



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL
408 Cedar Street
Wallace, Idaho 83873**

2 May 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

We are working hard these days to keep all of you current with the happenings of our church in the wake of the hard things that have happened. We are trying to do so with as much transparency and Christian charity as possible. This letter will address three things.

Last night, several of us had a very good meal and meeting with the Rev. Phil Hodson, Acting Conference Minister of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, along with a couple of other Conference guests. The meeting was encouraging in that it helps us know that we have positive support as well as options. In the short term, we will be focusing on maintaining a solid ministry in Wallace with regular worship and some possible new community outreach. Rev. Alice Ling will be providing most of the pulpit supply for now. Phil and others in the Conference will explore longer term options for ministerial leadership. There was discussion about a pulpit exchange program involving N-Sid-Sen and various churches in the Conference and about part-time ministerial leadership, possible yoked relationships, etc. Phil and others have promised to walk with us through these days.

Our next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for May 19 after church. As always, you are welcome to attend. You are also invited to attend virtually via a video link. That link will be available on the calendar of the Web site along with instructions for its use and can be accessed via computer, tablet or phone. We are also excited to share with you that Gail Carlson is joining the Executive Board. She brings fresh ideas and renewed energy to our table.

One of the things we have learned in the last few weeks is that we want to develop new, transparent ways of engaging as a congregation. While we have always tried to post minutes from our meetings, we are taking the additional step of posting all minutes and related documents on the Web site. We hope you will follow along and stay engaged.

These are challenging days for us and our common life together. We hope we will all take this as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the church so our witness in the Silver Valley will be strong and we will continue to proclaim that *Christ is Risen Indeed* and that *All are Welcome* here in this place.

Faithfully,

Katie Bauer

Gail Carlson

Rev. Benjamin C.L. Crosby

Geoff O'Meara

Christi Thielman