



First Congregational Church Highlights Newsletter October 2024

Dear Beloved Community,

As we embrace the changing season, I'm excited to announce our stewardship campaign, *Imagine What We Can Create Together*. This fall, we'll explore holy imagination through a worship series that encourages us to envision a future rooted in our shared values.

Beginning October 20th and continuing through November, we will consider what it means to envision a future shaped by our shared values and aspirations. This worship series will not only celebrate our collective gifts but also challenge us to think beyond our current realities. What can we create together as a community of faith? How might our dreams for justice, compassion, and love take root in our neighborhood and beyond?

Each Sunday, we'll hear messages from our members and delve into scripture that calls us to dream boldly and act courageously. This is not just about financial stewardship; it's about hope and collaboration. I invite you to invest your time, talents, and treasures in our community as we cultivate a vibrant space for love and justice.

Let us open our hearts and minds to the possibilities that lie ahead. As we imagine what we can create together, may we also be reminded of the abundance that surrounds us—the gifts of creativity, resilience, and compassion that each of you brings to our community.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. I look forward to dreaming and creating with you!

In faith and imagination,

~ Rev. Ann-Marie

.S. Don't miss our stewardship celebration on the last Sunday of November—let's share our commitments and celebrate our vision together!



*In Loving Memory of
Cheryl Pira*



April 15, 1948 ~ August 21, 2024

A celebration of Cheryl's life will be held at First Congregational Church on
Saturday, October 26th at 1:00pm, a reception will follow.



Imagine What We Can Create Together

Fall is here and the time for this year's Stewardship Campaign is near.

We are kicking off this year's campaign on
Sunday, October 20th

We will hand distribute the letters before and after Worship but there will be extras available both in the narthex and in the church office should you need a copy. The remainder of the letters will be mailed out.

Please call the office at 525-8753 or
e-mail office@fcchurch.net with any questions.

**We
Missed
You!**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC OF WALLA WALLA

WELCOME BACK CHOIR!

**Rehearsals
Sunday
8:30 AM**



Children's Ministry

Dear FCC Families,

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

Our "Reconnection Celebration" was fun as we played a game to learn about some of the things we have in common, sang some songs and did an art project. Each child created a flower to place on our bulletin board to reflect the theme "We Blossom in God's Garden".



CURRICULUM

Our Progressive Christian elementary curriculum "A Joyful Path" got us thinking about and discussing who and what God is, who Jesus was and the wealth of history, wisdom and stories that are found in the Bible. These topics are so rich that we'll circle around and revisit so we can deepen our understanding.

The younger children enjoyed hearing the Creation Story as it was presented in the "Frolic" curriculum. Cari had lots of ways for the children to explore the story of all that God created, including viewing rocks, shells, flowers, and leaves using a magnifying glass.

In October, the preschoolers will learn about Noah, Abraham and Sarah.

Children's Ministry

PRAYGROUND

The PrayGround is open for the children when they arrive at church and until they go upstairs to Sunday School. Cari Chacon will be there to welcome them.

SIGN-IN/SIGN-OUT

Thank you, parents, for taking the time to fill out the registration forms, one per family. They are available on-line and at the Welcome Table in the Narthex. And thank you for stopping by the Welcome Table to say good morning and to sign your child/ren in if they will be joining us upstairs for Sunday School. I'll be there to welcome you and answer any questions.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER

The children are invited to participate in the talent show on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 on October 20. Those who sign up to be in a skit will rehearse for a short time after Sunday School each week.

On Sunday, October 27, the children will do a service project and will be setting up some fun and spooky snacks for everyone after church.



Children's Ministry

VOLUNTEERING

To offer our classes, we do need an extra volunteer helper each week. There is much joy in assisting with our wonderful children. Please consider signing up for a Sunday. A sign-up sheet will be in the Atrium. There is a necessary screening and some procedures for volunteers to follow. It will be easy to do, worthwhile for you and invaluable for the program. We deeply appreciate your willingness.



My  to yours,
Marelu Greco
Children's Ministry Leader



Here's what's in store for October

- 6th:** No Youth Group (Margaret will be back East leaf-peeping and celebrating her mom's 80th Birthday!)
- 13th** 10am-1pm: Work Party with Andy Asmus and J.R. Van Slyke!
- Walla Walla's own Jim McGwin of Hot Poop fame and his wife, Dr. Pat McIlvaine have a back porch that needs to be torn down and hauled away. It has been falling apart for a while, and is in the way of accessing the house siding which is in need of serious repair. Andy offered to Pat and Jim that I could muster some enthusiastic, young workers to help with the demolition project, and they're stoked. Andy will bring necessary tools, gloves, and the dump trailer so we can just load the junk and go.
- 20th:** Talent Show prep and Silly Games — Cora Jane, Eliza, Theo and Kellen are sure to make our sides ache with laughter! You'll be sorry if you miss their act, trust me!
- 27th:** Round Two of Elder Interviews begins.

