

First Congregational Church
Highlights Newsletter
October 2018



“God has told you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Holy One Beyond Name require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” – Micah 6:8

Our worship in Wildwood park was graced with many blessings. A perfect late-summer, early -autumn morning sun. The joyful sounds of our church’s children. The full foot-stomping glory of our choir’s return. Delicious food, “in season.” And a very inspiring message from Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear, our Conference Minister for Church Vitality.

Pastor Courtney preached on Matthew 25, where Jesus famously said, “What you do to the least of these you do to me.” She reminded us that the most authentic way for us to hear Jesus’ call to compassion and justice in this passage is for us to recognize the ways we are “the least of these” *as well as* the ways we are “the greatest of these.” It has been said that the church’s job is to “Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.” But a vital, life giving, soul saving church can see the ways that we are each and all comfortable *and* afflicted. I can’t do justice to the deeply moving way Pastor Courtney shared this message.

She will be working with our church for six months as a kind of “vitality coach,” along with a representative from the Conference’s Church Development Committee. She chose our church along with two others to pilot this new church vitality program. At the end of the half-year we will have the opportunity to work with her and on a proposal to receive Church Development grant for a project that will feed our vitality.

The Saturday before, Pastor Courtney met with our Church Council. One of the things she shared was her working understanding of what all contributes to church vitality:

1. Teaching spiritual practices, engaging in spiritual enrichment, cultivating love of God, learning to praise
2. Cultivating gratitude for gifts, acknowledging gifts are from God, and giving generously, sacrificially, of time, talent, and treasure
3. Working for justice and equality for all God’s people, caring for all of creation, cultivating awareness of injustice and privilege.

One way to see these three spheres of vitality is how a community of faith lives into the call from the prophet Micah: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Thank you all for all you do to live into this call, whether it be through leading, receiving, challenging, growing, working, learning, praying, loving ...

Peace,
Pastor Nathaniel

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Walla Walla, WA 99362

(509) 525-8753 office@fcchurch.net
www.firstchurchuccww.org



Moderator's Missive

So stewardship... This year we are setting a courageous and faithful goal of \$130,000 in planned giving from our faith community. This target derives from principally three rationales:

- 1) Meeting the cost of our current operations and ministries;
- 2) Adding 10% to off-set increases posed by inflation and personnel costs, and
- 3) A \$12,000 fund for our strategic initiative to onboard a youth ministry position to serve and support our "green shoots" as they grow in God and in the life of our church. We have faith that if we build this capacity, our faith community will continue to grow. Both strategically, and faithfully, we will grow and prosper if our families know we have the structures in place support the spiritual growth of their children.

Old Growth and Green Shoots. This is who we are. In the weeks to come, we will be hearing from various trees in our faith community forest. As you listen, please reflect upon your forest experience and how your time, talent and treasure might contribute to the **vitality** of our faith community. Please, prayerfully consider making a gift. Cards for recording your intended gift can be found either in an envelope that will be given to you, sent to you in the mail, or placed in the hymnal racks of the church pews. You can return it by mail, or by placing it in the offering plate at church.

I hope our forest, which has been growing and changing for over 150 years will keep cycling and sharing from the lofty heights of its canopy to the rich soils of its floor.

Thank you and God bless.

J.R. Van Slyke

Moderator



Flourishing in the Dark

You make a root below the soil flourish and you can make fruitful the darkness in which you keep me. So my soul, like a tiny root, will stay hidden in you and your power will make it send forth branches, leaves, blossoms and fruit which, though invisible to you, will nourish and delight the souls of others. When they come to rest and refresh themselves in your shade, give them the fruit they want, not what you think they should have....Give all you have to all who come....

~ Jean Pierre de Caussade



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

The Trustees are organizing a Fall Clean Up Day. Everyone is welcome. Come for an hour or stay as long as you can. We will be cleaning up in and around the church

Saturday, October 27
9 am to 2 pm
Lunch provided by Trustees

Many hands will help make the job easier!

COVENANT GROUPS Sign-Up

Groups are open to men & women,
members & friends.

You can still sign up for a group by either adding your name to the sign up list which will be available on Sunday morning, by calling the church office at 525-8753, or by dropping us an email -office@fcchurch.net.

