



Greetings from Pastor Mark

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year Celebration. I had a great time with my family.



Our Christmas Eve services were well attended and more importantly filled with meaning and purpose. I give thanks for the puppeteers, worship leaders and scripture readers who participated in both services. I give thanks for Evelyn Gratrix and Kristine Gibbons who provided music and soul for our 4pm Family service. I give thanks to Erich, Scott and the choir for blessing the 9pm service with their song.

Now that the Christmas presents have been opened and the new year celebrated. We turn our attention to putting away the Christmas ornaments and preparing for a new season; Epiphany. Epiphany is a time when we celebrate the manifestation of God in Christ Jesus. We hear the story of the Magi's who came to visit baby Jesus bringing gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense. During this season of Epiphany, January 8th through February 19th, I encourage you to reflect and meditate on how God/Jesus are made manifest in your lives and in the lives of others.

On February 22nd we will gather in the sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. This is the portal that welcomes us into Lent. A season that asks us to look deeply and honestly into how we are living our lives as Christians. To assist us in our spiritual walk, I will lead a 6 week class beginning on Sunday, February 26, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. These Sunday morning gatherings will be based on Marcus Borg's book, "The Heart of Christianity". Those who wish to participate are encouraged to have read the book and bring a journal with you. We will reflect on questions such as:

- What is your reason for being a Christian?
- What importance does Christianity play/have in this world?
- What is the purpose of this church and how are you helping that purpose to be lived out?

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Greetings from Pastor Mark

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As we close the chapter on 2011 and turn to 2012, I want to thank all of you for making CCMI such a great place to worship and minister to and with. I am extremely excited for the opportunities this new year holds for us. As members of this church let us remember the words found in Colossians 3:13-14:

"Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as Jesus has forgiven you....Above all, clothe yourselves in love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

We may not be perfect, but we are encouraged to do the best we can. Let us together enter the new year with the spirit of commitment and an openness to new dreams.

May Christ continue to bless and guide our ever evolving ministry here at the Congregational Church on Mercer Island, United Church of (snap) Christ.

Happy New Year!!!!

Pastor Mark

CCMI Annual Meeting January 29, 2012

Be sure to mark our upcoming Annual Meeting on your sparkling new calendar. We're doing things a little differently this year...

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012, immediately following Church service.

You won't want to miss it... Fellowship is planning to whip up a delicious lunch for you to enjoy while we cover this year's business and vote on important issues for our Church's future.

And for you fabulous bakers (and non-bakers) out there, if you feel so inclined, bring a dessert to share!

We look forward to seeing everyone at our 2012 Annual Meeting.





From the Moderator

by Suzanne Sanderson, Moderator

Happy New Year! The hectic holidays are over, and we're back to our everyday lives. Time to plan for the coming year!

Your Church Council is busily working on the 2012 Budget. Will we have enough money to pay salaries, fund programs, and maintain our building? We won't know until we receive all of your pledges. If you haven't made your pledge yet, it is vital for us to get that information as soon as possible so that we can present the proposed budget to you at our Annual Congregational Meeting.

This year, the Annual Congregational Meeting will take place after worship service on Sunday, January 29. Fellowship is planning a lunch and will be asking for people to sign up to bring treats for our delicious dessert buffet. This will be a very important meeting. Along with voting on the Budget, we will also be voting on whether we will be an Open and Affirming Church and on whether we will have a Capital Campaign to raise funds to repair and improve our church building.

You may have noticed the posters in the sanctuary explaining what the Capital Campaign would fund. In short, these are the items which the trustees have been researching:

- **Furnace Replacement Fund (to set aside money for the day when the furnace must be replaced) \$45,000 to \$55,000** -- expectation is around the \$45,000 level but given the age unknowns may arise.
- **Chair Replacement \$30,000 to \$35,000** -- expectation is around the \$30,000 level for 150 chairs.
- **Parking Lot: Repair, Seal, and Re-stripe for more handicap spots - \$20,000 to \$25,000** -- expectation is around the \$20,000 level but with any repair unknowns may arise.
- **Exterior Building Surface: Repair & Paint/Stain—\$20,000 to \$25,000** -- expectation is around the \$20,000 level but given the weather impacts on surfaces unknowns may arise.
- **Exterior Building Decks: Repair/Replace - \$15,000 to \$20,000** -- expectation is around the \$15,000 level but given the weather impacts unknowns may arise.
- **Ceiling Panels (Stained/Soiled) - Replacement—\$30,000 to \$35,000** -- expectation is around the \$30,000 level but there may be unknown water damage.
- **Fireplace and Chimney Repair**—we have already received pledges/donations to have this work done! As I write this before Christmas, the hope is that the work will be done by Christmas Eve so that we can again have a fire in our fireplace.

Finally, we will be voting to accept a slate of officers, committee chairs and committee members at our Annual Meeting. We have a Nominating Committee consisting of Diane Calvert, Casey Ellis, Elta Loy, Jania Nelson and Tom Steinbach. Their job is to fill all the vacancies. Make their job easier by returning that part of your Covenant where you volunteer to serve the Church. And if one of them calls to ask if you would serve in some capacity, please consider prayerfully, and then I would hope you'd say "yes". This might not be a good year for you to take on something new, though, so I promise that there will be no guilt-tripping if you say "not this time".

