

# HIGHLIGHTS

*Of the First Congregational  
Church*

*August 2018*



Hide it under a bushel?  
No!  
We're going to let it shine.

Blessings multiply when we share them. In a community of faith we can share blessings, which then multiply, and we can share burdens, which then divide. So I hope you feel encouraged to share those blessings in your life, and to share those blessings you find through our church community.

A lot of people love our church.

Why do you dare to love our church?

I say "dare" because love does mean sharing burdens as well as blessings, because love does mean commitment to a relationship with other human beings in all that makes us pleasant or peculiar or prickly, because love in the religious sense does mean commitment to the wild adventure that is a relationship with God. Loving a church can indeed be a daring leap to make. So why do you do it?

It's been very clear to me that there is a strong and good spirit bringing vitality here at First Congregational Church of Walla Walla. And I have witnessed how amazing things have come from folks sharing those blessings with others both within and without the church. So, if you know someone who could benefit from these blessings, share them. And that can mean inviting someone new to worship or to a potluck or covenant group or volunteer effort or adult enrichment event and so forth.

A lot of us who have found a home in the United Church of Christ know well all the ways we can get burned by church. We may then feel a bit sheepish about talking about our religious lives with others. Indeed, it is an intimate realm that requires trust and mutual respect. But if you are enjoying a blessing, it can only good to find appropriate ways to share it. There are lots of ways to share a blessing that don't inflict the most obnoxious consequences of proselytizing. Treating a blessing as a blessing is a great place to start.

Thank you for the blessings you bring. Thank you for the blessings you receive. Thank you for the blessings you help multiply. And, as always, thanks be to God, the Source of all blessings.

Peace  
Pastor Nathaniel

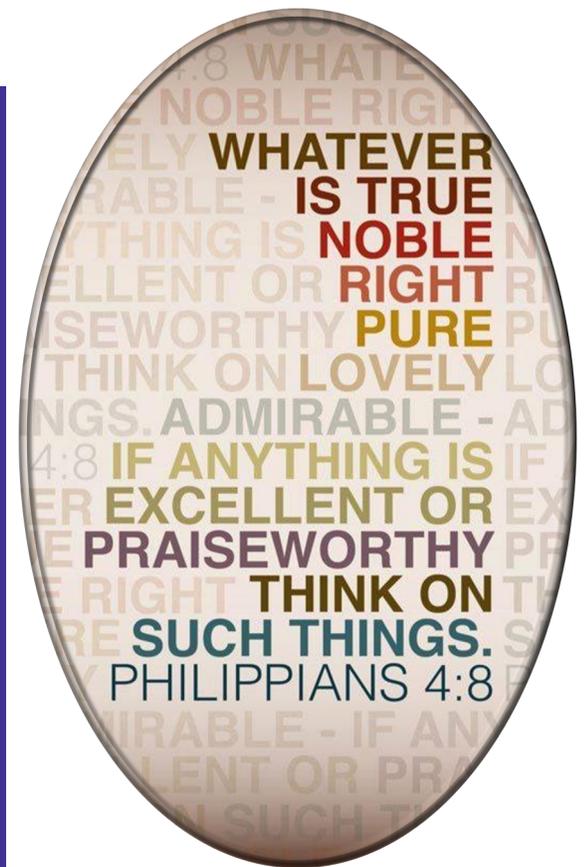
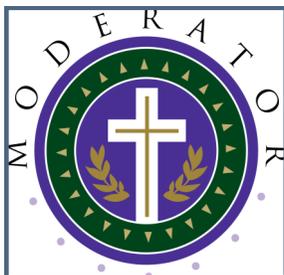
Greetings Church Family

The heat is well upon us as summer reaches its mid-point. Our family has deeply enjoyed its calm, cool, communal Sunday mornings with our church family thus far. For those of you who have been away, we continue to hold you in our thoughts and prayers. It will be great to be with you again once the commotion of summer subsides. You will also likely see some new faces.

