

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!

During our Annual meeting I shared with those in attendance the three main goals that I have as your District pastor for this upcoming fiscal year. I thought I would take this opportunity to share them here with those who may not have attended the meeting or may have tuned me out.

The first priority will be to hire someone (title to be determined) to work alongside myself and our council to meet the continuing needs of the Association. For the past year a group of leaders from Oregon and SW Washington has been working with the Pacific Coast Collective to pursue a proposal to do some cooperative hiring among our regions. That proposal has reached a dead end and so our Association is left on its own to hire someone to help with the work of the Association due to my dual role. We are still in the process of determining the duties and responsibility of the new hire but have identified a need to shore up the work being done around church and pastoral relations. Please keep this process in your prayers.

Second, I will be working with our council to strengthen our regional structure. Shortly before the retirement of then District Pastor Dave Shrout, there was a change in the governance model for our Association. Part of that change included breaking the Association up into eight regions. The thought behind this is sound but we have not yet utilized the full potential of this organizational model. I am excited to dig in and see how we can use this model to strengthen the core goals of the Association to promote leadership, discipleship, and relationship in our churches.

Finally, I will be creating a task force to help with addressing the issue of pastoral transition. As I shared at the annual meeting, there are many pastors in our Association and around the country who are 5-10 years from retirement. Sociologists have been predicting the coming of a pastoral leadership shortage for years. I feel it is time we address this and seek ways our Association can support our churches and pastors before this crisis of leadership transitions get out of hand.

These are all big goals, but we serve a big God who desires that His kingdom come and His will be done in the communities we find ourselves in, as it is in heaven. Please pray with me and our council as we work hard to support our pastors and churches in the days and weeks ahead.

Jerry

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District Office, Church & National Events



September: Beginning of School
Sept 5: Labor Day
Sept 11: Grandparent Day
Sept 16-18: CWC Prayer Retreat

Pray for our children, teachers and the school Administrators—for safety and the opportunity to teach what is right in the eyes of God.



Oct 10-12: Minister/Spouse Retreat
Oct 13-16: '22 Regional Conference-Florida & National CWC Conference

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:37-38

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE CHURCH OF GOD

CHOG NEWS

Check out these events and so much more at Jesusisthesubject.org—

2022 REGIONAL CONFERENCES

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 the last of three of the 2022 Conventions, go to [jesusisthesubject.org](https://Jesusisthesubject.org) for more information. The conference held in April and June were well worth attending. This is not just for pastors. We encourage you to register today!

The **National CWC Conference** is combined with the National Regional Conference—same dates and location. Information about the CWC conference can be found on the national website and also on the CWC website. Both will be held:

October 13-16—Orlando, FL

LAST Chance to Register—CWC & Minister's Retreats

Christian Women's Connection (CWC)

Fall Prayer RETREAT

Sept 16-18, 2022 @ Camp White Branch



Speaker,
Danette Beisley

“Encourage One Another”

Cost is \$95 for Fri-Sun.

**LAST Chance to register (must be done
by phone) is Tuesday, Sept 6th!!**

Call Leslie 503-320-1369 or Nancy 971-470-1633.



Worship Leader,
Marva Adams

Ministers & Spouse Retreat

October 10-12, 2022

Agate Beach Inn, Newport, OR

Jim Lyon—Speaker

(Executive Director of the CHOG & Innovative Communicator)

Cost options begin at \$389 for a single & \$489 for a couple.

LAST chance to register is Tuesday, Sept 6th.

Call Paula @ 559-269-9126.

*Pastors ... Come be refreshed as we connect
with God and each other.*

*Church Families ... encourage your pastors to get away
by giving them time off &
if possible, finances to make it happen.*

Camp White Branch

Greetings from Camp,

We had a great camp season this summer! We had 179 youth in attendance this year, still building up the pre-COVID numbers. We want to thank Rob Wright, our interim caretaker/lifeguard and Sheila Wallin, our lead cook for making camps possible this summer. Thanks to all who volunteered as directors, counselors, health staff, lifeguards, and support staff.



We want to welcome Clayton, Nadia, and Pearl Willbroad to Camp White Branch. Clayton has accepted the Maintenance Specialist position.

Clayton grew up in Estacada, Oregon and has loved Jesus from a very early age. He grew up on a tree farm learning how to fix and run equipment which carried over into the finish carpentry job he had for 10 years. More recently he has worked in the construction field as a project manager for an installation company and as a treatment aid at a youth rehabilitation center for drug and alcohol addiction.



