



# INLAND STREAM

## INLAND WEST USA MISSION CENTER NEWS

Inland Stream Fall/Winter 2018-2019

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### Meditation on Autumn Leaves

By Brad A. Martell, Mission Center President

"Whoever you are, you are human. Wherever you are,  
you live in the world,  
which is just waiting for you to notice the holiness in it."

Barbara Brown Taylor,

*An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*

Scattered across our and our neighbors' front yards were thousands of oval leaves from the neighborhood plum trees. I had been putting off raking them up this fall, enjoying the purple patina patterns on the yellowing green grass. I enjoyed a number of meditative moments of walking around looking for images, like the practice of staring up into the sky imagining white bellowing clouds to be this or that animal. I wondered about the few remaining leaves that fluttered as they still clung to the trees. Why hadn't they fallen down to the ground like all the others? What kept them attached so much long? Perhaps I was waiting for them to fall too before retrieving my rake from where it hung in the garage. Each passing day I knew that I needed to rake up those leaves before winter snows starting to fall.

Pulling into my driveway one day I noticed that my neighbors had raked up their leaves while I was gone. Their yards were tidy. No imaginary leaf images or patterns accept in Lori's and my yard. Their leaves were gone. I sensed a loss of something. Perhaps it was a loss of the beauty of those purple leaves adorning our yards. Or the loss of the simple pleasure I found in my imaginative meditations and watching how the autumn breezes tumbled the leaves around. Or that summer had turned to fall and fall was soon to turn to winter. Another year was coming to an end. The seasons were changing, folding into the next. But perhaps my lesson of another turning of the season was to prepare and watch for the beauty and holiness of the coming winter. Where will I notice God's holiness in the cold, snow, and bare limbs?

I guess what I'm saying is to stop in the busyness of your lives and take time to notice the holiness that surrounds you.

### Falling Prayers

I wished my prayers were  
falling autumn leaves.  
They fall with grace, gently  
downward resting on land.  
In spring and summer, they  
nourished green and sweet.

In fall they dry and crumble  
spreading pieces of themselves.  
Thus, they nourish in another way  
upon the ground, around the roots.  
There is not an end to a falling leaf or prayers  
as their blessings never end.

## Why Community of Christ?

By Apostle Robin Linkhart

As we discover and live our future as a people of faith, people all around us are seeing Community of Christ as a movement they want to connect with in meaningful ways.

Our world is not the same as it once was; everything around us is changed. In the Digital Age change is a way of life. The Digital Age, also called the Information Age, has impacted every dimension of life: education, medicine, industry, business, politics, art, sports, society, relationships, culture, and more. Religion has not escaped the massive impact of this multifaceted shift.

All denominations are experiencing decline in interest, numbers, finances, and the need to close congregations and liquidate assets. This is the reality of our world today. Our congregations, pastors, and priesthood have not done anything *wrong* or in any other way *failed*. Churches across America are recognizing the same massive shifts in population and context that impact how God is calling us to be the church and share Christ's peace in our world today.

In the midst of this reality, seekers of all stripes are reaching out to learn more about Community of Christ and becoming actively engaged with congregations. To date seekers are connected with over 60 congregations and house churches across the USA. Why?

Something is happening. In a time of uncertainty and seemingly overwhelming challenge, hope and new life are bringing light to darkness.

What does Community of Christ have to share with the world? What makes us uniquely posed to connect with the spiritually hungry, the hearts longing for community, those searching for a spiritual home? Can we see ourselves through the eyes of those who understand how much we have to offer *just the way we are right now*?

Blessings of Community: We have an amazing capacity to love. At our best we excel at welcoming and loving people wherever they are on their journey of faith. We also recognize the global nature of community beyond the walls of our buildings and actively partner with local and global efforts to build community worldwide. Young adults recognize the prophetic truths resident in seeing and understanding the interconnectedness of our world. "For in their welfare resides your welfare." (Doctrine and Covenants 163:4a)

Continuing Revelation: We are a living example of what it looks like to open ourselves fully to God and say, "Have your way with us." Our tradition of Continuing Revelation rests on the foundation of the Biblical text. Doctrine and Covenants is a WOW factor on our journey as a people of faith and tells the story of our willingness to actively live what it is we say we believe.

Interpretation of Scripture: Community of Christ takes scripture seriously without the chains of a literal inerrant perspective. Our commitment to the responsible interpretation and application of scripture liberates the sacred story and frames it in a way that connects in powerful ways in our world. This way of engaging scripture gives voice to timeless truths and impact change. Discovering how God declares the worth of all persons past, present, and future brings a sense of deep connection with the Spirit moving in our world today. Seekers are responding to this way of seeing and hearing scripture.

Pursuit of Peace: Our journey of responding to God's call to Shalom places us on the forefront of advocacy. As a people we embrace the difficult conversations around the role of women, inclusion for LGBTQ, indigenous leadership, justice for all races, and more. We have a story to tell and an invitation to share in our communities around many aspects of pursuing peace in our world and welcoming all to the table of God.

(continued)

## Why Community of Christ (continued)

**Spiritual Formation:** Those hungering to find a spiritual home find safe harbor and pathways of exploration in our community. Our own spiritual awakening informs our journey and provides new resources and people to walk beside those seeking to go deeper through spiritual formation practices and disciplines. Many are finding soul food through Spiritual Formation Ministries and the Spiritual Formation and Companionship Program. These gifts can be widely shared.

**Common Consent:** Our process of community dialogue and protecting the rights of the body gives voice and decision making power to all members. While we may take this long-standing tradition for granted, others watch in awe and respect as we discover ways to discern God's will and walk into the future claiming our unity in the midst of colorful diversity.

**Ecumenical and Interfaith:** We are a global community of faith, active in the Parliaments of the World's Religions and contributing members in our local and national ecumenical associations. People of faith have something to say in our world. We choose to partner and rally with all other faiths sharing common values and principles. Together we are more and can affect greater healing and wholeness in our world.

**Experienced Experts in Small:** We know how to thrive as small communities of joy, hope, love, and peace. Are we ready to embrace the powerful strengths resident in our size? We are streamline and mobile, which means we are well suited to navigate the needs of a changing world and respond quickly to opportunities for mission. We know how to liberate and embrace the giftedness of all and move out with a purpose. We've done that since the beginning of our movement and are finding new life through that same strength today. One example is how we are living into new expressions of being the church through virtual communities online. (Read more about this avenue of ministry in the *Herald* article: "Mission and Ministry in the Virtual World" September/October 2018. Also available online: <https://www.cofchrist.org/mission-stories#/278/mission-and-ministry-in-the-virtual-world>.)

God is moving. I see it. I feel it. It is disruptive. It is transforming. It is life-giving. It is happening NOW. What is holding us back? What are we afraid of? Perhaps the words of Marianne Williamson hold truth for us.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us."

What is God inviting us to let go of so we can fly?

*"Community of Christ," your name, given as a divine blessing, is your identity and calling. If you will discern and embrace its full meaning, you will not only discover your future, you will become a blessing to the whole creation. Do not be afraid to go where it beckons you to go.* Doctrine and Covenants 163:1

Love and blessings to you and yours as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ and embark on a brand new year.

**Save the dates  
for 2019 Reunions!**

**Samish Island  
June 22- June 28**

**Echo Valley  
June 27 - July 1**

**Red Cliffe  
July 5 - July 10**

**Cascade  
July 9 - July 14**

## **UPDATE -- DISCIPLESHIP NOW**

The next cohort of Discipleship Now will be postponed to begin Winter of 2020. Upon further reflection by the mission center team the postponement of the next cohort until 2020 will provide an additional year for planning and providing the best possible educational experience for participants

Discipleship now is an exploration of whole-life discipleship.

Formation weekends are offered over a period of 2 years. Six sessions are required (3 per year), to be followed by independent practicum during which an individualized mission plan is lived out.

For more information, contact JoAnn Fisher, [jfisher@cofchrist-iwest.org](mailto:jfisher@cofchrist-iwest.org) or Sandy Decker, [sdecker@cofchrist-iwest.org](mailto:sdecker@cofchrist-iwest.org).



# SPEC 2018



IYF/SPEC is great because I got to know people better not just in my delegation, but also others from around the world. This is my second year at SPEC, and it was a blast to see old friends that had returned from last year.

One of my favorite events at SPEC are the week-long sports events. I loved playing soccer because I don't have the opportunity to play that at our high school. While at SPEC it is such a great time because people are so nice and take the time to teach you.

I also thought that it was great to see the world church. I really enjoyed being at the Temple with other youth and having the opportunity to interact with them. During our time at the Temple, I walked into the sanctuary and saw youth from all over the world playing numerous types of instruments. This was my favorite part of IYF and a God moment for me because of the opportunity to observe the unity.

