

# 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](http://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 Nimipuu 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](http://pullmanucc.org)

#### STAFF SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

**Steve Van Kuiken** Greeters: Dennis Hatley & Megan Guido  
*Minister*

*steve@pullmanucc.org*  
Usher: Tricia Grantham

Office Hours: M-Th 9am-4pm Liturgist: Gary Schell

**Julie Tarlyn** Coffee Hour: Marion Yonge  
*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 19

Stewardship & Finance 12:15pm

##### Tuesday, December 20

Building & Grounds 1:30pm

##### Wednesday, December 21

Office closed



## Community Congregational

### United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming & Just Peace Church

December 18, 2022

10:30 am



*We are each meant to be mothers of God.*  
—Meister Eckhart



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

## Gathering of All Who Seek God's Presence

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>In The Bleak Midwinter</i> arr. Joseph M. Martin	Kathy Spencer, piano
<b>Welcome</b>		Steve Van Kuiken
	God is with you. <b>And also with you.</b>	
<b>Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy</b>		Paulson/Scott Family
<b>*Invitation to Worship:</b>		Gary Schell
	The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, <b>The desert shall rejoice and bloom,</b> Like the rose it shall blossom abundantly, <b>And rejoice with joy and singing.</b> (Isaiah 35:1)	
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>My Soul Give Glory to My God</i>	#119
<b>Prayer for Wholeness</b>		
	<b>Eternal One, you are the light of the world. Light up our lives when we are in darkness. In the darkness of uncertainty—when we don't know what to do, when decisions are hard to make—give us light to guide us. In the darkness of anxiety—when we are worried about what the future may bring, when we don't know where to turn—give us the light of your peace. In the darkness of despair—when life seems empty, when we feel there is no point in going on—give us the light of your hope.</b>	
	<i>(Silent Prayer)</i>	
<b>Assurance of Grace</b>		
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>And This Shall Be A Sign</i> Stratton, Paige and Larson	CCUCC choir

## Connecting with Sacred Stories

### Silent Meditation

**Ancient Witness** Luke 2: 1-7 Gary Schell

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

**Sermon** *Unexpected Encounters: In From the Cold* Steve Van Kuiken

**\*Hymn** *Canticle of the Turning* (insert)

## 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** *Mary, Did You Know?* Sam Leeper, vocals  
Schrader, Lowry and Greene

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

## Sent with Love into the World

**\*Hymn** *The First Nowell* #139

**\*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.

All inserted songs printed with permission OneLicense #A-714060

## Announcements

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

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. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in Brewster Hall following the service. We look forward to seeing you there! There is a Zoom link in the weekly update if you cannot attend in person.

**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**.

**Update: Plastic Film Recycling:** Until we resume plastic film collection here at CCUCC, you can drop off your plastic film at Safeway. Use the plastic bag recycling bins at the store entrances; smaller and more frequent drop offs are preferred. Safeway partners with Trex, the company that uses the store's plastic film to be recycled into composite products like the bench located outside the church's entryway. Trex partners with stores throughout the U.S., including Winco and Albertsons. **Important reminder: all plastic film must be clean, dry, and free of food residue; labels should be removed or cut off.**