



First Congregational Church Highlights Newsletter March 2019

A core value of our congregational way is to honor how every believer has been given by God special gifts for their own expression of Christian ministry. Those gifts and ministries are richly varied, as are the journeys different people take to recognizing their particular God-given purpose. This leads us to have an uplifting approach to lay ministry and a humbling approach to formal ordained ministry in the church. This also leads us to really value the role of a community of faith in helping our fellow members discern and grow into the gifts God has given them for their particular form of ministry.

One of your fellow church members, Terry Rice, has long felt a call to ministry as a hospice chaplain – a call that may well be best expressed as ordained by the church. But his prior faith community would not brook this call due to prejudice against Terry's sexual orientation. He has since found an affirming spiritual home with our church.

Last March our church council voted to support Terry's discernment of this call by forming a "Local Church Discernment Committee." The committee was comprised of Jill Juers, Joyce Schwenke, Cheryl Pira, Holly Farnam, Jonathan Webster, J.R. Van Slyke and myself. When this committee met it became clear that these members were each living into their own ministerial gifts to support and challenge the spiritual gifts of another. It was also clear that there was deep wisdom in the Manual on Ministry of our United Church of Christ, which served as our guide, along with the Holy Spirit.

After our meetings with Terry and our prayerful reflection on them, we took a vote. We were impressed with Terry's spiritual and personal gifts and experience, which he brings to bear in his vocation as a hospice chaplain. We witness in him a strong sense of faith and of mission, as well as wisdom, sincerity, skill, humility, and gentleness that he brings to bear to his work as a chaplain. He especially has gifts for ministering to souls who are in crisis and on the margins. For reasons such as these, we voted unanimously to recommend Terry Rice to the Pacific Northwest Conference Eastside Committee on Ministry, which oversees ordination.

After our Church Council's approval, the Conference Committee on Ministry met with Terry. I am pleased to report that they have formally accepted Terry "In Care" as a "Member in Discernment." Welcome to UCC jargon! This means that they recognize in Terry a strong potential call to ordained ministry in hospice chaplaincy, and will now guide and challenge him in developing and discerning his ministerial gifts. In short, he now has a lot of homework. Please lift up in prayer Terry and his journey ahead.

This is yet another great opportunity for us all to grow into the gifts God has given this community of faith and the United Church of Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Nathaniel



Happy winter everyone-

If you are like me, this past month of extra-seasonable weather has whet your appetite for spring. I am poised to appreciate the wonderful change to my senses brought by the next new generation of growth...when it comes. As excited as I am about spring on the horizon, I have to say this winter has been a blessing all its own. At the top of this list, I am grateful for the weekly encounters I have with so many of you. We come together to sing, pray, listen for God, laugh, cry, and go away far stronger for the effort. Some Sundays are easier to gather than others, and it can be tempting to just hunker down and stay indoors. Either way, you are in our thoughts and family. We hope to see you before the birds sing again. In the meantime, enjoy the peaceful, quiet growth of a world soon to stir from its slumber.

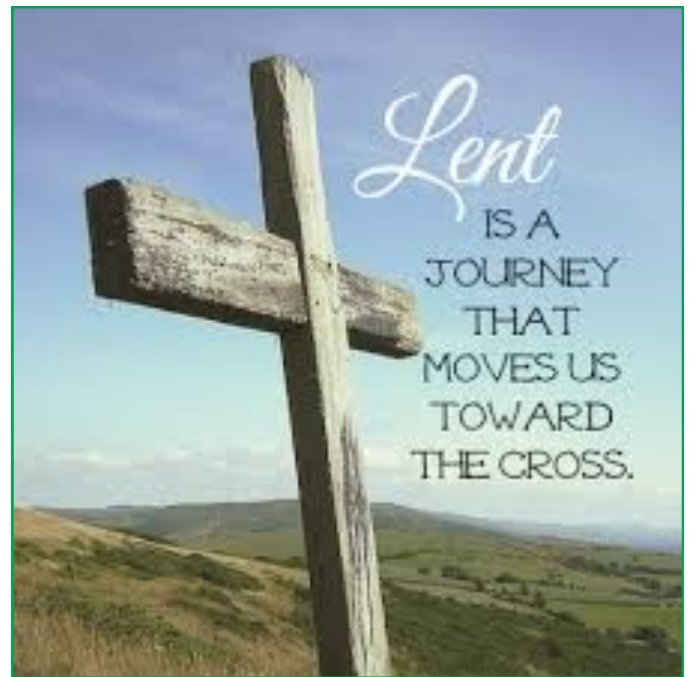
Peace,
JR

Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:8
In conclusion, friends, whenever you find things that are true or honorable, just or pure, lovable or praiseworthy, and if virtue and honor have any meaning, let them fill your thoughts.