This summer church leadership has continued a steady regimen of prayerful, strategic and dutiful efforts to guide our church and its future. I hesitate to list things for fear of overlooking key contributions, so a mere smattering will have to suffice. This summer a committee has formed to expand the personnel and scope of our Christian Education plans. A courageous and capable bunch of church members has been fleshing out what our Sunday school efforts will look like come fall, our first without the regular presence of our beloved guru, Jane Drabek. Change always brings challenges, but thus far I am encouraged by the skills and willingness our team is bringing to the table. We are also convening a conversation with a conference (UCC) specialist on the topic of stewardship. You may look forward to that as part of the coming stewardship season this fall. The gears of growth are turning at First Congregational Church and it will be exciting to see where all of this energy and effort takes us.

Thank you for being such an integral part of God's plan for our church. I have hope that you can feel its role in the important things happening in our lives, our community and our world.

Sincerely,  
JR



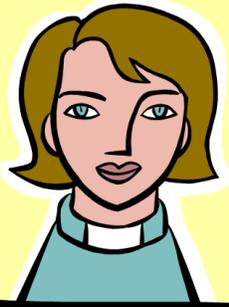
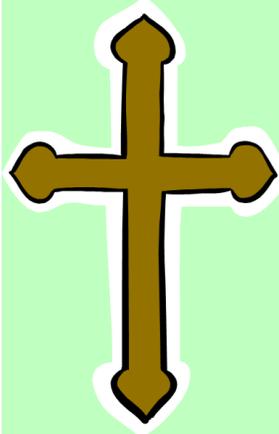
### Dare to Risk

Whether you understand or not, God loves you, is present to you, lives in you, calls you, saves you and offers you an understanding and light which are like nothing you ever found in books or sermons... If you dare to penetrate your own silence....

And risk the sharing of that silence with the lonely other who seeks God though and with you, then you will recover the light and the capacity to understand what is beyond words...

It is the intimate union... of God's spirit and your own inmost self, so that you and God are, in all truth, one.

~ Thomas Merton



# Deacons Corner

Greetings from your Board of Deacons!

Even though it's summertime, First Congregational Church is busy! Think about what it takes to make it all happen. So many hands pitching in!

**For Sunday Services:** Liturgists, flowers, coffee hour hosts, sound system, music, ushers, greeters, craft and story time preparation, childcare, communion prep and cleanup, communion servers, and of course our pastor and you, our worshippers.

**More Fellowship:** Exercise group followed by coffee (even for those who didn't exercise), monthly men's breakfast, Gryler/Van Slyke picnic was great, Ingebrigtsen potluck, Trustee's picnic at Pioneer Park, Annual Church Picnic at Wildwood Park.

**Free Soup Lunch:** Soup Maker, servers, Cornucopia Cart donations, gleaning of community food resources, dessert makers, our famous "garlic bread" maker, salad maker, dishwasher, dish scraper, dining room hosts, kitchen manager, kitchen "Jack of all Trades", shopper/stocker, kitchen cleanup, oversight committee.

**Other Outreach:** Christian Aid Center Dinner (organizer, meal plan, volunteers to prep and serve), School Supplies Drive (organizing, advertising, collecting, shopping, delivery).

**Boards and Committees are busy planning for the late summer/fall and beyond:** Stewardship Drive, Creation of a new picture directory, creation of a new church logo, @ the Spire events for fundraising, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner is making a comeback, FCC historic and architectural tours, Harvest Home, Blessing of the Pets, and much more.

**And Always...**the radical welcome to all who enter our Mother's/Father's house. God, grant us the grace to shine your love on our congregation, our community and on our world. Prepare our hearts and minds, that our work may be to this end. Amen

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Annual All Church Picnic, September 9<sup>th</sup>, Wildwood Park  
**In Season**

The Deacon's hope to program education surrounding Sustainability and Stewardship of this Earth later this year. In keeping with this theme, our Annual Church Picnic will be called "In Season". More information will follow regarding education and picnic details in Midweek Moments and the September Highlights.

Submitted by Judy Chacon, Chair, Board of Deacons

# Potluck at the Gryler's Fun, Food, Family & Friends



Mmmm Good...