Another neat experience at [SPEC](#) was the campfire we had one night where we sang songs from all over the world. Anyone could jump up and start a song in their own language and the rest of camp, whether they understood the language or not, began to follow along. Even though I didn't understand most of the songs, it was still interesting to listen to everyone follow along.

I think SPEC is a perfect opportunity for senior high kids. I had a great time there and highly recommend other senior high kids to go. Not only is it just a regular church camp, but there are also a lot of sports that are extremely fun to play with a bunch of other kind-hearted people. I am excited to see what experiences my final SPEC will bring in 2019!

RJ Strozyk



SPEC was a blast! I liked the sports, meeting new people, and that everybody was open and wanted to get to know you.

I had a lot of fun doing group activities and adventure classes such as stone carving, ring making, and glass fusion. During those adventure classes I met a lot of friends that weren't from my delegation and it was interesting to learn about their life stories and how unique they were from every other person. I also enjoyed trying new sports like soccer and volleyball, which I have never tried competitively before.

I was a little scared at first because going into the camp I only knew my brother, but after mixers it was fun to get to know the members in my delegation and soon people in other delegations from around the world.

One thing I loved about SPEC was how accepting everybody was to somebody they had just met. I felt accepted just for being myself and not having to worry about being judged.

One God experience that I had was that one of my delegation members decided to be baptized, again, into our church this time. One evening during IYF our delegation gathered around a pool in the Stone Church and watched the member get baptized. I was feeling joy that he decided to be a part of this family of God.

I would recommend IYF/SPEC to someone else because it is an excellent experience to meet amazing, diverse group of people. In just a short 10 days I was able to make great friends, enjoyed the sports and competing against other people, fun classes and unlimited times to feel God's presence.



Logan Strozyk

## Inland West Mission Center 2019 Calendar

January 15	Advisory Council Zoom Call	June 27–July 1	Echo Valley Reunion
February 17	World Conference Delegates	July 5–10	Red Cliffe Reunion
	Information Session Zoom Call	July 9–14	Cascade Reunion
February 19	World Conference Delegates	July 17–27	Spectacular
	Information Session Zoom Call	July 31–Aug. 4	Echo Valley, MT Youth Camp
February 21	World Conference Delegates	August 3–8	Camp Cascade, ID Jr/Sr High Camp
March 8–10	Discipleship Formation	August 20	Advisory Council Zoom Call
March 11–13	Gathering, Spokane Valley, WA	August 23–25	Women's Retreat, Camp Cascade, ID
March 15–17	Inland West Staff Meeting, Spokane, WA	Sept. 28 – 29	Mission Center Conference, Whitehall, MT
April 6–13	Discipleship Formation	Nov. 1–. 3	Discipleship Formation
April 23	2019 World Conference		Gathering, Salt Lake City, UT
April 26–28	Advisory Council Zoom Call	Nov. 12	Advisory Council Zoom Call
	Discipleship Formation		
June 7–9	Gathering, Whitehall, MT		
June 14–16	Red Cliffe Kids Camp		
June 22–28	Cheney Kids Camp		
	Samish Island Reunion		

### Mission Center Blog

Check out the Mission Center blog at:

[cofchrist-inlandwest.blogspot.com/](http://cofchrist-inlandwest.blogspot.com/)

## *From around the Mission Center in 2018*

### **Blessings:**

- Emily English, Salt Lake City, UT
- Stephan English, Salt Lake City, UT
- Anderson Gonzales, Salt Lake City, UT (December 2017)
- Bentley, Heglie Mayfield, Spokane Valley, WA
- Athena Reap, Deer Lodge, MT
- Raven Savage, Salt Lake City, UT

### **Baptism/Confirmations:**

- Amber Edwards, Salt Lake City, UT
- Devin Edwards, Salt Lake City, UT
- Quinn Edwards, Salt Lake City, UT
- Bob Edwards, Spokane Valley, WA
- Jason Eyre, Utah Mission Ministries
- Maria Hiatt, Salt Lake City, UT
- Lilly Mangelson, Salt Lake City, UT
- Sophie Mangelson, Salt Lake City, UT
- Sally Stokes, Spokane Valley, WA
- Rhett Wilkinson, Salt Lake City, UT

### **Marriages**

- Jordan (Ward) Reeves to Hunter Reeves, Billings, MT

### **Ordinations:**

- Amanda Archibeque, Priest, Boise, ID (December 2017)
- Yvonne Carroll, Elder, Walla Walla, WA
- Perry Lee, Elder, Ogden, UT
- Brittany Mangelson, Elder, Salt Lake City, UT

