

Communicator

November/December 2011

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

Dear Friends,

This is a time of year where we go out and “hunt” for things. Whether it’s the right tree or the perfect gift, a meaningful charitable activity or just something that will help us to connect with the truer meaning of the season underneath all of the hype, we have a tendency to be searching around for something during the Advent season. We may even want to find the right resource to help us find our way into the Sacred during these dark days.

How strange that the mood of Advent is so different from our own tendencies! What if Advent has to do, not so much with our outward searching, but with creating a spacious place within ourselves where we can be found? Even if we don’t find ourselves to be “prepared” or “ready,” a wise, anonymous writer reminds us that “. . . the whole mystery of our faith is that God is not reluctant to come into an unusual relationship (like Mary and Joseph’s) or to be born in the poverty of a makeshift stable.” We don’t need to “get it all right” or “get our act together” – This season reminds us that God’s deepest longing is to be born into our midst, just as things are in this moment and our lives.

On the church website at pullmanucc.org you will find several writings that wonderful members of our community have shared, in which they tell their own stories of moments in which God has entered into their midst. Some of them are unlikely – moments of struggle, hopelessness, busyness, synchronicity. God born in the midst of unlikely places and situations. I hope that you will take a bit of time to read what they have shared, and add to the conversation by sharing thoughts, responses, writings, images, perhaps even “God moments” of your own.

Sometimes, when pushed to our limit, we are able to let go, let God be, and we find, in some unexpected fashion, God enters in. Here’s my own version of a conclusion many spiritual writers have drawn: God loves your empty hands, if only you are willing to open them up in a gesture of gentleness, humility, and love. May we lovingly release our empty hands and open hearts into this season, so that God may once again be born into our midst.

Peace,
Kristine

You can access these writings on our website by navigating to “Advent Moments” in the “Dialogue” section of the drop-down menu, or by entering the following address in your browser:
<http://pullmanucc.org/category/dialogue/advent-moments/>

*“Many of us are in
an ideal place
to begin Advent,
but we don’t know it.*

*. . . Advent is about
letting God come to us.
We do the letting and
God does the coming.”*

*– Praying Advent,
Creighton Collaborative*

jh

**God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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**ADVENT EVENT
LUNCH AND GIFT MAKING
Sunday, December 4 - after worship**

Back by popular demand! Hope Tinney is spearheading this wonderful event where children and adults will have opportunities to make handmade gifts (all materials will be provided). The CE Board will again provide a lunch of yummy homemade soups and breads to start us off.



Chandra will be helping to get materials ready. Chandra and CE Board members will be helping Hope help children and adults create their gifts to give to family and friends. If you have

an idea of a gift that you think would be appropriate, please contact Chandra and she can arrange to purchase the supplies.

Supplies needed for the Advent Event:

used mason jars and lids, or spaghetti bottles and tops
votive candle holders and/or candles

Please place these in the box in Chandra's office.
Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS DINNER - SUN, DEC. 11
Sunday, December 11 - after worship**

The annual Christmas dinner is scheduled for December 11th following church services.
Volunteers are needed to:

- [1] set up for the dinner and decorate
- [2] prepare the meal
- [3] serve
- [4] clean up
- [5] cook turkeys, **which we can supply**, in their own kitchens



As always, we need cookies or other seasonal sweets for dessert. **There are now sign up sheets for each of the activities in the narthex.** You may sign up for any or all of the tasks.

If you have questions, contact Roger Chapman before or after church or at 334-5636. Any suggestions for improving the dinner would be appreciated.

**CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM**

**Sunday, Dec. 18,
during worship**

**Dress Rehearsal-
Sat. Dec. 17,
10:30 am**



Our Children's Christmas Program "The Pageant of Deliverance" will be on December 18th during worship. All children are encouraged and welcomed to be a part of the pageant. On Saturday, December 17th at 10:30 am we will have a rehearsal and costume fitting. Please let me know if your child will not be able to attend the rehearsal so that we can get them a costume. Anyone who would be interested in helping me with costumes on December 17th or beforehand, please email me at chancrow@gmail.com.