If you have misplaced your three-part Covenant, you can print it from the CCMI website by clicking on the "Who We Are" tab, or you can contact the church office and we'll send you a new one.

All in the family

By Carole Taylor

Please keep these people in your hearts and prayers with thanksgiving to God for healing, strength and comfort.

Yuko Hughes: We are saddened to announce that Yuko Hughes' family experienced the tragic loss of their beloved family member, Prudence Hockley, who died suddenly on Christmas morning. Prudence's daughter Maggie Hughes often comes to CCMI and is the niece of Larry and Yuko Hughes. Please hold Maggie, Yuko, Larry, Sean and Olivia close to your hearts and in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this very difficult time. You may send your support and condolences via cards instead of phone calls to the Hughes residence on Mercer Island.

Betty Trachy: Please keep Betty Trachy's son, Steve, in your prayers as he recovers from a heart attack he suffered on Christmas Eve. He has been discharged from the hospital and is recovering nicely at his brother's house.

Karen Kasonic: Karen will continue on her current chemo drugs through February. We pray that her next scans will show that the drugs are still working.

Deborah Preciado (our Nursery Care Coordinator) Please pray for Deborah's daughter, Lissette. She has Rett syndrome (a degenerative disease under the Autism Spectrum). Lissette has been having many seizures since she started taking medication for her seizures. She is 6 years old and has many issues because of her condition, "I need prayers that the doctor can find the appropriate medication that won't have side effects and that will work for her."

Chet & Catherine Ferguson: Please keep them in your prayers.

Claude Layman: Pray for Claude and Gail during the hard days ahead.

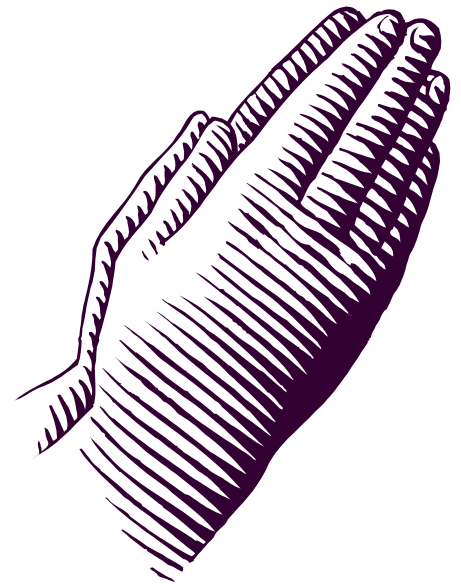
Ron Ramuta: Ron Ramuta is finished with his chemo for lymphoma and is back at work. He and Louise appreciate all your calls and cards.

Patty Gerard: "I am now on my seventh round of cancer treatment since 2008. My knee surgery will have to wait until the cancer subsides. I still feel that I am a walking miracle thanks to your many prayers. Please keep up the good words. You all are such a blessing in my life."

If you have any requests for prayers please call or email Carole Taylor:

425-629-3501 (new number)
tayloraskiers@comcast.net

We are now using e-mail for those who have it and telephone for those who don't. We would love to add more members to the chain.



From the Trustees

By Pat Braman, Trustee Chair

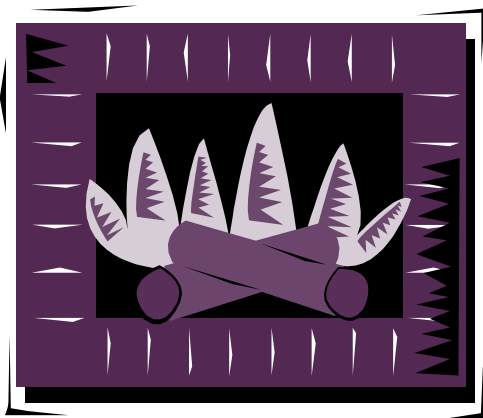
Thanks to the generous donations of two families or individuals, the new fireplace was installed just before the Christmas Eve services. An important part of our church that has been missing for several months, will now be available in the church again.

The new fireplace is installed to present codes which means a glass front is required rather than the screen. Just a word of caution, glass heats up so it is important to keep youngsters away from the glass when the fireplace is burning. Please help us monitor the safety of little ones around the fireplace.

We also have to do work on the chimney but it requires warmer weather. While you will not notice this repair, it was also made possible by the two gifts. We hope the congregation will be able to enjoy fireplace warmth during church services and meetings for years to come.

