

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



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— CONNECTIONS —

Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events



Greetings Friends!

I love New Year's Eve. Sometime during the lead up to the evening, I take time to celebrate the accomplishments of the year, to grieve the losses and to set some priorities for the coming year. The New Year lays before us as an unwritten chapter in the ongoing novel of our life. What story will you tell with your life in 2023?

Will your story be filled with new adventures? New Kingdom growth? Or will you simply be writing the same old story? What new Kingdom dreams has the Holy Spirit birthed in your heart and mind? Where is God leading you around personal discipleship as you seek to practice the way of Jesus? Where is God planting new visions and dreams in the local congregation you are a part of that you are being called to help come to fruition? What challenges might you be asked to face as an individual and collectively?

I am excited about what God will do in our Association this coming year as we partner with God's Spirit and pray for God's leading. We are still taking applications for the Associate District Pastor position. Please contact myself or Glen Hossler if you have any questions.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and to remind you that the Association office is here to serve, equip, and empower you to help your kingdom visions find fulfillment in Jesus. If we can ever be of assistance, please don't hesitate to ask. Even though I am pastoring, I am still available to come and visit your church on a Sunday morning (with some notice). I am here to help.

Let's continue to make **Jesus the Subject** and breathe life into our families, our neighborhoods, and our communities.

Jerry

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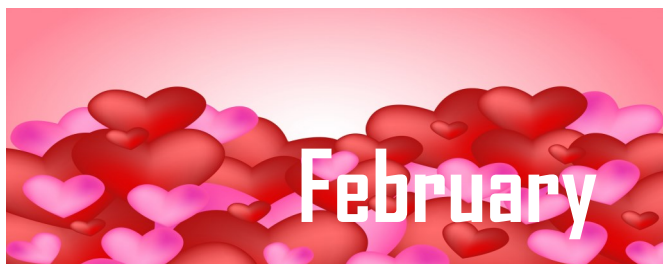
www.orwacog.org | (503) 393-3510 | (800) 873-7729 | districtoffice@orwacog.org | Editor, Paula Wilson

District Office, Church & National Events



Jan 1: New Years Day
Jan 16: Martin Luther King Jr Day

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6



Feb 2: Groundhog Day
Feb 14: Valentines Day
Feb 20: Presidents Day

"Let us love one another" 1 John 4:7

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE CHURCH OF GOD **CHOG**NEWS

Check out this event and so much more at Jesusisthesubject.org—

Church of God Convention & General Assembly

Tampa, Florida June 22-25, 2023

"For the life of every living thing is in His hand, and the breath of every human being." Job 12:10 NLT

The Church of God in the United States and Canada will meet in Tampa in June 2023 for its biennial Convention and General Assembly. More than routine, this meeting will also set the stage for a historic global assembly of the Movement, as a new international partnership, drawing together 100 Church of God assemblies at work in twenty-three time zones, convenes for the first time.

In every nation, at home and abroad, there are mountains to climb, souls to save, wrongs to right, Kingdom truths to bring to life, and tests to overcome. Plenary and elective sessions will inspire and teach, even as they tackle tough stuff and big questions. Cancer? War? Hunger? Division? Fear? Death? Everything will be framed by this reassuring and empowering truth: *He's got the whole world in His hands.*

"He existed before anything else and He holds all creation together" (Colossians 1:17 NLT).

Like those who originally imagined the iconic spiritual, never give up; look up . . . **Jesus is the subject.**

Register now. Bring someone with you. Be encouraged. Change the world.

Bandon Celebrates Healing & New Life

Nothing is more exciting for a church family than to witness someone coming to Christ and then being baptized...nothing, that is, except when 10 more people join them!!

The Lord was so gracious to bless our fellowship with the opportunity to witness 11 people publicly pronounce their faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized recently. The week before, a woman named Heather came to church with her family after being released 2 days prior from OHSU due to a blood clot in her brain. She had come very close to dying from this clot, but the Lord protected her and now, she wanted to come and bring her whole family to church with her. After the sermon that Sunday, Heather and some of her family members came forward and gave their lives to the Christ! Praise God for the power of His love to convict, to cleanse, and to redeem! The following Sunday, Heather's immediate family, along with some of her extended family, came to be baptized. They were joined by another woman in our church who has walked with Christ for decades. She had been baptized as a very young child without her knowing what it truly meant and she wanted to knowingly obey God and be baptized.

