

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS



## First Congregational Church of Reno United Church of Christ An Open and Affirming Congregation

**January 2022** *Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kate Lambertson*

### *From the pastor's corner*

Have you ever wondered, or worse worried, that your theology doesn't fit into the mainline dominant theology of other Christians? Have you ever questioned how traditional Christian beliefs can continue with what we know due to continued scientific discoveries and advances? Have you ever sadly pondered that the church you grew up in is no longer a church you can support? These are not simply questions that millennials ask in this technological/scientific 21<sup>st</sup> century as they seek to be spiritual but not religious.

How can we continue to worship a God that is Being Itself, Source of all Love, and Source of all Life with continued allegiances to mythologies that no longer hold water for many on their faith journey? Perhaps the answer lies in creating a safe space for seekers to continue in their search of that which is eternal. We are called to this new faith through radical connectedness and community. To embrace life, to increase love, and to have the courage to be, are the doorways through which we can walk into the mystery of God, and for many of us the doorway into that reality is Jesus.

**January 2**  
**2nd Sunday after Christmas**  
John 1:(1-9), 10-18  
*Another Road*

**January 9**  
**1st Sunday after Epiphany**  
**The Baptism of Christ**  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
*Affirmed by Love*

**January 16**  
**2nd Sunday after Epiphany**  
John 2:1-11  
*Extravagant Sign*

**January 23**  
**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**  
Luke 4:14-21  
*Good News, Good Ways*

**January 30**  
**4th Sunday after Epiphany**  
Luke 4:21-30  
*Prophet on the Edge*

#### **INSIDE:**

- 1-2 Pastor's Message
- 3 In Our Church Family
- 4-5 Council and Committees
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6-7 Calendar
- 8 Getting to Know You
- 9 Congregational Events
- 10-11 Kids Korner

*Continued...*

To create a safe, non-judgmental, non-discriminatory space for this type of exploration and community that many are seeking, FCC will be starting Café Church Services on the first Sunday of every month beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm in the Manley Room. These are open-table worship services and all are welcome. Come with openness and your questions and the expectation that these times together might not be like your parents' church – and that's ok!

*Pastor Kate*



**Please include in your continuing Prayers:**

- ✘ Carol Buckman
- ✘ Brad Truax
- ✘ Cinda deWyk
- ✘ Joyce Linscott
- ✘ Beverly Kirkpatrick
- ✘ Janice Gerlach
- ✘ Yvonne Anderson
- ✘ Neil Sanders



IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Hanging of the Greens on December 17th



Trunk or Treat on October 31st



## Fellowship & Growth Committee

Coming up soon to welcome in the New Year, Fellowship & Growth invites everyone to gather for our pancake breakfast following the worship service on January 23rd. Pancakes will be served along with sausage links, coffee, tea, and apple juice. Look for our first freewill faith offering plate at the breakfast. There will be a sign-up sheet for the breakfast coming out on January 9th.



Right around the corner we have a Valentine's potluck scheduled! Stay tuned for more information.

**If you have changes, additions or corrections to the church directory, please contact Marc Ullom directly. 775-313-6403, mfullom@att.net.**

## Deacons' Dialogue

Hello, Church Family!! The Deacons have great news from the pews! Stay tuned for more information on the Stephen Ministries as we have a target introduction date in February.

The Prayer Corner has been relocated!!! It is now set up near the entrance to the Sanctuary. As you enter, stop by and light a candle. If you need a Deacon to pray with you, one will be available after the worship service.



If you are interested in serving as a Greeter, Usher, or a Liturgist during the worship service, the sign-up sheets are available for volunteers.



## Missions Committee

Our Christmas toys for Elmcrest Students initiative was quite successful! Here are Pastor Kate, Jonna Hansmeier, and Jackie Manley getting ready to load up the packages to take over to the school.