-- Chandra Crow, Learning Community Coordinator

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Our church will sponsor its annual "Christmas Giving Tree" for Pullman's Community Action Center (CAC). The tree will be set up by the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 27th, with gift tags on the tree. Please select a tag or tags and purchase the listed item/s. Bring your item/s back to the church in a sack (**unwrapped**) and leave under the tree. Please bring packages by **NO LATER THAN MON, DEC. 19.** Each year we

provide many clothing items, toys, children's books, small appliances, diapers, blankets, personal care products etc. for CAC families. These are families that sometimes "fall through the cracks" at Christmas time. They may be new to the community or for various reasons can not get DSHS assistance. They are often struggling to make ends meet. Let's open our hearts and pocketbooks for our local families in need. Questions



-- call MaryAnn Boehmke at 332-5768 or email her at pullmanmab@frontier.com

THE LONGEST NIGHT

Thursday, December 15, 7:00 pm

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without loved family members or friends who have recently died. Our society's emphasis on family and togetherness can highlight the loneliness of those who are separated from loved ones. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. Many of us need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. The Longest Night provides an opportunity to do that with ritual,



reflection, and singing. On **Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:00 p.m.** you are invited to gather with people from the Moscow/Pullman area to remember the light of God's presence in the midst of the darkness.

NEW YEAR'S LABYRINTH

Sunday, January 1, 2012, 12 pm - 5 pm

The labyrinth is an ancient tool for prayer. Similar to a maze, but with only one path into the center (so you can't lose your way), the labyrinth has guided spiritual pilgrims on their journeys for at least 4,000 years. It began to be used in Christian churches as early as 350 CE, and has made a comeback in recent years by offering a chance to take time out from busy lives to reflect and pray in a different way. Walking a labyrinth offers the opportunity to pray with our bodies. It has been a meaningful practice for many throughout the ages. During the last week of 2011, we'll be setting up a beautiful labyrinth, candles, music, and a variety of creative arts and journaling ideas in order to help you reflect on your past year and explore your hopes for 2012. If this sounds like it would be helpful to you or someone you know, please drop in anytime between 12:00 and 5:00pm on New Year's Day (following our regular worship).



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Saturday, Dec. 24, 5:30 pm

*Come on this holy night
to sing carols,
hear the Christmas Story,
and celebrate
the joy!*



As is our custom for this service, our offering will be given to the "Christmas Fund" of the UCC. For 106 years, the Christmas Fund Offering has been a way in which we, as members of the UCC and its predecessor bodies, have shown Christ's compassion to those who serve the church. Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, and emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees each year. The need is greater than ever in these economic times, so please consider giving generously to this fund!

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:30 am

Join together as a family to worship this Christmas Morning! The service will be family friendly and will include stories and favorite carols!

THANKSGIVING STORIES AT BISHOP PLACE

Sat., Nov. 26, 2-3:30 PM

Come hear the Thanksgiving stories that our Bishop Place friends have to share. We will meet in the Independent Living Social Room on Sat., Nov. 26th from 2-3:30 pm. All ages welcome! We will meet on Saturday, November 26 from 2-3:30 pm in the Independent Living Social room at Bishop Place (815 SE Klemgard). Please join us and connect with residents who have a hard time getting to church. This group plans to continue to meet on the **last Saturday of each month**. Any variation from this date will be announced in the Sunday am bulletin. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to get this group off the ground! Questions? Contact Diane Worthey at 509-332-8322 or diworthey@gmail.com

SCIENCE AND FAITH GROUP

Join the conversation in the new year!

25-30 of us are reading "The Language of God" by Francis S. Collins, former head of the Human Genome Project and current Director of the N.I.H. Collins thoughts and personal experience raise interesting questions. If you'd like to share your own questions or comments, join us on the church website at "Science and Faith Group" in the Dialogue section of the drop-down menu. <http://pullmanucc.org/category/dialogue/science-and-faith-group/>

ADDRESS, PHONE OR EMAIL UPDATES
PLEASE GIVE TO RUTHIE AT THE OFFICE --
332-6411 or pullmanucc@frontier.com
The church directory will be updated. THANKS!

written by Monique Slipher

The Reverend Horace C. Mason, an Englishman, arrived in Pullman from Victoria, B.C. in October of 1897 with his family, and preached his first sermon in the Congregational Church the very next day. Apparently the church wasn't quite ready for them, as the same issue of the Pullman Herald reported, "The contract for building an addition to the Congregational parsonage has been let. (It) was not built for a family, and is not large enough to accommodate Mr. M. and his household." Just before his arrival, the church's trustees had voted on a salary of \$900/year for Rev. Mason, and also pledged sixty dollars toward the cost of the new parsonage addition, "estimated at \$187, with out paint". Finances remained tight for a while, as it was not until the summer of 1903 that both church and parsonage finally got repainted!

