



▶ *God in our midst*
Hosts and guests
alike find ways to care
for each other.....4



▶ *Living the Word*
Rev. Jill Delaney will
speak in Worship on
January 18th 2



▶ *Prayer is the key*
Seeking the guidance
of God's Spirit—in
everything we do1

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First Christian *Chimes*

...CALLED BY GOD TO LIVE AS A BLESSING...

In One Word: Prayer

THE KEY TO TRANSFORMATION

If I were to boil down everything I know about transformational ministry into one word, it would be prayer. I have learned to never underestimate the power of prayer in a church attempting to turn-around from a shrinking, aging congregation to a thriving community of believers. Prayer is more important than programs, curriculum, praise bands, small groups, or even money in reaching the un-churched public. I am convinced that if a church is serious about growing, it must be serious about prayer....

I'm talking about life-changing, mission-discerning, intentional, time-intensive, and sacrificial prayers offered by the whole congregation calling on the Holy Spirit to fill them and lead them through the transformational process.

[I]n transformational ministry, what most needs to change is inside ourselves. It's not so much about the style of worship or the types of programs, it's not about mission/vision statements or designing a cool new logo; it's not about small groups or permission-giving environments; it's not even about knowing the needs of Generation X or the postmodern world. No, it's about our willingness to put aside our busy schedules and our preconceived notions about life and church and allow God to mold our hearts, minds, and spirit into the likeness of Christ.



I have witnessed congregations in serious prayer—24 hour prayer vigils; committee members entering 30 day prayer covenants; 40 day fasts or periods of intense daily prayer for a vision or discernment in a congregation's direction. And I have been blown away by the power of God at work in those congregations. I have seen miracles!

Are you interested in congregational transformation? Do you want your church to move from losing members to gaining? The first step is the easiest—and the hardest—Pray. Pray that God will shape your congregation into the vessel most effective at carrying the living water to a parched, dry and dying world.

Wendy Bailey, printed in the March 2005 issue of *Connections*,
a publication of the Presbytery of New Covenant
<http://wendy.thebaileys.name/2005/02/06/one-word-prayer/>

God's Justice Calls Us

REV. JILL DELANEY TO SPEAK JANUARY 18TH

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

So says the Statement of Identity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), adopted in 2008. Similarly, FCC Puyallup's Guiding Vision statement, crafted in 2008 by our congregation and agreed on by consensus, proclaims: *We experience God's welcome in our celebration at the communion table and dream of being a reflection of that welcome in our acts of acceptance, forgiveness, generosity, justice and peacemaking.*

To fulfill these core tenets of our faith as Jesus' disciples in a tenuous-yet-expectant social climate, we must unceasingly commit to learning and growing in our actions of *reconciliation*, or in our words, "of acceptance, forgiveness, generosity, justice and peacemaking."

Experiencing God

VOLUNTEERS ARE PRICELESS AT FREEZING NIGHTS



We have hosted between ten and 17 guests at Freezing Nights so far this season. Each Friday afternoon we've had helpers stack the chairs and clear the sanctuary; in the evenings we have had five volunteers; on Saturday we've had someone come in early to prepare breakfast. It takes a few more of us on Saturday morning to help with vacuuming and resetting the sanctuary for Worship.

What I'd like everyone to know mostly is that our guests truly appreciate a warm, dry place to be. When they arrive they are tired from spending much of the day in the elements. They care about each other and they care about us; they put up cots for us and help us where they can. I am always surprised where I see and experience God!

~Bonnie Goddard

There are a variety of ways to contribute to the Freezing Nights sheltering program. If you'd like to be a part of a rewarding experience, please contact Bonnie Goddard or Terry Forslund.



On Jan. 18th, help us welcome Rev. Jill Delaney, pastor of the Log Church at the Yakama Mission, and co-leader of our 2008 Lenten Prayer Retreat. Jill will bring a message on reconciliation and what it means to us. A special offering will be taken to further the works of Reconciliation Ministry.

Reconciliation Ministry is a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Its aim is the formation of leadership to facilitate the long-term process of collective identity transformation within the Disciples community. Although its ministry focuses on the eradication of systemic racism, it is clear that this task cannot be accomplished without the transformation of individual lives and the fostering of dialogue among people.

~www.reconciliationministry.org

january birthdays

- 3.....Joyce Wolff
- 5..... Laurie Stanhope
- 5..... Tony Ackerman
- 5..... Cary Stanhope

- 6.....Donna Larson
- 6.....Herb Crabtree
- 6..... Dick Best
- 8..... Tina Blevins
- 10..... Curtis Yanasak
- 10.....Rosemarie Howard

- 11 June Armstrong
- 11 Anna Mae Blevins
- 15 David Dimond
- 16 Nancy & Ed Durrant

