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• ISSUE 4 • VOLUME 18 • APRIL 2011

First Christian *Chimes*

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



The FCC Lunch with a Friend ministry is branching out! For about 15 years, First Christian has had the third-Saturday-of-the-month rotation in Peace Lutheran's Lunch with a Friend program, serving lunch to folks in our community in need of a hearty meal. Because many LWF guests rely on programs like Freezing Nights—which discontinues during fair weather

months—for their next meal, FCC Puyallup will give a to-go healthy snack sack to guests wishing to take one with them. If you would like to donate supplies, snacks or make a gift of cash to be used toward Lunch with a Friend meals, please contact Roxane Neslund or the church office, or mark your monetary donations "LWF" and place them in the offering plate.

Six Seasons of Fairly Traded Eco-Palms

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS AND SOCIALLY JUST PALMS GRACE PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Since 2006 First Christian Church has used Eco-Palms in Palm Sunday worship in an effort to support palm harvesters and processors in fair and just ways. In addition to sharing justice and environmental concerns *and* orders with Peace Lutheran Church, Eco-Palms are also a better choice financially, being substantially lower in price than previous costs from non-fair trade florists.

WHY ECO-PALMS?

- They preserve the vitality of communities and forests.
- Communities receive 5-6 times the normal payment.
- Eco-Palms are purchased directly from communities, lessening the impact of the fluctuating market and allows value-added processing to take place.
- A typical Eco-Palm is harvested by men and processed by women. This increases employment opportunities for women in the community and helps them contribute to their family's financial stability.
- Without a market for the palms the forests are at risk of being converted to agricultural fields.

ABOUT CHAMAEDOREA PALMS

- Non-palm oil palm plants are used in many facets of life, including religious ceremonies and floral arrangements.
- Approximately 308 million palm fronds were consumed in the United States in 1998.
- Each palm plant produces 2-5 harvestable leaves over a 2-4 month period.
- Palm gathering protects valuable natural forests. Gatherers protect forest areas where palms grow.
- Many of the palm producing forest areas are important "biosphere reserves" and tend to be the home of poorer segments of the rural population.
- There is an effort to certify palms from communities practicing sustainable forest management.

Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) at the University of Minnesota

April Opportunities at The Priory

Welcoming the Gifts of Solitude and Silence (Cultivating Spirit in Daily Life series)

April 20 (Wednesday 9 am to noon) Register by prior Wednesday: \$55



A student of Kathleen Norris' once wrote, "Silence reminds me to take my soul with me wherever I go." We all benefit from such a reminder when our busy lives and the constant demands of others numb us to our own feelings and inner needs. Explore how creating times of solitude and silence provides us with an opportunity to reconnect with our selves in a way that replenishes our spirits and clarifies our priorities.

OTHER EVENTS IN APRIL:

Gregorian Chant as Spiritual Practice—April 2

Felting (part of Practicing Creativity in Spiritual Life series)—April 5

Make It Manifest: Creative Expression as a Spiritual Path (Cultivating Spirit in Daily Life series)—April 6

New Life through Personal Prayer—April 9

Shrine-making for Healing and Wholeness—April 16

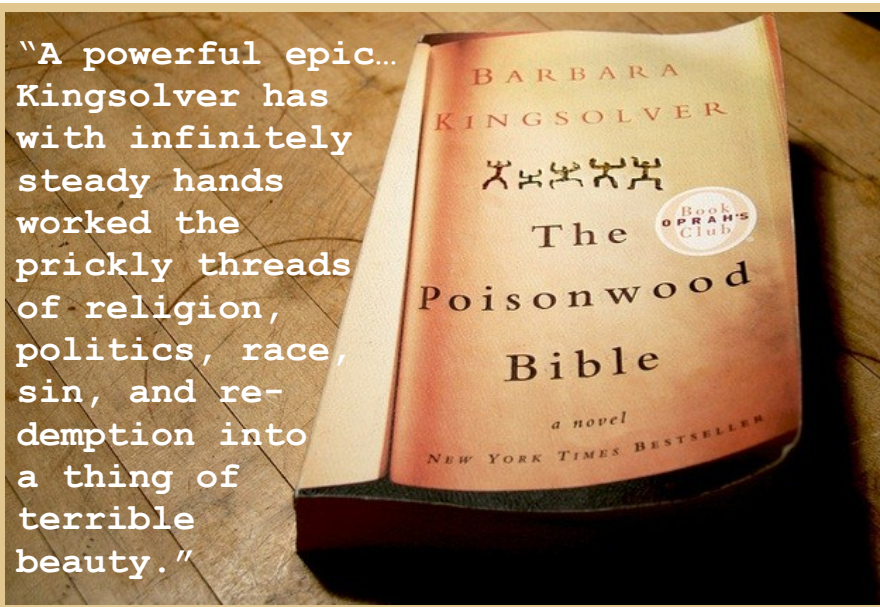
Tai Chi and Contemplative Prayer—April 16

One with Jesus: Triduum Retreat—April 21-24

**See descriptions at www.stplacid.org.
To register call **The Spirituality Center** at 360-438-2595
or e-mail spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.**

Book Club reads *The Poisonwood Bible*

BARBARA KINGSOLVER'S BESTSELLING NOVEL ABOUT MISSIONARY LIFE IN 1960S BELGIAN CONGO



"A powerful epic... Kingsolver has with infinitely steady hands worked the prickly threads of religion, politics, race, sin, and redemption into a thing of terrible beauty."

First Christian's Book Club meets at 7 pm the first Tuesday of each month to discuss the prior month's read. This casual, fun-loving group is open to all—bring a friend! Club-goers take turns making picks, and then host the next meeting discussing their read at their home, at the church, or at an off-site venue.

The next Book Club meeting to discuss *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett will be on Tuesday, April 5th at the church.

For more information, contact Book Club founder Kerry Yanasak.



Abundant Living

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if liberal and conservative church people...came to the common realization that the real issue confronting us is whether the news of God's abundance can be trusted in the face of the story of scarcity."

—Walter Brueggemann

With governments radically cutting budgets, unemployment at high levels, and personal finances in shaky conditions, it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that we live with great scarcity.

As Christians we see the world differently. God created the world out of abundance, not out of lack. God shared God's love for the whole world through the lavish gift of Jesus, and calls us to live out that abundance in our everyday lives.

When the world insists upon the story of scarcity, Christians must stand up and shout—that the only life worth living is the one given away.

fCC giving

February 27

General Fund* \$ 901.00
 Week of Compassion \$ 156.00

March 6

General Fund* \$1571.75
 Week of Compassion \$ 50.00

March 13

General Fund* \$2553.83
 White Swan Fire Recovery \$ 200.02
 Freezing Nights \$ 25.00

March 20

General Fund* \$ 637.50
 Week of Compassion \$ 6.00
 Roger Stroud Memorial \$ 15.00

March 27

General Fund* \$1397.00
 Week of Compassion \$ 25.00
 Roger Stroud Memorial \$ 595.00

*To meet 2011's General Offering budgeted income, weekly General Fund giving must average \$1,346.15.

Eight Days of Pilgrimage

APRIL 17-24: WORSHIP, REFLECTION, AND CELEBRATION MARK HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCE

Many early Christians understood the connections of mind and body in spirituality. By the fourth century Christian leaders encouraged believers to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. Because travel was often limited to those with financial means, faith communities developed local traditions that incorporated movement and spiritual reflection. Beginning with the ancient tradition of the Easter Vigil, the observance of Holy Week grew as Christians found meaning in following the footsteps of Jesus, both literally and figuratively.

This year expand your experience of Easter. Beginning on Palm Sunday, April 17th, commit to join in public worship, engage in private devotions, and give time in service to others. Make your Holy Week a time of spiritual renewal.



HOLY WEEK AT FCC



Palm Sunday - Read Matthew 21:1-11

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Holy Week begins with the shouts and excitement as Jesus enters Jerusalem. With all of the pageantry and rowdiness of a political rally, the journey to the cross begins with hopeful expectation.

After worship, take your palm branch home as a tangible reminder of Jesus' journey. The way of the cross rejects triumphalism and takes up servanthood.

How is God inviting you to lay down your palm branches and take on the role of servant?

Monday—Read John 12:1-11

The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Mary pours out a pound of costly perfume onto the feet of Jesus, an extravagant gift that confounds those who witnessed it. She gives from the standpoint of abundance, while those around her gasp. Having encountered God's grace in Jesus, Mary understands that all of life is a gift from God.

Today, practice living in abundance. Be open to giving time, money, and/or presence in meaningful ways.

Tuesday—Read John 12:20-36

Whoever serves me must follow me.