## Treasurer's Report

As we head into December and the fun holiday season, I want to thank you all for bearing with my learning curve as a new treasurer. I have much more to do to make sure our wonderful church can maintain a long, healthy future. Here's what I know as of December 1, 2021:

### Heritage Bank

Checking Account: (Gen'l Operating Fund)	\$33,073.26
Savings Account: (Restricted Funds)	\$22,343.43
Cornerstone CD: (Reserve Fund)	\$ 5,486.98
<b>TOTAL FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$60,903.67</b>

### Unrestricted Funds:

Income: \$19,325.95 (MTD), \$219,729.38 (YTD)  
 Expenses: \$20,679.19 (MTD), \$222,101.09 (YTD)  
 Net Income: \$-1,353.24 (MTD), \$-2,371.71 (YTD)

### Restricted Funds:

Income: \$1,167.00 (MTD), \$25,661.91 (YTD)  
 Expenses: \$1,326.73 (MTD), \$27,467.39 (YTD)  
 Net Income: \$-159.73 (MTD), \$-1,805.48 (YTD)

### Restricted Funds Account Balances

- Missions: \$2,395.44
- B&G Reserve Fund: \$7,490.73
- Manley Music Fund: \$1,376.00
- Choral Music Fund: \$157.66
- Educating Adults Lit Fund: \$4,105.20
- Youth Programs: \$1,231.00
- 150th Anniversary Fund: \$2,756.17
- Unallocated funds: \$831.85 (?)

I continue to understand more of how our church finances work. The budget reviews have been very helpful. It has shown me that I was doing things the wrong way

most of the year. I am getting all those errors corrected. The year-to-date total of all funds being in the negative is due to repairs to the boiler, the annex water heater repair, the memorial garden repairs, and the nursery repairs.

In loving service,

Jay Kirkpatrick (Treasurer)






Our annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 30th following the service.

**\*\*\*At this time, all dates/events are subject to cancellation or change. If unsure and you need confirmation, please check with your Deacon or the Office.\*\*\***



J  
A  
N  
U  
A  
R  
Y  
\*  
2  
0  
2  
2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<p><b>January Anniversaries:</b> <i>Tony and Julie Stoik</i></p> 		
<p><b>2</b> <b>Worship, 10:00 am</b> CE and B&amp;G Committee Meetings, following service <b>Café Church, Manley Room, 5:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> <i>Madison DeArman</i></p>
<p><b>9</b> <b>Worship, 10:00 am</b> Deacons Committee Meeting, following service</p>	<p><b>10</b> <i>Rene Biondo, Jay Arnone, Mark McCauley</i></p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>Council Meeting, 7pm,</b> Manley Room or by Zoom</p>
<p><b>16</b> <b>Worship, 10:00 am</b> Fellowship &amp; Growth Committee Meeting, following service</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> 	<p><b>18</b> <i>Martie Tracy</i></p>
<p><b>23</b> <b>Worship, 10:00 am</b> Missions Committee Meeting, following service <b>Pancake Breakfast, following service</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>30</b> <b>Worship, 10:00 am</b> <b>ANNUAL MEETING, following service</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>]</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p><b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY!</b></p> 
<p><b>5</b> <i>Yvonne Anderson, Owen Morton</i></p> <p><b>Annual Reports Due</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> <i>Barbara O'Brien</i></p> <p><b>EPIPHANY</b></p>  <p><b>Choir Practice, 7pm</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> <i>Saralinda Kiser</i></p> <p><b>Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel</b></p> <p><b>Council reports due</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> <i>Liz Knott</i></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Youth Group, 6 pm, CE Building</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> <i>John Blanke</i></p> <p><b>Choir Practice, 7pm</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> <i>Lei Sofara</i></p>
<p><b>19</b> <i>Phyllis Blume</i></p> <p><b>Circle, Annex, 1 pm</b></p> <p><b>Stewardship Committee Meeting, 7 pm via Zoom</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Newsletter articles due</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> <i>Delza Weir, Dan Cook, Aryanna Flores-Sofara</i></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Youth Group, 6 pm, CE Building</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> <i>Janet Blanke</i></p> <p><b>Choir Practice, 7pm</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Prayer Group, 6:30 am, Chism Chapel</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>

# Getting to Know You

## MARC & JUDITH ULLOM

By Marilyn Alford

Meet the Ulloms, Marc and Judith. Walk into church and I bet you will find them busy at making things work for church services, church budget, church organization ... everything from A to Z.