ASH Wednesday

March 6th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Pastor Nathaniel will be available to administer ashes in the Chapel. We will also have an ash ritual During worship, Sunday, March 10th



Lenten Series **Bible 101**

Sundays, March 10-April 14
11:30am~12:30pm

By popular demand, we will be offering a class in Bible basics.



Greetings from your Board of Deacons!

You may have had difficulty getting to church with our slippery roads and walkways. Hopefully you have had the opportunity to pause, enjoy the beauty of the snow and listen to the silence as it falls. It feels like a prayer!

Wouldn't it be wonderful to receive some pictures of snow angels or snow people from our congregation before the winter ends! If the weather cooperates, send your pictures to Gayle at office@fcchurch.net. Let's see who is having fun in the snow!

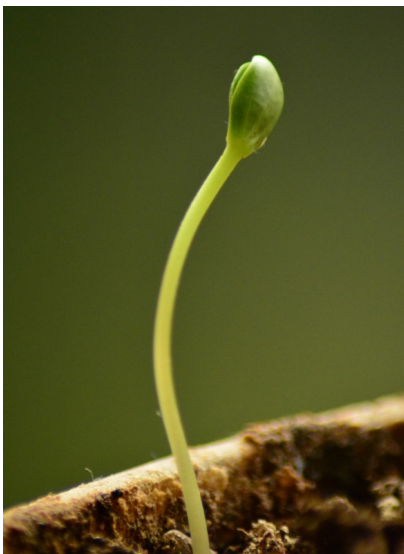
Please welcome your newest deacons, Judy Gibbs, Lucy Linker and Linnea Keatts! All of our longer serving deacons have stayed on with the Board! With much work to do, we are so grateful for the addition of these willing hearts and hands. Watch for information from Judy Gibbs regarding this year's church camp opportunities.

March 6th, Ash Wednesday, ashes will be offered in the chapel from 9am to 2pm by Pastor Nathaniel. This day marks the beginning of Lent, 40 days (not counting Sundays) of preparing for Easter, 40 days of reflection, examining our faith. We hope you will join in a Bible 101 class during the six weeks of Lent, a way to enhance our understanding of the biblical teachings. Bible 101 will be Sundays, starting March 10th, 11:30-12:30.

As Easter falls later this year, April 21st, we will address our plans for Easter and special services in our April Highlights. However please note Passion/Palm Sunday is April 14th and Maundy Thursday service will occur the eve of April 18th.

May the Holy Spirit surround you as you examine your faith in preparation for our Easter celebration.

Peace and Love,
Judy Chacon, Chair for the Board of Deacons



Dear Lord, as I begin my journey
toward spiritual growth,
help me to look
deep within
myself and let
go of the old and embrace
the new life that comes from you.



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 this form, to the church office by **Wednesday, April 24th.** You may also earmark your check *Easter Flowers* and place it in the offering plate on any Sunday prior to Easter, or you may mail it in prior to the due date. Our office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm.

Your Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____



Reborn

You want to be reborn, you want that a new and better you should emerge from the frozen hulk winter has made you, you want to be free again? Then you have to let go of the old you. You must be willing to walk into the midst of the sea on dry ground and risk it all.

~ Lawrence Kushner



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!



Welcome

Christian Education wishes to welcome Cari Chacon to the staff for our Sunday School. She will be our "floater" or extra hands in our classrooms every Sunday.

Cari is a member of our church, from our confirmation class several years ago. She left Walla Walla for the west side with her parents, Judy and Victor. With their return, Cari joins them and has been taking classes at WWCC.

Be sure and greet her as she comes in and at coffee hour!



Love Is....Through the Eyes of a Child

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

~Tommy, age 6

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK."

~Danny, age 7

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)

Sunday, March 3, 2:00pm-4:00pm
♦ **Redefining Abstinence (Visuals)**

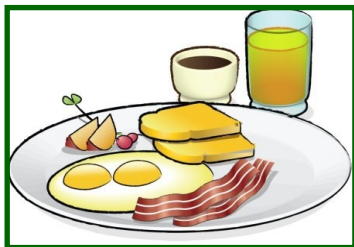
Sunday, March 10, 1:30pm-5:00pm
♦ **Lovemaking (Visuals)**
♦ **Consent Education**

Sunday, March 17, 2:00pm-4:00pm
♦ **Sexually Transmitted Infections**

Sunday, March 24, 1:30pm-5:00pm
♦ **Pregnancy, Parenting & Teen Parenthood**
♦ **Unintended Pregnancy Options**



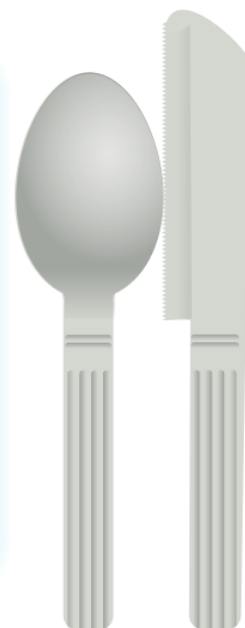
What nicer thing can you do for somebody than make them breakfast?
~Anthony Bourdain



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 9th 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, March 7th
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.