Group Options

1st & 3rd Thursday at 10am, in the Chapel
Lee Coleman, Facilitator
&

1st & 3rd Thursday at 6:30pm, in the Chapel
Jen Rickard & Margaret Thomas,
Facilitators



*Oh, the joy,
the inexpressible comfort
of feeling safe with a person
having neither to measure
words nor weigh thoughts
pouring them all out just as
they are,
chaff and grain together
certain that a loving hand will
sift through, keep what is worth
keeping, and with a breath of
kindness - blow the rest away.*

*(Dinah M. Craik, adapted from an
Arabian Proverb)*



Dia de los Muertos

Day of the Dead

Honoring Death, Celebrating Life

On Sunday, October 28, our intermediate youth and youth group invite you to join their celebration of:

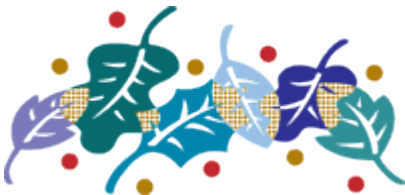
Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead

This holiday is a tradition in rural Mexico where altars and gravesites are adorned with colorful flowers -especially marigolds-, candles and floral wreaths. Small plates of favorite foods of the deceased are also commonly placed on the altars.

The youth will decorate the sanctuary and atrium. They will also create a colorful *ofrenda*, altar, in the atrium to honor deceased family, friends, and pets.

Won't you please join us again this year by using this lovely celebration from our neighbors in Mexico to honor those you want to remember? Bring photographs, flowers, and other remembrances to place on the *altar* in the atrium. While marigolds are traditional flowers used to decorate on this holiday, any flowers are welcome. If you wish, you may bring a favorite food of the person you are honoring to add to the refreshment table.

Contact Jane Drabek (529-7589 or jdrabek@charter.net) with questions or for additional information.





OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)

For the second year, the 7th and 8th graders, will have the option to embrace OWL, an acclaimed UCC and UU course on human sexuality, beginning in October.

The **required parent only meeting will take place this coming Monday, October 1 from 6:30-8:00** to share an introduction to this wonderful program available to their youth.

The class time will begin Sunday, October 21 and continue through April, 2019

There are informational hand-outs in the Narthex on Sunday and in our office - if you aren't able to stop by during office hours, but you would like one, just call 525-8753 (if we're not in, please leave a message including your e-mail address) or e-mail us at office@fcchurch.net and we will send one to you. Thank you!



Good News!



The search for a Sunday School Teacher/Childcare Provider for our pre-K children is over and has been successful! We have been blessed in finding Brittaney Van Buren - aka-Britt. She is currently a student at Whitman College, and her career goal is to work with adolescence through counseling or a new upcoming interest of hers, teaching. She has many years of experience in working with, and mentoring children ranging from newborn up to preteen.

If you get a chance, stop by the Nursery, say hi and introduce yourself.



Thank you being a part of caring
for our "Green Shoots".

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



Happy Birthday!!
To

Carroll Adams
October 7 - 103 yrs old
&
Elsie German
October 8 - 107 yrs old



New This Month!



DINNER GROUPS COMING THIS FALL

An opportunity to get to know one another over good food and conversation in members' homes. Couples and singles are invited to participate in these intimate gatherings.

Sign-ups will begin in September through inserts in Sunday bulletins. Monthly meetings will begin in October.

You will be asked, when signing up, to let us know how many people you can accommodate in your home (6 to 8, including host/s). After you are assigned to a group, you will be given a list of their names. Then, let the fun begin!

Please look for more information in the October newsletter and mid-week messages, as well as announcements on Sunday.

Judy Gibbs

876-2387 or judysue2018@gmail.com

**Lord, make me an instrument of
thy peace. Where there is hatred,
let me sow love.**

Francis of Assisi



Diving Deeper

Every Wednesday at 6:30pm
in the Chapel

All are welcome!

This month, we will be exploring
Jesus' parables.



Dances of the Universal Peace

Thursday, October 4th
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



Saturday, October 13th 9:00 am

All men, (members, friends & visitors)
are welcome. All **you** have to do is
come hungry for good food and
fellowship!



Soup Lunch Ministry

In September, our volunteers served a total of 333 meals! Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

