



WESTMINSTER CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Westminster Witness

September 7, 2008



Manna 2008 - October 5, 2008

**A concert to benefit Meals on Wheels
and 2nd Harvest Food Bank**

The Manna Concert's mission is to celebrate, recognize and support these two organizations in their fight against hunger in our community. In addition to great musical entertainment, we raffle off gift baskets.

You can help by donating items for the gift baskets, or asking for donations from your employer, friends, or other local businesses. This year, we hope to have a **"Garden Basket"** – suggested items are gardening tools, bird feeder, gardening book or gift certificate from a local garden store. Also, we are hoping to fill a **"Women's Basket"** – suggested items are wine, any kind of gift certificate for shopping or Starbucks gift card. And we will again have a **"Book/Library Basket"**, so we are looking for new books.

- ◆ If you have a donation, call Barb Borgens at 535-2257.
- ◆ If you want to donate your time on the day of the Manna Concert by volunteering as a ticket taker, usher or raffle ticket seller, call Alan Borgens at 535-2257.
- ◆ If you want to help with refreshments at the intermission, call Kim Steinmetz at 483-6070.

Advertising space is available in the Manna program. Ads are available from \$25—\$125, and the church office can fax or email you an advertising agreement. Deadline is September 22 at noon.

— MANNA 2008 —



A Benefit Concert for Meals On Wheels
and the Second Harvest Food Bank

Sunday, Oct. 5, 3-5 pm
Westminster United Church of Christ
411 S. Washington
tix: \$12, (Seniors \$10) \$25 families
info: 624-1366

Featuring:
**6 Foot Swing
Turning Tide
Spokane Area Children's Chorus
Giant A** Drum Corps
Blue Door Comedy Theater**

We are excited to have a great line-up of artists for this 5th Annual Manna Concert. Performers include **6 Foot Swing, Turning Tide, Spokane Area Children's Chorus, Giant A** Drum Corps, and Blue Door Comedy Theater.**

Please come out on Sunday, October 5 to support these local agencies, and have an afternoon of good fun!

Tickets will be available on Sunday, September 28 during coffee hour—special 2 for 1 price this day only!

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Ministers, All of God's People | Church Staff | Nursery Attendant Teresa Benedict |
| Office Manager/Financial Secretary Robin McLain | Senior Pastor The Rev. Andrea CastroLang | Publications Editor Sarah Hopkins |
| Organist/Choirmaster Scot Stout | Assistant Pastor The Rev. Marj Johnston | Caretaker John Koons III |

God is Still Speaking,

News from Council and Committees

Announcement of Congregational Meetings

October 26, 2008 Town Hall - to review and comment on our budget for 2009

November 2, 2008 Congregational Business Meeting - to vote on 2009 budget

November 23, 2008 Gratitude Sunday and all-Church Dinner Celebration!

February 1, 2009 Annual Meeting - to celebrate our accomplishments of 2008, remember those who have passed, receive Board and Committee reports, review the financial summary for 2008, elect officers, Board and Committee members and other congregational business.

From the Trustees

Bathroom Painting Project

BE A PART OF THE TRANSFORMATION!

Have you noticed the new paint in the main floor bathrooms? Trustees David Vestal, Elsa Distelhorst and Karen Mobley spent a summer Saturday sprucing them up. Many thanks to them! Have you noticed that the Social Hall bathrooms are bleak? We need your help to spruce them up as well. We are looking for people to help either Sunday, September 14 at 1:00 to prep\mask\primer or Saturday, September 20 at 9:00 to paint\cleanup. Either session will take 3-4 hours and interested people can call or e-mail me at 869-1783 or dvestal@comcast.net.

Event Hosts Needed

In order to address our budget deficit, your Board of Trustees and the Ad Hoc Increased Revenue Committee have been working on ways to increase income by renting our facilities to outside groups. In order to provide needed oversight when others use our building, we are looking for a team of church members who will be trained to be 'event hosts.' Event hosts will ensure that outside users of the building feel welcome and that our facilities and equipment are properly used and secured during and at the end of an event. Possible events include music performances, lectures, meetings, receptions, and use of the Social Hall/Kitchen.

