



NEWSSETTE

The Newslette is a monthly publication of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Keeping in Touch: We Need Your Input

We've learned a lot about how to keep you better informed about the life of the congregation when we're not meeting in person, but we can still do better. We're exploring a phone service that allows us to make voice calls and send text message updates. We envision using this for prayer requests, emergency updates, and critical reminders only, so you won't be overwhelmed by phone calls or texts. But before we invest in this tool we need to know: would you be interested in receiving these periodic updates by phone or text? Please email or call us at the church to let us know so we can explore this new possibility for keeping connected!

—STAYING—

CONNECTED

Covid Care and Re-Opening – Are You Vaccinated?

After conversations among our elders, we've reached the conclusion that knowing how many of our members are vaccinated will help us form better plans for returning to in-person activities. Because we're talking about your health information, this is completely voluntary and it is up to you to decide whether to share that information. If you're willing, please contact us at the church office and let us know the date (or scheduled date) for your final vaccine shot. We're continuing to monitor the situation here in Kitsap County and will keep you posted as we flesh out our plans for returning to the sanctuary. In the meantime, regardless of whether you share your immunization info, please continue to pray for each other as we make our way through this pandemic mess!



A Different Look for Leadership

Last month, my focus was on worship and setting up a series of conversations we've now begun. (And they're ongoing – you can still join in!) This month, let's shift gears and think about congregational leadership. Like my Lincoln Logs from the last Newsette column, I'm wondering if we're using our building blocks in a way that works best for us – First Christian in Bremerton in 2021 – or if we're holding onto an old structure simply because it's the one we have. Like my childhood toys, the blessing of being Disciples of Christ is that we control worship life, our organizational structure, and how we minister. Basically, we have the option to break things down to their individual parts and put them back in order to help us do our best ministry for today.

Now, I know this will seem like a bit of a tease because I'm going to cut the conversation short on the details for now. Honestly, it's a much bigger conversation than what I can fit into a column and it needs to be an actual *conversation* – not a one-way communique from pastor to congregant throwing out a bunch of new ideas. So, I want to begin by introducing one of them – reimagining lay leadership and bringing the voice of the whole church more fully into our worship life. This could involve a lot of things, but one of them is to create space to hear from each other – and not solely your pastor. I like the idea of reclaiming the practice of testimony or witness, and am grateful to Jason Chuma for sharing a written testimony of his own that both demonstrates my point while arguing for it at the same time! It's time to think about re-birth for the church, and Jason offers some wonderful insights on our call to be renewed as a Pentecost people. So I'm going to sign off a little early and offer my space to Jason to help us explore a different look for leadership in the church.

Yours on our shared Pentecost journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Chuma".

The Holy Spirit: God In Us

By Jason Chuma

I write this as a bit of a testament from a lifelong Disciple. First Christian Church of Bremerton is now the 5th Disciples of Christ church that I have attended regularly, and to be totally honest, I think our denomination isn't all that great at talking about the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge all three parts of the Holy Trinity, but we tend to be very Jesus centric in our teachings and discussions. I didn't realize this until I was dating Sallie. She was raised a Methodist, so at one point I asked her what the fire was behind the cross that you see in front of every Methodist church. She was a little surprised that I didn't know it was the Holy Spirit that came to the Disciples at Pentecost in the 2nd chapter of Acts. This motivated me to dig a little deeper into my understanding of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit came to Christ's followers in the form of fire and filled them with the power to spread the gospel. As it says in verse 4, “⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” God wanted them to spread the gospel of Jesus, so he gave them the additional skills necessary and removed the barrier of foreign language from them. He gave them the power to preach the good news, that power came from the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit led them to many nations of the world to preach the gospel.

This power from the Holy Spirit was not limited to the select few apostles who received it on that day. The Holy Spirit is within all of us and can and should empower us. As Peter said in Acts 2:38-39, “repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” We have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. It gives us the strength to do God's work, and through us, the Holy Spirit is shown to others where God's work is done with enthusiasm.

Many Disciples give a lot of attention to Christmas (where we received Christ), and to Easter (where we received Salvation), but not as much to Pentecost (where we received the Holy Spirit). Emmanuel means God WITH Us. Calvary means God FOR Us. But Pentecost means God IN Us. Many have been to Calvary for salvation and feel that their journey stops there. Calvary gives you pardon, but Pentecost gives you power; the power of the Holy Spirit to go forth and do as he has commanded. The Holy Spirit which resides in us gives us the power to have an alive and active faith.

