

A PUBLICATION OF  
The Association of the  
Churches of God in Oregon &  
SW Washington



Vol. 4, Issue 1  
JAN/FEB 2022

## — CONNECTIONS —

*Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events*



*Greetings Friends!*

Happy New Year to all! I trust and pray that you each had a great Advent and Christmas season and took the opportunity to rest and celebrate with family and friends. Many are breathing a sigh of relief that 2021 is now in our rearview mirror. However, with the uncertainty of what 2022 might bring, the relief is short lived. It is so important to stay connected to the Holy Spirit especially during times of discontinuous change. We are often tempted to run out ahead of God and try and fix the problems that exist or face challenges on our own. In his book, *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of the Church in Our Time*, Alan J. Roxburgh reflect on four ways the

people of God often try and repair our broken world and the church's waning influence in the affairs of our communities. The four fixes include:

1. Functional rationalism ("We have the technology; we can fix it.")
2. Management and control ("With the right management, we can guarantee success.")
3. Ecclesiocentrism ("If we can fix the church all will be well.")
4. Clericalism ("We are the ordained; we must have the answers.")

For further explanation I suggest you read the book. Roxburgh's conclusion is that none of these attempts to solve the problem of the past have worked. What is truly needed is an understanding that God is the primary mover, and that our job as Jesus followers is to listen to God and join God in what God is up to in our neighborhoods. Roxburgh states, "We are witnessing a great transformation. At the core of this change is the deep conviction that God is the primary actor who is out ahead of us in the neighborhood. The huge challenge for the Euro-tribal churches is how we come to release our techniques, management, and desire to fix the church, and instead believe it is God who is acting out ahead of us, particularly in our neighborhoods." God is present and at work in our communities. If we hope to make a difference for God's Kingdom, we must listen and watch for where God is at work and join in. That may sound easy, but it is not always intuitive. Seeing God at work requires us be able to recognize the still small voice of God. It also requires us to listen to our neighbors. Both actions take intentionality. I want to challenge us all to make a commitment this new year to spend time daily cultivating our listening ears. Listening to God through scripture, prayer and solitude and listening to our neighbors. Allow God to transform you and rest assure, what God does in you, God will do through you to help transform your community.

(continued on pg 3)

*The Association of the Churches of God in Oregon & SW Washington | 715 S. River Street | Newberg, OR | 97132*

www.orwacog.org | (503) 393-3510 | (800) 873-7729 | districtoffice@orwacog.org | Editor, Paula Wilson

# District Office, Church & National Events



## January

Jan 1: New Year's Day

Jan 17: Martin Luther King Jr Day



*"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31*



## February

Feb 2: Groundhog Day

Feb 12: Lincoln's Birthday

Feb 14: Valentines Day

Feb 21: Presidents Day

Feb 22: Washington's Birthday

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YOUR CONNECTION TO THE CHURCH OF GOD

# CHOG NEWS

Check out these events and so much more at [Jesusisthesubject.org](https://Jesusisthesubject.org)—

## 2022 REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

SO GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS IN HIS OWN IMAGE.  
GENESIS 1:27A (NLT)

# iDENTITY

BECAUSE OF THE **I AM**, WE ARE.

Our Regional Conventions connect us with other believers in our nation and beyond. If you are interested in attending one of our 2022 Conventions, go to [Jesusisthesubject.org](https://Jesusisthesubject.org). Dates and locations are:

April 26-28—Fremont, CA  
June 21-23—Anderson, IN  
October 13-16—Orlando, FL



## Int'l Youth Convention 2022

July 25th in San Antonio, TX

## Journey to the Holy Lands

January 4-16, 2023



# Pastor Jerry & Bootcamp #4 Registration

(Continued from page 1) As we start a brand-new year, I want to remind you that our Association office is here to help in any way we can. Know that we care about you and the work you are doing to bring God's Kingdom to your community as it is in heaven. Don't forget our final Gravity Leadership Discipleship Boot Camp is January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Happy New Year!

Grace and peace,

*Jerry*

P.S. Our District Task Force as well as a leadership team, working with the Pacific Coast Collective, is still endeavoring to identify the current needs of our Association as we seek to move forward with the hiring of an Associate District Pastor. Please keep both groups in your prayers.

## Discipleship Boot Camp



GRAVITY  
LEADERSHIP

LEAD LIKE JESUS.  
MAKE DISCIPLES.  
CHANGE YOUR  
WORLD.



