

Northern Lights Reflections

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(Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region

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*A publication of the
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in the
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A Moment with the Moderator-Elect

Regional Moderator-Elect, Rev. Dr. Amy LaCroix

**"I led them with cords of human kindness
with bands of love" Hosea 11:4**

I love this phrase. It's God's voice speaking. Expressing the depth of compassion and love God has for us. Explaining the tenderness and care that was taken in leading us out of Egypt. Out of our deepest sorrows, out of our oppression, out of the places that hold us prisoner and prevent us from living fully as the people God created us to be. It is also a voice filled with sorrow and disappointment because we too easily forget who led us out of those places. Turning away from the way that leads us into God's realm, choosing instead the realms of violence, greed, isolationism, racism, sexism, fear, and complacency in the face of it all. It is a voice of hope calling out through the brokenness of our world, and our lives, roaring through the whirlwind of hate filled propaganda infiltrating our culture. It is God's voice firmly beckoning us home - reminding us whose we are, gently urging us to remember our covenant with God, pushing us to draw the circles wider rather than smaller - Calling us to be the cords of human kindness with bands of love.

It feels as if (if you are anything like me) that the world has gone topsy turvy, as if we are on some strange roller coaster ride that in one moment is calmly chugging up a steep incline lifting us up out of the chaos, offering a beautiful view of all that

is possible only to drop once again into the depths of anxiety, fear, division and chaos. It is too easy in these times to turn inward. To forget our calling as followers of Christ to care not only for ourselves and those closest to us, but also for our neighbors. In the midst of all the ups and downs that come our way in these difficult and strange times I find it comforting to listen to God's voice as heard in Hosea 11:4 "I led them with cords of human kindness and with bands of love". This is our call: to be cords and bands of kindness and love in the midst of all the craziness.

Journey well....
Amy

Regional Minister on Sabbatical

Our Transitional Regional Minister will be on sabbatical from August 15-October 15. During this time, Rev. Dr. Amy LaCroix, pastor of First Christian, Olympia, WA, will be the very part-time acting Regional Minister. She will be available to support staff, congregations in the search process, and pastors and congregations in crisis situations. Amber Saladino, our office manager, will be available to answer questions and provide assistance as needed. Sandy is looking forward to some time with family and extended sabbath and is grateful for this gift from the region for a time of rest.

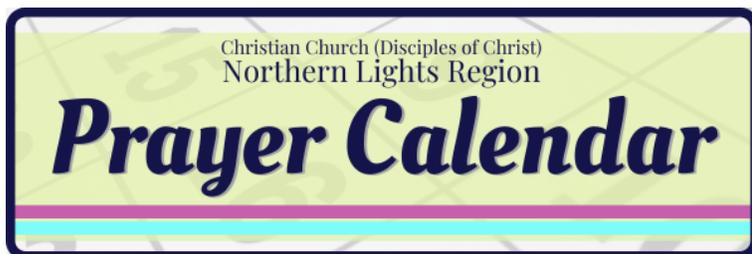
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Second Saturdays to Shine

Join us Sept 11 for "Shining a Light on the Table: Exploring a Wide(r) Welcome"

As Disciples we share a radically wide table. As we celebrate our tradition of gathering at the table, join with others to hear and share stories of welcome; and to explore a wide(r) welcome. What is inclusion? What is an expansive welcome? Why Open & Affirming? Church communities who are living into what it means to be Open & Affirming will share experiences of joy and struggle. Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance leaders will provide relevant definitions and explanations as well as an overview of resources for the journey of welcome, for those who are beginning or re-engaging their welcome.

Registration for this session will be available until 5pm on September 10. Fourth quarter event information and registration available now too! <https://northernlightsdisciples.org/second-saturdays/>



August 22-28

United Christian Church

15509 116th Ave SE

Renton, WA 98058

(425) 226-3080

Minister: Cynthia Meyer

Email: inquiry@uccrenton.org

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

While continuing to worship online, United Christian Church also uses our physical location to embody love to our neighbors. This year we have supported the local Black Lives Matter Mural Project by hosting a small mural in our parking lot. We also became the first faith community to become part of the Safe Space Program with the Renton Police

Department. We continue to seek out new ways to embody God's love, our welcome, and tangible care. Our Little Free Pantry and Library serve our neighbors and receive the generosity of many neighbors as well as our members.

We are looking forward to exciting possibilities in the future and continue to be hopeful for a faithful future, living out our commitment to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. We welcome your prayers of support.



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Hosted by the Big Sky Area

September 3-6, 2021

@ Cane Ridge West, Lincoln, MT

It's not too late to sign up for a wonderful weekend at CRW! Beginning the evening of September 3 until Monday morning September 6, Disciples will be gathering for relaxation, connecting with friends and family, enjoying the beautiful outdoors and discussing with one another the book *Disciples: Who We Are and What Holds us Together*, at iCamp.

If you cannot come for the weekend you are welcome to join the Sunday morning worship at 10:30. The scripture focus will be on Mathew 8:23-26, Jesus calming the storm.