Pentecost is the coming of the Spirit into your heart, and manifesting the power of God in your life. The Holy Spirit is our helper, our comforter, and our guide. Let it fill you and let it transform you as it transformed the apostles during Pentecost in Acts 2. The Spirit moves. Let it move in you. Amen.

Around our Church



Easter Memorials for 2021

We're still adjusting to the reality of the pandemic – even as we begin to see signs of moving beyond it! However, we're still doing things a bit differently in the meantime. For 2021, we will continue our tradition of making Easter memorials for

loved ones, but instead of buying lilies we will collect small donations (less than \$5) and use them to purchase a new plant for our memorial garden. If you'd like to remember someone, please make a small donation, indicate that it is for the Easter Memorial, and let us know the name or names of the loved one you're honoring.

Maundy Thursday Worship: April 1st at 6:30 PM

Join us for **Maundy Thursday service on April 1st at 6:30 PM** and plan to celebrate life and resurrection on **Easter Sunday** morning in worship together using Zoom.



Second Saturdays: Let's Keep Growing Together

If you're not keeping up with the Northern Lights Regional news, you might've missed the "Second Saturdays" series that began in January. We've explored church transformation and the relationship between Christian theology, the church, and the devastation of Native Americans and are looking ahead to a Lenten Gratitude Retreat in March, exploring Green Chalice Ministries in April, and looking at reconfiguring church for new ministries in May. You can find out more on page 5 of the Newsmagazine, or by visiting <https://northernlightsdisciples.org/second-saturdays/>. If you're interested in attending a Second Saturday or finding out more, please contact Pastor Clint. When there's enough interest, we'll register as a congregation, so please check-in with us first. Let's grow together!



Basement Work Keeps Moving Forward



but we're moving forward. If you've been one of our volunteers helping make a difference – thank you! If you're not but would like to become one,



The "new look" for our basement is slowly but surely coming together! In fact, we're so excited about our progress, we decided to include a couple photos to keep you in the loop. Obviously, we're not done yet



contact Janet Bohnet to get in the loop on work pods and scheduling. Projects tend to pop up quickly, so waiting for the monthly newsletter often means we're too late. But if you're on the contact list, you will be plugged in. Thanks for the support and patience that have made this journey toward a new space for new ministry possible!

Next Council Meeting Tuesday, April 20th @ 6:30 PM



The nominating team has met and will present the slate of officers for the 2021-22 church year. Please plan to attend. If you have other items to add to the agenda, please let Dan Johnson know no later than April 19th.

If your ministry group has had any activity or news to report from the Jan-Mar period, please be sure to turn that into the church office by April 15th so we have time to send it out to everyone on the council.

Backpack Brigade

On April 20th, Bremerton Backpack Brigade will be one of the local nonprofits participating in this year's Kitsap Great Give. The Great Give is a 24 hour day of online giving, to support the vital work of those nonprofits.

Community support means everything to the Brigade. Funds raised through this day of giving, will represent a substantial portion of next years budget. Your donation of any size can make a genuine difference in the lives of hungry children across our community.

On April 20th, all you need to do is look for Kitsap Great Give on your computer, phone, or tablet. You'll see options for donating and be able to read about the work of the Brigade as well as the other participating nonprofits.

Thank you for your support and confidence in the mission of the Brigade. Together we are changing lives!

Myra Battin, Executive Director, BBB



God's Love Goes Deep and Wide

from Northern Lights Reflections Newsletter

The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on March 28 and April 4, 2021, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more. If you are among the leaders in your congregation responsible for planning worship, you can find videos, a speakers bureau, and a communion meditation by Rev. Terri Hord Owens on the Disciples Mission Fund webpage. Your gift has the power to change lives around the world. **Give online now** or through your congregation. Thank you.



Your Gifts: Making the Difference Beyond Our Walls

Your generosity continues to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors – from helping keep cold-weather shelters open to providing meals and sending home backpacks with food for low-income kids. For some, this is their lone encounter with Christ and you help make that happen. Here's a look at the gifts we've passed along to our ministry partners in the past month and what we've shared for the entire year-to-date.