Volunteer Opportunities

* Soup maker -October 31st

* If you can help, please call -

Linda Schopp (509) 876-2063

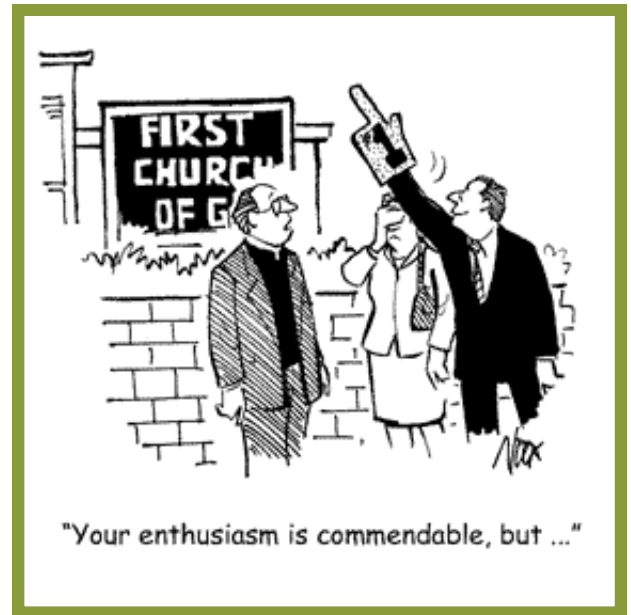
Judy Chacon (509) 525-6618

Priscilla Ingebrigtsen (303) 915-1643

or

Our office (509) 525-8753

Thank you!



Something to look forward to ~
Sunday, November 4th

VOUCHERS

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

Thanks!

October 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			



Trustees Meeting

Monday, October 15. time TBA

Council Meeting

Sunday, October 21, 11:30 am

Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, October 10, 6:45 pm



**Newsletter
Submissions**

Deadline

Tuesday, October 23

What's Your Passion?
You Can Do It at Pantry Shelf Food Share!

Pantry Shelf needs YOU!

Active volunteers needed & valued

Networking, fundraising help

Tech website creator

Rewarding experience

Yes, to helping those in need

Sharing your wealth & talent

Hours open 1~3pm. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Everyone, young or old can give support

Located at Walla Walla Presbyterian Church, 325 S. First Ave.

Feeding over 8,300 clients a year



PANTRY SHELF FOOD SHARE
46 Years Serving the Walla Walla Valley

Contact Either

Gwyn Frasco
525-8353



Pantry Shelf
526-4169

Christian Aid Dinner

Sunday, September 16, 2018



Jane Drabek, Bryn McDivitt, Libby Drabek, Jill Juers, Larry Frank, Nancy Berlier, Marty Manahan, & Lee Coleman

We thought there would be plenty of potatoes and produce at the Christian Aid Center pantries this month, but were surprised when there was very little. The food shelves were a little bare, also. So....we concocted a casserole with what we could find on the shelves, and it was very well received. Having just returned from four months in Minnesota, I must call it a HOT DISH. Ingredients: whole wheat macaroni, packaged ham lunchmeat, sautéed onions (there were only four), grated cheese, canned corn, and a bit of salsa. We added lots of elbow grease and love, and it was very tasty. Cooks for the casserole were Nancy Berlier and Larry Frank. Jill Juers explored the walk in fridge and found lots of multi-colored tomatoes and some cucumbers and sliced them all onto a giant colorful platter. Marty Manahan cooked lots of fresh green beans and sliced some cakes. Libby Drabek and her friend Bryn McDivitt sliced two giant watermelons, Jane Drabek served the desserts. Jane and the girls also brought many lovely fresh flowers and decorated the dining tables before the 50 guests arrived. Lee was on hand to supervise the operation and offer suggestions and encouragement.

New this fall at the Center: the new women's shelter across the street is gradually becoming occupied, and does not have a large group kitchen. So, we will prepare extra portions of our meal each month, and send it over to the new shelter.

Our church regularly cooks the evening meal the third Sunday of each month. We always need volunteers of all ages. We begin at 3:45 and are finished by 6:00 and their volunteers do all the clean-up. It is a wonderful way to serve this group at the Center, and the added bonus is that it is so much fun! No experience needed! If you can help, contact Lee Coleman at (971) 235-8796.

The next dinner will be Sunday, November 18th.



Willing to Serve

A Great Way to Serve

Liturgist

October 7	Linda Schopp
October 14	Terry Rice
October 21	Laurie Logsdon
October 28	Annie Charnley Eveland

Coffee Hour

October 7	Jill , Eliza, & Henry Juers
October 14	Art & Carmen Davila
October 21	Open
October 28	Becky, Ava,& Isobel Kirtley

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

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.

Every Sunday, 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 suggestions or something else:

Chicken broth, canned white, kidney or garbanzo 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

Coffee Hour Host/Hostess

We don't have anyone signed up as yet in the month of October and are looking for some volunteers.

It's fun to spend this time bonding and getting to know our fellow members over a cup of coffee and some light snacks.

As the host or hostess, the snacks you provide can be something simple and light – it doesn't have to be anything fancy.

The signup sheet will be available for you to sign up on Sunday morning. If you have any questions, please call Judy Chacon at 525-6618.





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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

2018 Church Officers

Moderator	J. R. Van Slyke
Past Moderator	Mary Wilen
Vice Moderator	Emily Asmus
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.