Boot Camp 1: Paradigms—Nov. 9, 2019 **Completed**

Boot Camp 2: Posture—Feb. 29, 2020 **Completed**

Boot Camp 3: Practices—Oct. 2, 2021 **Completed**

**Boot Camp 4: Presence—Jan. 29, 2022**

None of our discipleship training works without the ongoing presence of God in our lives. We will take a deep dive into what it looks like for us to learn to walk in God's presence daily. We will practice listening to him, discerning where he is at work, and we will work together to create cultures where we are encountering the living God weekly.

Register today on our website at

[www.OWACOG.org](http://www.OWACOG.org)

**Cost: \$50** **Speaker: Ben Hardman**

From 9am-4pm @ Hoodview Church of God Woodburn, OR

Even if you missed Boot Camp 1-3, you will find this Bootcamp valuable as you learn to live and lead like Jesus. For more information, login to [www.owacog.org](http://www.owacog.org) or call for a brochure. (Some scholarships are available.)

Sponsored by the Assoc of the Churches of God in Oregon & SW Washington





# Reaching the Community—Lynchwood COG

**Lynchwood Church of God**, along with other Churches in our District, had 2021 Christmas events that their community was invited to attend. Lynchwood held their **Live Nativity** two days, Dec 11th and 12th from 5-8pm. It was a Walk Through event with multiple scenes depicting the life of Jesus Christ from his holy birth to His resurrection. They have been consistently presenting this event for 34 years.

There were over **120 participants** that were active in this event. These included the cast, crew, setup & safety teams, makeup, costumes, greeters, child care workers, food preparation/servers and more. Entire families from the church were able to participate because of the vast opportunities and because some of the scenes included children. This is what Lisa Brown had to say . . . “We had such a fun and meaningful experience participating in the Live Nativity with our church family this year. Our three children, as well as Jon and I, played different character roles during the two nights—younger & older Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and shepherds.” Pastor Brian and Sheila Arnold gave oversight to the team this year.

There were approximately **400** who came to view the 2021 Live Nativity. Brochures, telling the story of Jesus, were available to them in English, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.





# PIE and PIR . . . Rockwood COG



The **Rockwood Church Family** came up with a creative way to enjoy being together during the Christmas Season. They joined together one evening for a PIE and PIR event and had a great time! 16 people enjoyed pie at the church and then packed into 3 cars to carpool over to PIR (Portland International Raceway) to experience the lights at Winter Wonderland together. They liked it so much they are considering making it an annual event!



*FYI—The Sunshine Division sponsors Winter Wonderland light display at the PIR every year as a fundraiser to supply holiday food to Portland families in need. They were hoping to deliver 2500 food boxes this last Christmas!*



# Campmeeting—July 31-August 4, 2022



## 2022 Campmeeting

We are looking forward to our upcoming 2022 Willamette Valley Campmeeting. This is a week designed to be a time of worship and inspiration for the whole family, with plenty of opportunities for fellowship and fun. The schedule is purposely kept minimal to maximize fellowship and rest.

Be sure to mark July 31-August 4 on your calendar when we will meet on the grounds of the Oregon Christian Convention in Turner, Oregon. Onsite lodging options include cabins and RV spots, and daily commuters are also welcome. The planning team appreciates your prayers as they continue working on the speaker, theme, and other details for this year.

*Steve Kufeldt*

WVC Secretary-Treasurer (Planning Team Convener)  
Lead Pastor, Hoodview Church of God, Woodburn



## Churches in Transition

Please continue to **PRAY** for our churches that are in transition with pastoral leadership. We have some very capable interim pastors leading through the transitions and they appreciate your prayers as well.

**Gales Creek**—Trisa Kelly, interim

**Maranatha**—Fred Douglas, interim

(in the final stages of interviews)

**Reedsport**—Ancil Abney, interim

(They are asking for referrals and/or resumes for the senior pastor position.  
Candidates can contact them @ [info@rchog.org](mailto:info@rchog.org) or 541-271-3928)

**Roseburg**—Hugh Heinrichsen, lead pastor

(Church is in the process of a restart.)