Giving since last Newsletter / Year-to-Date:

Backpack Brigade:	\$100 / 420
Benedict House:	\$210 / 530
Bremerton Foodline:	\$400 / 1615
Coffee Oasis:	\$10 / 30
Congregational Needs:	\$0 / 175
Easter Offering:	\$50 / 50
Global Ministries:	\$100 / 100
Helping Hands:	\$100 / 435
Kitsap Rescue Mission:	\$0 / 250
Salvation Army:	\$10 / 230
Week of Compassion:	\$665 / 1615
YWCA Alive:	\$100 / 190



Speaking of Generosity – Our Region Says Thanks!

We received a letter from the Northern Lights Region extending its gratitude for our support of the wider church in 2020. We received certificates celebrating us as a "6 for 6" congregation for supporting all of the special offerings and recognizing us as being one of top 10 supporters of the wider church from our region. We're posting those certificates on our bulletin board and on our Facebook page if you'd like to check them out for yourself. Thanks for helping us extend our table beyond the walls through our region and our denomination!

Serving Schedule and other Misc. News



Serving Schedule: April 2021
Worship Leader: Janet Bohnet Elder of the Month: Gail Gunning

On-line Church Schedule	<u>April 4</u> Easter Sunday	<u>April 11</u>	<u>April 18</u>	<u>April 25</u>
ELDERS	C Gail Gunning S Dan Johnson	C Dan Johnson S Donna Lathrop	C Donna Lathrop S Edi Parker	C Edi Parker S Janis Castle
SCRIPTURE READER	Donna Altig	Howard Bever	Lisa Meiner	Kristi Denis

Prayers of the People

*Northern Lights Region

*Members of our Faith Community:

John Bristow ~ Evelyn Brittingham

Shirlee Curley ~ Orlaine Clifton ~ Jack Crosby

Susan Evans ~ Eileen Hendrickson ~ Barbara Lee

Lisa Meiner ~ Bob Parker ~ Dave & Esther Rembert

Lauretta Royal ~ Eleanor Sewell ~ Ardithe Swartz

*Pastor Paul Meeker of Our Saviour's Lutheran, recently had surgery to relieve bleeding on his brain. He is recovering at home and in good spirits.



Deaths

Marge Denis transitioned from this life into the next on March 20th surrounded by family and in her home. **Marge** is the mother of **John Denis**. Please keep **John** and the rest of the **family** in your prayers as they mourn her passing.

Minister on the Move (updated for March)

Ash Wednesday arrived on the early side this year, but that doesn't mean we're setting aside our other ministries! Here's a look at your pastor's schedule outside of worship and care.

- Mar. 2 – Northern Lights Clergy (Zoom)
- Mar. 2 – Elders meeting (Zoom)
- Mar. 11 – Webinar: Sanctuary Tech (Zoom)
- Mar. 14 – Regional Board (Zoom)
- Mar. 16 – Elders check-in (Zoom)
- Mar. 17 – WA DOH Covid Vaccine Collaborative (Zoom)
- Mar. 18 – Webinar: Courage of Jesus (FB)
- Mar. 23 – Northern Lights Clergy (Zoom)

Other regular team meetings and pastoral care visits, including fellowship gatherings and open office hours at church on Wednesdays.



Birthdays

- 6 – John Sampson
- 7 – Gary Little
- 8 – Michelle Dawson
- 14 – Emerson Denis
- 14 - Linda Beetz
- 16 – Greg Dawson
- 17 – Arianna Larson
- 17 – Aries Larson
- 18 – Colleen Shorrock
- 20 – Dakota Sampson
- 24 – Susan Evans
- 27 – Pauline Mueller

Anniversaries

- 1 – Linda & Ernie Beetz (40th)
- 14 – Walt & Barbara Lee (70th)

If we missed adding your name or you would like to be removed from this list, please contact us at (360) 373-2444 or hello@bremertondisciples.org to let us know.



Northern Lights Reflections

Articles included in Around Our Region are taken in full or in part from the Northern Lights Reflections Newsletter and other regional sources.

A Moment with the Moderator

Regional Moderator, Rev. John Keener

One of the deeper theological questions I struggle with around Easter is what happens if Jesus sees his shadow when he comes out of the tomb? Do we get six more weeks of Lent?