### **Deaths:**

- Donald Bowman, Whitehall, MT
- Sandra Campbell, Ogden, UT
- Lysle Gilmore, Hagerman, ID
- Bob Haldorsen, Spokane Valley, WA
- Joseph Holst, Spokane Valley, WA
- Carma Hymas, Ogden, UT
- Alvin Dempsey Kite, Boise, ID
- James Tim Lewis, Spokane Valley, WA
- Linda Logan, Spokane Valley, WA
- Bob Lynch, Billings, MT
- Brandie Reiff, Whitehall, MT
- Margaret Smitherman, Cut Bank, MT
- Barbara Trout, Coeur d'Alene, ID (December 2017)
- Lauri White, Boise, ID

If there are life events or transitions happening in your congregation please send them to Sandy Decker at [sdecker@cofchrist-iwest.org](mailto:sdecker@cofchrist-iwest.org).

## **Twin Falls, Idaho Congregation**

Unfortunately in early 2018 the Twin Falls, Idaho congregation decided to close as a congregation and sell their building. Since the sale was under the Use of Net Proceeds policy that went into effect July 1, 2017, the leadership of the Inland West Mission Center needed to submit a plan to utilize the net proceeds of the sale and have that approved by the Presiding Bishopric.

Below are the amounts and designation of the approved plan:

\$34,791.50-Bridge of Hope-Contribution

\$15,554.50-Inland West Mission Center AIP Fund-To be able to eventually use a 4% spend rate to support the yearly Inland West Mission Center Budget.

\$12,000.00-Spiritual Formation and Companionship Program-To provide financial help to those who desire to commit to this program.

\$5,000.00-Discipleship Now-To help cover most of the cost to bring in guest ministry to provide 3 sessions a year.

\$1,200.00-Missoula, MT Mission Support Opportunities-To provide missional support for the emerging group in Missoula, MT.

\$1,000.00-Mission Center Invitation Support Minister Materials-To provide materials to the MCISM's in the Inland West MC so they are able to provide free resources to those they engage with.

We are grateful for the generous saints who went before us that provided us with the opportunity to fund these missional endeavors!



## Deer Lodge Congregation Celebration

The Community of Christ Church celebrated 125 years of their church building with Apostle Lachlin Mackay, on July 21 – 22, 2018. Former resident of Deer Lodge, John Wilson, and others spoke on the history of the church and its members. For the celebration, Joyce Martin, pastor of the church, and her husband Dave, were joined by many other local and out of state people. A dinner was provided for the community and all who were present for the event.

Pictured in front of the church are members and friends attending the celebration.



A group intended to connect young adults from the ages of 18-35 throughout the vast region of the Inland West Mission Center. The idea started because there are lots of young adults who want to connect in the church but may not have nearby congregations or be too spread out from others in the same age and life stages. The

group will have monthly online speakers with discussions relevant to young adults. Last month was about the 3 most challenging aspects of following Jesus in today's world, and this month will be on serving Jesus around the world. Right now the steering team is selecting topics, but once more meeting have been held, the group will be open to ideas from all members. We have also set up a Facebook page to provide a platform to connect and discuss within the group. We also plan to have quarterly in-person meetings in various locations around the region to help build relationships. Our first in-person meeting will be this weekend at the mission center conference.

### SAVE THE DATES

#### Discipleship Formation Gatherings

Inland West Mission Center

#### Four Dates and Locations:

- March 8-10, 2019 at Spokane Valley, WA
- March 15-17, 2019 at Boise, ID
- May 3-5, 2019 at Whitehall, MT
- November 1-3, 2019 at Salt Lake City, UT

Choose what's BEST for YOU! All are welcome. Program runs all day Saturday through Sunday noon.

Watch for registration information:

<http://www.cofchrist-iwest.org/>

## Announcements

### Mission Center Financial Officer

At Mission Center Conference the appointment of Sandy Decker to be the Mission Center Financial Officer beginning January 1, 2019 was approved. Denise White will continue in her role as Field Support Minister for the North Central USA Field. A big thanks goes to Denise for serving in the role of Mission Center Financial Officer for Inland West for the past few years.

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### New E-Mail for JoAnn Fisher

JoAnn Fisher has a new e-mail address. You can reach her at [jfisher@cofchrist-iwest.org](mailto:jfisher@cofchrist-iwest.org)

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