At the Annual Meeting, many members expressed a willingness to 'do something extra' to help our church reduce its deficit. Volunteering to be trained as a WCC Event Host is just such an 'extra' opportunity. Your willingness to serve in this manner will enable us to increase our rental income, provide greater access to and use of our building by the Spokane community, and ensure that our church remains our lovely, well-cared for home.

For more information, please contact Robin at the office at 624-1366 or Trustee Laurie Powers at 838-0174.

Outreach

LifeFeed

Join us on September 18, 7:00 PM for a discussion and orientation meeting about LifeFeed. We celebrate two years of serving the local population with a luncheon meal, usually on the 5th Saturday of the month. Current volunteers as well as people interested in learning more and getting involved are invited to attend. We will talk about past successes as well as discuss the needs of the program as we move forward.

Sara Chapter

Sara Chapter meets September 17—10:30 am in the Parlor. Members are asked to bring a guest.

WestCAT

The Spokane Alliance Fall 2008 Assembly/Candidate Forum will be **Monday, September 22** from 7-8:30 PM. Meet with legislators at the Convention Center. Doors open at 6:15!

See www.spokanealliance.org for updates and details. WestCAT will meet on Wednesday, September 24—7 pm in the Conference Room.

11 Days of Peace

Several spiritual, religious and peace organizations in Spokane are joining in an international effort to transform the horror of 9/11 into a movement for peace. The 11 days between Sept. 11 and Sept. 21, which is the United Nations International Day of Peace, will be a time for Spokane to join in a unified effort to show that peace is really possible. The goal of these 11 days is to inspire people to make changes in their own lives, recognizing that "peace begins with me". One of the projects for these days is a daily radio spot on CLEAR CHANNEL RADIO from a spiritual leader in our community, sharing a meditation/practice for peace. Members of the Buddhist, Christian, Islamic and Jewish communities will offer meditations. Pastor Andy will be one of them. Tune in.

On Sunday September 21, there will be an interfaith peace service at Unity Church, 6-7:30 pm. There will be choral music, drumming, The Rev. Bill Ellis of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Cathedral speaking, and chanting and prayers from many traditions with a concluding candle-lighting ceremony by children of Spokane.

Pray for peace, work for peace, be part of the peace the world needs!

Pastors and Staff

Pastor's Pen

A number of people told me I would be changed by my pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

They were right.

Leaving home gives you fresh eyes to look at it upon your return.

Among other things, my travels gave me a fresh spirit of thanksgiving.

- ***After spending an amazing amount of money just to have drinking water, I came home with renewed gratitude for the clean, abundant water we enjoy in the USA.***
- ***I also came home with a very strong appreciation for our founding fathers who created a system of government that is not controlled by any one religious group.***
- ***I came home with appreciation for our all volunteer army and our good relations with our international neighbors both north and south. In a country the size of New Jersey, I was overwhelmed by the presence of the military everywhere in Israel, and by the militant culture of defense and warfare.***

The attitude adjustment that was a part of my travel also adjusted my attitudes about Westminster, about my responsibilities with you and among you, and my role as a citizen of Spokane.

Westminster is unique. Of course, every church community is unique, but I really see with fresh eyes that Westminster is an important and an unusual place in the city of Spokane.

I believe there is nothing quite like us around: progressive Christian, Open and Affirming, architecturally beautiful, old and established yet full of new ideas, radically inclusive, and liturgically rich. We have a great music program, and we sing new songs and have all kinds of new music combinations in worship. We have fun in worship, but we also wear robes, light candles, and sit in carved wooden pews. We spend 5 minutes (at least!) sharing an ebullient "peace of Christ" with one another, yet we spend worship time in silence also. We have lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual members, and we have old and sick, hale and hearty, wealthy and poor, and young and wiggly members too.

I am honored to serve God with you.

And more than ever, I believe in Westminster.

And more than ever, I want to encourage you to give your best to Westminster, not just what is left after work, soccer, the gym, the homework, the carpool. I

know how full our lives can get, but can you make Westminster more than just another activity on a list? It is a place of community, of challenge, of support and affection and renewal, of God at work in us and through us.

