. This came on the heels of a special solar presentation in our fellowship hall (50 people in attendance), and resulted in overwhelming support for a new initiative to reduce our church's carbon footprint by installing panels on the roof of our fellowship hall. That presentation came on the heels of a beautiful Palm Sunday service that featured the beautiful designs of our pastor, music team, choir, and church deacons. In the background, our Christian Education team nourished the minds and souls of our youth, while volunteers provided a welcome spread of coffee, juice and edibles. Moreover, it all went so smoothly you couldn't blame the casual onlooker who might have concluded that it was all a breeze. You are a blessing, and we are blessed.

Sometimes it might feel like the work we are accomplishing together is just that...work. My wish for each of you this spring is that you are able to pause, reflect, and grasp all of the important ways that our community is growing its love in our church garden.

Appreciatively,

JR



Greetings from your Deacons

As we walk forward in the Light and the Love of the Risen Christ, we give thanks for the opportunity of each new day!

As your deacons, refreshed and renewed by the Holy Spirit, we dedicate our time and talent to serve you, the church, by striving to ensure meaningful worship, welcoming fellowship, care and nurturing of our congregation and friends, and outreach to the wider community. We do this work not alone but with the help and support of the body of the church.

Let us give thanks to all of you who participate to make this church... this Holy space...meaningful, welcoming, nurturing and vibrant!

Amen

Easter Season at First Congregational Church of Walla Walla



From Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, we experienced heartfelt and moving worship and fellowship.

Deepest gratitude is due to our Diaconate, Liturgists, Readers, Musicians, Choir, and others who pitched in to make it all happen.

Special thanks to: Judy C., Sue L., Annie, Dot, Linda, Melissa, Jonathan, Paulette, Art, Carmen, Linnea, Judy G., Ron, Lucy, Priscilla, Patricio, Terry, J.R., Gwyn, Laurie L., John H., Ava, Oliver, Turner, Theo, Phil, Jackie, Julie, and the members of our dear Choir.

Easter season is a wonderful time for a prayer walk in our labyrinth.

Our labyrinth lot across Marcus St is looking **terrific** thanks to the spring cleaning efforts of Marshall, Jon and the Rickard boys, Andy, Art, Mike, Dana, Doug, and Dan.



Easter Sunday



A BAKER'S DOZEN OF BABY LAYETTES!

Many thanks for the financial contributions to our church layette project for Helpline. Also, thanks to those who have made or plan to make some of the items for each layette--particularly quilts and receiving blankets.

At this time in April, Helpline has our church layette program good for babies to the end of August. Wendy, at Helpline in charge of getting baby layettes for young mothers, will tap Catholic Charities and some other organizations for any more babies expected in 2019.

Here's the schedule for layettes we've said we'll do in 2019:

February: baby boy

March: baby girl

April: baby boy, 2 baby girls

May: 3 baby girls

June: baby boy

August: twin boys and another baby boy

Since each layette can run anywhere from \$15-\$35 depending on buying items needed to fill out our collection of layette items. A layette consists of baby wash, diapers, baby wipes plus clothing to fit the season the baby is born, 3 newborn outfit and an outfit for each 3 month period up to 12 months, towels, wash cloths and blankets and a special toy. Donations of baby clothes, thrift store and yard sale finds help very much as those clothes get very little wear.

This is a project our church has done with Helpline since the late 1970's!

Gwyn Frasco





What's That Yellow Phone Booth in the Atrium? HEAR HERE WALLA WALLA

This is a phone storyline and website that maps the community of Walla Walla, WA through some stories of immigrants and first generation Walla Walla residents.

The work is thanks to Church Member and Whitman professor [Jessica Cerullo](#), local artist [Tia Kramer](#), technologist Eric John Olson, and 8 Whitman students, in collaboration with the Walla Walla Immigrant Rights Coalition. The phone booth, phone line (509.213.1223) and website (www.hearherewallawalla.com) are ways of hearing the stories of immigrants in our community, as a critical tool for expanding empathy and understanding in this divisive time.

Our church is hosting the booth April 15- May 4. After that, it will move to other public places around town.

Solar Panel Project The Muscles Behind the Scenes

Pictured Left to Right:

J.R. Van Slyke
Eric Wiessner
Patricio Morales
Erik Gryler
Judah Pira
Kyle McFarley
Jon Rickard
Pastor Nathaniel Mahlberg
Terry Rice

Not Pictured:

Marshall Fredrickson

Thanks Guys!!