& anniversaries

January's Book Club Pick

THE ELEVENTH MAN BY IVAN DOIG

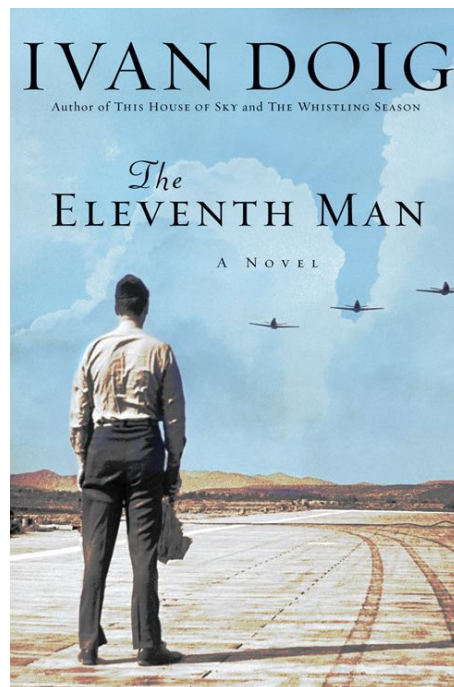
"Ivan Doig, who blends the skills of novelist and historian, was researching another book when he lucked onto a forgotten but stunning scrap of history: In World War II, the 11 starters on the football team at Montana State College in Bozeman joined the military...

That "breath of actuality," as he puts it, inspired Doig's ninth novel, *The Eleventh Man*. It's his most ambitious and one of his best.

In the novel, a small-town newspaper editor says, 'History writes the best yarns.' Doig has been doing just that in [his] books set in his native Montana, as literary as it is sparse.

His new novel employs his usual brand of characters — prickly, quotable Westerners — and throws them into a world at war."

~Bob Minzesheimer, USA Today

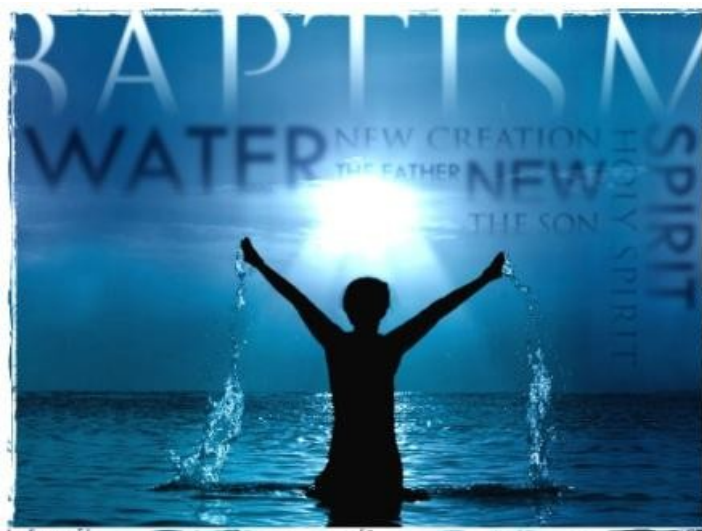


All are welcome to join our book club to discuss a new book on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. For more information, visit the Book Club page at www.fccpuyallup.com.

**What do October 8, 1922
& November 25, 1973
have in common?**

**They are both
baptismal birthdays
turned in to the church office.**

**Don't forget to give us
your baptism date—
together we can celebrate!**



Baptismal Information

Name _____ Date _____

Name _____ Date _____

Name _____ Date _____

Name _____ Date _____

- Yes, I would like to share the story of my baptism and/or what my baptism means to me in Worship.
- Yes, I would like to share the story of my baptism and/or what my baptism means to me in Worship.
- Yes, I would like to share the story of my baptism and/or what my baptism means to me in Worship.
- Yes, I would like to share the story of my baptism and/or what my baptism means to me in Worship.

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Pastor Nancy Gowler Johnson
623 - 9th Ave. SW
P.O. Box 516
Puyallup, WA 98371
(253) 845-6232

life of the church

All-age Studies Sundays - 9:30 am
 Service of Worship Sundays - 11 am
 Women's Study (BRB) Wednesdays - 10 am
 Choir Practice..... Wednesdays - 7 pm
 Crafters Group Thursdays - 10 am
 Freezing Nights (if <37°)..... Fridays - 7 pm
 Adult Study..... Saturdays - 8 am
 1 Happy New Year!
 6 Epiphany
 6 Book of the Month Club - 7 pm
 13 Board Meeting - 7 pm
 17 ... Lunch with a Friend - Peace Lutheran - 10 am



18 Elders Meeting - 1 pm
 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 20 Inauguration Day
 27 Diaconate Meeting - 7 pm



On our wish list...

HELP KEEP OUR NURSERY SAFE!

Our nursery's crib has seen better days and is no longer usable. If you have a gently-used crib meeting current safety standards that you would like to donate to our nursery, please contact the church office.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission states that:

- Slats must be no more than 2³/₈" apart—mesh sides with holes less than ¼" are also considered safe.
- Cribs must have no lead paint, rough edges, or cutouts wider than two adult fingers.
- Mattresses must be firm and snug-fitting with no gaps between it and the frame.