**Westview Church in Longview**

Pastor John Jamieson has recently resigned and his last day is Jan 30th. Please forward names and contact information of any qualified pastoral candidates to [info@westviewchurchfamily.org](mailto:info@westviewchurchfamily.org)



**Remember we are stronger together!!**



# Camp White Branch



Greetings from Camp,

We are excited to let you know we have set the dates for our 2022 Church of God Summer Camps and registration will open in March. Danette Beisley, our Camp Coordinator, is busy working with the individual camp directors preparing for a great summer camp season. If you are interested in volunteering as a counselor (training provided), lifeguard, or for the health care staff, we would love to hear from you!! These positions are needed for each camp. If you can help, please reach out to Danette directly at [danette@oakparkchurch.net](mailto:danette@oakparkchurch.net).

## 2022 Summer Camp Dates

**July 11-15—Sr High Camp**  
**July 18-22—Middle School Camp**  
**July 22-24—Introductory Camp**  
**July 25-29—Junior Camp**  
**August 8-11—Primary Camp**

We are also starting to look for seasonal staff (June 1- Sept 1) and volunteers to help this summer. We need a cook and a general staff member to help with cleaning, dishwashing, yard care, etc. More details will be posted on our website for these positions in January. We are hoping we will have volunteers again as assistant cooks and kitchen help, which is typically for 3-5 days at a time, with staff housing/meals provided. This is a great opportunity to support this ministry. Please contact us at [volunteer@campwhitebranch.org](mailto:volunteer@campwhitebranch.org) or call 503 915 2872.

It looks like our reroofing project (dining hall, caretaker house, Fir cabin) will start in the spring since we have had quite a bit of snow at the camp. As mentioned last month, reroofing additional cabins will cost \$10,000 each and the office and assistant house will cost around \$20,000 to complete both from start to finish. New roofs are needed to mitigate damage to the buildings since some are starting to leak. Donations can be made by sending a check to the District Office or donating on our website. (Please note roofing project.) We are hoping for several work groups from churches to help this spring with the repairs needed on the buildings to be reroofed, the clean up needed when the old roofs are removed, and to help prep the camp for groups in the spring. If your church is interested, please contact us at [volunteer@campwhitebranch.org](mailto:volunteer@campwhitebranch.org).

We are actively pursuing candidates for the 'On-site Maintenance Specialist' and the 'Operations Manager' for the camp. We hope to hire in January or February so we can have staff trained for our peak summer season. Please continue to pray for our search for candidates and wisdom for the hiring committee.

We were blessed with a donation from a church to purchase all the items on our previous needs list. This was such a blessing!! We have a new needs list if you are interested in donating for a specific item. You can find details on our website.

Thanks for your continued prayers for guidance for the Camp White Branch board.

Blessings,

*Lisa Switzer, CWB Chairman*

[www.campwhitebranch.org](http://www.campwhitebranch.org).

# Happy New Year—Reflections from Paula

Sitting at my dining room table this morning for my devotions reminded me of the many changes I have had in my life since returning to Oregon 3 1/2 years ago. I have been given opportunities to be interim pastor at the Newberg Church of God, have worked with Love Inc in Newberg with their transitional ministry to Women and for the last 17 months, I have had the joy of working with you—our district churches, pastors and church families. Each job has given me opportunity to learn new skills, draw close to God in the doing, and to learn patience in the waiting. It has reminded me that God enables those he calls and that he loves us even when we experience what we term as ‘failure.’

Many of you know that my husband and I had opportunity to serve as a ministry team for 40 years. It is different serving as a single pastor, but, God always provides and often surprises me with exciting experiences in life and in ministry. At this time last year I was in transition with my housing and most of my belongings were still in storage in Madera, CA, where I had been on staff at the Fourth Street Church of God.

Several years ago I began looking for a home but the doors closed one after another. I thought I knew what I wanted—a single story family home with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths with some “old fashioned” charm. A place I could entertain friends and even house women working towards their own place. I needed a home I could afford and I was only looking in the Newberg area because that is where I believe God has planted me.

About this time last year, I received a call from a friend at church telling me of a condo that was for sale down the road from George Fox. My heart said no because it was in a 55+ community and I didn’t want to admit I am getting older. It was in an HOA community and I knew there would be restrictions to live there. It was two stories and stairs have not always been my friend with 3 ankle surgeries under my belt. BUT, God was telling me to check it out. Three days later my offer was accepted for the purchase.

After a year of renovation, moving, and settling my “stuff”, and recently saying yes to being on the HOA board, I can hardly believe I just celebrated Christmas in MY home. I have never purchased a home on my own. I am so thankful that God has brought me to a place where everyone I meet is friendly and willing to help when I need it. Many of my neighbors are Christians and I look forward to opportunities to meet others who need the love of the Lord imprinted on their lives (in a kind and gentle way).

