

Communicator

September 2011

*Nurturing Faith,
Growing Community,
and Sowing Seeds of Justice and Peace on the Palouse*

When despair for the world grows
within me and I wake in the night
at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my
children's lives may be,

I go and lie down where the wood
drake rests in his beauty on the
water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild
things who do not tax their lives
with forethought of grief.

I come into the presence of still
water. And I feel above me the
day-blind stars waiting with their
light.

For a time I rest in the grace of
the world, and am free.

--Wendell Berry

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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Fear kills faith. Fear fills us in subtle ways so that we no longer risk pain or loss or failure. Why, I wonder? Why does fear so easily fill us? Some individuals fear more than others, but as collectives-- as communities or groups or societies-- we humans are frighteningly powerful when fear is at the forefront. When fear takes over and spreads, many more laudable emotions and intentions get trampled.

In a world of endless possibilities, endless possibilities exist for damage to be done. In a world of relative comfort, affluence, and "little pink houses for you and me", the possibility of loss is constant and endless. Security, we are told, is what we should seek and it is what we should protect for ourselves under any circumstance. We hear this whisper urging us toward security in the back of our minds, but where does it come from? It may begin with those who make a living off of those who live in fear, and it may find solid ground in what we have many times called common sense, but it thrives and grows inside of us: keeping us from even considering certain choices. These choices are the risky ones, the choices that might lead to an abiding freedom. The irony is that they may lead to that freedom through the loss we experience when we take a risk and things don't turn out.

As people of faith, we both seek and follow God. In seeking, we imagine the Divine, we sift through scripture, we pay attention to Jesus' life and teachings, we listen to our neighbors, we gaze upon the world and cultivate loving eyes and open hearts. And we follow by making choices, all kinds of them, every day. By making choices we move through life rather than remaining completely static. And if none of these little choices involve risk, we simply don't move as much. Our realm of experience becomes well explored and eventually doesn't offer much except the security that we think we know what happens next (a paycheck, protection, getting more of what we enjoy, etc...)

How do we make choices then that are on the one hand risky enough to help us mature into living rich, interdependent lives, but on the other hand are not plain stupid? That may be the 100,000 dollar question (or one of them). Jesus said "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12:2) Perhaps, as we allow ourselves to be given and used and become more connected with the life around us, we lose what we have been for the nurturing of the life around us. May this teaching help us not to fear, but to trust the God who is all around us in what Wendell Berry calls "the grace of the world."

Blessings on all our risky choices,

Chip

CHOIR BEGINS - SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

*Anyone who would like to,
please come and sing!
All are welcome!*



Adult Choir rehearses at 9 am on Sundays, prior to 10:30 worship.

ALL CHURCH RETREAT Sept. 16-18 N-Sid-Sen

Don't miss this opportunity to get away and really relax at our beautiful N-Sid-Sen Camp and Conference Center. The weekend begins on Friday evening after dinner and goes until Sunday afternoon. The retreat will include some group projects, some opportunities to learn and discuss on a topic, and lots of free time to hike, play games and just be in this beautiful part of creation.



Norris Holstad

To Register and find out more details on cost and what to bring, go to www.pullmanucc.org
You can also find info and sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

On a sad note, Camp Director Randy Crowe and Camp Cook, Mary Japenga are both retiring later this year, so this will be our last church retreat with them. Come and enjoy Randy's hospitality and Mary's great cooking!

LEARNING COMMUNITY BEGINS

Learning Community would like to welcome everyone back to a new year. We had a great summer with our combined younger group with many fun activities that the children really enjoyed. Chip planned and coordinated the older children on some weeks to work with them on age appropriate activities. It was a short but fun summer.