Rest in Power, Bernice and Kris

There is a song that accompanies me this time of year, as the earth draws resources back into herself, sequestering energy for the next burst of life; as we prepare for more stillness, darkness and our own inward-turning; as I light my first fire of the year on the first chilly night; and especially as I clear space to create my offrenda for Day of the Dead. This year the song is extra poignant, as Bernice Johnson Reagon is now numbered among our ancestors. And Kris Kristofferson, whom my Dad had the great joy of being arrested with in the '80's protesting nuclear testing in Nevada. Rest in Power. Rest in Peace. Continue to share your wisdom from the other side....

continued

BREATHS

Listen more often to things than to beings
Listen more often to things than to beings
Tis' the ancestors' breath
When the fire's voice is heard
Tis' the ancestor's breath
In the voice of the waters

Those who have died have never, never left
The dead are not under the earth
They are in the rustling trees
They are in the groaning woods
They are in the crying grass
They are in the moaning rocks
The dead are not under the earth

Those who have did have never, never left
The dead have a pact with the living
They are in the woman's breast
They are in the wailing child
They are with us in our homes
They are with us in this crowd
The dead have a pact with the living

—w: adapted from a poem by Senegalese poet [Birago Diop](#) (1906-1989), m: Ysaye M. Barnwell.

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On Sweet Honey in the Rock *Good News*, also recorded by The
Flirtations. In *Sing Out!* 28:2.

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

by Kris Kristofferson

Am I young enough to believe in revolution
Am I strong enough to get down on my knees and pray
Am I high enough on the chain of evolution
To respect myself, and my brother and my sister
And perfect myself in my own peculiar way

I get lazy, and forget my obligations
I'd go crazy, if I paid attention all the time
And I want justice, but I'll settle for some mercy
On this Holy Road through the Universal Mind

continued

I get lazy, and forget my obligations
I'd go crazy, if I paid attention all the time
And I want justice, but I'll settle for some mercy
On this Holy Road through the Universal Mind

I got lucky, I got everything I wanted
I got happy, there wasn't nothing else to do
And I'd be crazy not to wonder if I'm worthy
Of the part I play in this dream that's coming true

I get lazy, and forget my obligations
I'd go crazy, if I paid attention all the time
And I want justice, but I'll settle for some mercy
On this Holy Road through the Universal Mind

Margaret Schaffter
Youth Ministry Leader



'i thank you God for this most amazing'

e.e. cummings

i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes
(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WALLA WALLA

FCC TALENT SHOW & CHILI COOKOFF

SEE YOU THERE!
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

Sunday , October 20th, 3pm-5pm
FCC Fellowship Hall

Do you have a favorite chili recipe and/or a favorite talent act you would like to share? Here is your opportunity to do both!

Mark your calendars, look for that special chili recipe, sign up, and start the talent juices flowing.

Diane Royce is directing the Talent Show & the Nurture, Care, & Fellowship Committee is hosting the Chili Cookoff

Sign up sheets are available in the atrium. It's going to be good y'all!

Yolanda Lewellyn
Nurture, Care, & Fellowship Chair



Women's Fellowship

Instead of an official get together, this month, we will join the fun, setting up and decorating for the Chili Cookoff and the Variety Show on October 20th. We'll set up on Saturday, October 19th but the time will be announced later. I also encourage you to check with Talent Show Director, Diane Royce and consider participating in this presentation! I guarantee you will have lots of laughs. Remember the word 'talent' can be loosely applied here.

A big thank you to everyone who helped provide Brunch for the 40 Volunteers who work with Soup Lunch Program. It is a vital outreach in our community. The dedication of our church folks as well as others in our community feed the hungry every Tuesday and Wednesday and provide a meal as well as their friendship to the hungry.

Enjoy these beautiful Fall days and plugging in to great opportunities serve and stay connected at FCC.

Becky Kirtley, Women's Fellowship coordinator





Women's Fellowship Reception For Our ~Community Lunch Volunteers~

Pictured above are the Community Lunch volunteers who attended the reception held on Thursday, September 26th to honor and thank them all for everything that they do.

Front Row L - R: Dianne Martin, Yolanda Lewellyn, Diane Briggs, Denise King, Debbie Mallard Mary Wagner, Jim Martin, Connie Loomer

Middle Row L -R: Judy Chacon, Gwyn Frasco, Sue Lundgren, Nancy Berlier, Linda Schopp, Sari Graven, Ruth Hamilton, Tina Stine, Nancy Martin, Priscilla Ingebrigsten

Back Row L - R: Larry Frank, Galen Unruh, Rachelle McClellan, Bernie Newman, Cindy Mettler

A sincere and heartfelt note of appreciation and thank you to each and every one of our volunteers.

Your service and dedication to our community is what enables us to provide food to those who are hungry.

Young Adult Fellowship

Thursday, October 10th—6:30pm-8:30pm

We invite all those in the congregation who are approximately between 20-40 to join us for a potluck and board game night in the atrium for some fun, food, and fellowship!

Please bring your favorite board game and food to share (consider providing a vegetarian option)

If you have any questions please reach out to Cayley Buckner



**First Congregational Church
of Walla Walla**

Find Us Online!