You will have to pardon me. I get a little punchy towards the end of the Lenten journey . . . especially in this time of pandemic. In typical times I could usually find an escape or release for all the self-examination, discernment, and prayer . . . dinner out with friends, a day with family, a visit to a local brewery . . . just about anything that involved other people. Those were the days! But the pandemic has put a great big kibosh on that. *Facetime* and *Zoom* have been nice substitutes, but they don't get the job done. So . . . I am little punchier than usual this year. And, remember, this is our second season of Lent spent in isolation! So, I hope Jesus doesn't see his shadow on Easter morning. I don't think I could handle another six weeks of Lent.

By the time you read this we will be 17 days from celebrating Easter . . . 17 days from celebrating the resurrection of Jesus . . . 17 days from embracing the gift of God's grace and love. In 17 days, the journey through Lent will be complete and we will have succeeded in accomplishing our task of examination, reclamation, restoration, and tuning up to claim our prize . . . new life with Jesus. We can finally rest! We can catch our breath.

I have always seen the season of Easter as a time of celebration because there is much to celebrate. At the same time, I have come to realize that it is also a time of respite . . . a time of catching our breath. Then the real work begins . . . we follow Jesus, we live his words, and we go forth to do as he did and does. We do the work of Kingdom building.

As difficult as the introspective work of Lent is . . . as fun as the celebration of Easter will be . . . I find the work of the approaching challenge of Pentecost to be the most satisfying. This is what we have been created to be and do . . . to be builders of God's Kingdom wherever we are. And, yes, I know that it will not be easy. It never has been. Yet, that is what we are called to be and do.

So, hang in there for a couple of more weeks. The season of Lent is almost over, and the Jesus shadow thing is just a myth. Enjoy the Easter celebration. Embrace the gift. Catch your breath . . . there is more to come!

Changes to Northern Lights Reflections

Northern Light Reflections will now be delivered on the third Thursday of every month. An alternating front page feature will also be updated; this month you will see a message from our Regional Board Moderator and in April, our Regional Minister will offer a new "Reflections on the Journey" column.

Second Saturdays: Going Deeper- The Practice of Gratefulness

BOOKS

- [Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks](#), Diana Butler Bass, Harper One, 2018.
- [Radical Gratitude](#), Mary Jo Leddy, Orbis Books, 2005.
- [Wake Up Grateful: The Transformative Practice of Taking Nothing for Granted](#), Kristi Nelson, Storey Publishing, LLC, 2020

ONLINE

- [A Grateful Day with Brother David Stendl-Rast](#) Some people use this video as a daily meditation. It is also embedded below.
- [Waking Up to What is: Grateful in the Face of it All](#), 16 online reflections by Kristi Nelson, Executive Director, A Network for Grateful Living.
- [Wake Up Grateful Study Guide](#), pdf download.
- Website: [A Network for Grateful Living https://gratefulness.org/](https://gratefulness.org/) There are so many wonderful resources on this website. It's a great place to poke around for inspiration.

Second Saturdays to Shine

Our March Second Saturdays event was held on March 13 with approximately 30 people from across the United States in attendance. We were moved by Rev. Laurie Rudel's presentation, The Practice of Gratefulness: A Lenten Retreat. If you couldn't attend, be sure to read on page 6 and review Rev. Rudel's collection of resources for going deeper into the Practice to have a sense of what it's all about. Visit <https://northernlightsdisciples.org/second-saturdays> for links to register to attend future events.



Coming Up

Mark your calendars and continue joining us each Second Saturday for learning, conversation, and connection. Register as an individual or gather a group from your congregation to access group pricing!

April 10: Green Chalice Ministries – Rev. Carol Devine

Since 1970, April 22 has been designated "Earth Day", a day for focusing on the health of our planet. Our own denomination has embodied our commitment to earth care by designating the third Sunday of April "Earth Care Sunday." Our Second Saturday to Shine in April will focus on learning more about the Church's call to creation care.

Rev. Carol Devine, Minister of Green Chalice, will be with us in the morning to share the theology behind the Green Chalice movement and its programs. In the afternoon we will be joined by members of Northern Lights Region Churches who have joined the program to talk about their own process and work related to their Green Chalice commitment.