Let's all pray that each one of these people grow closer to Jesus with every passing day!

Jim Minkler

Pastor, Seabird Chapel



Camp White Branch

Greetings from Camp,

I hope this update finds all of you feeling blessed and fulfilled after the Christmas season.

Snow at Camp

Snow has arrived early at camp this year. Clayton, our Maintenance Specialist, is getting lots of experience on the snow blower and Faye, our Operations Manager, has invested in some warmer boots. The plans are to open snow tubing this year on weekends when the conditions are safe for guests. Please check the camp's facebook page to see if they are open. What better place to enjoy tubing!



Thanks Julie Jackson . . .



When you visit Camp White Branch, you become part of the place. You are drawn in by the beauty of God's creation, the friends that are made, the calm sacred times, the fun and games that are played, the connection with Jesus. This is the way it happened for Julie Jackson, who expressed desire to serve at Camp White Branch as a counselor, craft coordinator, and speaker, and then later was asked to serve as Introduction Camp Director.

Julie has served in the director role for fourteen years! She has planned, organized, given time and effort, and been present for many parents and children as they experienced camp together – many for the very first time!

We are so thankful for the years that you have given in service to the Lord at Camp White Branch. You will be missed as you step down from this leadership role as Introduction Camp Director! We are thankful that you will still be active in ministry throughout our district.

2023 Camp Update

The dates for Church of God camps at CWB have been set for 2023. Registration will open in February and all the latest information can be found at www.campwhitebranch.org. Be looking for more information at your churches as well.

Camp White Branch—2023 Summer Camps

Middle School camp is in need of a Director to lead and organize this camp for the summer. Coaching “on what it takes to do this” is provided. Please pray about this opportunity and contact Danette at 503-396-2090 or danette@oakparkchurch.net if you are interested or have questions.

Each year camp directors are in need of volunteers to help at their camps. Many folks don’t realize what it takes to have a camp. Each director needs to find counselors to be leaders with the campers, a life guard so the pool can be opened with appropriate supervision, an individual for health care to manage medical issues and administer medications, plus guest speakers and music leaders. It takes an army of volunteers to have a week of camp. Please consider coming to help at one of the camps this summer. Contact Danette Beisley, our camp coordinator, at 503-396-2090 or danette@oakparkchurch.net. She would love to hear from you if you are interested and share about this ministry opportunity to bring youth to Christ this summer.

Camp White Branch, as a facility, provides the staff behind the scenes ensuring meals are prepared, repairs are made, facility sanitized for groups, grounds maintained, and many other activities. The last two years we have had opportunities for volunteers who may not feel comfortable working with campers but want to help our staff out. For each week of camp in the summer we would like to have a couple or 2 individuals volunteer to help with dishes, basic cleaning, and food prep in the kitchen. A food handler card is required and you must be over 18 years of age plus pass a background check. We provide lodging (in our staff house or you can bring an RV), great meals, and it is always lots of fun! Please contact cwboperationsmanager@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out in this capacity this summer.

2023 Camp Dates

July 10-14, 2023 Sr High Camp
July 17-21, 2023 Middle School Camp
July 24-28, 2023 Junior Camp
August 7-10, 2023 Primary Camp
August 11-13, 2023 , 2023 Introductory Camp

Give a Scholarship or Gift Certificate for Summer Camp

Have you wanted to give your child or grandchild the gift of summer camp? We are now offering gift certificates so you can easily do this or, you can use the scholarship process already set up. Check it out at:

<https://campwhitebranch.org/pay-for-campers/>

If you have questions, please contact cwboperationsmanager@gmail.com or call 541-822-3511.

Camp Needs/Volunteer Events

Some of the current needs at the camp are for kitchen items such as roasters, crock pots, a new refrigerator unit, gravel, kick plates, and other items. Please look on the website at <https://campwhitebranch.org/needs-list/> for details and how to donate funds for these items. We really appreciate all the support from many of you each year!