~ Led by Rena Coon

Open Coffee With the Rev.

Tuesday, March 5th
8:00am-10:00am
Olive Restaurant

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



I was taken by the power that savoring a simple cup of coffee can have to connect people and create community.
~Howard Schultz

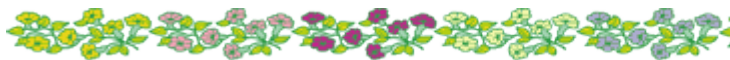


The people who come to enjoy our Soup Lunch at FCC on Wednesdays from 11am to 1pm need used coats, jackets, **socks**, shirts, etc. If you have any clothes that are slightly used and would like to donate them to the FCC Clothing Drive, the kitchen crew will see to it that these clothes go to those who need them.

Our Wednesday lunch guests are welcome to check the Welcome Wardrobe closet in the Fellowship Hall for clothing items that they need.

You may bring your donations to church on Sunday, or bring them in on Wednesday mornings, or call Laurie Manahan at 525-2072

"Let no man pull you low enough to hate him."
~ Martin Luther King Jr.



Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 6:00pm

Council Meeting

TBA

Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 6:30 pm



VOUCHERS

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

Thanks!

March 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 | | | | | | |

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, March 19th

Please plan on having
your submissions in
by that date.

On my bad days I seek You,
on my good days I thank You,
on my great days I praise You,
but every day I need You.
Thank you God for always being
here for me.

Ski For Light Honors Lee Coleman for 15 Years of Service



Lee receiving her 15 year Guide Award for Ski for Light in Snow Mountain, Colorado

Congratulations Lee. You are a true (multi-state) inspiration!



Ski for Light is a non-profit organization that pairs sighted cross country skiers with unsighted skiers. Each volunteer guide provides the eyes for the pair and each skier, the inspiration. If you're interested, chat up Lee, Larry or Bernie - I'm sure they have wonderful stories to share about this experience.



Christian Aid Dinner

Sunday. February 17th, 2019



About sixty guests showed up for dinner at the Christian Aid Center on February 17. It was a cold snowy evening and folks arrived early with big appetites, glad for the warmth and cheer of the Center.

We changed our menu at the last minute because the prison had donated lots of fish fillets. We seasoned and baked those and also served rice, corn, green salad, garlic bread and cakes and pies. We also made a pasta dish to send over to the women's shelter across the street for 25 residents. We scraped the bottom of every pan by the time seconds and thirds were called. It was a great meal.

Cooking this month were Carol Blue, Sue Gillespie, Lee Coleman, Elise Gryler and her friend, fellow swimmer Henry Watson. Next dinner, Sunday, March 17. Volunteers are always welcome!





Willing to Serve

A Great Way to Serve

Liturgist

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| March 3 | Bart Preecs |
| March 10 | J.R. Van Slyke |
| March 17 | Annie Charnley Eveland |
| March 24 | Open |
| March 31 | Open |

Coffee Hour

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| March 3 | Miki Joshua & Elise O' Connell |
| March 10 | Jen Rickard |
| March 17 | Open |
| March 24 | Open |
| March 31 | Open |

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



Volunteers Needed

"Love Heals" Free Clinic Event Thursday, April 18th & Friday, April 19th

Don't have the time to commit to a long, overseas mission trip but have a passion to serve? How about a short mission trip in the Walla Walla Valley?

The "Love Heals Walla Walla" free clinic event is coming to the Walla Walla Fairgrounds on Thursday and Friday, April 18 and 19 and you are invited to be involved in this event! The clinic will offer free dental, vision, general medical, preventative and educational services to assist uninsured and under-insured people in our community. We need dental, vision & medical providers, as well as general volunteers to dedicate from 1-2 days of service. We currently have 100 volunteers and need 200 more.

Every Love Heals Free Clinic is made possible by the compassion and love of our volunteers. Register to volunteer by March 10 at www.lovehealswallawalla.org.

Thank you,
Brittany Mitchell
Love Heals, Local Clinic Director



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



Congratulations and 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

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.