



**Newsletter of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Bellingham, WA Vol.73, No 4 ~ April 2023**

*We acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral land of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Lummi, Nooksack, and Semiahmoo who have lived in this region since ancient times. May we live consciously and respectfully, honoring Coast Salish neighbors.*

**First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
An Open & Affirming  
Congregation**

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[www.bellinghamdisciples.org](http://www.bellinghamdisciples.org)

[Find us on Facebook](#)

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

**Holy Week**

**April 3-9, 2023**

**4.2** 11:00AM Palm Sunday Ushers in Holy week

**4.6** 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service

**Easter Schedule**

**4.9** 9:00 AM Early Service (Courtyard)

9:30 AM Continental Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

10:00-10:30 AM Easter Games

11:00 Worship (Sanctuary)

*No coffee hour today*



**First Christian Church  
(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 welcomed us.

**All of Us.** Ministers

**Rev. Debbie Little**, Interim Pastor

**Amelia Nye**, Accompanist

**April Thomson**, Office Administrator

**Rev. Bill Robey**, Regional Minister

**Rev. Terri Horde Owens**  
General Minister and President

**Sunday Schedule**

10:50AM Gathering Time  
11:00AM Worship  
12:15PM Fellowship Time  
2:00PM Book Group (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

**Office Hours**

Tuesday - Friday  
9:00AM - 12:00PM (noon)

Our staff are in and out of the office throughout the week. Please feel free to stop by during their office hours or make an appointment that fits your schedule.

**Officers**

Dick Talley, Moderator  
**Vacant - Vice-Moderator**  
Betty Schmidling, Secretary  
Leslie Pinkston, Treasurer

**Important Links:**

Regional Website (incl. monthly newsletter)  
<https://northernlightsdisciples.org/>

General Church Website:  
[www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)



Friends,

*We are in the moments of transition on pathways of grace:*

*moving from pandemic to living with Coronavirus Disease  
moving from interim to settled pastor  
moving from winter to spring  
moving from Lent to Easter*

*What do we make of these pathways and how do we find our way? The answers will resonate differently to each of us. Pastorally speaking, I have enjoyed the season of Lent as we have dwelled on the Passion narratives in Sunday school, as we have engaged in rich conversations focused to indigenous neighbors, namely the Lummi and Nooksack native tribes, and as we have moved through John’s gospel stories: Nicodemus at night; the Samaritan woman at the well; the blind man whose sight is restored; and the raising of Lazarus along with the First Testament story of Ezekiel in the midst of dry bones. Lent has opened pathways as change is on the horizon.*

*God’s directive is always before us as our stories unfold in life’s ebb and flow. Pathways connect and transition us from time and place, from season to season. Someday we will grasp how to live with Covid-19. Soon we will know the discernment to call. Once again I will return to retirement. By the time you read this article, spring will have arrived. Lent will lend itself to Holy Week and Easter will emerge. From his book, Tides and Seasons,*

*Modern prayers in Celtic Tradition, David Adam writes this poem called Pathways.*

“Pathways”

*Lord, today brings  
Pathways to discover  
Possibilities to choose  
People to encounter  
Peace to possess  
Perplexities to ponder  
Pointers to guide  
Pardon to accept  
Praise to sing  
and a Presence to proclaim.*

*Debbie*





### Homebound Communion

*After a long hiatus imposed upon us by the Covid Pandemic, we are offering communion on the first Sunday of the month to those who are at home and unable to be in church. Some of you have been on the list before. If you would like to be on this list, please contact the church [office.fccbham@gmail.com](mailto:office.fccbham@gmail.com) or call 360-734-6820. Someone will contact you before coming.*

### **SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Moving ahead will depend on the interviews. If the Search Committee settles on one candidate and that candidate is interested in continued discussions, they will come to Bellingham for a face to face visit. If the Search Committee and/or the candidate agree not to continue, then we go back to square one. We will only consider one candidates at a time, once a top person has been chosen.

It is a long and important process. The Search Committee will continue to keep you informed.

Please keep them in your prayers.

~ Dick Talley, Chair, Search Committee





Our Tech Team remains ever hopeful that the system will provide a space for both our remote and in person congregation to share a worshipful experience. Through a series of brainstorming and exploratory sessions, several solutions have come to light.