We will be setting up dates for volunteer work events and projects for this spring soon. We hope to see many of you joining these events . . . we need folks with all skill levels. Check out our website.

Blessings,

Lisa Switzer, Camp White Branch, Chair

Danette Beisley, Church of God Camp Coordinator

FYI—The 1-877 # at the camp is No Longer Available. If you need to reach the camp, call the office # which is 541-822-3511. The kitchen # is 541-822-3964 but is only answered when someone is cooking.

Lynchwood Celebrates Jesus with their Community

Our District is blessed to have three churches that bring Jesus' story to their communities during the Christmas Season through live Nativities—Friendly Street in Eugene, Hoodview in Woodburn, and Lynchwood in Gresham. Here are a few scenes from Lynchwood's 35th Annual Live Nativity. Thank you church families for your passion to make **Jesus the Reason for the Season**.



Discipleship includes Connection



District Gravity Leadership Discipleship Clusters

continue with coaches Jerry Davisson and Paula Wilson. Year One includes important axioms of our faith along with Grace and Truth principles, learning to recognize the bad news of our world, implementing God's Good News, follow through with a 'DO' when God calls us to, and so much more.

Connection and learning happen through weekly zoom calls but sometimes it is also through fun times, emails, and other personal support. Paula's group has gathered for a day trip to the beach, attended the installation service of Pastor Trisa Gales Creek church, and recently had a New Year's Eve party.

If you are interested in joining a Discipleship Cluster, be sure to contact Jerry or Paula at the District Office. A new group will begin soon.



CWC Spring Connection—April 21&22



CHRISTIAN
WOMEN
CONNECTION

SPRING CONNECTION

at the Aloha Church of God
18380 SW Kinnaman Road, Aloha, OR



Ladies, mark your calendar for this opportunity to connect & grow . . .

Friday, April 21 (registration 6:30pm)

Saturday, April 22 (last session ends 3:30pm)

Registration Brochures with more information will be available from your church and on the Association website soon.

No Room in the Inn?



God has been talking to me lately about opportunities to serve and my availability. A devotion I read in December began the conversation ...

"Sorry we're late, Jessica said as she entered my home in a rush with her two boys. Two hours late! Didn't she realize I had no room in my busy schedule for this? She had agreed to help me wrap presents to earn extra cash.

After she explained that a neighbor had been fixing the brakes on her dilapidated car, I found room for compassion. Jessica and her boys lived in a nearby shelter and locked up their meager belongings in the trunk of their car for safekeeping as well as using it for transportation.

After Jessica finished helping me, she refused the money I offered saying that a peaceful evening in my home was enough of a gift. As she and her boys edged the beat-up car away from the curb with her

greatest treasures buckled in the backseat, I thought of another family seeking shelter in an inn and finding no room. Luke 2:7" (excerpts from Walking in Grace, Guideposts, page 392).

I am being challenged to make more room for God's opportunities to serve and share God's love with the unexpected visitor because . . . sometimes the gift of Christmas arrives when we least expect it and . . . all year long. I want to open the door and invite You in. Will you to join me in the journey?

Paula Wilson

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

Bringing God's Kingdom to Life . . .

IMPACT REPORT

HOW OUR MOVEMENT IS BRINGING GOD'S KINGDOM TO LIFE . . .

Yes...it's a pretty audacious mission. But it's what drives every member of our NATIONAL team, every day. Because for each of them, working with Church of God Ministries isn't a job. It's a way to align their vocation with their calling...which means it's also a pretty audacious blessing.

So what does the mission mean to all of us?