- Our membership should grow; not merely because it is a matter of survival to us, not because we still have room in our pews, but because our message of God's welcome is needed - out there in the city and inside our lives.
- Centering in God's love and hope, learning God's design for healing and wholeness is needed!
- Taking risks to grow larger of heart, greater in spirit, stronger in prayer and faith and action, cannot be done alone!
- Being the hands and feet of Christ, in gentleness and tenderness, is not a task to be undertaken without a community of support!

For all these reasons and more (why do you come to Westminster?) I urge you to support this community of faith, with your presence, your energy and vision, and your money.

God is in our midst; of this I am sure. In plenty and in want, in doubt and in assurance. In peace and in conflict. I saw God in the midst of the ancient religious animosities of Israel/Palestine, in the faces of the people, even the ones with the Uzi's, seeking to heal and restore, through all people of good will and generous spirit.

Having returned from my travels abroad with fresh eyes, I look out at you, and see again, what a blessing you are!

Your Pastor, Andy

Marj's Musings

In the spring I received an email from a friend studying in another country. We share a passion for hearing the "still speaking God" at every turn in our individual journeys, and her words came at an awkward time for me. In a few short lines she outlined her sense of the work she was finding and encouraged me with two phrases: "Pray more. Do less." And it wasn't meant in the sense of pray and wait or pray instead of doing the work or until you think you understand what it is God is calling me to do. It was simply an affirmation—again—that we dare not get lost in the busyness of what we call "God's work" and forget to pray ... for those we serve, for our ability to listen and to hear, for opportunities unfolding. Doing can get in the way of being so that we become 'human doings' instead of 'human beings'. Sister Joan Chittister writes in *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily*: "We pray to see life as it is, to

(Continued on page 5)

Westminster Family and Friends

September Birthdays

- 2nd - Jim CastroLang
Tim Morse
- 3rd - Susan Windham
- 5th - Elsa Distelhorst
Karen Wilson-Bell
- 6th - Marcia Tulloss
- 7th - Dorothy Rudolph
Linda Kemnitz
- 8th - John Weekes
Melissa Joy
Mary Pat Wakeley
Mark Ryan
- 9th - Orin Johnson
Linda Kraft
- 10th - Darrell Cederblom
- 11th - Harry Pearson
- 13th - Judy Marte
- 14th - Madison Meuler
- 16th - Adam Yoder
- 17th - Amalie Marte
- 18th - Mary Mackay
- 21st - Jonathan Windham
- 22th - Jazmin Koons
- 23rd - Eugene Johnson
Rebecca Weaver
- 26th - Myrba Jimenez
- 27th - Julie Koons
Dennis Dobson
James Hyvonen
Art Seaton
- 29th - Laurie Powers
Lynette Rostollan

Happy Anniversary to....

- 4th - Rev. Edward & Emma Schmidt
- 11th - Breean Beggs & Laurie Powers
- 22nd - David & Arlene Sperry
- 28th - Kris Jeske & Teresa Schock

NOTES and THANKS

Dear Pastor Marj, I'm writing this note to thank you for helping my family keep our electricity on. Your help made me realize that it is possible to get help when we come to a hard time in life. Thank you again, I really appreciate everything the church has done for my family.

Dear Pastor Andy, Pastor Marj and all of my Westminster Family,
I thought as I read your hot sheet for the 15th of how

much fun it would be to come to your house for the grilled hamburgers and visit with all my friends from Westminster. I want to thank all the people of Westminster for all the help they gave me during Udell's illness and also all the help they gave me when I had my yard sale and had to move out of my home in Spokane. I could not have achieved that move without all your help and prayers. I have a wonderful home here in Montrose, Colorado and thanks to Nada Morse it is in pretty good order although I still have more than 100 boxes in the garage to empty. I'm thankful I bought a house with a 2 car garage.