While much that passes for spirituality these days focuses on the individual, the call of Jesus is an active one. If one wants to be counted as a follower of Jesus, the way is not easy. *Those who love their life lose it*, Jesus said. Aligning our lives with the life of Jesus involves letting go of those things that keep us from abundant life in God.

Today, where is God calling you to follow Christ?

Wednesday—Read John 13:21-32

One of you will betray me.

The giddy excitement of Palm Sunday is now a distant memory. In the intimacy of their final meal together, Jesus startles his followers by declaring that one of them would betray him. The disciples respond with uncertainty and self-examination.

As the mood of the week turns solemn, imagine sitting among the disciples in that room. When you hear Jesus speak these words, how do you respond? In what ways do you sense the danger of following Jesus?



Maundy Thursday—Read John 13:1-17, 31b-35

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.*

The news paints a tough portrait of Christians—scandals and prejudice often make the headlines. Jesus wants us to be known, not by our misdeeds, but by our love.

The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means command. In this pivotal scene in John’s gospel, Jesus wraps a towel around his waist and washes the feet of the disciples. This act of servanthood embodies Jesus’ command to love one another.

Join in a deeply meditative worship at 7 pm. Participate in meaningful acts of worship: prayer, singing, footwashing, and communion. The practice of footwashing is an ancient one, and a powerful expression of our communal servanthood. Footwashing is optional, and there is the alternative of handwashing available. Together we will take to heart Christ’s commandment to love one another.

Good Friday—Read John 18:1-19:42

They crucified him, and with him two others.

The most solemn day of the Christian year, Good Friday is the remembrance of Jesus’ crucifixion and death. Christians around the world will gather to hear the story of the passion of Jesus. Many will walk stations of the cross, marking the scenes on the way to the cross.

This year Good Friday falls on Earth Day. We will offer a Stations of the Cross walk that includes both reflections on the death of Jesus and the devastation of the environment caused by humankind.

Pick up a copy of the Stations of the Cross Reflections from the church office and you may walk the loop of the park any time. Or, join others for a group walk at 6 pm.

Holy Saturday—Read John 19:38-42

...there was a garden in the place where he was crucified.

Late Saturday evening before Easter, the ancient church gathered waiting for the first light of Easter morning. In the darkness the church would celebrate the lighting of the Paschal fire and the Paschal Candle symbolizing the light of Christ brought anew into the world.

Catechumens (individuals in preparation for entrance into the community) would be baptized. Soon all attendees would celebrated with a renewal of their baptismal vows. It was a major celebration, on Holy Saturday in 407 CE we know that over 3,000 catechumens were baptized in the church in Constantinople alone.

Many Christian traditions, including Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Anglican churches, continue to observe the Easter Vigil. Eventually some churches moved to an early morning service, and others did away with it altogether.

This year will be our third observance of the Easter Vigil. If the Vigil is not a part of your regular Holy Week observance, consider participating this year. You will discover a service rich in meaning and brimming with joy. Join us on Holy Saturday, April 23rd, at 8:30 pm.

Easter Sunday—Read John 20:1-18

I have seen the Lord!

The festivities of the Vigil carry on to Easter morning. Music, flowers and Alleluias delight the senses as we celebrate the loving power of God in the resurrection of Christ. Bring flowers to add to our Flowering Cross.

FCC Puyallup: Proud to be Green!

RECYCLING VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT—INTERESTED IN HELPING US REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE?

In the summer of 2009, during *A Week in Mission: Creation Care*, First Christian Church made a commitment to live as more conscious stewards of God's—and our—beautiful green earth. That week volunteers gave new life to discarded fence sections and retired garbage cans by creating the recycle center outside the church's kitchen. Since then, church groups have recycled an exciting amount of items which previously would have finished their lives in a landfill. After church-generated recyclables are placed in the appropriate bins, they are taken by volunteers to their home curbside bins or local drop centers.

In honor of Earth Day, one or two volunteers are needed to insure the FCC recycling program will continue to be a growing success. To volunteer or get more information, please contact Robin Crabb or Pastor Nancy.

FCC Puyallup also proudly recycles paper for pickup by D.M. Disposal—every two weeks a 96 gallon toter full of paper is picked up for recycling!