Rev. Mason proved to be a very popular pastor in his seven years in Pullman, and kept the church vigorous during a time of financial difficulty for the congregation. According to Otho West, our longtime church historian and essayist, he "brought to the church and to the town an aura of some Victorian charm and gentility not found in Western small towns. Always well attired, always immaculately dressed. Sunday and weekdays almost the same. He always carried a gold beaded cane, walked with a slight limp with one foot coming down to earth with a decided slap." (He had lost a leg.) "During the morning service, while hymn singing, his gaze was usually upward toward the painted sky-blue ceiling and the heavens above. The year following his arrival in Pullman, the 1898 Spanish-American War was going full blast....An issue of the Pullman Herald reported on Rev. Mason's sermons regarding United States involvement in the conflict. His talks drew large audiences." (Otho was a child during Mason's tenure, and remembered him quite well.)

Otho also describes Mason's role as presiding officer and often also clerk at the monthly Trustee's meetings, which were usually "short and to the point". At the church's annual meeting (held then, as now, each January), reports from the various committees and officers were heard, but notably, no budget for the coming year was on the agenda. "It was gotten up as the year progressed, an if and when deal of a sort." (So there have been worse budget scenarios than what our church faces today—at least now we plan ahead each year!)

Like pastors before and after him, Rev. Mason played an active role in the daily life of the broader Pullman community, and the local paper reported on his various obligations frequently. During his first summer in town he gave the invocation for the Washington Agricultural College's graduating class, and joined President Bryan and Professor Fulmer on a committee

for the "oratory, literary and musical" program for the town's 4th of July celebration. He presided over weddings around the county "in his elegant and impressive manner", sometimes playing piano too, and put a lot of time into the young people's activities, delivering for their weekly evening service sermons such as "A Jewel in the Mud", "Religious Dilettantism", and "Young People and Pleasure".

An October, 1898 reception for the college students included a welcome speech by Mason that was "unique and original, as is characteristic of all the reverend gentleman's addresses". Of course, the event also included "refreshments served, (and) games played for a most pleasant evening until eleven o'clock".

As was typical of newspapers in those days, however, the Herald reported on Reverend Mason's personal life just as frequently. Sadly, he and his wife lost their 14-month old daughter Beryl in August of that year to "inflammation of the bowels" after several days of illness. The funeral of their "bright and beloved child" was held in their parsonage home, with Rev. Walters of Colfax assisting. The next few summers must have been happier, as the Reverend is variously reported as being "on the headwaters of the St. Joe", or visiting his brother in Medical Lake. In 1901 he and his family "established a summer camp" at Medical Lake where they spent a good month. Apparently this was a common vacation destination for Pullman folks in those days, as other families were recorded as doing the same. It seems one's privacy was just as hard to preserve in the Pullman of a century ago as it can be today—only the media have changed!

In January of 1904 Reverend Mason was called to University Congregational Church in Seattle, (from which he later retired) and turned in his resignation to the church board. In their formal acceptance letter, the members graciously acknowledged Mrs. Mason also, "who in every capacity has performed her part with the faithfulness, ability and tact of an ideal pastor's wife." (If only her name had been recorded somewhere...) It's clear from the Herald column attached, dated Jan. 23, 1904, that the Masons left both the church and the town a better place.

Rev. Mr. Mason to Leave.

It is with a feeling of deepest regret that Pullman learns of the decision of Rev. H. C. Mason to leave this city to accept the pastorate of the Congregational church at University Station, Seattle, the pastor having announced his resignation last Sunday.

Mr. Mason has been pastor of the local Congregational church for the past seven or eight years, and has won the friendship and regard, not only of his congregation, but of the entire city. His church has flourished under his charge, and his preaching of the gospel has certainly prospered the cause of christianity.