Groups at CCMI

	When	Event	Where	Contact
Tuesdays	1:30 pm	Bible Study with Pastor Mark Starts back up on Jan 10th	Library	Pastor Mark 206-902-8542
Thursdays	6:15 pm	Bible Study	Upper Room	Dave Davis
	7:00 pm	Voice Lessons	Sanctuary	Erich Parce
	7:30 pm	Choir	Sanctuary	Erich Parce
1st & 3rd Tuesdays	11:00 am	Knitting Group	Sandy Edmonds' home	Elta Loy
3rd Wednesday	7:15 pm	Bible Study	Library	Pete Robertson
1st Saturday	8:00 am	Hwy Exit 9 Clean-up	Church parking lot	Casey Ellis
2nd Saturday	8:00 am	Women's Breakfast	Church Kitchen & Library	Cheryl Malcham or Suzanne Sanderson
3rd Saturday	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast	Church Kitchen & Library	



Scrapbook Coordinator Wanted

Scrapbook Coordinator needed to maintain records of the church year in photos and articles.

Contact [Marilyn Campbell](#) for more information

January / February 2012 Lectionaries

January 1 Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 2:15-21	January 8 First Sunday after the Epiphany Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	January 15 Second Sunday After the Epiphany 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	January 22 Third Sunday after the Epiphany Jonah 3:1-5,10 Psalm 62:6-14 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20
January 29 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	February 5 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 21c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39	February 12 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany 2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45 Psalm 30	February 19 Last Sunday after the Epiphany 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9
February 26 First Sunday in Lent Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-9 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15			

Stewardship Thoughts for January / February

January 2012	1	The new year provides new opportunities to serve God.
	8	We are the inheritors of the past and the testators of the future.
	15	A church absent a lively congregation is just a pile of building material.
	22	God is still speaking! Are we listening?
	29	Approaching life with a generous attitude builds spiritual riches.
February 2012	5	The care and feeding of our souls is basic to stewardship.
	12	When we serve humanity, we serve God; when we serve God, we serve humanity.
	19	There is a mustard seed within you; nourish it.
	26	Everyday life demands stewardship.

January 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion and Sunday School 10:30 am	2	3 Knitting Group 11:00 am Bridge Club 7 pm	4 Northwest Spirit Chorus 6:30 – 9:30 pm	5 Bible Study 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	6 Epiphany	7 Exit 9 Clean-up 8 am HAAW 9:45 am – 12:15 pm
8 First Sunday after Epiphany Worship and Sunday School 10:30 am Reaffirmation of Baptism	9	10 Bible Study w/ Pastor Mark 1:30 pm Committee Mtgs. 7:30 pm Bridge Club 7 pm	11 Northwest Spirit Chorus 6:30 – 9:30 pm OSAT 7-10 pm (UR)	12 Bible Study 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	13	14 Women's Breakfast 8 am
15 Second Sunday after Epiphany Worship and Sunday School 10:30 am	16 OFFICE CLOSED 	17 Bible Study w/ Pastor Mark 1:30 pm Knitting Group 11:00 am Bridge Club 7 pm	18 Bible Study 7:15 pm Northwest Spirit Chorus 6:30 – 9:30 pm	19 Bible Study 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	20	21 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am HAAW 9:45 am – 12:15 pm Burns Night 5 –11pm
22 Third Sunday after Epiphany Worship and Sunday School 10:30 am	23	24 Bible Study w/ Pastor Mark 1:30 pm Council Mtg. 7 pm Bridge Club 7 pm	25 Northwest Spirit Chorus 6:30 – 9:30 pm	26 BRIDGE Deadline! Bible Study 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	27	28
29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Worship and Sunday School 10:30 am Annual Meeting	30	31 Bible Study w/ Pastor Mark 1:30 pm Bridge Club 7 pm				

January Birthdays



Julie Johnston	January 4
Bettie Romppanen	January 6
Connor Hanson	January 8
Carolyn Hall	January 9
Lori Gelzer	January 10
Marc Ferguson	January 17
Pat Braman	January 18
Laurel Benz	January 20
Dee Smith	January 30

congregational church on mercer island
united church of christ

4545 Island Crest Way
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Phone: 206.232.7800
E-mail: office@ucc-ccmi.org

Nurturing all seekers on
their paths to know and
serve God.

Visit us on the Web!
www.ucc-ccmi.org

Masthead

The BRIDGE is a monthly publication of the Congregational Church on Mercer Island. We try to get it out electronically by the second Sunday of the month.

If you no longer wish to receive The BRIDGE or need to update your mailing address, please send your request via e-mail to office@ucc-ccmi.org.

Deadline for the February BRIDGE will be Jan. 26th.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Congregational Church on Mercer Island is:
to nurture all seekers on their paths to know and serve God.

Congregational Church on Mercer Island Staff Directory

Mark Travis, Pastor – 206-902-8542; mark@ucc-ccmi.org

Erich Parce, Director of Music Ministry – 425-271-7679; erichparce@aol.com

Susan Moon, Youth Leader

Danielle Geitzke, Sunday School Teacher

Deborah Preciado, Nursery Care Coordinator

Lisa Lane, Office Manager – 206-232-7800; office@ucc-ccmi.org

Web Site: www.ucc-ccmi.org

Deadlines: Sunday Bulletin, Thu, 9:00 am • BRIDGE, 4th Thu of the month, noon

Pastor's Office Hours: By appointment, call 206-902-8542

Church Office Hours:

Mon – Thu, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Fri, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm