

Welcome To CCUCC

*Our mission is to welcome all into a loving, progressive faith community,
knowing our actions reflect our Christian values:
to question and explore beliefs and assumptions,
to strive for peace and justice, and
to care actively for the earth, our community, and one another.*

The 8 Points of Progressive Christianity

progressivechristianity.org (2003 Version)

By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who...

1. Have found an approach to God through the life and teachings of Jesus;
2. Recognize the faithfulness of other people who have other names for the way to God's realm, and acknowledge that their ways are true for them, as our ways are true for us;
3. Understand the sharing of bread and wine in Jesus' name to be a representation of an ancient vision of God's feast for all peoples;
4. Invite all people to participate in our community and worship life without insisting that they become like us in order to be acceptable (including but not limited to):
 - believers and agnostics,
 - conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,
 - women and men,
 - those of all sexual orientations and gender identities,
 - those of all races and cultures,
 - those of all classes and abilities,
 - those who hope for a better world and those who have lost hope,
 - without imposing on them the necessity of becoming like us;
5. Know that the way we behave toward one another and toward other people is the fullest expression of what we believe;
6. Find more grace in the search for meaning than in absolute certainty, in the questions than in the answers;
7. Form ourselves into communities dedicated to equipping one another for the work we feel called to do: striving for peace and justice among all people, protecting and restoring the integrity of all God's creation, and bringing hope to those Jesus called the least of his sisters and brothers;
8. Who recognize that being followers of Jesus is costly, and entails selfless love, conscientious resistance to evil, and renunciation of privilege.

We acknowledge that we stand on land stolen from Native and Indigenous people. We are on Nimiipuu land and we recognize that they were the first people here.

We acknowledge that we benefit from the prosperity of the United States, which was built on the labor of enslaved people.

Community Congregational

United Church of Christ

525 NE Campus Street
Pullman, WA 99163

Phone: 509-332-6411

pullmanucc.org

STAFF SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Steve Van Kuiken Greeters: Dennis Hatley & Megan Guido
Minister

steve@pullmanucc.org Ushers: Gary & Sue Schell
Office Hours: M-Th 9am-4pm

Liturgist: Beth Waddel

Coffee Hour/Brunch: Congregational Life

Julie Tarlyn

Administrative Assistant

office@pullmanucc.org

Office Hours: M, T, Th, F 10am-1pm

Kathy Spencer

Organ/Piano

khspencer44@gmail.com

Megan Guido

Outreach Coordinator

megan@pullmanucc.org

Office Hours: M/W 1-5pm; T/Th

8:30am-1:30pm

Samuel Leeper

Music Coordinator

2022/23 Church Council

Moderator: Jann Hill

Moderator-Elect: Susan Poch

Treasurer: Carl Hauser

Clerk: Frances Clark

Finance and Stewardship Team: Sandy Evenson

Building and Grounds Team: Gary Schell

Faith Development Team: Bill Condon

Congregational Life Team: Charla Chaudhry

Congregational Care Team: Mary Carloye

Shared Ministry Team: Charlene Toews

Justice and Witness Team: Ginny Hauser

Outreach Team: Nancy Mack

THIS WEEK AT CCUCC

Monday, December 12

Justice & Witness 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 14

Office closed



Community Congregational

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming & Just Peace Church

December 11, 2022

10:30 am



This truly is the vision of God: never to be satisfied in the desire to see God. But one must always, by looking at what one can see, rekindle one's desire to see more. Thus no limit would interrupt growth in the ascent to God, since no limit to God can be found.

—Gregory of Nyssa



If you do not wish to keep this bulletin, please recycle it. Thanks.

Gathering of All Who Seek God's Presence

Prelude *Sleepers, Awake!* Mary Carloye, organ
J.S. Bach

Welcome Steve Van Kuiken
God is with you.
And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love Condon/Waddel

Sung Response *One Candle Is Lit*

**Come, fest-ive-ly sing while a-wait-ing the birth,
join an-gels in danc-ing from heav-en to earth,
Wave ban-ners of good news, lift high thank-ful praise.
One can-dle is lit for the joy of these days.**

***Invitation to Worship:** Beth Waddel

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the kid,
The calf and the lion and the falling together,
And a little child shall lead them.

(Isaiah 11:6)

***Hymn** *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* #117

Prayer for Wholeness

**Holy God, you sent a star to guide the wise men to the child Jesus.
We confess that we have not always followed the light of your word.
Often, we have not searched for signs of love in the world or trusted
your good news to be good. Sometimes we have refused the peace that
Jesus was born to bring. We have expected little, and hoped for less.
Renew within us all fine desires that we may watch and wait for your
love and compassion to enter every trembling heart.**

(Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Grace

Anthem *A Simple Stable* CCUCC choir
Don Besig & Nancy Price

Connecting with Sacred Stories

Silent Meditation

Ancient Witness Matthew 1: 18-25 Beth Waddel

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Sermon *Unexpected Encounters: Foolish Dreams* Steve Van Kuiken

***Hymn** *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus* #122

Responding to Live Faithfully

Prayers of the People & the Jesus Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen †**

-The Lord's Prayer Adapted in A New Zealand Prayer Book

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *At The Coming Of Christmas* Kathy Spencer, piano
Geroge Lachenauer

For the month of December, the loose cash offering will go to support Whitman County Humane Society.

Sent with Love into the World

***Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #116

***Benediction/Passing of the Peace**

***Postlude**

*Please stand if you are able.

† As an inclusive and open faith community, we attempt to convey gender inclusive images, terms, and language of God.

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Announcements

The Council has decided we will continue wearing masks in worship for the time being.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH: We invite everyone to stay after church **today** for our Christmas Brunch. Come and enjoy food and fellowship and festivity! Breakfast casseroles, including meat, vegetarian and French toast, will be main dishes provided by our Congregational Life Team. We will have a Christmas carol sing at the end of brunch with all who want to stay and sing together. Anyone who can help with a quick cleanup would be much appreciated by the Congregational Life Team.

Our Christmas Eve candlelight worship will be at **5:00 PM December 24**. This service is for all ages, with readings, carols and a story for all ages. We look forward to seeing you there!

Movie Nights at the Church-Join us for our next movie night on **January 8th**. Movies start at **5:15** in Brewster Hall. January's movie is Fences. See the weekly update or bulletin board for full details.

There will be a training for Family Promise volunteers on **January 29th** in Brewster Hall following our Sunday Service. It will include a potluck.

Do you have questions about LGBTQ+ and identity issues and have never gotten them answered? Now is your opportunity to do so. Please submit your questions in writing and place them in the rainbow colored box in the narthex. Holly Greystone will incorporate your queries into her presentation on **February 2, 2023**.