I thought of them when I read this quote by President Jimmy Carter. *"This is not optional. My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I can, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference."* The Carters still build houses for others while in their 90's.

Judith and Marc were both born and raised in the Akron, Ohio area (Cuyahoga Falls). As high school sweethearts, they knew back then they were meant to be with each other. They felt safe, at home, and ready to face life's adventures together. Business school was completed by Judith. They married in 1968. Marc graduated from law school. A son, Jason, joined the family. And soon, Marc was in the middle of the political arena. Twelve years were spent in local and state government. Industrial Engineer, private practice, family law, litigation as a defense attorney, and then a transfer to Philadelphia in 1986 as a regional partner in a national law firm. Judith worked at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals from 1988 to 2010.



They discovered Valley Forge UCC in Philadelphia. Working conferences and other ventures at this church launched them into service. They discovered a foundation for their faith through service with giving and sharing. Faith brought them a sense of family rather than just doctrine. Faith became a journey, not a destination. The more the church became a family, the more they wanted to give back and be involved. One of those ways of giving back concerned a small dairy farm owned by a family from the church. Five cows from their small herd died from an infection that came from a food source. They were facing losing the farm. Judith and a friend called members of the church community and came up with enough money to replace the five cows (one pregnant) and also to be able to inoculate them all. That farm thrives today and is still run by the same family.

When my husband and I moved back to Reno on March 28th, Judith and Marc brought over a lovely meal, utensils, etc. They shared this with us in the middle of our boxes that were all over the place, our coffee pot and dishes buried in one of them. They sure made us feel welcome.

We all have many reasons to thank them for being an example of how faith works in love and action. Thank you, Judith and Marc, for doing what you can wherever and whenever you can for everyone you come in contact with here in our congregation and in this community.



## CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

### Circle Happenings

Happy New Year! Starting this year, monthly Circle meetings will be the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please mark your calendars now for that third Wednesday of each and every month. That way you will not have any conflicts when it comes to God and Circle time!

January's Circle meeting will be on the 19th at 1:00 pm in the Annex. Come and join our time together for faith, fellowship, food, and fun. Be thinking of activities you might want included in our monthly meetings as we will be planning our 2022 calendar.

### Christmas Circle Decorating and Luncheon, December 8, 2021



# Kidz Korner



I am still aglow with joy from our holiday season back together. Every year, I remind the kids that their pageant is a gift to the church because as we celebrate the holy birth together, it reminds us of our own past pageants and celebrates the future as we watch our kids grow! Thank you kids for this wonderful day! Happy New Year and see you in 2022!

Love, *Saralinda*







First Congregational Church of  
 Reno, United Church of Christ  
 627 Sunnyside Drive  
 Reno, NV 89503

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 RENO, NV  
 PERMIT NO. 46

Return Service Requested

January 2022  
 Phone: 775-747-1414  
 E-mail: [Office@renofirstcongregational.org](mailto:Office@renofirstcongregational.org)  
 Office Hours Mon-Fri 9:00am—1:00pm  
 An Open & Affirming Congregation




**WE'RE ALSO ON THE WEB**  
[www.renofirstcongregational.org](http://www.renofirstcongregational.org)  
[www.facebook.com/FCCReno](https://www.facebook.com/FCCReno)



**Sunday Worship 10:00 am**  
**Sunday School for Children**  
**Café Church 5:00 pm (1st Sunday of the month)**  
***Nursery Care Provided\****  
**Adult Christian Education, 10:00 am Wednesday**  
**Prayer Group, Chism Chapel Fridays at 6:30 am**  
 \*NOT PROVIDED RIGHT NOW

**We are the Peanut Butter Church!**

As Always: Any Sunday you are invited to bring peanut butter for the Food Bank and drop it in the Little Red Wagon. Or, if you're in the neighborhood, drop it off at the office between 9am and 1pm, Monday through Friday. Just pick up a jar whenever you're at the supermarket! Your thoughtfulness is **always** greatly appreciated!



*We are an Open & Affirming congregation, welcoming all persons -- regardless of race, ethnic background, economic status, gender, age, personal ability, or sexual orientation -- into the full life and ministry of the church.*