Thanks to the previous renter that I met when I looked at the house in May, I have met 5 of the neighbors and consider them good friends. Nada also got acquainted with the family at the end of the block so I now know 8 people well enough to call them by their names. Today I went with Fran Frye to the Senior Center for lunch and met some more lovely people. I'm going to a Methodist Church picnic with her tomorrow so that should be a great adventure to the Umcompadre River. Sunday I will go to her church.

God Bless all of you and I will try to keep in touch. Thank you again for all your help.

Love in Christ,
Joan Rivers

Summer Coffee Hours!

Kudos to all who hosted a summer coffee hour. Special thanks go to Joan Dellar and Susan Smith, John Koons, Nick and Brigid CastroLang, Cindi Abbott and Marj Johnston, Teresa Schock, Kris Jeske and kids, Kathy Surette and Jon Louis, Lorna Kropp, Mark and Barb Safranek, Gayla Schilling, Lou McKee and Felsorakos travelers, Elsa and Dan Distelhorst, Mimi Escandon, and special thanks to Hal French, who hosted twice!

Golf Tournament

Fellow Duffers,

A Westminster Golf Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, September 14 after services, a 1:30 start, at Esmerelda golf course in Spokane.

Standard green fees apply--approximately \$25 walking, payable prior to tee time.

The format will be two player best ball or best score with handicap. Prizes will be awarded according to performance, enthusiasm, and just showing up! If interested contact Gil Escandon at 838-1480 or escand@comcast.net—or ask Nick CastroLang 998-3255 or ichiro51@icehouse.net. Please sign up by September 7!

Pastors and Staff

(Continued from page 3)

understand it and to make it better than it was. We pray so that reality can break into our souls and give us back our awareness of the Divine Presence in life.” As we move into Fall and another beginning in our church life and all that calls us to do, may we also find ways to pray and to be with our sense of the Blessed Presence and with each other, together praying as we serve. Be blessed and be a blessing!

Pastor Marj

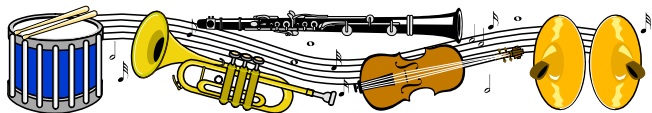
Music

Please join together to welcome back the Chancel Choir after summer vacation! The Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals on September 14 at 8:30 am, and will sing at the 10:30 worship on the 14th.

Any members interested in joining the choir should speak to Scot Stout, organist/choirmaster.

Also, on Sunday, September 14, enjoy the violin playing of Corri Collin, and Susan Windham’s beautiful soprano!

Other upcoming music events include Scot preparing for a Halloween organ concert in late October—what fun!



UCC News

Do you feel like you’re getting only bits and pieces of information from the United Church of Christ? Would you like to know what UCC congregations in other parts of the country are doing to share their “all are welcome” good news? Do you want to hear more about how the UCC collaborates? There’s a way to get more information in your hands! Sign up to receive **United Church News**. Subscriptions are free, and Westminster does receive 10 copies that are made available in the Narthex as soon as they’re received. But the bi-monthly publication of the UCC could be delivered directly to you, at your home. You can subscribe to **United Church News** (and the regional *Pacific Northwest Conference News*) by calling 1-888-READ-UCN or by emailing ucn@umr.org or writing to United Church News, PO Box 226625, Dallas, TX 75222-6625. Again, it’s free, but donations are always welcome. It’s a great way to be connected to the whole of the United Church of Christ!

In this world of virtual communities, consider this: “Eye-dot-ucc” is a virtual community of faith for members and friends of the United Church of Christ. On i.ucc.org, virtual wanderers can connect with others through: a “real-time” daily prayer chapel; “weekly seeds” from scripture with an additional message; a multi-media introduction to UCC history and values; music videos for reflection and prayer; interactive blogs by UCC pastors across the U.S., and forums for Bible study, spiritual formation and friendly conversations. No, it doesn’t replace your opportunities to worship and give witness to your faith journey with us, here, in REAL time! Check it out at i.UCC.org!

Nurture News—Café Hour!