I am so grateful that God knows what we need even when we don’t. I am also grateful to be active in a church that is a loving presence in our community and for a job where I can serve and be served . . . because YOU are such a blessing to me.



I am thankful also for Jerry Davisson, our district pastor, who listens and follows what God is telling him. He has given me the opportunity to be a part of a discipleship experience (Gravity Leadership) that will always be a part of who I am and I gain new appreciation for him the longer we work together.

We all have experienced challenges in our lives. Mine are no different than many of yours. They may have different expressions but they have the same face. **I believe that God loves US! He is present and working where WE are! He cares about the challenges WE face more than WE do and He meets US in our reality! I also know that what He is doing through US He is also doing in US!**

Be encouraged because I know God is doing a new thing and wants us to be a part of where he is working. It’s a new year and I’m excited to see what is next . . . are you with me?

WE ARE in ministry together,

Pastor Paula

***Want to experience living and leading like Jesus? Call me at the District Office, 503-393-3510, to sign up for our next Gravity Leadership Discipleship Cohort by Zoom***

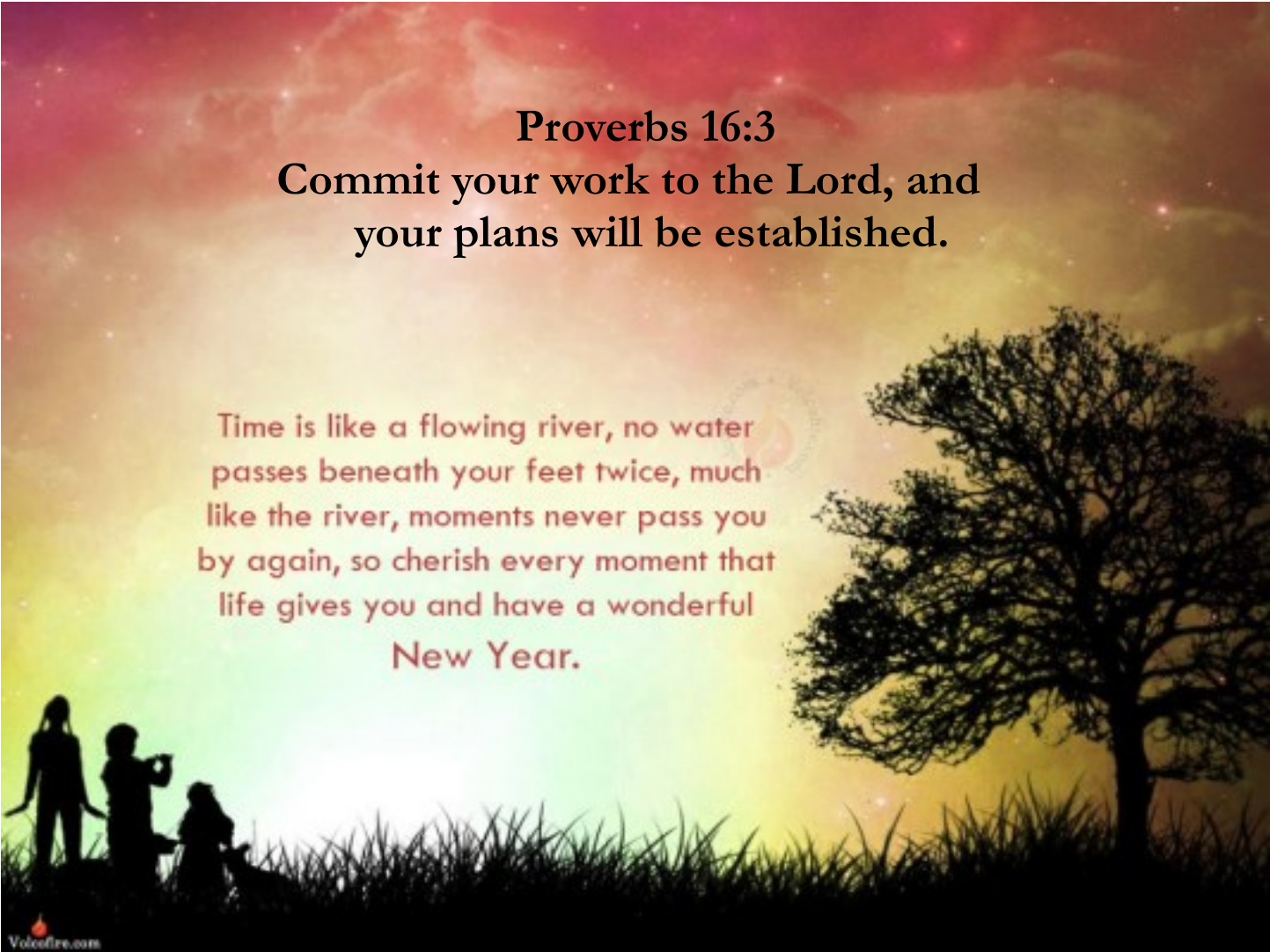


# District Prayer List for 2022

Be sure to remember our Church of God congregations in prayer as we begin a new year. (Below you will find our District Prayer List for 2022.) There is power in prayer and we are stronger together.

*"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." 1 John 5:14*

Portland - Kingdom Nation	1/2/22	Willamette Valley Campmeeting 7/31-8/4	7/3/22
Portland- Winding Road Church of God	1/9/22	Albany - First Church of God	7/10/22
Powers - Powers Church of God	1/16/22	Aloha - Aloha Church of God	7/17/22
Prineville - Living Water Church of God	1/23/22	Bandon - Seabird Chapel Church of God	7/24/22
Rainier - Rainier Community COG	1/30/22	Cottage Grove - Riverside Comm COG	7/31/22
Redmond - First Church of God	2/6/22	Eugene - Friendly Street Church of God	8/7/22
Reedsport - Reedsport Church of God	2/13/22	Gales Creek - Gales Creek Comm COG	8/14/22
Roseburg - Hucrest Church	2/20/22	Hillsboro - Valley Hope Community Church	8/21/22
Salem - Oak Park Church of God	2/27/22	Husum, WA - Husum Community COG	8/28/22
Scappoose - Chapman Community COG	3/6/22	Klamath Falls - First Church of God	9/4/22
Springfield - Springfield Church of God	3/13/22	La Grande - Crossroads Comm Church	9/11/22