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!



A Time to Plant

Sunday, May 5th
During Sunday School

Children, third grade & older are invited to join Jane Drabek in a service project. The children will be giving the church a Spring makeover by planting beautiful flowers in the church's front garden box.

Wear gardening clothes that day!



OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)

Sunday, May 5, 2:00pm-4:00pm

- Sexuality, Social Media, and the Internet
- Pornography

Sunday, May 19,

- Recognition & Celebration Pizza Party!



At Evening With a Child

We walk along a road
at the day's end, a little child and I,
and she points out a bird, a tree, a toad,
a stretch of colored sky.

She knows no single word
but "Ah" (with which all poems must commence,
at least in the heart's heart), and I am stirred
by her glad eloquence.

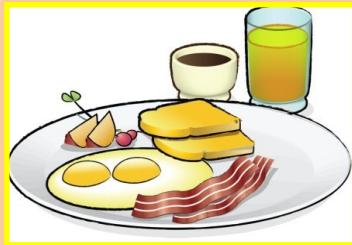
Her feet yet unsure
of their new task; her language limited,
but her eyes see the earth in joy secure.

And it is time I said:

Let the proud walls come down!
Let the cold monarchy be taken over!
I give my keys to rust, and I disown
castles of stone for ambushed roads in clover.

All the vast kingdoms that I could attain
are less to me than that the dusk is mild
and that I walk along a country lane
at evening with a child.

BREAKFAST
OF
CHAMPIONS



Men's
Breakfast

Saturday, May 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.



*Dances of the Universal
Peace*

Thursday, May 2nd
7:00 pm—8:00 pm
1519 E. Alder Street

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

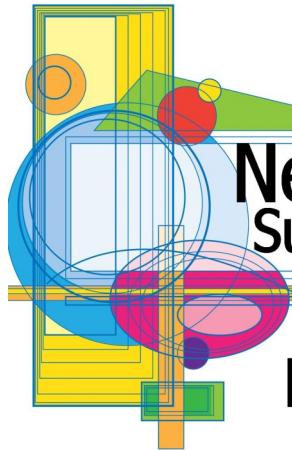
Open Coffee With the Rev.

Tuesday, May 7th
8:00am-10:00am
Olive

Pastor Nathaniel is looking forward to visiting with whomever wants to drop by and talk about life, God, the universe, everything, or nothing special.



As I explore the height and the depth and the breadth of life, each discovery I make about life is a discovery about God, each is a step with God, a step toward God.
~John S. Dunne



Newsletter Submissions

Deadline

Tuesday, May 21st

Please plan on having your submissions in by that date.



May 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!



Sunday, May 12th

Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 6:00 pm

Council Meeting

Sunday, May 19, 11:30 am

Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 6:30 pm



Monday, May 27th

Online Giving

Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow.



Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. You won't need to write checks and prepare envelopes every week. And even when you can't attend services, your contribution will arrive without delay.

If you do not use a computer or are just not comfortable setting up an online contribution, we can help you with setting up an alternate method of automatic contribution.

Ask for an authorization form in the church office, our office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9am-2pm, or visit our website at www.firstchurchuccww.org.

If you have questions, please contact us at 525-8753 or office@fcchurch.net



Thoughts in Solitude

Every breath we draw is a gift of God's love; every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from God.

Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, it is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise the goodness of God.

For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.

~*Thoughts in Solitude*, Thomas Merton



Hats off to our Volunteers

A Great Way to Serve

Liturgist

May 5	Annie Charnley Eveland
May 12	Bart Preecs
May 19	Jen Rickard
May 26	Open
June 2	Jonathan Webster

Coffee Hour

May 5	Open
May 12	Open
May 19	Art & Carmen Davila
May 26	Open
June 2	Open

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



Each and every person who had a part in helping to make Lent & Easter beautiful, memorable & most importantly, Holy.

Another Great Way to Serve Wednesday Soup Lunch

Soup Makers

May 1	Patricia Morales
May 8	Open
May 15	Gayle Blomme & Jane Drabek
May 22	Open
May 29	Open
June 5	Open

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



"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	Parke Thomas

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.