In September we are excited to offer a spiritual nurture/formation opportunity for our children during the “in-between” hour from 9:40 –10:20 each Sunday morning. The children’s classes will be offered in Rm. 203 and 204 and adult discussion will meet in the Parlor. We hope to offer two age level classes this year as our children’s ministry grows and expands.

This model is known as our **CAFÉ hour: Children, Adult and Family Enrichment Hour!**

We will be using our newer United Church of Christ curriculum, *Seasons of the Spirit* in a multi-age format. In August an informational training day was held for prospective teachers and we are very excited by this curriculum. Volunteer teachers are still needed and expected; you may sign up for once a month, twice a month or more! Ongoing training in the curriculum is available for anyone interested, but a little nervous about teaching! Please contact

any member of the Nurture Board if you are curious about this new curriculum and seek opportunities to impact the lives of our children in a beautiful and powerful way. You may also call Pastor Marj at 624-1366 with your interest and any questions.

Westminster members clearly believe in a lifetime of learning, growing and questioning. As is stated in the 8 points of Progressive Christianity, we “have found an approach to God through the life and teachings of Jesus” and “find more grace in the search for understanding than we do in dogmatic certainty – more value in questioning than in absolutes”. This is a part of the faith stance that we will pass on to our children and youth and we need your support for this effort.

Please call us, please be involved, and please share your own curiosity, openness and values with our young.

Summer Fun

Pastor Andy spent time in July on a pilgrimage in the Holy Land, thanks to generous support from the Cousins Family Foundation to Wake Forest Divinity School. Twenty pastors from all over the country shared this remarkable opportunity!



Andy in front of the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem



Camel in Jericho



Headwaters of the Jordan Falls at Banias



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem



Via Dolorosa "The Mournful Way" Jerusalem



Roman Aqueducts, Caesarea Maritima

Westminster Fun



Family Game Night
June 2008



John Koons with banner for Pride
Week—June 2008



Unity in the Community
August 2008



Graffiti painting in the alley
June 2008



Pastors' Patio
Party
August 2008



Faith and Family Enrichment

New Member Class

Care To Join Us?

If you're interested in learning more about Westminster Congregational UCC and the United Church of Christ—who we are, where we came from, and what we dream about—considering coming to the next New Members Orientation Class on Tuesday, September 16. There will be a potluck supper, and childcare will be available (if needed, please call in advance to arrange). Please let us know if you're interested (wcunited@qwestoffice.net or 624-1366).

Adult Discussion Group

Beginning September 14, our Adult Discussion Group will spend a few weeks in conversation around a program of the United Church of Christ called **Our Faith, Our Vote**. In asking "What do you care about?" we'll share ideas and thoughts about our experiences as a people of faith who exercise our right and our privilege to shape a government of the people and for the people. The election of 2008 will impact each one of us on several levels, from health care to the environment, from the war situation in Iraq to freedom of speech. The website link can be accessed at <http://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote>. Join Jim CastroLang and Nick CastroLang in conversation to learn not *what* to think but *how* to think about the varied and complex issues we face in this election season. The Adult Discussion Group will meet Sunday mornings from 9:40 am to 10:20 am in the Conference Room.

JOIN US! Questioning Believers will gather again this fall! The first part of 2008 was spent in reading and sharing Diana Butler Bass's *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How a neighborhood church is transforming the faith*. For further conversation about how we individually and collectively participate in being a people of faith and transformation, this fall we'll read and share ideas from Eric Elnes' *The Phoenix Affirmations: A new vision for the future of Christianity*. We'll gather in the Parlor at 6:30pm for a light meal and begin our conversations at 7:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. The first gathering will be Wednesday, September 24. Questions? Need to order a copy of the book? Contact Pastor Marj at pastor-marj@qwestoffice.net or 624-1366, ext. 12.

Westminster Identity—T-Shirt

We try NOT to label people. BUT, we would really like to have a logo and picture to wear with pride on a T-shirt! So, how do you think of your church? Is it as one of many UCC Churches in the nation, or as a special historic place in downtown Spokane?

