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# First Christian Chimes

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

## a week in mission: *love in action* AUGUST 10-17

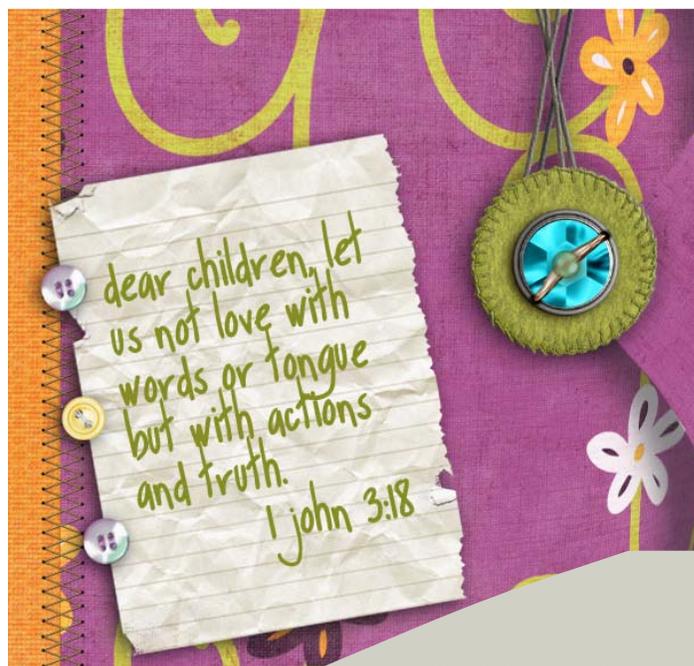
...love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. -Deuteronomy 6:5

...love your neighbor as yourself. -Leviticus 19:18b

The book of Matthew recounts the story of Jesus being tested by the Sadducees, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is greatest?” Jesus answered by quoting the Jewish scripture he had learned as a child, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.” Jesus went on, “A second is like it: “‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

At first glance these directives seem very different, yet when we wholly love God, the result is that we also love each other. The Bible instructs that our “neighbor” is each of God’s children, whether next door or on the far side of the planet. During 2008’s A Week in Mission: *Love in Action*, FCC Puyallup will continue to live into their Guiding Vision’s assertion of being “called by God to live as a blessing in our own neighborhoods and in the world.”

For the second year, A Week in Mission will engage participants in worship, education, action, servanthood, and prayer. Events will include an outdoor labyrinth, worship in action, berry picking and sharing, prayer walks, blessing stones and bags, sharing stories over meals, feeding the hungry, a nearly free parking lot sale (100% will go to our quarterly mission’s charities, Friends & Servants and Global Ministries), and more.



**Young and old are welcome to take part in this week-long affair. Come to one event or come to all! Tell a friend! Spend the week with First Christian Church of Puyallup ‘loving in action’ in big and small ways!**

*See Page 2 for a schedule of events.*

# join us for a week in mission - AUGUST 10 - 17

## *Love in action; a byproduct of loving God*

**Look for updates in Sunday bulletins & website calendar**

### Sunday, August 10

- 9 am to 1 pm - Blood Mobile on site - Donate blood
- 10 am - A Week in Mission begins in Worship and moves into special projects of love in action.
- 1 to 2 pm - Share a meal (provided) and a story
- Outdoor labyrinth open 24/7 - walk, pray and learn about reflecting God's love near and far.

### Monday, August 11

- 3-7 pm - Drop in between 3 & 7 to create symbols of God's love to share this week. Supplies provided.
  - \* Blessing Stones - Create a lasting blessing to share with those we come into contact with.
  - \* Blessing Bags & Stamped Cards - Sew or decorate an easy gift bag for our friends in nursing homes or stamp cards to put inside.

### Tuesday, August 12

- 10 am - AM Blueberry Pick - meet at church
- 6 pm - PM Blueberry Pick - meet at church
- Berries will be picked and shared with Friends & Servants, and used at Lunch with a Friend and at our Sunday picnic; take extras home with you!

### Wednesday, August 13

- 10 am - AM Prayer Walk at Nursing Home
- 7 pm - PM Prayer Walk - meet at church (for both)

### Thursday, August 14

- 10 am - Prepare food for Lunch with a Friend
- 6 pm - Prepare dessert for LWF & Sunday picnic
- 6 pm - Getting ready for guests (sign painting)

### Friday, August 15

- 3 - 8 pm - "Nearly Free" Parking Lot Sale - 100% of sales to go to Week in Mission charities.