Learning Community classes began our regular schedule on August 28th. The nursery is welcoming back Annelise for another year. We will also be hiring a second person this month to help in the nursery. The Preschool/Kindergarten class is excited for both of the teachers to be returning for another year, Mary Wandschneider and Sue Kreikemeier. The 1st through 4th grade class will be taught by a number of people volunteering for a month block of time instead of a whole year commitment. Hope Tinney, and Monique Slipher & Jon Carlson will be teaching during September. The 5th - 8th grade group will have Phil Wandschneider returning, with the addition of Tiffany VanArsdel. Jonathan Bliss has graciously agreed to return for another year with the high school students.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING

WHEN: Saturday, September 10
9:00 am - noon.

*Continental Breakfast at 8:30am

WHO: All parents, teachers, and adults who care for children and youth.

WHERE: CCUCC Fellowship Hall

COST: \$10.00 (for participant workbook)

Stewards of Children is the only nationally available program scientifically proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and change child-protective behaviors. This revolutionary program is for any responsible adult who cares about the welfare of children. It is also appropriate for youth-serving organizations. Find out more at <http://www.d21.org/>

Our Trainer: Kathy Croston works with Pend Oreille Crime Victims Services. She comes highly recommended and is a trained facilitator of Stewards of Children.

Our church has a strong commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all children and youth. One way we fulfill this most sacred trust is to do our best to learn how to help prevent child sexual abuse. Please consider joining us in this important work!

We need a headcount for this training and space is limited, so call the church office or send an email to Chip by Sun, September 4.

NEW WEBSITE, SAME OL' ADDRESS!



The church website looks new, but you can find it at the same address, www.pullmanucc.org. Please take a look the next time you are online. We are still adding content (you'll notice a few pages filled only with good intentions), so please make suggestions about what you'd like to see there by emailing me. This website makes it easy for a number of us to add content quickly, so we will be using it as one way to share information with church participants, while also giving church shoppers and spiritual seekers a place to get to know who we are and what we do. Jenine Cordon did a wonderful job creating the site by customizing a Wordpress template. Thanks Jenine!

Chip

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Along with the new website, we hope to be able to supply news in a more timely way than we currently do with the printing and mailing of the monthly newsletter. We will not do away with the print version (although it may look different), but we will only be sending it to those who request a print copy. The e-newsletter will arrive in your inbox 1-2 times a month, will be briefer, and will point readers to further reading on the website. We'll begin all of this next month.

So, please let Ruthie (332-6411, pullmanucc@frontier.com) know if you would like to continue to receive a print copy of the Communicator in the mail. If we don't hear from you, we'll assume you don't want this mailing.

2012 BUDGET & MISSION DISCUSSION

Your voice is needed...

With fall just around the corner, it is time for us to re-energize around the budget issues addressed in the informal survey and dinner conversations we had after last January's annual congregational meeting when we approved our 2011 Operating Budget. It goes without saying that our economies—nation's, CCUCC's & personal—have not improved, which means that we will be refocusing our attention on the 2012 Operating Budget in the months to come.

This fall, the Church Council will send out a survey that you'll be asked to fill out. The survey results will help us prioritize our ministries to better match the needs and resources of the church. The Council is relying on all of us to participate fully in order to make the survey as meaningful as possible.

As we deal with changing demographics, differing approaches to giving, and disheartening financial truths, our collective efforts will develop solutions beneficial to everyone.

LOOKING TOWARD ADVENT “My Soul Magnifies God's Spirit: Human moments/Sacred lessons”

Sometimes we call them “God moments” . . . a single incident happens in our lives that teaches us a larger lesson, that “grows us” into a new person. It may be a moment of joy or sorrow, a moment that connects our personal story to God's story of hope, joy, new beginnings, peace, justice, transformation.

Advent is a season that invites us to consider these moments, and we want to put together a series of Advent reflections that tell your stories around this theme. Do you have a “moment” to share? We invite you to let Kristine know that you would like to share, write a reflection of 600 words or less, and get your writing to Kristine by October 15th. Kristine is also looking for artists who willing to take some of these writings, or their own “moments,” and create visual representations of them (if you are interested and willing to create a piece, please also let Kristine know).