Just Chillin'



Speaks the Truth!



Quite the Spread - Dig In!

## Cedar Lake Tales ~ Part 2

For twenty days Chip and I paddled a kayak to an island a mile down the lake to check on the loon nest. Each day we eased by the sitting loon, hooting a soft hello, and often saw the mate nearby fishing to feed its family. On the 21<sup>st</sup> day the nest was empty, and there were a few broken shells, dark brown with black spots, on the nest. So, we paddled on, searching for the baby. The family was nearby, with the hours-old chick riding on the back of a parent... A small brown bundle of fluff. Now our daily search is to observe the baby grow and learn. It will be with its parents all summer as they teach it to navigate Cedar Lake and to dive for food. As I write this, the family is swimming ten yards off our point and the baby, at three weeks, is loon-shaped but small and gray. It feels like "our baby".

In anticipation of several large groups of swim-campers, a group of 16 of my friends were at the base for a few days. We cleared some new tent sites, downed a few problem trees, and pitched 17 tents. They are all hidden in the deep woods and will be home for about 60 kids in a few weeks. Living in a tent without phones or other technology, cooking and eating outside, adapting to challenges they never thought possible, swimming three miles before breakfast... that's what life is like at our camp. It's a way of life I wish more young people could experience!

A few weeks ago we had at least one major thunder and lighting storm a day for a week, accompanied by flooding rain. The power was off four times. The power guys are true heroes. They found the breaks and restored the lines quicker than we could imagine. Following the storms, the temperature hovered close to 90 for a week. That is Cedar Lake version of a real heat wave, but the cool lake is yards away, and we lived in it. Chip, by the way, is a great little swimmer.

We spent part of a day with Will Steger at his Steger Wilderness Center. He is an old friend of mine, and today's foremost Arctic and Antarctic explorer. Google Will\_Steger and you'll be amazed! We take our campers over to work at his center a few times during the summer, and the kids find out what hard physical work really is. Will is 74 and still doing MAJOR solo expeditions.

Last evening my daughter, Teri, and I, each with a dog, kayaked into the twilight with grandson Coleman on the paddleboard. It was a magical few hours, quiet, meditative and accompanied by loons calling. Both a heron and an eagle flew over us and the baby loon bobbed nearby.

We glided by our cozy cabin, climbed ashore, and settled in for the night. **That**, my friends, is a slice of life on Cedar Lake. It is what clears out stress and restores souls.

Next month I'll tell some tales of 70 swim campers and how we achieve both joy and serenity. Keep tuned.

Lee (and Chip, too)

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Lee, thank you for sharing your little slice of "Heaven, here on Earth". We can only imagine how amazing our actual Heavenly home will be, but we do have experiences like this to enjoy while we are here!

Ahhh, the call of the loons - so wish a sound bite could be inserted for everyone to enjoy. If anyone would like to hear it, I'm sure you could find it online, maybe YouTube?

# Cedar Lake Tales ~ Part 2, continued

Loon Family



Pictured Below:  
Lee Coleman & Chip



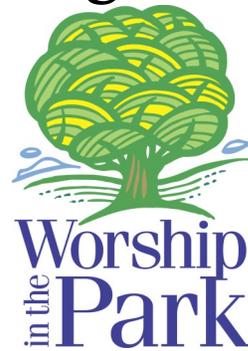
Pictured Right:  
Lee's grandson, Coleman



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



Coming Soon!



Sunday, September 9th  
More information to follow  
In August



☀️ Congratulations to Gordon and Suzanne Adams who recently celebrated 60 years of marriage!