Following worship, you are invited to stay for a potluck lunch. You can bring salad or desserts to go with the BBQ beef sandwiches prepared by the iCamp kitchen.

Registration will be open until August 26 at <https://docgeneralassembly.regfox.com/nlr2021-icamp>

From the book jacket:

"What does it mean to be part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? A denomination that intentionally unites Christians who have different ideas about what it means to be Christian is bound to struggle to agree on its core values and beliefs — but respected Disciples Michael Kinnamon and Jan Linn believe unity is possible through reforming worship, relationships, and mission. A timely update of their landmark book, Disciples identifies common ground and continues the conversation started by Stone and Campbell two centuries ago on the American frontier."

The iCamp 2021 planning team is carefully watching the evolving Covid-19 conditions, recommendations, and restrictions. Any updates to event plans will be shared as early and widely as possible.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A place to share news from our Northern Lights Region congregations, clergy, and leaders.

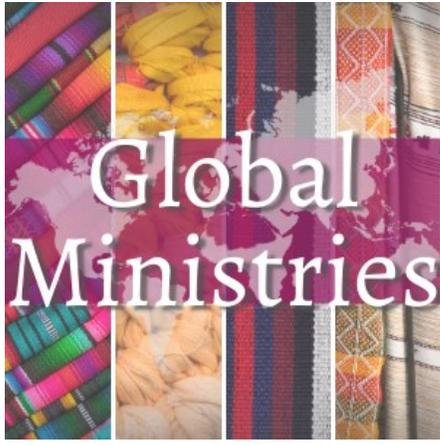
First Christian Church, Mt. Vernon— After the recent sale of their building, the congregation is celebrating the ability to gift the proceeds to a variety of area organizations the church has supported over the years. Among the recipients are Skagit Valley Friendship House, Family Promise of Skagit Valley, Skagit Valley Neighbors in Need, Skagit Preschool and

Resource Center (SPARC), Oasis Teen Shelter of the Skagit Valley Family YMCA, and Immigrant Resources and Immediate Support (IRIS). In addition, donations were made to benefit the ministries of the Northern Lights Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Christian Church Foundation.

The congregation continues to meet on Zoom each Sunday.

To submit a Community Connection, please use our webform at <https://northernlightsdisciples.org/community-connections-share-our-news/> or email office@northernlightsdisciples.org with your news. Be sure to include your name, the congregation's name, and any relevant links or other details. We edit for readability and space as necessary.

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You can support the mission co-worker placements of Alex and Xiomara in Colombia

Global Ministries is excited to share with you that Alex Maldonado Lizardi and Xiomara Cintrón García have been approved as mission co-workers to serve with Justapaz in Colombia. Justapaz is our Northern Lights Region Global Ministry Partners and we look forward to working with them as we grow in our relationship with Colombian peace organizations.

Global Ministries partner, Justapaz seeks to embody and serve non-violence through programs working toward transforming Colombia into a just and peaceful state.

Justapaz has requested the presence of Alex Maldonado Lizardi and Xiomara Cintrón

García as mission co-workers to participate in building capacity on peace issues with regional church leaders and allied organizations; case documentation on violation of human rights; and theological analysis regarding peace and reconciliation initiatives.

As mission co-workers, Alex and Xiomara will play an important role in living out many of the core values of Global Ministries, and they especially will embody presence – “manifesting God’s love by living in intentional, committed relationships” - as they serve with Justapaz in Colombia.

Global Ministries is raising designated gifts and commitments totaling \$115,000 (\$25,555 each year) to assist in funding the four-year appointments of Xiomara and Alex in Colombia and a six-month home assignment. We are excited to share with you this new opportunity to send two mission co-workers, and we request your help!

In order to increase the number of individuals serving in mission alongside global partners around the world, Global Ministries has introduced personalized fundraising campaigns for mission co-workers, such as this one. This is the sixth personalized fundraising campaign Global Ministries has carried out since 2013. The other five efforts successfully provided the funding necessary for eight mission co-workers to serve in Mozambique, Thailand, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor, and Ghana.

We invite you to prayerfully consider your own role in participating directly in this new opportunity to walk together in hope with Alex and Xiomara and with Justapaz in Colombia. To do so and to learn more about Alex and Xiomara and their upcoming appointments, [continue reading here](#).



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**SORRY WE MISSED YOU!
WATCH A REPLAY OF THE
PRESENTATION [HERE](#).**



**SAVING FOR YOUR FUTURE,
SUPPORTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS**



Pension Fund
of the Christian Church

**RECONCILIATION MINISTRY
SPECIAL OFFERING 2021**

**REVEALING
GOD'S JUSTICE**

"The time is always ripe to do what is right."

- REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SEPTEMBER 26TH AND OCTOBER 3RD

RECONCILIATIONMINISTRY.ORG



ISAIAH 56:1

NORTHERN
LIGHTS
REGION
ASSEMBLY

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

AUTHENTIC
UNITY
IS GOLD
MAY
20-22
2022

Templin's
on the River,
Post Falls ID

**Don't miss a thing from our
denominational partners!**

Visit the Disciples News Service webpage and sign up for the news release formats that interest you most!

<https://disciples.org/dns/>