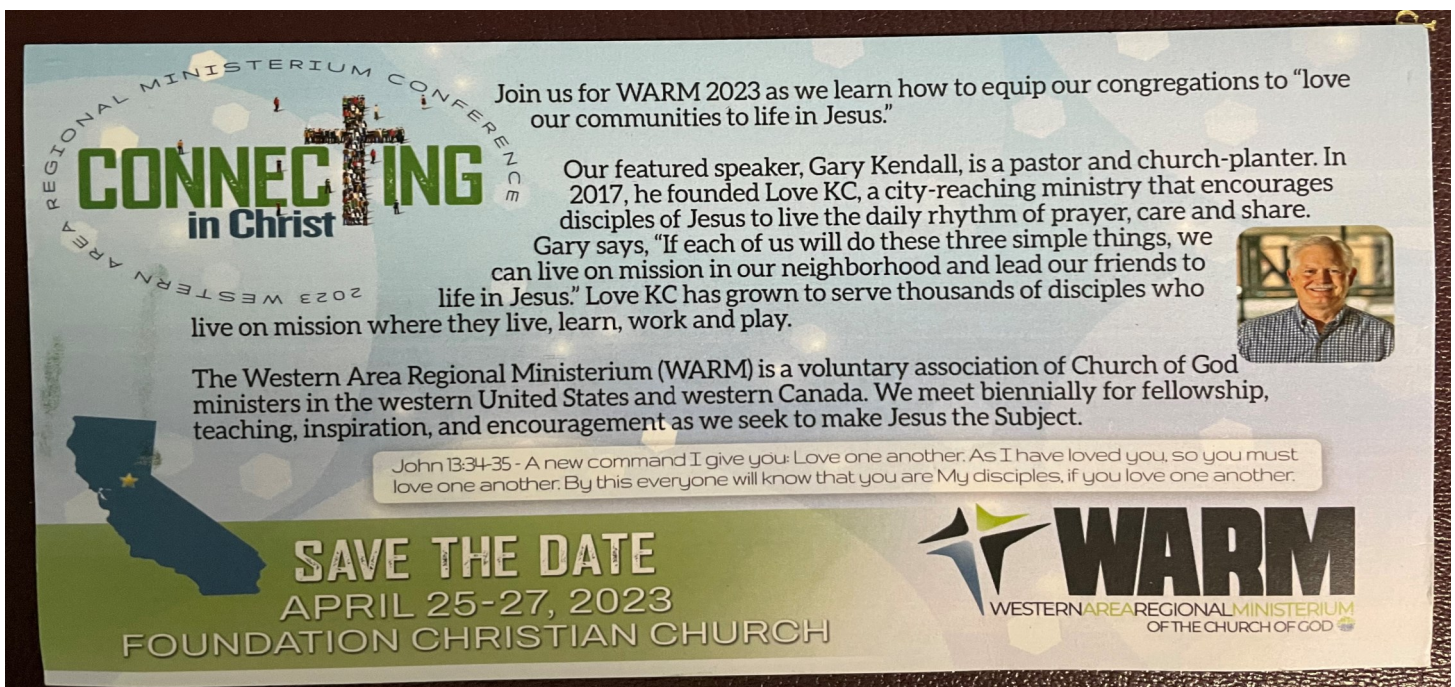
**We encourage you to download the following
impact report showing what the
Church of God is doing worldwide.**

[https://issuu.com/chogministries/docs/
chog_2023_impact_report-izzu](https://issuu.com/chogministries/docs/chog_2023_impact_report-izzu)

**(If you need a printed copy, please contact Paula at the
District Office, 503-393-3510.)**

“Empowering
the people of God to collectively
build a Jesus-centered,
biblically grounded Movement that
brings the Kingdom to life
on earth as it is in heaven.”

WARM 2023 @ Citrus Heights, CA



Join us for WARM 2023 as we learn how to equip our congregations to “love our communities to life in Jesus.”

Our featured speaker, Gary Kendall, is a pastor and church-planter. In 2017, he founded Love KC, a city-reaching ministry that encourages disciples of Jesus to live the daily rhythm of prayer, care and share. Gary says, “If each of us will do these three simple things, we can live on mission in our neighborhood and lead our friends to life in Jesus.” Love KC has grown to serve thousands of disciples who live on mission where they live, learn, work and play.

The Western Area Regional Ministerium (WARM) is a voluntary association of Church of God ministers in the western United States and western Canada. We meet biennially for fellowship, teaching, inspiration, and encouragement as we seek to make Jesus the Subject.

John 13:34-35 - A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.