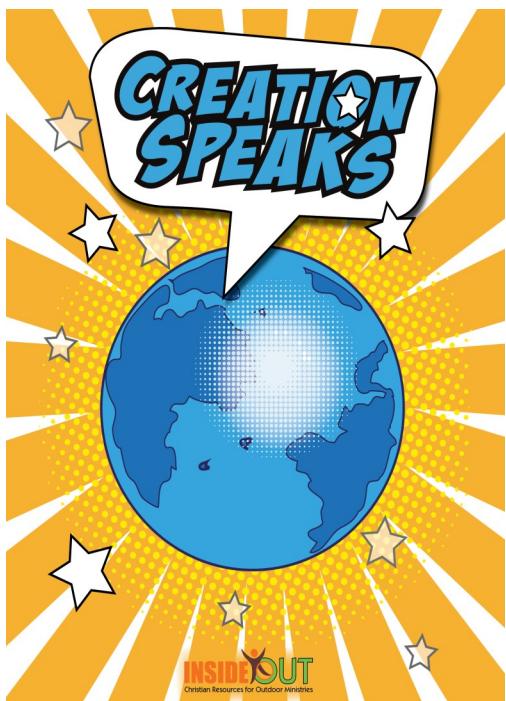
Join us in this opportunity to educate and activate yourself and your congregation to become more "green".

Rev. Carol L. Devine is an ordained minister and the co-founder and minister for Green Chalice, the creation care ministry for the denomination. She has pastored two Kentucky congregations and is currently working in Admissions at Lexington Theological Seminary. Carol has three young adult children and she loves to do yoga, garden, hike, cycle, cook, dance, and read.

Fees are a suggested donation of \$10.00/person/session or \$25/congregation/session with 3 or more participants registered at the same time. (*The Second Saturdays planning team is committed to sharing these opportunities with all who want to participate, cost should not determine your ability to attend. Please observe the registration rate but if it is cost prohibitive, do not hesitate to donate only what you're able to afford.)

Sessions are recorded and made available after the event, free to those who registered and at a cost of \$5 each for those who prefer to participate by watching the recording(s).

These sessions are open to all, clergy and lay, from within and beyond the Northern Lights Region.



Summer Camps 2021

Plans are underway to have camp this summer with COVID protocols in place. *All of our current plans are subject to change due to COVID restrictions, and staffing hurdles.*

At this time we are planning to host mirrored camps at both Gwinwood and Cane Ridge West. The dates for our camps and ages (grade completed) are as follows:

July 12-15th

- Kids Camp (1st-2nd Grade)
- JYF Camp (3rd-5th Grade)

July 19-24th

- Chi Rho (6th-8th Grade)
- CYF (9th-12th Grade)

We are planning on requiring masks to be worn by everyone at camp, as well as practicing social distancing and/or establishing small group pods to reduce the risk of possible

exposure. As directors are recruited for these camps I do plan on working with them on establishing clear policies and procedures regarding COVID, based on the information that we have going forward.

It may become necessary to limit the registration numbers due to COVID restrictions, or due to securing enough volunteers for the camps. **If you are interested/willing to serve as a counselor, nurse, cook or other volunteer for camps please let me know: chris@northernlightsdisciples.org**

Rev. Climit Collins
If you need to meet with the Pastor, please call or email him to schedule an appointment.
pastorclimit@bremertondisciples.org
Church Phone/email:
360.373.2444
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Climit Church Staff
Reneae Schweiger: Office Administrator
Reneae Schweiger: Office Adminstrator
Gail Guinnig: Interim Music Director
Gail Guinnig: Interim Music Director
Mary Boehmer: Organist
Mary Boehmer: Organist
Samantha Bohnet: Audio-Visual
Samantha Bohnet: Audio-Visual
Angela Jones: Nursery Back-up
Angela Jones: Nursery Back-up
Larry Chapman: Janitor
Larry Chapman: Janitor

SUNDAY ZOOM SCHEDULE

10:00 AM - PRE-WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP
10:30 AM - WORSHIP
11:30 AM - FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY ZOOM SCHEDULE

"First Christian Church is a community of believers seeking to share the Good News of God's redeeming love through Jesus Christ with all persons, through care of and service to the congregation, the Kitsap Peninsula, and the world."



NEWSLETTER