

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



— CONNECTIONS —

Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events



Greetings Friends!

I wanted to take the time in my article to highlight some of the challenges and opportunities in our Association. First, I want to thank you for your continued support for the ministry and work that we do. You are the reason we exist, and we are here to serve you however we can. It has been a relatively smooth transition as I have moved to part-time for our association and pastoring the Rockwood Church of God. The District Task Force that is working on a plan as we move forward is continuing to work with the Pacific Coast Collective (PCC) in charting a way to work more collaboratively in the future. The PCC has met on a couple of

different occasions with leadership from our respective associations. Glen Hossler, Teresa Hellstrom and Fred Douglas represented our District at these meetings. The outcome was the creation of the Fusion Center, a think tank that has been tasked with developing the strategy for building the kingdom of God on the Pacific Coast, TOGETHER. Glen Hossler and I are representing the Oregon/SW Washington Association in this venture. One of the desired outcomes is to unclog the leadership pipeline and to identify, recruit and train the next generation of pastors so that our movement can thrive. We will also be working on ways to support and resource our existing churches so we can all flourish in these challenging times. Please continue to pray for this venture as we seek to work together in the years to come.

Secondly, I want to share an urgent need for Camp White Branch. As many of you are aware, Covid-19 has been challenging for our camp. Last year we were able to have a full summer camping program thanks to a number of amazing volunteers. Our camp needs to hire a full-time Maintenance Specialist and a Operations Manager for the ongoing work. Lisa Switzer has been working tirelessly to find the needed personal to be able to offer our summer youth camps this year. If you know of someone who would like to apply for the positions listed above, please let our office or Lisa know. You can find the job description on the Camp White Branch website @ campwhitebranch.org. Your help is needed to make sure the good news is shared with our youth this summer.

Finally, as we move into the Lent and Easter season. I want to celebrate with you as we once again proclaim the good news of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Be encouraged by the Gospel of Mark 16:1-7 (The Message).

(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

March

Mar 2: Ash Wednesday
Mar 13: Daylight Saving Time Begins
Mar 17: St Patrick's Day
Mar 20: Spring Begins

"All things are possible with God." Mark 10:27b



Apr 10: Palm Sunday
Apr 15: Good Friday
Apr 17: Easter
Apr 29-30: Women's Spring Connection

"Because I live, you also will live." John 14:19b

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 one of our 2022 Conventions, go to [jesusisthesubject.org](https://Jesusisthesubject.org) for more information. Dates and locations are:

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

Pastor Jerry & Children of Promise & Nat'l

(Continued from page 1)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could embalm him. Very early on Sunday morning, as the sun rose, they went to the tomb. They worried out loud to each other, "Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for us?"

Then they looked up, saw that it had been rolled back—it was a huge stone—and walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished.

He said, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He's been raised up; he's here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You'll see him there, exactly as he said."

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!!

Grace and peace,

Jerry



Children of Promise
Advocate Training
March 13th 4-6pm

Lynchwood Church of God
Fireside Room

USE YOUR VOICE
HELP US TELL THE STORY

BECOME A
Children of Promise
ADVOCATE

Advocate's Training
Open to teens and adults



Int'l Youth Convention 2022
July 25th in San Antonio, TX

**Journey to the Holy
Lands**
January 4-16, 2023

For more info go to
Jesusisthesubject.org

God is Up to Something—Crossroads Community

Lately, Eph 2:10 has become an increasingly prominent verse in my life, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” The longer I live and walk in His grace, the more I realize the good we do is because of Him working through us. And lately, God is up to something.

Crossroads Community Church, in LaGrande, has been enjoying God’s favor through the working of the Holy Spirit in our church family. Crossroads has been engaged in the community in a number of ways; serving, connecting and loving on our neighborhood as well as the community at large. We believe God has a purpose for us, for this time, and for the people of the LaGrande area.

