

January Newsletter

2017



From the Pastor's Desk

This is a journal reflection I wrote as part of my most recent seminary class. I used author Henri Nouwen as my guide during the class. In Nouwen's text *Making All Things New*, pages 80-95, he encourages the practice of the "Discipline of Community."

Heart calling to heart,
Namaste.

Grounded in God, listening together;
Together paying attention to the God who calls us together.
Hear the word from each other,
We are safe together there in creative silence.

Where does God lead us as a people?
Prayer and action become one.
Stretching beyond decades and centuries
Our horizon unites.
The space *within* us and the space *among* us
become one
With your unceasing prayer of your Spirit.

From fragmentation to unity,
From many things to one necessary thing,
Our divided lives become undivided souls in
your Spirit.
People become persons,
Setting our hearts on your kingdom,
Being made new.

Freed from competition
We listen together comfortable in the silence.
No need for rivalry
Your Spirit blesses all equally.
But only when we are open in you individually
Can we hear the call to come together.

Together in hope,

Together in joy,
Together in speaking peace
That your love melds and bridges to
Those who do not yet hear You;
Community.

Community work;
That constant recognition of the Spirit of God
In each other.
Hungry for Your presence--
Recreate us for attentiveness that
Notifies the difference when you fill us.

Grateful for living water
That flows in waves and rivulets.
Grateful for Holy bread
That sustains and nourishes.
Grateful for the remembrance
That calls to community covenant.

Covenant together;
Listen....listen....listen....
Seek the promise that is the reason you are
called together.
Persist, dismantle, free inner space;
Be alert for the Pentecost experience
That invades and guides our awareness.

Hearts beat as one,
Eyes gain common vision,
Prayer spells out hope.
Breath in common inner space
Gives mouth to energy of kinship;
Spiritual life in community.

Love, Val



1 New Year's Day Labyrinth Walk—See page 3

6 Epiphany

*8 Start of Sacrament Series
See page 2 for details*

16 MLK, Jr. Observance

LOOKING AHEAD

*February 4 "Walking the
Road to Emmaus" Mission
Workshop, Eugene, OR.*



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Late Winter Sacrament Worship Series

In order to learn and understand more about the sacraments used in the church, many worship services in January and February will revolve around one of them. Doctrine and Covenants 158: 11c tells us, "Look especially to the sacraments to enrich the spiritual life of the body. Seek for greater understanding of my purposes in these sacred rites and prepare to receive a renewed confirmation of the presence of my Spirit in your experiences of worship." Please pray for these upcoming services and our own spiritual preparation.

Joint Worship with LDS Affirmation

The January 15th worship service will not include a sacrament topic. Instead, we will host the LDS Affirmation Group. This group seeks to affirm LGBT persons on the fringes of the Mormon church. They will be holding a conference elsewhere in the city during this weekend but will join us for worship in the **gym**.

Assistant Pastor Candidates to Speak

The finalists for the Assistant Pastor position will be speaking here during worship services in January. This will be an opportunity for us and them to introduce ourselves to each other.

Below is the schedule regarding the above worships:

January 1	Chris Davisdon speaking
January 8	Baptism Daniel Rose speaking
January 15	Worship with LDS Affirmation
January 22	Confirmation Tomi Dunn will be confirmed.
January 29	Administration
February 5	Communion
February 12	Blessing of Children
February 19	Marriage
February 26	Evangelists Blessing
March 1	Ordination

"Walking the Road to Emmaus" Mission Workshop at Eugene February 4, 2017

Register now for the FREE workshop, *Walking the Road to Emmaus: Where Mission and Culture Collide*, to be held on **Saturday, February 4, 2017**, from **9:30 am-2:30 pm** at **Eugene Congregation** (1485 Gilham Road, Eugene OR 97401). Bring a sack lunch.