Our goal is to make the stories and images available both through the church web site as well as in “hard copy” form for people to use and reflect upon during the season of Advent. For more information, or to let Kristine know that you would like to participate, please contact her (kristine@pullman.com).

A WORD ABOUT CELL PHONES AND STAYING IN TOUCH



As some of you may have noticed, the ways we communicate with each other have changed quite a bit in the past 10-20 years. At times we notice change more as a bump than a smooth, gradual movement. I think one of those bumps has been felt this year. Many people, our family included, have chosen to discontinue 'land-lines' and use only our cell phones. Only recently has this begun to make financial sense and only recently has the quality and coverage been reliable enough to warrant the change. As more and more of us choose to do this, we've run into a problem. For the first time since the introduction of the home telephone, we don't have easy access to one another's phone numbers. There is no "Yellow Pages" for cell phone numbers. Despite the lack of public directory of residents' names and numbers, we do stay in touch. We stay in touch with the people who are members (formal or informal) of our various groups and affiliations. In short, we stay in touch with those people with whom we have a reason to be in touch. We compile a church directory to help participants at CCUCC to communicate with each other and hopefully you'll help us keep that updated as your contact information changes. This becomes more important to us as more individuals and families use only cell phones.

You'll note that my cell phone number (as well as numbers for other family members) is listed in the church directory. This is the way I prefer to be contacted. If I am busy or don't want to be interrupted for any reason (ie, sipping a Mai Tai on a sandy beach) I don't answer, but you can leave a message and I'll check it when I'm available. Many of us know this routine, but I am aware that some of us don't use cell phones as a primary way of communicating, so just know that for those of us who do, we prefer it.

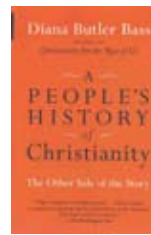
Please know how important it is that the church office has your contact information. It helps us all build our community network.

--Chip

UCC RAVELERS' GROUP

Are you on Ravelry (www.ravelry.com, social networking for knitters)? Join us in the UCC Ravelers' group, a forum to discuss current events, theological issues, and of course knitting and crocheting. Questions about Ravelry or how to find the UCC group, contact Stephanie Kane (on Ravelry as 'statknitter' or via email, slkane@pullman.com).

Community Congregational United Church of Christ



MONDAY BOOK GROUP Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

The Monday evening book discussion group continues this fall. The book we'll be reading is A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story, by Dorothy Butler Bass. Anyone is invited to join in the discussion. We'll start on September 19. Send an email to Chip or sign up in the Narthex to order a book. (\$10.00)

Sowing Seeds of Justice & Peace . . .



CROP HUNGER WALK October 9, 2:00 pm

Save the date! Plan now to join your friends and neighbors for our Pullman-Moscow CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 9, 2:00 p.m., gathering at the Pullman trailhead of the Chipman Trail, on Bishop Blvd. near the Quality Inn. You can help alleviate hunger here on the Palouse and around the world. It's fun, and it's good for your soul! For more information or to volunteer for logistical work ahead of time, call 332-6252 or 332-1620.



THRIFT SHOP NEWS Now on Facebook! Half off October 4-7!

Did you know that our Thrift Shop is now on Facebook? You can become a "friend" and be notified of important sales and other events by going to www.facebook.com and typing in "Thrift Shop Pullman." There you will be able to request becoming a "friend." Please tell those who like our Shop to become a Facebook friend. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Our fall **HALF OFF EVERYTHING** sale is coming up **October 4-7.**

YOGA, ANYONE?

Yoga is a practice that develops strength and focus, as well as teaching us to create connections between body, mind and spirit. Kristine teaches a multi-level yoga class on Fridays from 1:00 – 2:00 (she will be away October 7th). The suggested donation per class is \$5.00 and the proceeds go to fund the church outreach fund, for those with emergency needs. Please contact Kristine to ask questions or feel free to join us!