### Saturday, August 16

- 10 am - Prepare & share a meal at Lunch with a Friend at Peace Lutheran (214 E Pioneer). We'll visit, eat & pray with guests; come make a friend!
- 9 pm - 10:30 pm - Candlelight labyrinth walk

### Sunday, August 17

- 10 am - Worship with us!
- Old fashioned picnic with friends and neighbors!

### **Love in Action Ideas:**

- Give 10¢ to Week in Mission charities (Friends & Servants and Global Ministries) for each friend's name in your home or e-mail address book.
- Kids make some of the best friends. Read a book, play a game, or swap tales with a child.
- Write to Congress regarding justice issues.
- Donate 25¢ for each person who greets you this week (in person, phone, e-mail, mail).
- Take a walk and pray for individuals and families whose homes you pass.
- Give 1 hour of your week visiting a friend, neighbor, shut-in, or nursing home.
- Count the paces from your door to the nearest house. Donate 5¢ per step.
- Invite someone to a Week in Mission event.
- Recycle your magazines to a nursing home.
- Random Acts: Return a grocery cart, mow a lawn in secret, wash a neighbor's car, pay for the person behind you, leave an extra good tip.
- Reconnect with a lost or estranged friend.
- Pick up litter wherever you go.
- Challenge yourself to smile, make eye contact, say hello, and listen more often this week.
- Thank God for your friends and family and give a special offering to Week in Mission.



# Happy Parking— it's just around the corner

SEPTEMBER 5-21

The FCC Puyallup Guiding Vision statement affirms that we are a people 'called by God to live as a blessing in our own neighborhoods and in the world.' What an opportunity we have as thousands of people will soon come to or pass by our church on their way to the Puyallup Fair!

**“ called by god  
to live as a blessing  
in our own neighborhoods  
and in the world ”**

In order to be the best stewards we can be, we must share with others what we have, and so from Fair Parking earnings ten percent is given to local, national, and global ministries. But our Guiding Vision goes



on to say that 'we experience God's welcome in our celebration at the communion table and dream of being a reflection of that welcome.' If we are to live into our Vision by way of our Missional Strategy (*see page 3*) as full partners in God's plan for us, Fair

Parking is a great place to start! Think of all the ways we can be the face of God to those with whom we come in contact through those 17 days... neighbors, out-of-townners, children, seniors, adults, and each other—the sky's the limit!

**Another blessing you can give is your time. *Your help is needed*; if your work schedule conflicts, consider sharing a split shift. Sign up in the foyer or call the church office for your favorite shift and position now!**

## august birthdays

- 1 ..... Roger Stroud
- 7 ..... Roxane Neslund
- 9 ..... Dorothy Phillips
- 9 ..... Louis Sannes
- 10 ..... Alorah Leale
- 10 ..... Ruth Lepley
- 10 ..... Megan Stanhope
- 11 ..... James Lepley
- 11 ..... Marjorie Northrop
- 11 ..... Nancy Durrant
- 11 ..... Karen Stumpf
- 12 ..... Robert Collins
- 14 ..... Karrie Cheek
- 17 ..... Oliver Patterson
- 22 ..... Mike Kupfer
- 27 ..... Kerry Yanasak
- 30 ..... Ashley Markum

## & anniversaries

- 8 ..... Barbara & Roger Stroud
- 26 ..... June & Steve Armstrong
- 27 ..... Debbie & David Dimond

## life of the church

- Summer Worship..... Sundays - 10 am
- Crafters Group..... Thursdays - 10 am
- 2 ..... Carrie Talley memorial - 11 am
- 3 ..... Board Meeting - after Worship
- 10-17 ..... A Week in Mission (page 1)
- 16 ..... Lunch with a Friend - 10 am
- 26 ..... Diaconate Meeting - 7 pm

**"Every time you forgive someone who hurt you,  
encourage someone who feels defeated,  
extend compassion to someone who stands alone,  
confront someone in love,  
open your heart to a friend,  
reconcile with an enemy,  
devote time to a child,  
you align yourself with  
God's central purpose in this world."**

-John Ortberg

# Prayers for PaTH

More than twenty people have covenanted to give their time, consideration, energy, and prayers to the next step in our congregational transformation process, PaTH (Practicing and Teaching Hope).