What is it about us that would be important to share with a stranger? Will you share with us a logo, a phrase, or a picture that makes you think of Westminster? Your entries can be emailed or dropped off at the church office. We would like as many people as possible to take this challenge! We will look at all submissions together at noon on November 2 at the Congregational Business Meeting.



Spirit & Service a women's fellowship opportunity

This month, the Spirit & Service group will be focusing on a book titled "The Cup of Our Life: A Guide for Spiritual Growth" by Joyce Rupp. We're hoping other women of Westminster will consider joining us for this 8-week study of prayer and how to create a prayer-full life. The book represents a study of prayer centered on the imagery of the cup as a vessel for our spiritual self. The group will begin meeting on Tuesday, September 30, 2008; time and place TBD. We anticipate meeting every Tuesday through November 18, 2008. During our gatherings we will discuss a service project to complete together.

Please consider joining our little circle! We ask only that you be willing to commit to the 8 weeks of Tuesdays. We would like to have no fewer than 5 and no more than 10 women gathering together. If you're interested in exploring prayer with your fellow Westminster women, please call Cindi Abbott @ 533-1964 or Barb Safranek @ 747-4257.



In the Neighborhood

International Peace Day

We Shall Overcome is the theme of the second annual Spokane observance of International Peace Day (September 21). Join the Spokane Chapter of the United Nations Association, World Affairs Council and PJALS (Peace, Justice and Action Leagues of Spokane) in a local celebration on Thursday, September 18, at 7:00pm in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University. Based on the 80s film "We Shall Overcome," Dr. Ron Large of Gonzaga and Rhosetta Rhodes of Whitworth will offer commentary on portions of the film and the hymn. The Community Choir under the direction of Melanie Luedders will also sing at the celebration.

Svaroopa Yoga

Starting September 18th, Francie Light will be offering Svaroopa yoga classes again at Westminster. The classes will be offered Thursday evenings, from 5:30pm to 7 pm, for ninety minutes. The classes will be held in the parlor.

Svaroopa (pronounced swa-roo-pah) is a unique style of hatha yoga. Each class is specifically designed to release deep tension in the muscles along the spine, which we refer to as "core opening". This has a profound healing effect on the body and mind. Yoga props, specific alignments and adjustments are used to ensure the student receives safe and deep changes in both body and mind. The benefits of a Svaroopa yoga practice include increased flexibility, mobility, strength, more energy, improved circulation, overall improved health-physically, mentally and emotionally. Classes are open to all levels, beginners are welcome. Four sessions for \$50, or \$15 per drop in session. Questions, call Francie 638-2273.

Our Sisters' Closet

Fall will soon be here. If you are cleaning out your closet in anticipation of replacing some of your fall clothes, Our Sisters' closet at the YWCA can use any working women's clothing as well as other used or new items. They provide low-income women with clothes for work.

This working women's clothing bank needs:
Dress Jeans, Slacks (especially sizes 16 and up, Dress & work shoes (especially sizes 9 & up), New underwear, Gently used make-up, Hair ties, hair brushes, and other tools., Tooth paste and travel-size necessities (shampoo & conditioner)

Donations can be dropped off at the front desk of the YWCA between 7 AM and 6 PM Monday-Friday .829 W. Broadway 509-326-1190 Ext. 150

Second Chance Extravaganza!

An event to benefit the **Faith & Environment Network**
Sunday, September 28th
St. John's Cathedral Great Hall
Silent & live auction of quality reused items
Catered dinner with fresh, local ingredients
Doors open at 3:30pm, Dinner at 5pm

Please help by donating new or gently used items or services for our auction!

Antiques, furniture & collectibles, Sporting goods/outdoor equipment, Home & garden items, Flower bulbs or perennials, Tools & Musical instruments, Garden produce
Services of any kind such as baking, massage, teaching a skill

To donate an item, please contact Amber Waldref at 509-868-9219.

or email: amber_waldref@hotmail.com

Multifaith AIDS Careteams

Volunteer Orientation and Training
Saturday, September 20
Unity Church, 2900 S. Bernard
9:30 am—3:30 pm

\$10 registration fee, lunch included. Pre-register by phone, email or post by Friday, September 12

