

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 Nimípuu 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.

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

Sunday, December 24

Evening service 5:00pm

Monday, December 25

Office closed

Tuesday, December 26

Office closed



Community Congregational

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming & Just Peace Church

December 24, 2023

10:30 am



“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”

— St. Francis of Assisi



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

Gathering of All Who Seek God's Presence

Centering Moment

Prelude *In The Bleak Midwinter*
Gustav Holst; arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome Gary Jewell

Announcements/Joys/Concerns

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Love

Sung Response *One Candle Is Lit (verse 4)*

*Come wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.*

***Call to Worship** Tricia Grantham

We come seeking Jesus, the Light of the world!

Shine in our hearts Spirit of Christ!

We gather this morning because we believe in a God who shines light into the darkness.

We gather because we know Christ was born to carry God's light into our world today.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it.

Lord, in this hour of worship, kindle in us the light of your love.

Let your light shine through us, now and forever.

***Hymn** *Longing for Light* (insert)

Call to Wholeness (Each line spoken, followed by silence pause)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. (picture one image of peace)

Awaken us, Holy Light

Where there is hatred, let me sow love. (picture one image of love)

Equip us, Holy Light

Where there is injury, pardon. (picture one image of pardon)

Empower us, Holy Light.

Where there is doubt, faith. (picture one image of faith)

Strengthen us, Holy Light.

Where there is despair, hope. (picture one image of hope)

Encourage us, Holy Light.

Where there is darkness, light. (picture one image of light)

Surround us, Holy Light

Where there is sadness, joy. (picture one image of joy)

Revive us, Holy Light.

**Oh divine Creator, as we console may we find consolation.
As we seek to understand, may we find understanding.
As we extend love, may we find love.
For You, O God, have so designed the Way to life,
that by giving we receive; by forgiving we are forgiven,
And by dying we are born into eternal life.**

(Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Grace

Special Music *Christmas in the Trenches*

Connecting with Sacred Stories

Ancient Witness John 1: 1-14 Tricia Grantham

In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light - a light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken. Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself was not the Light; he only came to testify about the Light - the true Light that illumines all humankind. The Word was coming into the World - was in the world - and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh, nor human will - but born of God. And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory - the favor and position a parent gives an only child - filled with grace, filled with truth.

Sermon *Letting in the Brilliant Cracks of Light* Gary Jewell

***Hymn** *Canticle of the Turning* (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 *Hope is a Candle*

For December 24, the loose cash offering will go to support Doctors Without Borders.

Sent with Love into the World

***Hymn** *Hope is a Candle* (insert)

***Benediction/Passing of the Peace**

***Postlude** *Canticle of the Turning*

*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.

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/

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

See the weekly update for information about a mission trip to Costa Rica **February 24-March 3, 2024.**