In this phase, four ministry design teams will begin planning the areas of Common Life, Formation, Resources, and Structure using input from our PaTH conferences, the FCC Puyallup Guiding Vision, and Missional Strategy (*below*).

Please keep the design teams in your prayers as they work with God's guidance and blessing to continue PaTH Phase IV, *Designing Congregational Life and Witness*.



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## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF PUYALLUP (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) MISSIONAL STRATEGY

### **OUR 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, justice and peacemaking.

### **ROLE & MISSION**

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are a community of faith, committed to following God's call. As followers of Christ we will work together to nurture the spiritual development of each person, as we use our varied spiritual gifts to be a reflection of God's love in the world.

### **KEY RESULTS AREAS & GOALS**

#### ***Spiritual Formation***

Goal: To honor and nurture the spiritual lives of individuals, wherever they are in their faith journeys, by engaging in meaningful worship, cultivating a communal life of prayer, creating a learning environment, and committing to share our experiences.

Goal: To create a community in which all people are in the process of understanding, developing, and employing their spiritual gifts for ministry.

*Continued on page 5*

## **Community Formation**

- Goal: To be a welcoming community which reflects God's hospitality in our relationships with one another through mutual support and respect, forgiveness and loving kindness.
- Goal: To celebrate the great variety of people who make up our congregation, we will welcome the gifts of all, from the very young to our seniors, as we commit to learn from the wisdom and experiences of each other.
- Goal: To be a listening community in which open communication fosters inclusion and involvement.

## **Ministry & Witness**

- Goal: To live out the love of God through Christ Jesus in all of our thoughts, words, and actions.
- Goal: To equip followers of Jesus to share their faith stories.
- Goal: To have each individual in our congregation engaged in a ministry that connects their calling to God's work in the world.
- Goal: To have an active ministry that begins at our front door and spreads through our neighborhoods to the far corners of our world.

## **Connecting with our Neighborhood**

- Goal: To strengthen our relationships with our neighbors.
- Goal: To become a church that reflects the changing neighborhood in which we live.

## **CORE BELIEFS & COMMITMENTS**

We believe in and are committed to:

- Sharing God's love
- Being in community with one another
- Living as followers of Jesus Christ
- Working in partnerships
- Welcoming others
- Practicing justice and peacemaking

## **PARTICIPANT GROUPS**

As we carry out our mission, we will partner with:

- Existing church groups
- Neighboring community
- Other churches and organizations
- People with needs we can meet
- Groups and individuals who use our building and property



# Keep the Date—Fall Congregational Retreat

SABBATH-KEEPING: RECLAIMING GOD’S GIFT TO US • OCTOBER 10-12, 2008 AT HOLDEN VILLAGE

In recent American history the practice of Sabbath-keeping was primarily a following a lists of don’ts. No shopping, lawn mowing, or purchasing alcohol are a few of the ways in which many Christians defined honoring the Sabbath.

Join us for a weekend of exploring the gift of Sabbath-keeping. We will focus upon God’s invitation to find a rhythm of rest within our culture’s endless cycle of action. We’ll explore play, relaxation, and opportunities for self-care during the weekend.

Holden Village is a Lutheran ministry center for rest and renewal. Located near Lake Chelan and the beautiful Glacier Peak Wilderness, Holden is a remote location with no phone or internet access. Trails in the area offer an opportunities for both hiking and fishing. A thriving arts ministry offers pottery-making, weaving, paper making, silkscreening, and needlecrafts.



Pastor Nancy (and the travel gnome) spent the first days of her 2007 sabbatical at Holden Village



Accommodations will be in comfortable lodge rooms that accommodate 2-4 each with bathrooms down the hall. Families may share a room, often including bunk beds. There are wheelchair accessible rooms available. Meals are shared family-style with all Holden Village guests and staff. The kitchen staff at Holden are well known for their homemade soups and freshly baked bread. For more information about Holden Village, visit their website at [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org).