Church Website
fccwallawalla.org



Facebook



Instagram
[@fccwallawalla](https://www.instagram.com/fccwallawalla)



YouTube
Now Streaming Worship!
[@firstcongregationalchurchw3737](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfirstcongregationalchurchw3737)





Dia de Los **MUERTOS**

*MAY THE MEMORIES OF OUR
DEPARTED LOVED ONES CONTINUE
TO BRING US COMFORT & JOY AS
WE CELEBRATE AND HONOR THEM*

SUNDAY NOV. 3RD

Day of the Dead

This year we will recognize and celebrate Dia de los Muertos on Sunday, November 3rd. You are invited to bring photographs, flowers, and other remembrances to place on the ofrenda in the atrium. While marigolds are the traditional flowers, any flowers are welcome.

Contact Margaret Schaffter at 509-386-0398 or margschafft@icloud.com with questions or for additional information.

We will also take time during the worship service on 11/5 to remember those who have passed. You are invited to share the names of those who have passed in the last year by adding them to the list in the atrium in the coming weeks or by contacting Pastor Ann-Marie (pastor@fcchurch.net)



October 2024

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 dates indicated above.

Newsletter Deadline Tuesday, October 22nd

How Would You Live Then?

What if a hundred rose-breasted grosbeaks flew in circles around your head? What if the mockingbird came into the house with you and became your advisor? What if the bees filled your walls with honey and all you needed to do was ask them and they would fill your bowl? What if the brook slid downhill just past your bedroom window so you could listen to its slow prayers as you fell asleep?

What if the stars began to shout their names, or to run this way and that way above the clouds? What if you painted a picture of a tree, and the leaves began to rustle, and a bird cheerfully sang from its painted branches? What if you suddenly say that the silver of water was brighter than the silver of money? What if you finally saw that the sunflowers, turning towards the sun all day and every day—who knows how, but they do it—were more precious, more meaningful than gold?

Mary Oliver 'Blue Iris: Poems and Essays'



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

2024 Church Officers

Moderator	Jill Juers
Vice Moderator	Karen Carman
Clerk	Larry Frank
Treasurer	Sarah McClure
Head Usher	Sam Kirtley
Nurture & Care	Yolanda Lewellyn
Worship	Sue Lundgren
Public Outreach	Bernie Newman
Christian Ed	Kate VanDonge
Trustees	Emily Asmus
Mission/Social Concern	Open
Music	Open
. . . and Affirming	Open

Staff

Admin. Asst.	Gayle Kubrock
Youth Leader	Margaret Schaffter
Children's Ministry	Marelu Greco
Nursery Care	Cari Chacon
Custodian	Doug Klein
Pianist	Jackie Wood
Choir Director	Julie Jones

Church Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 9 am - 3 pm
Closed Thursday & Friday

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.***

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Highlight Submissions Due October 24th		1 11:30am Soup Lunch	2 11:30am Soup Lunch	3 8:30am Coffee w/ Rev. AM 10am Feel Good Fitness Office Closed	4 Office Closed	5
6 10am Worship, Communion Sunday School	7 10am Feel Good Fitness	8 8:30am CJoyYoga All Levels 11:30am Soup Lunch 3 pm Worship Meeting	9 10am CJoy Gentle Yoga 11:30am Soup Lunch	10 8:30am Coffee w/ Rev. AM 8:30am CJoyYoga All Levels 10am Feel Good Fitness 5:30pm Trustees Mtg 6:30pm Youngist GameNite	11 10am CJoy Gentle Yoga Office Closed	12 8:30am CJoyYoga All Levels
13 10am Worship, Sunday Sch	14 10am Feel Good Fitness 12pm NCF Meeting 1:00pm Stewardship Mtg	15 8:30am CJoyYoga All Levels 11:30am Soup Lunch 11am CE Meeting	16 10am CJoy Gentle Yoga 11:30am Soup Lunch	17 8:30am CJoyYoga All Levels 10am Feel Good Fitness 8:30am Coffee w/ Rev. AM Office Closed	18 10am CJoy Gentle Yoga Office Closed	19 8:30am CJoyYoga All Levels 9:00am Men's Breakfast
20 10am Worship, Sunday Sch Stewardship Kick Off 3pm Chili Cook Off & Talent Show 3:45pm Christian Aid Dinner	21 10am Feel Good Fitness	22 8:30am CJoyYoga All Levels 11:30am Soup Lunch 4:00pm Council Mtg	23 10am CJoy Gentle Yoga 11:30am Soup Lunch	24 8:30am CJoyYoga All Levels 10am Feel Good Fitness Office Closed	25 10am CJoy Gentle Yoga Office Closed	26 8:30am CJoyYoga All Levels 1pm Cheryl Pira Service & Reception
27 10am Worship, Sunday Sch	28 10am Feel Good Fitness	29 11:30am Soup Lunch	30 11:30am Soup Lunch	31 8:30am Coffee w/ Rev. AM 8:30am CJoyYoga All Levels 10am Feel Good Fitness Office Closed		

Please note that this information is subject to change and does not reflect non-church events. For the most accurate calendar schedule, visit <https://www.fccwallawalla.org/> and select Full Calendar.

Before planning or scheduling any event please contact the office to verify availability