

First Congregational Church

Highlights Newsletter

August 2023



Greetings friends,

As we head into the latter part of summer, I hope you've had or will soon have an opportunity for some rest and renewal over summer. Starting this highlights letter to you all will be one of the last things I do before leaving for a few weeks of vacation. I wanted to thank the many folks who came together to make this time away possible – thank you!

And as the summer winds down, there are exciting things in the works for fall. During August, the Nurture, Care & Fellowship Committee and I will be holding Inquirer's classes. These are a great opportunity for anyone who might be interested in becoming a member of our congregation or wants to learn more about First Congregational Church and our denomination, the United Church of Christ (things like, what exactly does it mean to be a member of FCC for example). Currently, there are three classes scheduled:

Wednesday, August 16th at 12:00PM

Sunday, August 20th @ 11:30AM

Thursday, August 24th at 6:00 PM

If you'd like to join us for one of those (or if none of those times work but you're still interested), please contact me or Gayle in the office. We're hoping to welcome anyone becoming a member of FCC during worship on September 10th.

Following worship on Sunday, August 27th at 11:30, we'll be gathering for a Leadership Retreat. Anyone who serves on one of our committees is invited and encouraged to attend. This will serve as an opportunity to gather with your fellow committee members, think creatively about your committee goals, and do some planning for the year. It will also be an opportunity for us to see all of the different leaders and ministries that are at work at FCC and gain some skills for our work together.

But that won't be our only opportunity to gather as a congregation this fall. On September 22-24, we'll have an all-church retreat at Camp N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur D'Alene in Idaho. Camp N-Sid-Sen recently welcomed Rev. Dr. Pamela Peterson as its new director, and she is very excited to welcome us for a retreat! We're still finalizing participation costs, but it looks as though it will be around \$130-140 for adults and slightly less for children and youth. If cost is an obstacle, please speak with a member of NC&F or me (or if you'd like to help make it possible for someone else to attend). We'll have more details soon,

but please save the date if you're interested in joining in!

Finally, members of the Missions and Social Concerns Committee and I have been reading an excellent book this summer, *The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* by Sarah Augustine. Through stories and personal experiences, the authors discuss the long-lasting and harmful impact of the Doctrine of Discovery and Christian imperialism and challenges us to rethink our theology towards what gives life. There are plans in the works for a book study this fall. In the meantime, we invite you to grab a copy and join us in reading.

Many blessings friends for both rest and the excitement of new things growing!

~ Rev. Ann-Marie



Carrie Stark

January 6, 1975 - July 15, 2023



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Carrie Stark on Saturday, July 15th.

Carrie was the sister of Tina Beyer, sister-in-law of Carolyn Stone, and aunt of Thomas Stone.

Please pray for Carrie's family as they continue to grieve their loss. If you wish to send condolences you can send them to:

Tina Beyer & Carolyn Stone
910 S. Mill Street
Milton Freewater, OR 97862



Moderator's Missive

Hello, FCC friends!

I hope the summer has been treating you well and that you have found time to enjoy the seasonal experiences that nourish you. I especially love waking up in the early mornings and being outdoors this time of year. This month's moderator's missive gets a bit detailed into the behind the scenes work to which so many of you contribute.

Rev. Ann-Marie had the wonderful idea of hosting a leadership retreat for members of all church committees on August 27 from right after church- around 11:30am to 1:30pm. This will take place in fellowship hall, with lunch provided. For a bit of context, church council meets monthly, and is comprised of the chairs of all the committees (that includes mission and social concerns; nominating; nurture, care and fellowship; outreach; stewardship; worship and one other committee, Christian education does not function presently), the clerk, the chair of trustees, the treasurer, moderator and minister. Each of the committees mostly meet monthly as well. We have worked on refining communication between council, trustees and committees, and my sense is that this is going well. Of course, having a full time minister is a big part of that, as she attends all the meetings. I am grateful for her authentic leadership style and good sense of what each committee does.

One of the purposes of this retreat will be for our committee members to review 2023 so far and create a budget request for 2024. We will also brainstorm how to describe our committee work in a narrative style budget that will be easy to present to the church as a whole during stewardship season, which gets underway publicly in September.

I am excited for this opportunity to spend time together, and hope it will be a fruitful experience of connectedness.

Warmly,
Jill Juers



All Members of Our Boards & Committees

Sunday, August 27th

11:30am-1:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Lunch is provided

If you'd like to join us for one of those (or if none of those times work but you're still interested), please contact: Pastor Ann Marie at 509-525-8753 or pastor@fcchurch.net or the office at 509-525-8753 or fcchurch.net.

We're hoping to welcome anyone becoming a member of FCC during worship on September 10th.