Travel to Holden Village requires a boat trip on the Lady II, with limited service in the fall. To arrive at the camp on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, one must take the 8:30 am trip from Lake Chelan (\$39/round trip). The boat dock is off of Highway 97, approximately 190 miles from Puyallup (estimated driving time 3.5 hours). The Holden bus will pick up guests at the dock for the final leg of the trip to the village. We will return on the Lady II arriving back in Chelan at 6 pm on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Funds from the Lilly Sabbatical Grant will be used to help underwrite the costs of the retreat. The amount available for each person will vary according to how many registrants we have; we anticipate being able to cover the cost of one night’s stay for each attendee. Look for more complete registration information coming soon. The regular cost for a two-night stay is \$123 (adult), \$98 (ages 12-17), \$62 (ages 4-11), and \$31 (ages 0-3). Additional financial help for families will be available. Anyone wishing to extend their stay is encouraged to do so.

## Pastor Nancy's late-summer schedule

Pastor Nancy will be out of town August 19<sup>th</sup> through September 13<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Bill Robey will be our guest preacher while she is away. For any pastoral care concerns during this time, please contact the church office.

In addition to visiting family in Illinois and officiating at a friend's wedding in Michigan, Pastor Nancy will also be attending a Disciples clergy conference in Chicago. Sharon Watkins, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is convening the conference with Dr. Will Willimon and Dr. Floyd Flake as featured speakers. Because our congregation is involved in the PaTH transformation process, Pastor Nancy was able to receive a partial scholarship to help with the costs of the conference.

**“Attention, Israel! God, our God! God the one and only! Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates.”**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9  
*The Message. (c) 2002.  
Used by permission*

**"Love Thy Neighbor" is more than a catchy phrase or popular wisdom, it is a time honored commandment rooted in Islamic, Jewish and Christian faith traditions.**

**Love of neighbor is a cornerstone of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, with love of God (Allah and Yahweh) as the foundation. The command to love one's neighbor is not about the emotion of love, but rather the action of love. Who is my neighbor - those who are like you, that is, created by God. Therefore, all of humanity is our neighbor.**

**-[www.love-thy-neighbor.org](http://www.love-thy-neighbor.org)**



*Return Service Requested*

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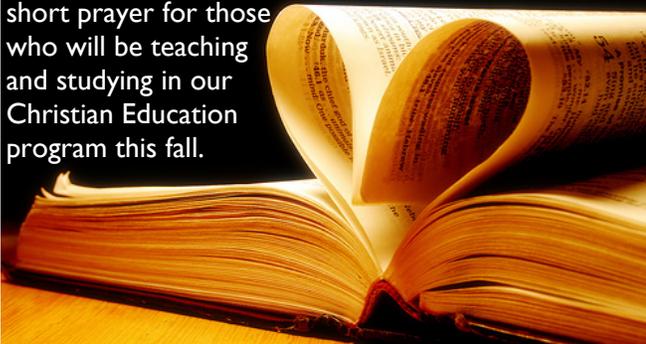
## Love in action...

"Our happiness is all mixed up with each other's happiness, our peace with each other's peace. Our own happiness, our own peace can never be complete until we find some way of sharing it with people who, the way things are now, have no happiness and know no peace. **Jesus calls us to show this truth forth, live this truth forth.** Be the light of the world, he says. Where there are dark places, be the light especially there. Be the salt of the earth. Bring out the true flavor of what it is to be alive truly. Be truly alive. **Be life-givers to others.** That

is what Jesus tells the disciples to be. That is what Jesus tells his church, tells us, to be and do. **Love each other.** Heal the sick, he says. Raise the dead. Cleanse lepers. Cast out demons. That is what loving each other means. **If the church is doing things like that, then it is being what Jesus told it to be.** If it is not doing things like that --no matter how many other good and useful things it may be doing instead--then it is not being what Jesus told it to be. **It is as simple as that."**

-Frederick Buechner,  
*Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons*

Cut out this coupon and place it on your refrigerator. Every time you see it, take a few moments to say a short prayer for those who will be teaching and studying in our Christian Education program this fall.



Interested in teaching? Contact the church office.

### Sunday School Prayer Coupon

Take a moment to say one of these prayers:

- Creator Spirit, blow into the hearts of those who will be teaching this fall.
- Nurturing God, comfort and uplift those who will be studying your word.
- Jesus our Lord, call forth teachers and students for your Christian Education program; help us to hear whether you are calling us to teach this year.