MEDITATION GROUP IS “REGROUPING”

For the past few years we have had a meditation group that offers 15 minutes of suggestions for practice and 15 minutes of silent meditation. Due to some schedule changes, we are again checking in to find out if people are interested in participating and finding the best time for all who are interested. If you have interest in participating in this group, please contact Kristine by email (kristine@pullman.com) and let her know what days/times are best for you.

FRIENDS OF HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

September 6, 2011 thru October 25, 2011
Tuesday Evenings 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
in Colfax, WA

Gather with others in a safe, supportive environment, for care, compassion, and resources.

The loss may be recent or from a long time ago.

This group will be facilitated by Annie Pillers, Hospice Bereavement Volunteer and Penny Weagraff.

For more information and to register, please contact:

Annie Pillers at 509-595-1129
or email: griefsupport@palouse.com
Website - www.friendsofhospice.net

Birthdays and Anniversaries* for August:

- 5 Beth Powers
- 6 *Kim Dye & Linda James
- 6 Jennie Brown
- 13 Karl Johanson
- 15 Tricia Grantham
- 16 *Barb & Bob Johnson
- 17 John Kramer
- 17 Eleanore Evenson
- 17 *John & Amy Roberson
- 17 Ray Story
- 18 Erich Lear
- 24 *Stephen & Donna Holstad
- 24 Barbara Johnson

Birthdays and Anniversaries* for September:

- 1 *Jeanne & Norris Holstad
- 2 *Steve Patton & Stephanie Kane
- 3 *Ed & Marge Bennett
- 3 *Karl & MaryAnn Boehmke
- 9 Harriett Harrington
- 11 Gary Schell
- 12 Diane Worthey
- 13 *Ralph & Ardis Hauser
- 13 *Marianne & Wally Peterson
- 16 Tim Paulitz
- 17 Jared Holstad
- 19 *Bob & Marj Grunewald
- 19 Stephanie Kane
- 20 Nicholas Lovrich
- 20 *Nick & Katherine Lovrich
- 22 Nancy Nydegger
- 28 Bee Luck
- 29 Jeanne Holstad
- 24 Barbara Johnson

We remember in our prayers the family of **Fern Bartlett** who passed away in July.



Thank you so very much to all of our church friends who attended the memorial services for my mother, Fern Bartlett, and who sent cards, flowers and e-mails to me, Don and my father, Roy Bartlett. It was wonderful to feel your love and support and we very much appreciate the prayers and good thoughts of so many dear friends. Monica Peters

Community Congregational
United Church of Christ
525 N.E. Campus Ave.
Pullman, WA 99163

Non-Profit Organ.
U.S. Postage Paid
Pullman, WA
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Return Service
Requested

Dates to Remember (see inside for details)

WORSHIP AND LEARNING COMMUNITY NOW AT 10:30 AM!

September	10	Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training
September	11	Choir Rehearsals Start - 9 am
September	16-18	All Church Retreat at N-Sid-Sen
September	21	All Boards Meeting
October	9	CROP Hunger Walk



Remember to visit our Thrift Shop
for the best bargains in town . . .
and spread the word to others!

Hours:

Tuesdays: 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Thursdays & Fridays: 12 noon - 4 pm

HALF OFF EVERYTHING - OCT. 4-7

CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR:

REV. KRISTINE ZAKARISON

kristine@pullman.com

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

REV. CHIP LAIRD

chiplaird1@gmail.com

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

RUTHIE FISHER

pullmanucc@frontier.com

LC COORDINATOR:

CHANDRA CROW

ORGANIST/PIANIST:

KATHY SPENCER

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

SHEILA CONVERSE

NURSERY CARE:

ANNELISE SMITH

CONTACT US

509-332-6411

pullmanucc@frontier.com

On the Web at:
www.pullmanucc.org