St. Helens - Sunset Park Comm Church	3/20/22	Lebanon - Turning Point Church	9/18/22
The Dalles - Solid Rock Ministries	3/27/22	Longview, WA - Westview Church	9/25/22
Tigard - Tigard Church of God	4/3/22	Medford - First Church of God	10/2/22
Vancouver, WA - First Church of God	4/10/22	Newberg - River Street Church of God	10/9/22
Vancouver, WA - Iglesia de Dios	4/17/22	North Bend - College Park Comm Church	10/16/22
Woodburn - Hoodview Church of God	4/24/22	Oregon City - Faith Rock Comm Church	10/23/22
Association of the COG leadership	5/1/22	Oregon City - Hilltop Community COG	10/30/22
Camp White Branch	5/8/22	Portland - Community Church of God	11/6/22
Warner Pacific University (Portland, OR)	5/15/22	Portland - Lents-Gilbert Church of God	11/13/22
COG Ministries Council (Anderson, IN)	5/22/22	Portland - Lynchwood Church of God	11/20/22
Church of God District Council	5/29/22	Portland - Maranatha Church	11/27/22
Summer camp directors & counselors	6/5/22	Portland - Neighborhood Church of God	12/4/22
Summer camp children & youth	6/12/22	Portland - Richmond Community Church	12/11/22
Pray for the lost	6/19/22	Portland - Rockwood Church of God	12/18/22
Pray for our ministers & their families	6/26/22	District Pastors and Church Leadership	12/25/22



**Proverbs 16:3**  
**Commit your work to the Lord, and  
your plans will be established.**

Time is like a flowing river, no water  
passes beneath your feet twice, much  
like the river, moments never pass you  
by again, so cherish every moment that  
life gives you and have a wonderful  
New Year.

## **THE PURPOSE**

of The Association of the Churches of God in Oregon and SW Washington is to:

- Conduct business as the legally-incorporated body of the Association of the Churches of God in Oregon, Inc.
- Provide assistance to Oregon and Southwest Washington congregations and be a channel through which local congregations shall be mobilized to fulfill our united vision and mission.

## **THE VISION**

of The Association is for every believer to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission, the Great Commandments, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

## **THE MISSION**

of The Association is to:

- Create and maintain ministries that will strengthen, encourage, supplement, and promote local congregations of The Association;
- Inspire commitment to the teachings, mission, and theological perspectives of the Church of God, Anderson, IN;
- Provide support for the development of healthy Church of God congregations.