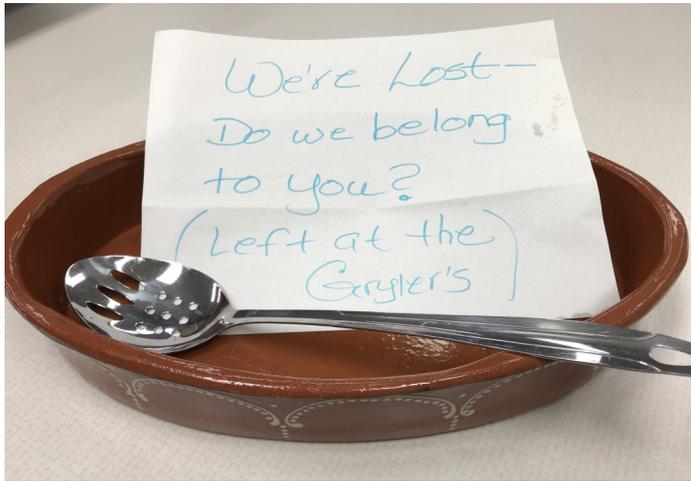


**Summer Music at Worship**

With our choir off for the summer, we can **always** use special donations to help us bring guest musicians to worship.

Just put "Summer Music" on the memo line of your check, on an envelope for cash OR go to the green **Online Giving** tab at our website:

[www.firstchurchuccww.org](http://www.firstchurchuccww.org)



This dish & serving spoon was left at the Gryler's Potluck. If you recognize it, please call our office at 525-8753 or let the owner know that we have it.

Thank You



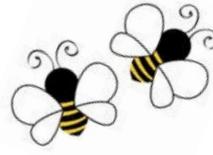
## *Dances of the Universal Peace*

Thursday, August 9th  
7:00 pm—8:00 pm  
Chapel

### **No Summer Break This Year!**

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, August 11th**  
**9:00 am**

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



*“Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear, only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.”*

*~ Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.*

## Soup Lunch Ministry

In July, our volunteers served a total of 269 meals! Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- \* Volunteer Soup makers on August 15, 22, & 29.
- \* Someone who would be willing to launder the towels, aprons, and linens each week. This can be done at home at your convenience.
- \* General tasks - we just need more helping hands.

If you would like to be part of this important ministry, please call -

Linda Schopp (509) 876-2063  
Or  
Our office (509) 525-8753



Thank you!



Nancy Ball,

Thank you so much for cheerfully and faithfully taking on the task of being sure that our kitchen had freshly clean linens & towels each week! Your spirit of volunteer service is truly inspirational.



### Trustees Meeting

Sunday, August 12th, 11:30 am

### Council Meeting

Sunday, August 26th, 11:30 am

### Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, August 29th, 6:30 pm



### VOUCHERS

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

## August 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				



**Tuesday, August 21st**



# 2018 N-SID-SEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER Lake Couer d'Alene

**Junior High Camp (Entering 7th, 8th, 9th grades)**  
August 5~ August 11

**Family Camp #2**  
August 12 ~ August 18

### **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](http://www.n-sid-sen.org) and click on the camp you wish to attend and then "Register for this session". It's THAT easy!





## Christian Aid Center Dinner



Carol Blue, Eliza, Doug & Henry Juers and Janet Mallen  
Behind the camera: Jill Juers

**Carol Blue ,Jill Juers and family, and Janet Mallen cooked and hosted this month. It was a good experience for all.**

**The next dinner will be Sunday, August 15th ~ Volunteers are always needed and appreciated!**



# Helping Hands

## A Great Way to Serve

### Liturgist

August 5	Gwyn Frasco
August 12	Open
August 19	Open
August 26	Open

### Coffee Hour

August 5	Laurie Manahan
August 12	Dorothy Knudson & Melanie Plantaric
August 19	Melissa Webster
August 26	Becky Kirtley

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

## Christian Aid Center Volunteer Opportunities

- Childcare Providers (Mon. through Fri. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm shifts, along with Tues. and Thurs. from 1:30 to 3:30 pm)
- Receptionist (various shifts available)

Our volunteer application is available online at [www.christianaidcenter.org](http://www.christianaidcenter.org)

Contact Jeannette Regalado at 525-7153 ext. 114.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Sunday of each month (August 5th)** 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, canned 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





August  
BIRTHDAYS

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August  
ANNIVERSARIES

*Congratulations and Abundant Blessings in the coming year!*

## 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.***

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](http://www.firstchurchuccww.org).