This is for persons interested in becoming HIV/AIDS volunteers as members of faith-based AIDS CareTeams. CareTeam volunteers express their compassion and values through practical, emotional and spiritual support for an individual or family living with HIV/AIDS. CareTeams do the things friends might do. They do not give medical care. There is no risk of infection from any volunteer activity. Sponsored by Catholic Charities Spokane, in collaboration with Spokane AIDS Network and the Spokane Regional Health District, serving people of all faiths. Please call for information: 358-4273 or email scooper@ccspokane.org

In the Neighborhood

Book & Salad Club

The group meets at 6:30 pm in the Church Parlor—you are not required to read the book, but please bring a salad to share.

October's reading about Mary Magdalene may be obtained in the Church Office for \$15.00. This is a special price for Westminster Members. The author did say that if there are members that would rather borrow the book they may read and return.

October 7 "Mary Magdalene: A Mystical Journal", by Nada, facilitated by Sara Weaver

Nov 4 "Botany of Desire: A Plants Eye View of the World", by Michael Pollan facilitated by Marjorie Johnson

Dec 2 "A Christmas Carol", by Charles Dickens, facilitated by Marian Thackray

Jan 6 "Song Yet Sung", by James McBride, facilitated by Margaret Ennis

Feb 3 "Iran Awakening: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope", by Shirin Ebadi, facilitated by Nosrat Whipple.

Prayer Retreat for Clergy and Laity

Saturday, September 27

9 am to 3 pm

Seeley Mudd Chapel, Whitworth University

Cost: \$50 (includes lunch)

The Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning at Whitworth University invites you to come enjoy a day of rest and renewal. This prayer retreat is for Christian leaders interested in exploring the grace-filled rhythm of prayer, study, community, and ministry. We will reflect on how to deepen one's intimacy with God, while remaining active in service to our world. Our time together will include open spaces for personal prayer, teaching sessions, group sharing, and community worship.

Retreat Leaders: Bruce Murphy, PhD, Chris Murphy, MDiv

For further information and to register, contact: Michelle Pace at mpace@whitworth.edu; (509) 777-3275

Economic Stimulus?

Are you one of the 9000 people in Spokane County who haven't collected their ESP payment? That's the Economic Stimulus Payment and it's a check from the government worth at least \$300. According to the IRS, nearly 9000 people in Spokane County have not yet claimed these payments. Spokane County United Way is partnering with the IRS to help people claim this payment. Many of these people are likely low-income senior citizens or people collecting Social Security or Veteran's Benefits. To claim this payment you must simply file a tax return showing you have at least \$3000 of income or benefits. The deadline to file is October 15, 2008. Spokane County United Way can connect you with our network of volunteer tax preparers who will help you file for free. If you need assistance or are unsure if you qualify, contact Spokane County United Way at 509-838-6581.

September Events

Ongoing:

Worship Sunday at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Café Hour—from 9:20-10:20/ Sundays

Chancel Choir rehearsals —8:30 am/Sundays

Questioning Believers—2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 pm starting Sept. 24



Choose This Day!

- ◆ Choose Life over Death
- ◆ Choose Community over Isolation
- ◆ Choose Fun over Drudgery
- ◆ Choose Bold over Mild
- ◆ Choose Frontier over Fortress
- ◆ Choose Now rather than Later