When Clayton is not working, he loves going on adventures driving and exploring the area he is in. He also enjoys rescuing old items and remaking them into fun and functional household pieces. His passion is pouring into youth and young adults, disciplining them as they live their life full out for Jesus.

Clayton is married to Naudia and they have one daughter, Pearl. Naudia grew up in Clackamas County, Oregon and has her bachelor's degree in Social Work. She worked with teens in foster care as well as with at risk youth for several years until she became a stay at home mom. More recently she has enjoyed working in the health field as a chiropractic assistant and receptionist. Naudia

enjoys baking and reading when she has some down time. Otherwise, she is keeping up with their fun loving, energetic, tomboy princess dressing daughter, Pearl.

At the District Annual Meeting in July we had two new Camp White Branch Board members ratified to serve. We welcome Wayne Sheilee (Lynchwood COG) and Rob Wright (Reedsport COG) to the board and want to thank Mel Neu and Stephen Gartman for their many years of service.

In late July we found out our application for grant funds from the State of Oregon (to support camp operational expenses for this summer and some needed maintenance) was approved. We have enough funds now to complete roofing the remaining cabins, office, and the assistant's house. What a blessing these funds are to help us ensure longevity of our buildings for future users.

Blessings,

Lisa Switzer, CWB Chairman

www.campwhitebranch.org

Camp White Branch—Summer Camp Pics

Enjoy these pictures taken during our 2022 summer camps. If you have others you would like to share, please send them to the District Office by email.



More CWB Pics



The Giving Closet—Vancouver Church

Beginnings

The Closet started in the 500 square foot attic space of the Vancouver Church in 2000. After two years it expanded to a small house on the church property, doubling in size. Moving into a warehouse space and expanding every few years, it is now residing in 9,000 square feet. The Giving Closet established itself as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2011. With the help of volunteers and a giving community, The Giving Closet has touched the lives of more than 18,328 people since opening.



Mission Statement

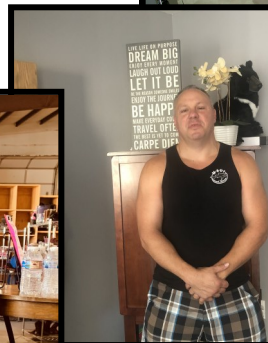
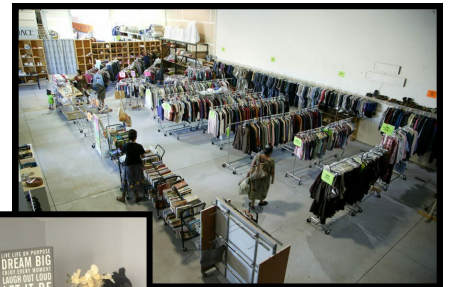
No one should be hungry, unclothed, or unloved within our reach.

The Giving Closet serves individuals and families from a variety of different backgrounds empowering them to claim a fresh start. The Giving Closet's intent is to see that every person in crisis is given resources to meet their basic needs. Building upon its heritage of ministry and outreach, The Giving Closet desires to touch the lives of the hurting, homeless, and hungry.

The Giving Closet offers a 9,000 square foot free community store. Shoppers can choose from many of the basic life essentials such as clothing, toiletries, emergency food and critical household items. The Closet also provides books and toys, along with a friendly face to ease the burden during these difficult economic times.



Pastor Denise Currie had the vision to begin The Giving Closet and she continues strong in her passion and energy to what she sees God is asking her to do. Her daughter and son-in-law, Jen and Joe, are also key staff members. They wear multiple hats including office support and security/safety help as individuals come for services. Denise, Jen and Joe, greatly enjoy resourcing children as they begin the new school year.



Rockwood Reaches Out To Their Neighborhood

A little about the event.....this was our first time offering a free community BBQ like this, so we had very little expectation on how well received it would be. The main goal was just to share some love with the community. No strings attached, just we're here and we care. We had a banner up for 6 weeks advertising the event and we also shared the event on social media. That's really it and God is so good!

