

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

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day - office closed

Wednesday, January 3

Office closed

Council Meeting 7 pm



Community Congregational

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming & Just Peace Church

December 31, 2023

10:30 am



Remember, Jesus was a refugee: He and Mary and Joseph had to go to Egypt to save his life.



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

Gathering of All Who Seek God's Presence

Centering Moment

Prelude *Sing We Now of Christmas*
Traditional French Carol

Welcome Gary Jewell

Announcements/Joys/Concerns

***Call to Worship** Darin Paulson

God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.
Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.
We need not fear.

In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.
Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.
Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

***Hymn** *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* #140

Call to Wholeness

God of love and justice, we long for peace within and peace without. We long for harmony in our families, for serenity in the midst of struggle, and for commitment to each other's growth. We long for the day when our homes will be a dwelling place for your love. Yet we confess that we are often anxious; we do not trust each other, and we harbor violence. We are not willing to take the risks and make the hard choices that love requires. Look upon us with kindness and grace. Rule in our homes and in all the world; show us how to walk in your paths, through the mercy of our Savior. Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Grace

Special Music *Sing Now A Song of A Child Who Was Born*
Scottish melody arr. Sally Ann Morris

Connecting with Sacred Stories

Ancient Witness Matthew 2: 1-18 Darin Paulson

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah;
For from you will come forth a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." After hearing the king, they went on their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on ahead of them until it came to a stop over *the place* where the Child was *to be found*. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And after being warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, *the magi* left for their own country by another way.

Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to kill Him."

So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod; *this happened* so that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent *men* and killed all the boys who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
Weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children;
And she refused to be comforted,
Because they were no more."

Sermon *Christ in the Rubble* Gary Jewell
(A Palestinian pastor's Christmas message to the world)

***Hymn** *What Child Is This?* #148

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 *The Holly and the Ivy*
Mannheim Steamroller

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

Sent with Love into the World

***Hymn** *Dear God, Embracing Humankind* #502

*Benediction/Passing of the Peace

***Postlude** *Sing Now A Song*

*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 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.**