Like in the Emmaus scripture, the ministry of Jesus Christ is manifested when we engage in relationships with others. Opportunities for mission abound everywhere, but where do we begin? We will explore how our congregations can become more aware and ready to respond to opportunities for mission in our communities. This workshop will particularly focus on the following:

- Creating a Foundation for Mission: *Why are we called? To whom are we called to bring ministry?*
- A Disciple's Guide to Mission: *10 things to consider when preparing, or continuing, to be mission-focused*
- Moving Forward in Mission: *What now?*

To register, please contact GPNW Invitation Support Minister **Sean Langdon** (425-293-6366, slangdon@cofchrist-gpnw.org) with your name, email address, cell phone number, and name of the congregation you attend.

Health Ministries Association (HMA) is an association of health professionals and others passionate about health and spirituality. We are an affiliate of the **Community of Christ**. We promote wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. At the 2013



Community of Christ World Conference, HMA was identified as a partner for providing resources and links for use in promoting Wholeness

and Well-being. Our own **Joy Farquhar** is a member of the World Church team. For more information go to www.cofchrist.org/health-and-wholeness-team.org. If you would like to view the newsletter go to www.Newsletter.HMACofChrist.org.



New Years Day Labyrinth Walk

January 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

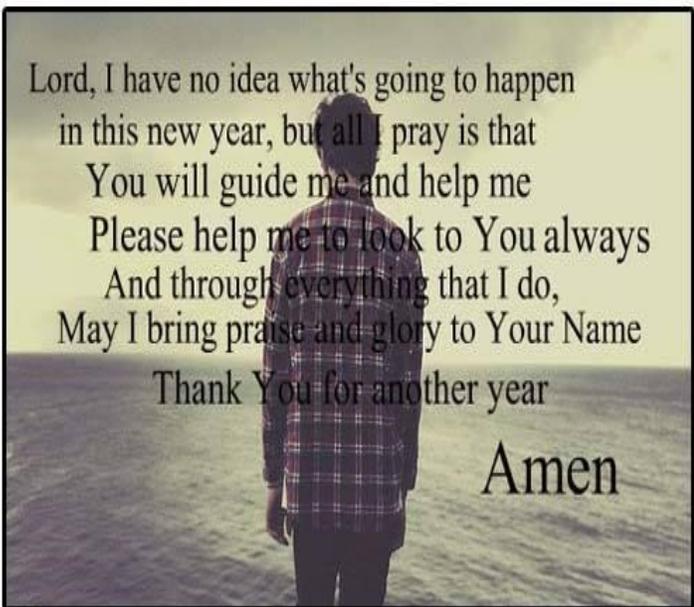
First Presbyterian Church
4300 Main St., Vancouver, Wash.

Set your prayers/intentions/hopes for the New Year
on this indoor Chartres Labyrinth.

Come any time.

Free Will Offering.

For more information, contact
SacredJourneyMin@aol.com.



Epiphany

From www.timeanddate.com

Epiphany, commonly known as Three Kings' Day in the United States, is on January 6. It celebrates the three wise men's visit to baby Jesus and also remembers His baptism, according to the Christian Bible's events. .

What Do People Do?

Many Christians take part in Epiphany activities such as:

- Star processions on the Sunday closest to January 6 for church services
- Parties or get-togethers to clean up homes after the festive season and put away Christmas decorations.
- Treasure hunts to find a figure of the Christ child.
- Epiphany luncheons, parties and celebrations among churchgoers.
- And Sunday school activities for children that focus on Epiphany, such as creating the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem.

Background

Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts. It was celebrated since the end of the second century, before the Christmas holiday was established. It is commonly known as Twelfth Night, Twelfth Day, or the Feast of Epiphany. It means "manifestation" or "showing forth". It is also called Theophany ("manifestation of God"), especially by Eastern Christians. Epiphany also refers to the church season that follows the day.

It commemorates the first two occasions on which Jesus' divinity, according to Christian belief, was manifested: when the three kings visited infant Jesus in Bethlehem, and when John the Baptist baptized him in the River Jordan. The Roman Catholic and Protestant churches emphasize the visit of the Magi when they celebrate the Epiphany. The Eastern Orthodox churches focus on Jesus' baptism.