First Congregational Church, UCC of Walla Walla

INQUIRERS CLASSES

**Join us at one of the classes below or
reach out to Pastor Ann-Marie**

**Wednesday
August 16th
at 12:00**

**Thursday
August 16th
at 12:00**

**Sunday
August 20th
at 11:30AM**



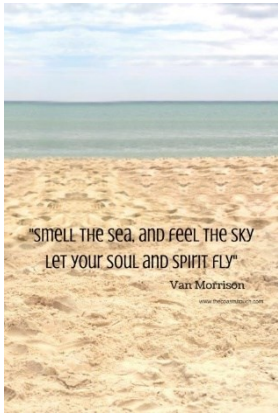


Children's Ministry



Hello dear families of FCC!

Summer is definitely here now so I hope you and your families are finding many ways of enjoying it (and staying cool as needed).



Childcare will continue for the Sunday morning service through August with Cari Chacon sharing her love and talent with the children. A second person is needed to assist her per our risk management protocol and a parent would be welcome to provide that help. It's a great opportunity to get to know some of the delightful children who are a part of our Children's Ministry community.

August will be a time to get ready for a fun and welcoming start to Sunday School in September. We will be doing more organizing and updating of supplies and resources. There are more books to put on the shelves. In June, Judi Krein and I painted a new table to add to the young children's housekeeping area. Now, because DeLos and his family Heidi and Kyle McFarley donated a ton of pots, pans, dishes and pretend food, dinner can be served.



Summer Activities:

Summer BINGO

The children were given "Summer Bingo" cards to use to document all the fun things they do over the summer. Prizes will be given to each child that returns hers/his in September. If any child didn't get one or needs a duplicate, it's been included in this copy of the Highlights for you to print.

Summer Riddles

I snail mailed some summer-themed riddles out to all the children I had addresses for. I hope they have fun guessing the answers. I posted the answers in the classroom so they can also find them whenever they attend church.

Here they are also just for fun:

What is brown, hairy and wears sunglasses?

How can you tell if an ocean is friendly?

When do you go at red and stop at green?

What is a frog's favorite summertime treat?

What do you call a snowman in July?

What's black and white and red all over?

New Christian Education registration forms were created to sign up each child for 2023. I think I have received one from most of our families but if I missed anyone, The form is included in this Highlights for you.

When it gets too hot, you have my permission to have an ice cream cone:
















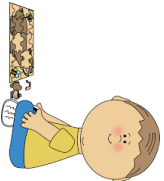




My heart to yours,
Marelu Greco
Children's Ministry Leader
425-941-9572



WWFCC 2023 Children's Summer BINGO

Attach a sticker to each fun activity you do.
Return to Marelu at Sunday School in September for a prize.

<p>Run through the sprinkler.</p> 	<p>Have a playdate with a friend.</p> 	<p>Go to the library to check out books.</p> 	<p>Give someone a hug.</p> 	<p>Do something kind for another person.</p> 
<p>Write a letter to grandma or grandpa.</p> 	<p>Stop and listen to the birds.</p> 	<p>Swim in a pool.</p> 	<p>Clean your bedroom.</p> 	<p>Take a walk with your family.</p> 
<p>Look up at the stars at night. Can you count them?</p> 	<p>Do a craft project.</p> 	<p>Play a board game.</p> 	<p>Read a book. Title? _____</p> 	<p>Have an ice cream cone.</p> 
<p>Learn or try something new? What was it? _____</p>	<p>Do a jigsaw puzzle.</p> 	<p>Use your imagination to make something new. Art, song, story, dance, game.</p>	<p>Help prepare a meal.</p> 	<p>Swim in a lake or river.</p> 

Sunday School Registration Form 2023

Please complete the registration form below and return to Marelu Greco. We only need one form per family so please be sure to include all your children. Thank you!

Parent's name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Emergency Contact or Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Birthday _____ Allergies/Concerns _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Birthday _____ Allergies/Concerns _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Birthday _____ Allergies/Concerns _____

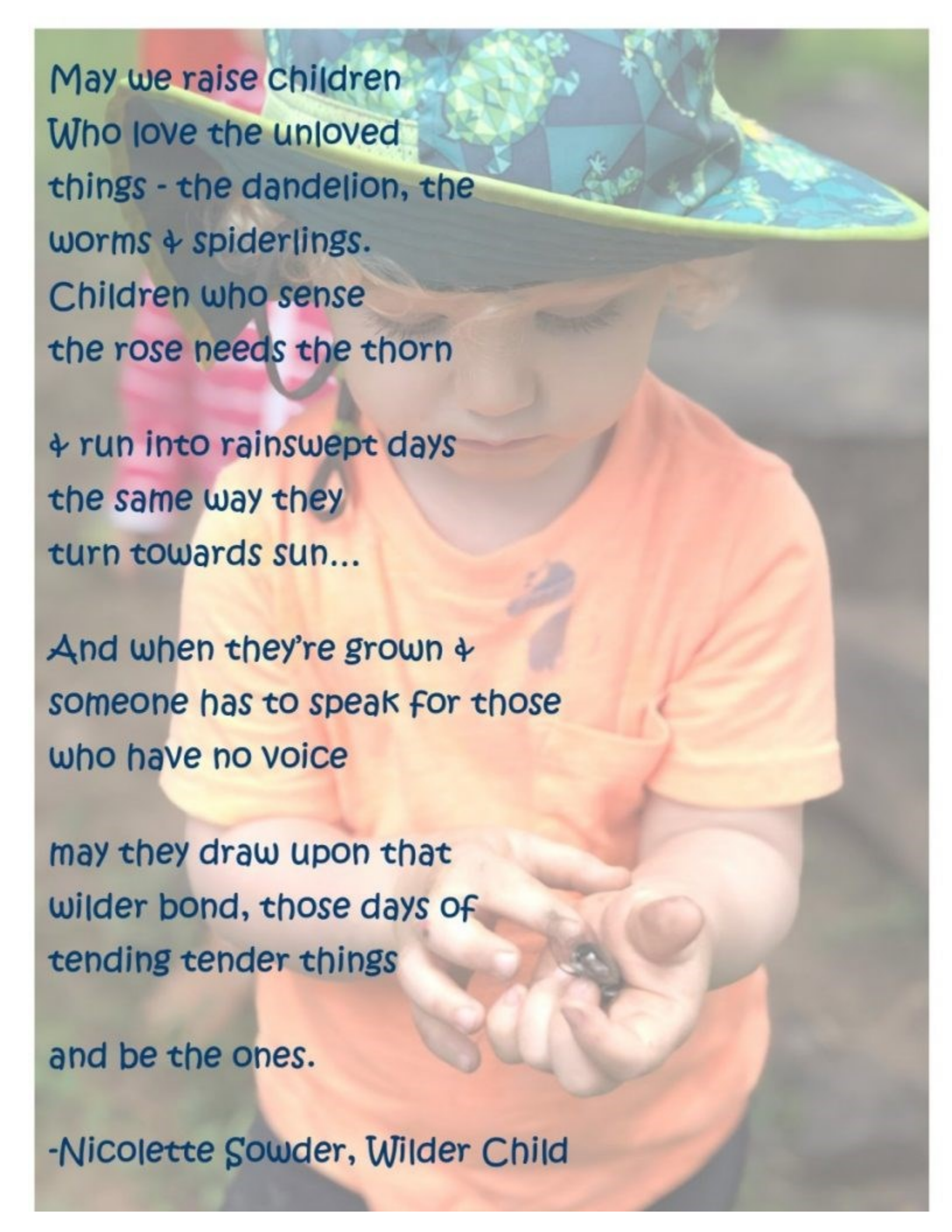
I give permission for my sons and/or daughters to participate fully in the Sunday School program at FCC including snacks and games. In case of an emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact the parents/guardians of the child/ren. In the event If I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission for the medical personnel selected by the Sunday School staff to secure proper and necessary treatment for my child/ren as named on this form.

Signature & Date _____

Physician's Name and Clinic _____

I understand that during the year, pictures may be taken to help us remember the events of the year. I give permission for my child's picture to be used in church publications such as but by not limited to newsletter, web site, Facebook Page and children's ministry brochure. Please circle any that you wish to exclude.

Signature & Date _____



May we raise children
Who love the unloved
things - the dandelion, the
worms & spiderlings.

Children who sense
the rose needs the thorn

& run into rainswept days
the same way they
turn towards sun...

And when they're grown &
someone has to speak for those
who have no voice

may they draw upon that
wilder bond, those days of
tending tender things

and be the ones.

-Nicolette Sowder, Wilder Child



FCC Church Retreat at N-Sid-Sen

SEPTEMBER 22 - 24

Save the date...

More info and signups to follow

breathe

to pause

to make space

to collect your thoughts

to remember

to face the next moment

to choose

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, August 22nd.

**Please have your
submissions in by then.**



August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

VOUCHERS

**Please have your vouchers turned in by the
morning of the dates indicated above.
Thanks!**

**"IF I CANNOT DO
GREAT THINGS,
I CAN DO
SMALL THINGS IN
A GREAT WAY."**

Martin Luther King, JR.



In order to protect the privacy of our members and friends, we do not display personal information in the web version



First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Ministerial Leadership

Minister Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley

2023 Church Officers

Moderator	Jill Juers
Vice Moderator	Karen Carman
Clerk	Larry Frank
Treasurer	Sarah McClure
Head Usher	Sam Kirtley
Nurture & Care	Jill Juers
Worship	Sue Lundgren
Public Outreach	Bernie Newman
Christian Ed	Open
Trustees	Emily Asmus
Mission/Social Concern	Beth Call

Music	Open
. . . and Affirming	Open

Staff

Admin. Asst.	Gayle Kubrock
Youth Leader	Margaret Thomas
Children's Ministry	Marelu Greco
Custodian	Alex Anaya
Pianist	Jackie Wood
Choir Director	Julie Jones

Church Office Hours

Monday- Friday
9 am - 2 pm

Pastoral Assistance

Church Office 525-8753
Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley

We celebrate our diversity as an expression of God's Creative love. We welcome persons of all age, race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, and physical and mental ability.