- We have 1 computer to make and show the slides with the order of worship, words to prayers, and lyrics for music.
- The second computer helps us use a streaming service that can connect people outside our building with the worship service. In the past we recorded and posted the service for later viewing. (We would like to have this option in place as well.)
- The third device has been used to host a Zoom session for people to view our service from outside our building.

We are currently working toward moving our equipment into cabinets (for safety, security and convenience reasons) to the east side of the sanctuary. We are consulting with DataLink West (Eric Johnson) to make this move. This move will make the system fully functional.

We are looking into the possibility of using an alternative streaming service like Facebook or YouTube, both of which are being used by other Disciples and other houses of worship in our neighborhood.

We are deeply appreciative of the congregation's patience and support as we figure out all the details to make this an alternative way to worship. We ask that you continue adding this situation to your prayers and watch for updates in the near future.

#### **Tech Team**

**Sue Joyner, KrisAnn Lewis, Linda Heyne, Jimmie Talley  
with help from James Becker and Gary Little**



## Social Justice and Outreach

We have chosen to collect items for a Mini Blessing Bags to supply Meridian School's Family Resource Center with consultation with Alicia Roberts at Irene Reither Elementary School. They have students who need a little snack before a weekend or early in the morning before school or after school. We will collect items that use hot water to make a quick snack. Items that have been requested are dry cup of noodles, dry mac and cheese, breakfast bars, granola bars, "Pop Tarts", applesauce pouches, cups of fruit. We will also need a donation of plastic spoons and the plastic zip bags. **We will fill the Mini Blessing Bags on Monday, April 17 at 2:00 PM. (WAIT A MINUTE, NOT A SUNDAY? YES, a weekday!)**



We are emphasizing a specific food item to bring to fill the Food Bank cart regularly. Bob Fisher continues to deliver the food items to the Food Bank.

- March 12-19 Canned vegetables and meat
- March 19-26 Dry items: cereal, pasta, beans, breakfast bars, granola bars

After the first week's announcement the cart was full to almost overflowing! Thank-you, kind and generous friends!



## 🙏 Prayers and Concerns

Ardith, Bob, Carter, Cary, Dave & Daisy, David & Gin, Ellyn, Emma, Ginny, Mike, Janet, Jayne, Jodi, Kevin, Loren, Kris Ann, Neal, Sandy, Shelli, Taryn, the people of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Casper, WY.

## 🎉 Joys and Celebrations

\*\* If you would like to have your prayer concerns, joys, or celebrations noted here please let Pastor Debbie know or email April at [office.bhmafcc@gmail.com](mailto:office.bhmafcc@gmail.com)



## Church Calendar

Elder of the Month: Kris Ann Lewis  
[lewis.KrisAnn@gmail.com](mailto:lewis.KrisAnn@gmail.com)



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday 4.22.23, Noon**

**Locatrion: Mi Mexico - Bellingham**  
**Meet and Greet**  
**with Pastoral Candidate**

**4.15** Saturday 6-9 PM Game Night Contact Kris Ann Lewis for more information  
[lewis.krisann@gmail.com](mailto:lewis.krisann@gmail.com)

**4.23** Sunday 2-3 PM Book Group - April Reading: **Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi**. Copies of the books are available to borrow from Bob Fischer or Linda Heyne. Contact Linda Heyne for more information [bee.sioux@gmail.com](mailto:bee.sioux@gmail.com)

**Thursdays** 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study Lectionary Scriptures - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 58:1-12; Ps. 112:1-10; 1 Cor. 2:1-16; Mt.5:13-20 Contact [revdebbielittle@gmail.com](mailto:revdebbielittle@gmail.com) for Zoom link.

**Tuesdays** 10:00 AM Discussion Group - Current Topic: Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women. Contact Jimmie Talley @ [talleyjimmie8@gmail.com](mailto:talleyjimmie8@gmail.com) for more information and Zoom link.



**April 16th: after church – ???**  
**Iglesia De Dios Car Wash Fundraiser !!**  
**Supporting Iglesia's Youth Ministry**

