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# First Christian *Chimes*

**A WELCOMING, COMPASSIONATE, SPIRIT-LED PEOPLE OF FAITH  
SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

## Seven Area Churches Open Doors for Freezing Nights

The days are getting shorter, the rains are here to stay, and the nighttime temperatures are dipping lower and lower. Freezing Nights, the Puyallup-based program serving the homeless will soon launch its third year, and First Christian Church will again be a host site, providing food and shelter on freezing nights.

Always determining the best ways to be effective, the ecumenical outreach ministry will have some changes this year: One is that Freezing Nights will take place any night the “feels like” temperature (at [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)) drops to **32 degrees**. Another change is that **dinner will no longer be served** at the host sites. And, a record **seven Puyallup churches** will open their doors to the homeless as host sites!

What has not changed is that there is still a great need for volunteers and there is still a variety of ways to be a part of this important program witnessing the love of Jesus to those in need.

### COUNTLESS WAYS TO HELP

- Donated supplies: Snack foods such as popcorn, chips, cookies; Beverages like decaf coffee, cocoa, and tea; Paper products (all paper please) hot drink cups, plates, napkins, and lunch sacks are welcomed.
- Each guest will get a hearty breakfast. We’ll need donations of food as well as people willing to prepare, serve, and/or clean up.
- After dinner at the Armory, guests will be shuttled by van from the pickup spot to the church sites each evening and back again in the morning. Morning and evening van drivers are needed.
- Each guest will be given a sack lunch to get them through the day. Can you come to pack the lunches?
- A callout to men is being given by Dan Aldridge, Freezing Nights Program Director, who asks men to step forward who might like to make a positive difference in the life of another man in need of a friend and champion.
- Grocery store gift cards (for church use) are always useful, as are cash donations. Make checks out to FCC Puyallup, designate *Freezing Nights* in the memo and leave in the offering plate or church office.
- Prepare the sanctuary by stacking and moving chairs, and/or help reset them in the mornings.
- Stay all night—sleep shifts are flexible for your needs.

### WANT TO BE A PART?

Contact Dave Patterson, FCC site coordinator  
or the church office

### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Come to an informational meeting  
at FCC Puyallup on Thursday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm

# PaTH (*Practicing and Teaching Hope*) Conversations toward Our Guiding Vision

## Building on our July Vision Retreat

The ideas, passions and hopes of our summer visioning retreat continue to inspire the work of our PaTH teams. Once again your participation is vital.

The PaTH Teams have offered a draft guiding vision statement for the whole congregation to consider prayerfully. In October they began leading conversations around the guiding vision with the church board and small groups.

Now the conversation circle is expanded—everyone is invited to participate. During our November worship services we will be listening to the draft guiding vision and considering how this emerging vision may call us to faithful ministry in the future.



## Draft Guiding Vision

*First Christian Church of Puyallup is a gathering of diverse individuals called by God to live as a blessing in our own neighborhoods and in the world.*

*We dream of being a faithful community of God's people whose spiritual practices of worship, prayer, study, and ministry nurture those who are seeking to live in the way of Jesus.*

*Believing that every follower of Christ is gifted by God, we dream of being a family in which each person discovers their gifts and is supported in sharing those gifts with the world.*

*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, and peacemaking.*

As you think about this draft guiding vision statement, here are some questions to consider:

- In what ways does this vision call us to a more faithful life together as a congregation?
- What changes would we need to make in order to fulfill this vision?

## Disciples in the News

### General Minister and President speaks out on Health Care Issues

On October 2 Dr. Sharon Watkins joined other religious leaders to ask Congress to override a presidential veto of the H.R. 976, a reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

The SCHIP program is a joint federal-state initiative to provide health care coverage for children whose families earn above the limit to qualify for Medicaid coverage and too little to afford private medical care coverage.

At a news conference organized by Sojourners/Call to Renewal, an ecumenical faith-based movement to overcome poverty, Watkins gave her support to a resolution passed by the General Assembly at its recent gathering in Fort Worth, TX. In July 2007 the resolution called for healthcare solutions for the more than 9 million children without health insurance and the millions more who are underinsured. The resolution also urged Disciples to work as "advocates for children."

[update: On October 18, the House of Representatives fell 13 votes shy of overturning the presidential veto (votes 273 to 156). The Senate originally passed the legislation with 67 votes. How did your legislators vote? With the exception of Rep. Doc Hastings (Yakima), all Washington State representatives and senators voted for the SCHIP legislation.]

**“ Simple human decency says no child should be left behind... and denying healthcare coverage to children is leaving them behind. ”**

*~Sharon Watkins,  
General Minister  
and President,  
Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)*

# Taking the Humbug out of the Holidays

Describing the perfect holiday season, you'd likely list the company of loved ones, good food, laughter, relaxation... maybe some snow. It sounds simple, but for many it couldn't be farther from reality. The holidays often exhaust more than uplift, and we can feel trapped by all the shopping, spending, and frenzied preparations. If you want your holidays wrapped more in *meaning* and less in *stuff*, you're not alone. In a recent survey, 70 percent of Americans said they'd welcome less emphasis on gift giving and spending. This year, don't rack up credit card debt, get swept up in the commercialism, or create waste. Instead, create holidays that instill more meaning into the season and encourage sharing, laughter, and personal renewal.