Three Chests



Sometimes called “three arks,” this image represents the gifts the Magi brought to the child Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). Because Scripture lists three gifts, the legend arose that there were three wise men. But the biblical account doesn’t say how many travelers visited the Holy Family.



As the Three Magi brought gifts to the baby Jesus, children also desire to give. But what shall they bring to the newborn King?

“The Wise May Bring Their Learning”

The wise may bring their learning, the rich may bring their wealth,
And some may bring their greatness, and some bring strength and health;
We, too, would bring our treasures to offer to the King;
We have no wealth or learning; what shall we children bring?
We'll bring him hearts that love him; we'll bring him thankful praise,
And young souls meekly striving to walk in holy ways;
And these shall be the treasures we offer to the King,
And these are gifts that even the poorest child may bring.
We'll bring the little duties we have to do each day;
We'll try our best to please him, at home, at school, at play;
And better are these treasures to offer to our King;
Than richest gifts without them — yet these a child may bring.

—Anonymous

Taking a stand

Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe? Expediency asks the question: Is it politic? Vanity asks the question: Is it popular? But conscience asks the question: Is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular — but one must take it simply because it is right.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Resolution One: I will live for God.

Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.

—Minister Jonathan Edwards 1722

May the coming year be one of increased riches of grace-

hearing His voice more clearly,
knowing His heart more deeply,
resting in His love more fully,
trusting His care more completely,
walking His pathway more peacefully,
knowing His presence more intimately,
blessed by His goodness more abundantly.

- Roy Lessin, www.meetmeinthe meadow.com



Lessons from a Snowman

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!

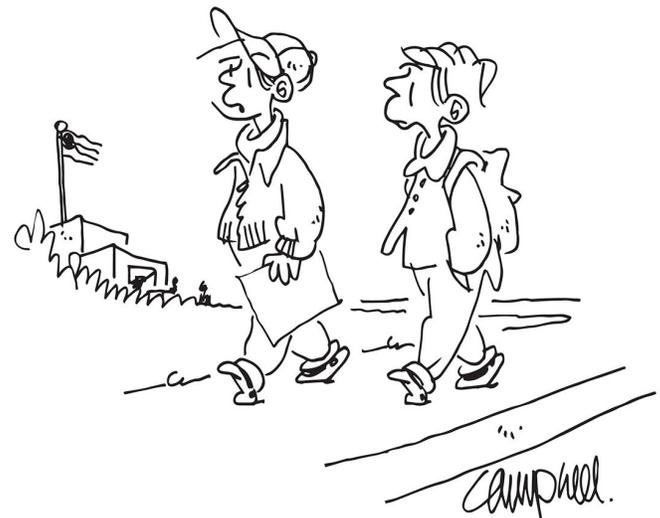


Bible Quiz

In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- A farmer sowing seed
- B. A mustard seed
C. Yeast
D. Hidden treasure
E. A merchant who finds a pearl
F. A fishing net
G. All of the above

Answer: G (See Matthew 13:24-51)



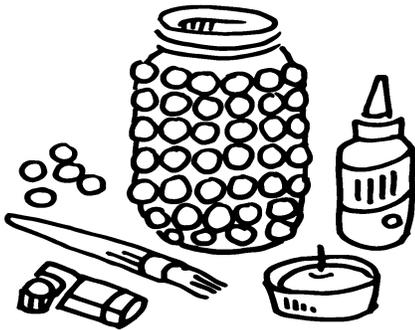
"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."



Activity Page

MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:

A

E

I

O

" _ _ M TH _ L _ GHT _ F

TH _ W _ RLD. WH _ _ V _ R

F _ LL _ WS M _ W _ LL N _ V _ R

W _ LK _ N D _ RKN _ SS."

J _ H N 8:12, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV