

When Are Your Sunday Services?

Christian Education for all ages 10:00 AM
Worship Service – 11:00 AM
Coffee Hour follows Worship
(one hour earlier in the summer)



What Other Activities May I Attend?

Lectionary Bible Study
Tuesday, 7 AM
Men's Fellowship – Saturday, 8 AM
Thrift Store – Tuesday & Saturday,
10 AM until 3 PM
First Friday Coffeehouse – Acoustic Music
1st Friday of each month, 7:30 PM
Choir – Saturday, 9:15 AM, Chapel Consort – Saturday, 11 AM
AA Groups, contra dancing, fencing, martial arts, basketball, music,
study and many more groups use the church facilities each week

Where Are You Located?

We are on the corner of Garfield and Lander (309 N. Garfield), just to the west of Pocatello High School.

Where Can I Park?

You may park near the east, west, or south entrances to the church. On Sunday, you may also park across the street in the high school parking lot.

How May I Contact You?

The church office is open 9 AM until 12 PM Monday through Friday. You may call (208) 232-3056 to ask questions or schedule a meeting with the pastor or staff. You may also drop us an e-mail at pocucc@ida.net. Pick up a monthly newsletter to learn more!

Church staff

Rev. Janie Gebhardt, senior pastor
Rev. R. Coke McClure, minister
for community outreach
Gail Eastwood, seminary student
Mark Lawlor, music director
Marilyn Madsen, secretary
Neal Thompson, sexton



Newcomer's Guide



First Congregational
United Church of Christ

Pocatello, Idaho

www.uccpocatello.org - 208-232-3056



Every church is different. You may not be familiar with all the actions or activities going on around you here. So we made you this little guide to help.

What is your worship service like?

Each worship service is, for us, an encounter with the holy. During our time together, we as a congregation seek forgiveness for our shortcomings and direction for our lives so that we can live and serve as God would teach us.

Worship style varies from Sunday to Sunday. We sing a lot, traditional hymns with organ and songs of all the peoples of the earth accompanied by piano and instruments specific to the culture of the people whose music we are using. Our hymnal uses language that frees us from the image of God as an old man with a beard while celebrating the diversity and glory of our Creator.

Dressing up is not required. Feel free to come in whatever you are most comfortable. The first person you meet as you walk in will probably be our volunteer Greeter. This person will be happy to answer any questions you may have. You are welcome to sit anywhere you like.

Here are some of the things that occur during the service:

Prelude: a beginning time in which music helps prepare us for the presence of God.

Candles: the symbol of God's light in the sanctuary.

Confession: when we as a group read a common prayer admitting error and ask for God's help for our lives

Lectionary: Bible scriptures common to many churches the same day.

Sermon: Pastor's interpretation and comments on the scriptures.

Hymns and Anthem: Songs of praise by congregation, choir and organ

Offering: our response to all God has given us.

Prayers of the people: a time to share our joys and concerns, aloud or silently.

Closing Circle: our final moment of being together in worship. The form varies from season to season, and we really don't make a very round circle, but we enjoy singing, even if off key, and sharing the energy of this circle. Please don't feel that you are required to join in if that's not where you are comfortable.

What about children?

Worship includes children and adults. Every service has a children's message, and each child is welcome. While we encourage parents to teach their children how to worship as they experience the service together, we also recognize that children are not adults. A little noise never hurt a good service.

We also have children's Sunday School where they can learn and explore in a relaxed and playful environment.



Will I have to sign anything or stand up when I come for the first time?

No! Not even the second or third time! Please feel free to visit, relax, enjoy, mingle, and get a feel of what this community is like. Hang around for Coffee Hour after the service. You'll be glad that you did. You can request more information by calling the church office at your leisure. We promise that you won't be embarrassed or put on the spot when you visit.



What ministries are available?

It is our desire to provide everyone, we mean everyone, with a safe place to worship, study, discern, and serve. We are all learners and seekers on a path led by God. Our individual spiritual journeys take varied form and move in different directions. We welcome the richness of everyone's experiences. We are a better place with you here.

Who attends this church?

An amazing mix of religious and cultural backgrounds all find a home here. We welcome all people in every stage of life to explore, grow in, and celebrate the blessing of God.

Can I receive communion here?

Absolutely. The entire human family is invited to this remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. Communion calls us to recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died...and that's everybody. We celebrate Communion during Worship on the first Sunday of each month.

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Finally, no church goes along without beginning to speak a little theological shorthand. Here's a brief guide to some of the words you might hear during a service:

Altar: the large table centered at the front of the sanctuary. The cross and candles are on it.

Chancel: the area of the sanctuary where the pastor and choir sit.

Lectern: the stand on your right from which scriptures are read.

Narthex: the entrance area leading to the Sanctuary. Our narthex has tables, chairs, and couches and is frequently used as a meeting area.

Pastor: the title for the one who leads our congregation.

Pew: the cushioned bench where you sit.

Sanctuary: the area where Worship is held. It houses the organ, Chancel, and pews.



Fellowship