



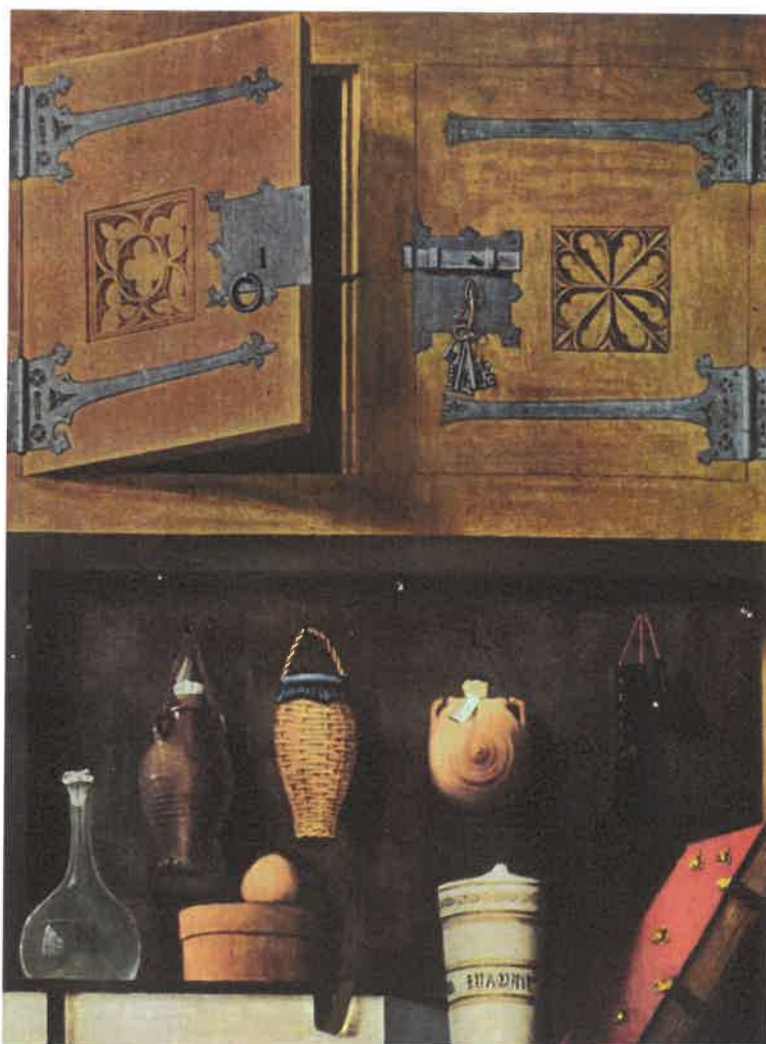
Community Congregational

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming & Just Peace Church
Accessible to All

August 23, 2026

10:30 am



Still Life with Keys and Cabinet (1650), [Wikimedia Commons](#)

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Gathering of All Who Seek God's Presence

Prelude

Love Is Spoken Here
Janice Kapp Perry

Diane Worthey, violin

Welcome

Rev. Mike Bass

Life of the Church

Joys and Concerns

***Call to Worship**

Nancy Mack

We gather into the Presence of Love together.

We come to be transformed.

Tussling and wrestling with the mysteries of faith

With questions and convictions our hearts expand

Our relationships become deepened

Our practices of justice become refined.

God has given us agency, creativity, and imagination.

Let the way of Christ be our guide

Passing of the Peace

An opportunity to share words of peace and belonging. The ancient, traditional greeting is "peace be with you" with a response of "And also with you."

***Hymn**

God is Truly with Us

#68

Connecting with Sacred Stories

Children's Moment Blessing of the Backpacks and Bookbags Rev. Mike Bass

Today we remember the students in this congregation and those involved in their education. The call to be involved in education is a high calling. Those who teach our children help shape the future. We give thanks to a gracious God for the teachers, principals, support staff, librarians, counselors, school volunteers, custodians, food-service workers, bus drivers and all others who work in our schools.

We celebrate your calling and support you and others who are involved in education.

Your faith family believes that each of you is a gift from God filled with potential and possibility. We pray that as you learn and grow you will develop caring hearts and minds that think clearly and act justly. We believe in you and care about your education.

As your faith community, we pledge to walk with you on your educational journey, both here and in school. We affirm that each of you is a precious gift from God. We will do all that we are able to ensure that your schools are positive places filled with hope and the resources necessary for learning.

Gracious God, we lift up to you all those involved in education in this community, across the Palouse, and in our nation and world. Guide us, great God, that we will know the best way to show our support for our students, teachers and all those involved in education.

God of Life and Love, wisest of all teachers, Hear our prayer.

Special Music

Nature Boy
Eden Ahbez

Guy Worthey, vocals

When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: "What do people say about who the Chosen One is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Jesus said, "And you? Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God!" Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. I also tell you this: your name now is 'Rock,' and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

Here — I'll give you the keys to the reign of heaven: whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Responding to Live Faithfully

Prayers of the People & the Jesus Prayer:

Eternal Spirit, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker, Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The praise 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. Amen.

Inviting Generosity

Offertory

You Are My Light
J. S. Bach

Jan Meserve, Susan Poch
Ginny Hauser, Carl Hauser

Doxology

**Praise God whose breath fills all the earth
Whose love reveals our sacred worth
Whose Spirit forms one family
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.**

*August's loose offering will support
Alternative to Violence on the Palouse.*

Sent with Love into the World

***Hymn**

We Are Your People

#309

v. 1-4

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

We are marching in the light of God
We are marching in the light of God

Repeat

We are marching, we are marching oooh
We are marching in the light of God.

Repeat

*Please stand as 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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Call to Worship liturgy by M Jade Kaiser of enfleshed. Adapted by the Rev. Mike Bass.

Doxology by Roger Lynn.

**Large print bible and large print hymns are available on the back table. Ask an usher for assistance.

Assistive listening devices are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Announcements

COFFEE HOUR: All are welcome to stay for coffee and treats and fellowship after worship today, just across the entryway to Brewster Hall.

Weekly coffee time is **Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.** We will meet at **Neill's** on Main St through the month of August. All are welcome to drop in between 10:30 and 11:30 for our no-host social time with Pastor Mike.

Come join us for yoga in Brewster Hall every **Wednesday at 5:30 pm.** Bring your yoga mat and practice with us.

REMEMBERING JOHN KRAMER. On **Sunday, August 30** we will take time during coffee hour for an informal remembrance of long-time CCUCC member John Kramer with ice cream and shared stories. If you have a memory of John to share, pick up a card in the church entryway, write your message, and return it to the basket **by August 23.** We'll share the cards at coffee hour and then give them to the family. Questions? Ask Mary Carloye, 509-332-9229.

Online registration is now open for our N-Sid-Sen Family Camp Weekend, **September 18-20** - <https://camp.pncucc.org/camp-events/>. Camp is roughly \$150 per person, and includes six meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch) and two nights lodging. If you are interested in receiving a sponsorship for the event, please contact Corey Johnson (mjohnson34227@roadrunner.com) before registering. Registration ends, **Friday, September 11.** We hope you can join us for this annual, spiritually enriching experience!

Moscow Pride in the Park is taking place on **Saturday, August 29th**. A list of events is on the bulletin board.

Sacred Heart Church is having the Neighborhood BBQ on **Friday, August 28th** starting at 5:30 pm in their parking lot. Everyone is welcome!

STAFF

Mike Bass

Minister

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T 12-4 pm, W by appt.

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

Tracy Young

Outreach Coordinator

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Office Hours: M-Th 10am-2pm

Kathy Spencer

Pianist

Emma Trayte

Childcare Coordinator

THIS WEEK AT CCUCC

Tuesday, August 25

Coffee @ Neill's 10:30 am

Wednesday, August 26

Office closed

Council 1 pm

Yoga 5:30 pm

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Usher: Tricia Grantham

Liturgist: Nancy Mack

Coffee Hour: Frances Clark

Tech Team:

Doug Blanks-Hindman

Carl Hauser

Herb Hill

Corey Johnson

Bill Condon

Don Peters

Music:

Carl Hauser, choir director

2026/27 CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Sandy Evenson

Moderator-Elect: open

Treasurer: Carl Hauser

Clerk: Frances Clark

Stewardship & Finance Team:

Herb Hill

Building & Grounds Team:

Doug Blanks Hindman

Faith Development Team:

Charlene Toews

Congregational Life Team:

Mary Carloye

Congregational Care Team:

Nancy Gillard

Shared Ministry Team:

Tricia Grantham & Susan Poch

Justice & Witness Team: Kym Dye

Outreach Team: open

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.*

Scan code here to donate your loose change to
local non-profit.



Key words in the Text

Matthew 16:13-20

Framing the text:

This is the end of a larger narrative block about who Jesus is [11:2-16:20].
The next block will address what that means [16:21-20:34].
Forming an Alternative Community: What are they saying?

From BDAG Greek/English lexicon (2000), et.al.

Petros / petra (Πέτρος / πέτρα), “Peter” and “rock.” Jesus’s response to Peter seems to be a play on words — *Petros* and *petra*. *Petr-os* is the masculine form of a feminine word — *petr-a*. However, just a few verses later this rock will be called a *skandalon*, or stumbling stone, for missing Jesus’ next point.

Ekklēsia (ἐκκλησίαν), “assembly” or “congregation.” *Ekklēsia* referred to a civic assembly as practiced in the communal life of the Greeks. While not found in Mark or Luke, it is used by the Septuagint (Greek version of the Hebrew Scriptures) to translate *qahal*, or Israel’s assembly. Since this exchange between Jesus and Peter is an internal debate (they’re both Jewish), Matthew seems to be calling attention to the Jesus community as being called or summoned within the larger story of Israel — one that doesn’t replace Israel, but one that is neighborly and justice-oriented.

Kleidas (κλεις), or “keys.” In the Hebrew Scriptures, keys are a representation of authority over a household. In that sense, keys grant power when they are passed from one individual to the next. Jesus seems to be getting at the idea that stewardship is not permanent. Stewards, or those who possess the key, can be replaced.

Caesaria Philippi was an administrative center and site of imperial power, renamed after each new emperor. Archaeologists have discovered colonnaded streets, a large palace associated with Marcus Agrippa, and a temple dedicated to Rome and the Emperor August — the one who referred to himself as *Divi Filius*, or “Son of the Divine.” Jesus could have asked his question anywhere. What does it mean, then, that Jesus poses the question here, in a place where the people in authority had serious opinions about what is sacred — so much so that they carved them in stone?