CONNECTING
in Christ

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 25-27, 2023
FOUNDATION CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WARM
WESTERN AREA REGIONAL MINISTERIUM
OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

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.

Husum Community, WA—seeking a permanent pastor
Valley Hope, Hillsboro, OR—seeking direction for what's next

Remember we are stronger together!!



2023 Calendar Dates

CWC Spring Conference @ Aloha April 21-22
WARM Pastor's Conference @ Citrus Heights, CA April 25-27
Church of God National Convention & General Assembly @
Tampa Bay, Florida June 22-25
Annual Business Meeting @ Salem July 8
Senior High Camp @ CWB July 10-14
Middle School Camp @ CWB July 17-21
Introductory Camp @ CWB July 21-23
Junior Camp @ CWB July 24-28
Willamette Valley Campmeeting @ Turner, OR July 30-August 3
Primary Camp @ CWB August 7-10
Men's Retreat @ CWB August 18-20 (Speaker Aaron Hiller)
CWC Women's Fall Prayer Retreat @ CWB September 15-17

**Do you have EVENTS planned for your
Church and/or Community?**

**We would love to hear about them. We will be updating our website
and facebook page regularly and can post your events on those sites.**

District Prayer List for 2022/23

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 2023.) There is power in prayer and we are stronger together.

"I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." ~ Mark 11:24 ESV

Portland - Kingdom Nation	1/1/23	Willamette Valley Campmeeting 7/30-8/3	7/2/23
Portland- Winding Road Church of God	1/8/23	Albany - First Church of God	7/9/23
Powers - Powers Church of God	1/15/23	Aloha - Aloha Church of God	7/16/23
Prineville - Living Water Church of God	1/22/23	Bandon - Seabird Chapel Church of God	7/23/23
Rainier - Rainier Community COG	1/29/23	Cottage Grove - Riverside Comm COG	7/30/23
Redmond - First Church of God	2/5/23	Eugene - Friendly Street Church of God	8/6/23
Reedsport - Reedsport Church of God	2/12/23	Gales Creek - Gales Creek Comm COG	8/13/23
Roseburg - New Roseburg Church	2/19/23	Hillsboro - Valley Hope Community Church	8/20/23
Salem - Oak Park Church of God	2/26/23	Husum, WA - Husum Community COG	8/27/23
Scappoose - Chapman Community COG	3/5/23	Klamath Falls - First Church of God	9/3/23
Springfield - Springfield Church of God	3/12/23	La Grande - Crossroads Comm Church	9/10/23
St. Helens - Sunset Park Comm Church	3/19/23	District Committee Members	9/17/23
The Dalles - Solid Rock Ministries	3/26/23	Longview, WA - Westview Church	9/24/23
Tigard - Tigard Church of God	4/2/23	Medford - First Church of God	10/1/23
Vancouver, WA - First Church of God	4/9/23	Newberg - River Street Church of God	10/8/23
Vancouver, WA - Iglesia de Dios	4/16/23	North Bend - College Park Comm Church	10/15/23
Woodburn - Hoodview Church of God	4/23/23	Oregon City - Faith Rock Comm Church	10/22/23
Church of God Missionaries	4/30/23	Oregon City - Hilltop Community COG	10/29/23
Camp White Branch	5/7/23	Portland - Community Church of God	11/5/23
Warner Pacific University (Portland, OR)	5/14/23	Portland - Lents-Gilbert Church of God	11/12/23
COG Ministries Staff/Council (Anderson, IN)	5/21/23	Portland - Lynchwood Church of God	11/19/23
Church of God District Council	5/28/23	Portland - Maranatha Church	11/26/23
Summer Camp Directors & Counselors	6/4/23	Portland - Neighborhood Church of God	12/3/23
Summer Camp Children & Youth	6/11/23	Portland - Richmond Community Church	12/10/23
Opportunities to share God's Good News	6/18/23	Portland - Rockwood Church of God	12/17/23
Our Pastors/Church Staff & their Families	6/25/23	Our Pastors & Spouses—Active & Retired	12/24/23
		District and CWB Staff	12/31/23

Our *hope* is not in the new
year but in the **One** who
makes *all* things **new**.

THE
700
CLUB

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.