~adapted with permission, for more ideas visit [www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org)

## alternative gift ideas

- As a family, sponsor a child or try gift catalogs like Church World Service, World Vision, or A Greater Gift.
- **Don't miss FCC Puyallup's A Greater Gift (SERRV) sale November 18 - 25 for a great selection of wonderful fairly traded gifts!**
- Design gift certificates for monthly lunches, home cooked meals, a massage, or babysitting.
- Chronicle history in photos, letters, recorded memories, and a drawing of your family tree.
- Make an album of family photos and recipes
- Give a friend the gift of less junk mail: [www.newdream.org/junkmail](http://www.newdream.org/junkmail).
- Give away one of your favorite things—a warm scarf, a seashell with a great story, or a prized trinket from Graceland or Greece!
- Enjoy an activity together—a ballgame, dinner out, a camping trip, or a concert.
- Give art, music or sports lessons

## dreaming of a green Christmas?

- Americans have 25% more garbage from Thanksgiving to Christmas. This holiday give experience gifts—tickets to an event or admission to a museum keep gift wrap and packaging out of landfills.
- Use popcorn, not peanuts to ship gifts. Receive a gift with peanuts? Reuse or donate to a mailing store or Tacoma Recycle Center.
- Hosting a party? Buy food and drinks in bulk to minimize packaging, then recycle cans, glass or plastic bottles. Reuse or rent decorations.
- Give used sports gear made of recycled material, such as hiking shoes with recycled rubber soles, basketballs made with recycled rubber, ski jackets and sleeping bags made from recycled plastic.
- Send recycled-content greeting cards or make your own from scrap paper or by attaching new backs to the fronts of old cards.
- Home baked goodies packaged in reusable or recyclable containers show you care *and* reduce packaging waste.
- Potted plants, live bushes, shrubs, or trees can be planted in Spring.
- Use reusable cloth shopping bags and look for minimal packaging and recycled content (fleece from recycled plastic bottles, sneakers made with recycled rubber, or clothes from recycled cotton.)

## really recycled wrapping:

**GIFT WRAP: A BROWN PAPER BAG OR AN OLD SUBWAY MAP.**

**RIBBON: A BIT OF TWINE OR A LEFTOVER SCRAP OF FUZZY YARN.**

**USE YOUR IMAGINATION! TRY ONE OF THESE UNCONVENTIONAL & ECO-FRIENDLY WRAPS**



- Old scarves
- Travel brochures & old maps
- Last year's calendar
- Children's artwork
- Fabric remnants
- A painted crate or cardboard box
- Magazines or comic book pages
- Old posters or prints
- Leftover wall- or contact paper
- Construction or tracing paper
- Sunday comics
- A bright hand towel
- Baskets, tins, flower pots, vases
- Jewelry boxes

*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Puyallup WA 98371  
Permit #28

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

## Ch-Ch-Chili! NOVEMBER 18

All are invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off after Worship Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Come taste our congregation's best chili creations and vote for "Chili Champ 2007," or enter your own recipe! Join the ranks of past winners Pastor Nancy, John Pasola, and reigning champion, Ray Smith.

Just \$5 buys a ticket good for five samples of chili. Additional samples may be purchased for \$1. Beverages and sides will be included. Proceeds will go toward supporting our youth groups' missions and activities for the year.

*Tickets and entry forms are available now.  
Please return entries by November 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Ask Katie Peterson or the church office for info.*

## Enough for All NOVEMBER'S MISSION



November - it's a month when bountiful harvests, cornucopias (horns of plenty), and turkey feasts come to mind, and many of us take for granted that we'll have too much to eat on Thanksgiving. Not so for thousands in our community.

This month let's fill the Thanksgiving table of our "adopted" families and our own Blessing Box so that all may have enough to eat. Nonperishable foods and cash donations are welcome; perishable foods (turkeys, hams, potatoes, rolls, etc.) will be delivered in time for Thanksgiving.

**NEXT MONTH: Holiday Giving Tree Gift Items**

### birthdays

- 5 ..... Marcy Durrant
- 6 ..... Scott Durrant
- 9 ..... Ed Durrant
- 9 ..... Bryan Forslund
- 15 ..... Penny Bangert
- 14 ..... Mark Dimond
- 20 ..... Fisher Patterson
- 24 ..... Kay Van Pevanage
- 26 ..... Tiffany Eckerman

- 27 ..... Merrill Barker
- 28 ..... Ericka Yanasak

### anniversaries

- 17 ..... Eva & Herb Crabtree
- 20 ..... Penny & Dave Bangert
- 21 ..... Doris & Don Turner
- 24 ..... Norene & Ken Romjue
- 24 ..... Juanita & Laverne Cimmer

### life of the church

#### Worship with us - Sundays at 11 am

- 4 ..... Daylight Saving Time ends
- 11 ..... Veterans Day
- 11 ..... Youth Meeting (Grades 5 - 12)
- 13 ..... Elder/Diaconate Meeting - 7 pm
- 17 ..... Lunch with a Friend - 10 am
- 18 ..... Chili Cook-off - 12:30 pm
- 18-25 ..... A Greater Gift (SERRV) sale
- 22 ..... Thanksgiving Day
- 25 ..... Youth Meeting (Grades 1 - 4)