Mr. Mason and his estimable family will be missed from Pullman, but they will not be long in making a large circle of friends in their new home.

Mr. Mason will not leave for about four weeks, his successor not yet having been named.

CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE THE GENEROSITY AND COMMITMENT OF OUR CONGREGATION!

Thank you and congratulations for a very successful stewardship season.

By stewardship Sunday on Nov. 13 we were able to announce a very successful conclusion to our pledge campaign for the 2012 annual church budget. When we started planning for 2012 it seemed that with the decreasing number of pledging families and a tough local economy it was prudent to plan for cutbacks in church programs even including reductions in the pastors' work time and compensation. To support this spending level we expected about 94 pledging families for \$208,000 based on the pattern of 2011.

Our congregation has far exceeded this goal: up to now we have received 104 pledges for almost \$237,000! The formal asking budget presented at the congregational meeting on Nov. 20 reflects this good news by restoring full funding at the 2011 level to all programming areas: deacons, CE, pastors' compensation, and our pastoral insurance fund contribution to the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC. In addition our Thrift Shop's offer to increase their monthly contribution to the church will not be needed, so those funds will continue to be available to fulfill the Thrift Shop's mission. And, upon approval at the November 20 meeting, a new "contingency" line in the budget will be created to protect against the uncertainty associated with a budget as large as ours has become.

With great gratitude the church staff and volunteers thank the members and other contributors who not only gave generously to maintain the vitality of the church but did so speedily. During a time when finances seem uncertain for many, we are truly grateful for the pledges of support for the upcoming year. The budgeting process is nearly complete, and we are now able to finalize contracts for church staff with confidence and focus on the important work we do together as a community.

On Behalf of the Ways and Means Committee and the Resources for Ministry Committee,
Carl Hauser and Debbie Handy



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*
FOR NOVEMBER

- Ronda McLean
- *Bruce & Barbara Palmer
- Kayla Worthey
- Reed Spurling
- Muriel Lamb
- Norris Holstad
- Kym Dye
- Herb Hill
- Lee Bamesberger
- Tyler Matthew Patton



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*
FOR DECEMBER

- Jann Hill
- Doug Hindman
- *JoAnn & Ray Story
- Jane Lear
- Maxine Bamesberger
- Herb Stratton
- Linda James
- Judy Sorem Windsor
- Miriam Stratton
- Katherine Lovrich
- Kathleen Butts
- *Karl Johanson & Bobbie Ryder
- Walfred Peterson
- Jonathan Bliss
- Wesley McLean
- Lee Powers
- Mary Carloye

**THRIFT SHOP OPEN
TWO SUNDAYS
MONTHLY**



- Dec. 4 - Proceeds to Youth Mission Trip**
- Dec. 18 - Added shopping for the congregation**

There will be Christmas items and lots of creative gift ideas that are inexpensive and appreciated. Come, shop, and know that you are recycling for the benefit of others.

We invite you to "friend" us on Facebook at Thrift Shop Pullman and get the latest info on what's available in the Shop. Phone: 334-6632

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

Non-Profit Organ.
U.S. Postage Paid
Pullman, WA
Permit No. 52

Return Service

DATES TO REMEMBER (see inside for details)

November	24	Happy Thanksgiving!
November	26	Thanksgiving Stories at Bishop Place - 2-3:30 pm
December	1	Personnel Committee Meeting -
December	4	Advent Event - Lunch and Gift Making - after worship
December	10	Adult Choir Rehearsal - 10 am
December	11	Adult Choir Program - during worship
December	11	Annual Christmas Dinner - after worship
December	15	Longest Night Service - 7 pm
December	17	Rehearsal for Children's Program - 10:30 am
December	18	Children's Christmas Program - during worship
December	19	Articles due for January Communicator
December	24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - 5:30 pm
December	25	Worship on Christmas Day
January	1	New Year's Labyrinth - 12-5 pm



**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**

Open after church - 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR:
REV. KRISTINE ZAKARISON
kristine@pullman.com

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:
REV. CHIP LAIRD
chiplaird1@gmail.com

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RUTHIE FISHER
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LC COORDINATOR:
CHANDRA CROW

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CHOIR DIRECTOR:
SHEILA CONVERSE

NURSERY CARE:
ANNELISE SMITH &
SARAH RABINE

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