We don't have specific numbers but based on how much food we served (and just how busy it felt), we had well over 100 neighbors from the community along with around 50-60 of our own church folks. Lots of young families and kids showed up! So many smiles and willing volunteers. It was AMAZING!! We heard comments like "This is just what this neighborhood needed," which was music to our ears! It was the perfect environment for connecting and building relationships with our neighbors. God is up to something in Rockwood and we're here for it!!

Nikki Greene



**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.**

Reedsport Church of God Celebrates 65 Years



The Reedsport Church of God capped off a month of focusing on its history and ministry impact by celebrating its 65th anniversary with a Celebration Sunday worship service on August 21, 2022. Under gorgeous blue skies and sunshine, the congregation combined its two services into a single outdoor worship service on the church grounds. Preaching on Joshua 3 and 4, Pastor Justin Linseisen encouraged his new church family to remember God's great faithfulness throughout our church's 65 years of existence, and presented each person in attendance with a rock to commemorate that faithfulness. He then challenged our congregation to imagine together what God has in store for us next as we reach out to our community with God's good news.

Special honor was given to Evelyn (VanTassel) and Norm Mayfield, the daughter and son-in-law of our founders, Kenneth and Velma VanTassel, who have been tireless laborers in the Reedsport Church of God's ministry and outreach from the very beginning. In speaking of them during the service, Associate Pastor Kristen Zetsche said, "In the 50 years that I have known Norm and Evelyn, never have I heard them say, 'No, we can't do that. We've never done it that way.' Instead, they've always asked how they could help the church reach this community for Christ." To watch the Mayfields share their memories of the church and its history, go to their church website www.rchog.org.



At the close of the service, congregation members wrote on giant canvases what God has done in their lives through our church . . . "This church has been the cornerstone, focus, and inspiration for my life." "A place to grow and raise children to learn to love Jesus." "I have another family. I never knew what a church family is. I am so blessed." "I belong somewhere." and they also shared their dreams for what God will do through our church in the future . . . "Show his love and shine a light for all." "To be the face, hands, and feet of Christ to our neighbors." "A place for the community to gather and be cared for." "Feed the hungry. Help the broken. Share the gospel boldly."

We look forward to celebrating the next 65 years of God's faithfulness to our church family and to our community.



Willamette Valley Campmeeting @ Turner



Speaker & Worship Leader
Handel & Victoria Smith



Ordination Service



Children's Program



Great Food



More WVC Pics . . . Plan Now for 2023—July 30-Aug 3



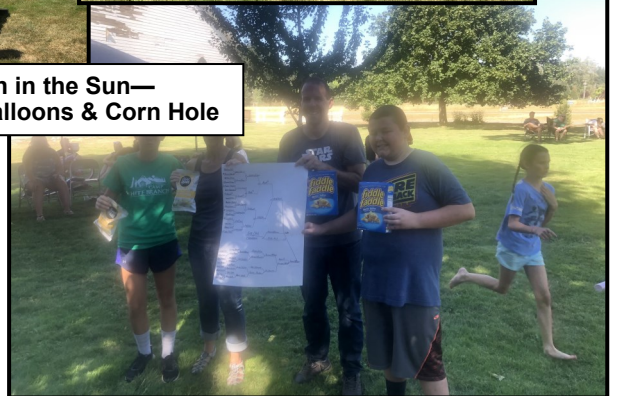
Youth Program



Missions Project



Fun in the Sun—
Water Balloons & Corn Hole



Men's Retreat Review



Speaker —
Pastor Rich LaMar
“How Can I Be Used by God”

The Men's Retreat was held August 19-21 @ Camp White Branch. Those attending encourage all men to mark **August 18-20, 2023** on your calendar for next year.

This year's theme was “How Can I be Used by God” with speaker Pastor Rich LaMar. He shared through the life of Daniel emphasizing how Daniel never gave up on his walk and identity with God.

Takeaways from the retreat . . . Good fellowship, Good food, Great White Branch staff, Inspiring hearts, Great to be with Men of God, Great Bible teaching!!!

Goals for the future . . . More men to share in this time together!!!



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, OR—Pastor Trisa Kelly
is now Permanent Sr Pastor

Husum Community, WA—Pastor Martin
Shrout, interim

Maranatha Church, Portland, OR—
New Pastor Codrigus Alexander began last Spring

Valley Hope, Hillsboro, OR—seeking direction
for new pastor

Westview Church, Longview, WA—
New Pastor Steven Guinett began last Spring



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	Our Pastors & Spouses—Active & Retired	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

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.