Volunteers will help recycle these Church-Generated Items:

- Flattened cardboard boxes
- Clean plastic containers with mouths smaller than bodies only (no lids, wrap or bags, lidded tubs or clamshell boxes)
- Tin & aluminum cans/lids (no foil)
- Clean, unbroken glass containers (must go to recycle center)

Other items recyclable at church (outside the main office door):

- Spent ink & toner cartridges
- Old cell phones (remove contacts)
- Old light bulbs & other interesting pieces for Lisa Peterson's *Second Time Around* art
- Plastic grocery bags & egg cartons for Puyallup Food Bank



“Let the heavens rejoice,
let the earth be glad,
let the sea resound,
and all that is in it;
let the fields be jubilant,
and everything in them.
Then all the trees of the
forest will sing for joy;
they will sing
before the Lord.”
—Psalm 96:11-13



**GOOD FRIDAY
STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Walk the Decoursey Park loop, stopping at designated spots to reflect on the way of Jesus to the cross and the pain of Creation.

A group walk will begin at 6 pm. Booklets available in the church office for personal use.



Living the Questions 2.0 is a small group study exploring beyond the traditions and familiar theologies many people have grown up with. It's an open, frank, and perhaps challenging exploration of progressive Christian concepts and thought.

The Men's Study Group meets Thursdays at 7 pm. Participants have the option of meeting at 6 pm at the Mazatlan restaurant on Meridian & Main for fellowship and a meal before the study begins at church. **This group is not meet during Lent but will resume after Easter on Thursday, April 28th.**

april birthdays

- 1..... John Pasola
- 2..... Jayne Isch
- 3..... Barbara Schmitten
- 4..... Colleen Larsen
- 5..... Bill Blyth
- 7..... Bonita Goatz
- 7..... Eunice Squires
- 8..... John Sappington
- 8..... Bunnie Stanton
- 8..... Derek Valliere
- 10..... Anastasia Peterson
- 12..... Chris Yanasak
- 17..... Mary Beth Baker
- 18..... Mike Cheek
- 20..... Markay Archer
- 25..... Sarah Meyer
- 27..... Timothy Raup

baptism dates

- April 2, 1961 Linda O'Gwin
- April 3, 2010 Ben Johnson
- April 5, 1998 Elliot Forslund
- April 5 1998 Laura Vogel
- April 5, 1953 Markay Archer
- April 6, 1947 Robert Crabb
- April 6, 1947 Herb Crabtree
- April 8, 1990 Bryan Forslund
- April 8, 1990 Sean Forslund
- April 8, 1990 Terry Forslund
- April 11, 1976 Mike Kupfer
- April 12, 1992 Kelli Kays
- April 14, 1985 Amy Doering
- April 16, 1995 Kris Goatz
- April 17, 1977 Frank Archer
- April 18, 1982 Karrie Cheek
- April 18, 1982 Tony Fink
- April 19, 1964 Dorian Scott
- April 21, 1940 Pete Freeman
- April 27, 1969 Colleen O'Brien
- April 30, 1995 Darelee Phillips

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

life of the church in april

- Studies for all ages Sundays - 9:45 am
- Service of Worship..... Sundays - 11 am
- Puyallup Community Band rehearsals Tuesdays pm
- Cub Scout Meeting Tuesdays pm
- Women’s Study (BRB)..... Wednesdays - 10 am
- SO & SEW Study & Ministry Thursdays - 10 am
- Men’s Study *resumes April 28th* Thursdays - 7 pm
- Season of Lent..... through April 23
- Lenten Study..... Sundays - 9:45 am at church
or Sundays - 6:30 pm at Crockett’s Public House
- 1 Last Freezing Nights of the season - 7 pm
- 3, 10, 17 Seasonal Music Workshop - 12:30 pm
- 5 Book Club in church classroom - 7 pm
- 8 Renovo Church Women’s Group - 5:30 pm
- 13 Elders Meeting at Connie Robey’s home - 6 pm
- 16 Lunch with a Friend at Peace Lutheran - 10 am
- 17 Palm Sunday
- 21 Maundy Thursday Service - 7 pm
- 22 Good Friday/Earth Day Stations of the Cross
at Clark’s Creek Park - 6 pm
- 28 Council reports due
- 23 Easter Vigil - 8:30 pm
- 24 Easter Sunday
- 29 Friends in Fellowship Singles Group
at Puerto Vallarta Restaurant - 6 pm

Tired of old fashioned methods of remembering?

Be sure you’re getting the FCC Chimes newsletter the best way for you – e-mail, snail mail, or on the website—let us know!

Sign up in the foyer or email webmaster@fccpuyallup.com to request FCC Puyallup’s weekly reminder e-mails sent directly to your inbox!

Add FCC Puyallup’s Google calendar to your calendar feed—never miss or be late to another church event!