

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 Core Values of Progressive Christianity

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

1. Believe that following the way and teaching of Jesus can lead to experiencing sacredness, wholeness, and unity of all life, even as we recognize that the Spirit moves in beneficial ways in many faith traditions.
2. Seek community that is inclusive of all people, honoring differences in theological perspective, age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, class, or ability.
3. Strive for peace and justice among all people, knowing that behaving with compassion and selfless love towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe.
4. Embrace the insights of contemporary science and strive to protect the Earth and ensure its integrity and sustainability.
5. Commit to a path of life-long learning, believing there is more value in questioning than in absolutes.

“Core Values of Progressive Christianity”
2022 Edition
ProgressiveChristianity.org©

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.

Assistive listening devices are available in the back of the sanctuary.
Large print bulletins will be available soon.

Community Congregational

United Church of Christ

525 NE Campus Street
Pullman, WA 99163

Phone: 509-332-6411

pullmanucc.org

STAFF SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Gary Jewell

Interim Minister

gary@pullmanucc.org

Office Hours: Th, F, Sat 9am-noon

Julie Tarlyn

Administrative Assistant

office@pullmanucc.org

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

Jihyun Kim

Piano

Megan Guido

Outreach Coordinator

megan@pullmanucc.org

Office Hours: M/W 1-5pm; T/Th
8:30am-1:30pm

2023/24 Church Council

Moderator: Susan Poch

Moderator-Elect: Darin Paulson

Treasurer: Carl Hauser

Clerk: Frances Clark

Finance and Stewardship Team: Herb Hill

Building and Grounds Team: Gary Schell

Faith Development Team: Sandy Evenson

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 18

Stewardship & Finance 10am

Wednesday, December 20

Office closed

Thursday, December 21

Congregational Care 1:30 pm

Longest Night (solstice) Service 5:30pm



Community Congregational

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming & Just Peace Church

December 17, 2023

10:30 am



*What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God 1400 years ago and I do not give birth to the Son of God in my own person and time and culture? . . .
We are all 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

Centering Moment

Prelude *Of The Parent's Heart Begotten* Jihyun Kim, piano
Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius

Welcome Gary Jewell

Announcements/Joys/Concerns

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Joy

Sung Response *One Candle Is Lit (verse 3)*

*Come festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days..*

***Call to Worship** Charlene Toews

Alleluia the Christ child comes,
And we await his birth.
Let us throw off our distractions,
And allow the chaos to settle.
Let us watch for the signs,
And listen to the messengers.

Let us stand on tiptoe,
And shout aloud and sing.
**Something new is emerging,
Something new is being birthed.**

***Hymn** *With Joy Draw Water* #109

Call to Wholeness

On this third Sunday of Advent we remember yet another strange and sacred story....

**Out of nowhere...in a particular part of the world
At a particular time in history...uninvited, unannounced and unaware to most
An angelic messenger appears ... and the first words spoken are "Do not be afraid."
Like Mary who through her very body bore Christ into the world
Let us, in a moment of silence, make room for the Spirit's counsel...
Name the fear you may carry.
(eyes closed...breathe)
Where do you hear the God saying "Do not be afraid."**

(Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Grace

Special Music *A Simple Stable* Ginny Hauser, flute
Don Besig & Nancy Price Jihyun Kim, piano

Connecting with Sacred Stories

Ancient Witness Luke 1: 26-38 Charlene Toews

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon *Birthing God* Gary Jewell

***Hymn** *With Mary Sing Magnificat* (insert)

Responding to Live Faithfully

The Lord's Prayer: (using paraphrased wording)

**Loving, eternal Presence.
You are with us, yet beyond us.
And your name is Holy.
We look for Your kingdom, and seek to do Your will.
On earth as it is in heaven.
We ask that You give us this day...enough for what we need.
And we praise You that you forgive our sins.
And we ask that we might, in turn, have the strength and grace to forgive others.
And lead us, we pray, away from temptation, and deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom and power and glory forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise* Jihyun Kim, piano

For the month of December the loose cash offering will go to support Sojourner's Alliance.

Sent with Love into the World

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

*Benediction/Passing of the Peace

***Postlude** *Rise Up Jerusalem* Jihyun Kim, piano
Tim Schoenbachler Guy Worthey, bass guitar
Ginny Hauser, flute
Anjuli Dodhia, soprano

Please join us on the refrain:

*Rise Up, rise up
Rise up, rise up, Jerusalem!
Sing out, ring out,
Sing out, sing out, Jerusalem!
Rejoice, the day is near!*

*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 wearing masks during worship is optional.

COFFEE HOUR: You are encouraged to stay for coffee and treats and fellowship after worship today. Just head across the entryway to Brewster Hall and join us for coffee hour.

Please join us on **today** for a Holiday Potluck following worship. Join your church friends for a festive lunch and carol singing.

Christmas Eve helpers are needed for ambient lighting, candle wranglers and users for the evening service. Please see the weekly update for details or contact Sandy Evenson at sevenon@uidaho.edu or 509-336-9736.

If you have been attending CCUCC regularly and/or have covenanted for the year, and you would like to make the leap and be an "on-the-books" member of CCUCC, please contact Pastor Gary (509 280 4466) so a meeting can be scheduled.

Pullman Child Welfare's Food Bank is in need of donations. Best time to donate is Saturday mornings 9-11am or donations can be dropped off at the food bank drop box outside their office at 108 NW Stadium Way.

We need worship volunteers. See the weekly update for dates and how to sign up.

CAC Food Bank Hours: closed Monday and Tuesday; Wednesday 3-6pm; Thursday 11am-1pm; Friday 1-4pm. Appointments encouraged. Sign up by phone at 509-595-4141 or visit their website at www.cacwhitman.org/foodbank/

Longest night service will be held at CCUCC on **December 21st (solstice) at 5:30 pm.**

Please bring your empty TP rolls and put them in the bag near the name tag table for a special project in early January.