| | August 08 | Budget | Jan - Aug 08 | YTD Budget | Annual Budget |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Income | | | | | |
| Pledge | 8,471.00 | 9,229.34 | 79,112.39 | 77,161.98 | 115,000.00 |
| Non-pledge | 979.55 | 975.00 | 11,671.30 | 8,280.00 | 12,500.00 |
| Other | 1,670.01 | 900.00 | 45,831.17 | 40,857.34 | 78,798.68 |
| Total Income | 11,120.55 | 11,104.34 | 136,614.86 | 126,299.32 | 206,297.68 |
| Expense | | | | | |
| DUES | 500.00 | | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| BUILDING OPERATIONS & MAINT. | 4,993.36 | 6,691.97 | 48,157.54 | 43,725.49 | 63,196.00 |
| CHRISTIAN NURTURE | 97.35 | 197.50 | 1,016.81 | 941.68 | 1,310.00 |
| CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT | 0.00 | | 4,448.00 | 4,425.00 | 4,425.00 |
| DIACONATE | 0.00 | 100.00 | 373.02 | 550.00 | 700.00 |
| MUSIC AND ARTS | 125.00 | 300.00 | 1,525.32 | 2,926.25 | 5,120.00 |
| OFFICE EXPENSE | 1,854.14 | 1,968.86 | 13,426.88 | 15,002.52 | 23,475.00 |
| OUTREACH | 3,000.00 | | 3,000.00 | 3,500.00 | 6,500.00 |
| PASTORAL MINISTRIES | 3,669.00 | 3,843.46 | 48,167.20 | 50,173.73 | 71,591.43 |
| PAYROLL CLEARINGS | 11,318.46 | 11,704.53 | 90,686.16 | 91,172.09 | 143,683.77 |
| Total Expense | 25,557.31 | 24,806.32 | 215,939.88 | 217,533.83 | 320,501.20 |
| Net Income | -14,436.76 | -13,701.98 | -79,325.02 | -91,234.51 | -114,203.52 |

September 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--------------------|
| | 1 <i>Labor Day</i> | 2 <i>Book & Salad</i> 6:30 p | 3 <i>Trustees noon</i> | 4 <i>Diaconate 7 p</i> | 5 Family Camp at N-Sid-Sen | 6 |
| 7 <i>Worship at</i> <i>N-Sid-Sen</i> | 8 | 9 <i>Music & Arts</i> 7 p/ <i>Alden home</i> | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 <i>1st day of</i> <i>choir, Sunday</i> <i>School</i> | 15 | 16 <i>New Member</i> <i>Class 6 pm Parlor</i> | 17 <i>Sara Chapter</i> 10:30 a <i>Parlor</i> | 18 <i>Yoga 5:30 Parlor</i> <i>Lifefeed Mtng. 7p</i> | 19 | 20 |
| 21 <i>Interfaith</i> <i>celebration/Unity</i> <i>church 6 pm</i> | 22 <i>Spokane Alli-</i> <i>ance Fall Assem-</i> <i>bly w/Candidates</i> | 23 <i>Church</i> <i>Council 7 p</i> | 24 <i>WestCAT</i> 7 p | 25 <i>Yoga 5:30 Parlor</i> | 26 <i>Knitting</i> <i>Group 7 p</i> | 27 <i>Lifefeed</i> |
| 28 | 29 | 30 <i>Spirit & Ser-</i> <i>vice group begins</i> | | | | |

WESTMINSTER CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Phone: (509) 624-1366 Fax: (509) 838-0496 Email: wcunited@qwestoffice.net www.westminsterucc.org

No matter who you are, or where you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here.

Our Covenant

*I covenant with you, members and friends of
Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ:*

- *To create and hold an open, trusting Christian Community where we can each discover our unique relationship with God:*
- *To accept you as we seek ways to resolve our differences, and to rejoice as a community of faith and trust:*
- *To seek opportunities for expression of faith by sharing talents and resources with our church, community and world;*
- *To celebrate with you the power of God's call & God's Love.*

*Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ
embraces a spirit of hospitality founded in the gospels of
Jesus Christ & a willingness to live out that
welcome in meaningful ways.*

*As an Open and Affirming Church, our longstanding
culture of welcome extends to all people regardless
of sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, gender, physical ability,
socioeconomic status or faith background.*

**This Month's Readings and Schedule
For 10:30 Worship**

September 7—Psalm 148
At N-Sid-Sen

September 14—Exodus 14:19-31
Liturgist: Nick CastroLang

September 21—Exodus 16:2-15
Deacons: Alan & Barb Borgens
Liturgists: Sandi & Sierra Grove

September 28—Exodus 17:1-7 Philippians 2:1-3
Deacons: Cherie Olson
Liturgist: Mary Mackay

Sunday Worship: 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

Westminster Congregational
United Church of Christ
411 South Washington St
Spokane WA 99204

Periodical
Postage
Paid