It has been our prayer to love our community well, revealing the heart of the Father to those we have an opportunity to invest in. Over the past few years we have seen a steady increase in visitors and in those who choose to make Crossroads their home church. Our church family has excelled at loving others, and connecting in a genuine manner. The thing we hear most often is the atmosphere is “gracious and heartfelt.”

While we have welcomed a dozen families over the past 2 years, the growth that has most surprised me is the college students. LaGrande is home to EOU, and for some reason only God seems to know, we have had a steady increase in college students attending Crossroads. Last Easter we baptized a family, and also one of our college students who trusted Jesus and accepted Him 2 weeks earlier at the close of a worship service.

Since then, students have been inviting their friends to be part of a church that is “loving and genuine.” I don’t know what the future holds, but I know that God is up to something and He keeps pressing us into new territory, and we have been trying to keep up. We have remodeled our sanctuary to make room for more seating on the main floor, moved our media booth to my office in the balcony for the same reason, extended our parking lot, and still we need more parking.

To be honest, it’s exciting but also a bit scary. At times, it seems like we are doing all we can to keep up with the growth and maintain the small family atmosphere. So we trust the good works we are accomplishing are the works He has prepared beforehand, and we are doing our best to walk in them, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide our steps. We are grateful for His plans.

In His Grace,

Pastor Tim

Crossroads Community Church
LaGrande, OR



Crossroads Community Church Cont.

Close to Home



Josie Bornstedt



Nathan Reed



Hayden Robinson

These three students—Josie Bornstedt, Nathan Reed, Hayden Robinson—all attend Crossroads Community Church and all received full ride scholarships to Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande through the OTEC-EOU Rural Scholarship Program. (Pictures are taken from a write up in their local paper.)



Camp White Branch

Greetings from Camp,

Snow continues to fall at camp. We had two rental groups over the last two months and they really enjoyed the snow (see pictures on next page). Durwood Ranton and I, along with a two other volunteers, have been hosting the groups since we have not been unable to fill our job openings at the camp.



We have an **urgent need** to fill our full time On-site Maintenance Specialist and Operations Manager roles in order to continue to service our customers and perform much needed repairs and maintenance. Talking with other camps in Oregon and the Christian Camp & Conference Association, this is an issue for all camps, not just us. Please reach out to individuals you may know and share about our positions so we can get these filled by March 31st. We have reservations starting in mid-April. Details on both positions needed can be found on our website under the jobs tab @ www.campwhitebranch.org. I am also happy to talk with qualified applicants who might be interested. We need to trust that God will provide individuals desiring camp ministry positions. Please continue to pray for our search for candidates and wisdom for the hiring committee.

We are once again looking for volunteers to help at the camp this summer for our Church of God camps and rentals. For each, we need an assistant cook(1) and kitchen help(1), which is typically for a 3-5 days period for each camp, with group housing/meals provided. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older for liability purposes. This is a great opportunity to support our Camp White Branch ministry. Please contact us at volunteer@campwhitebranch.org or call 503-915-2872.

Danette Beisley, our COG Camp Coordinator, is busy working with directors, setting up counselor training, and many other activities to support a great Summer Camp Season. This year's theme for our camps is "Jesus is the Light". The Church of God camping ministry changes lives at an early age and with our youth facing so many challenges today, we need you at camp to help make a difference in lives! We are in need of volunteer counselors (training provided) who are able to mentor and bring campers to Christ, but also want to have lots of fun! We also need 1) a certified lifeguard (all summer or for a week) so we can open the pool and 2) an individual to manage health care to ensure the safety and health of campers. Last year we were blessed with many volunteers, so please sign up soon for this year! If interested reach out to Danette directly at danette@oakparkchurch.net.

Dates are set for 2022 Church of God summer camps and registration will open in mid-April.. (We are delaying registration since we need to hire staff to keep the camp open post April.)

2022 Camp Dates

July 11-15, 2022 Sr High Camp

July 18-22, 2022 Middle School Camp

July 22-24, 2022 Introductory Camp

July 25-29, 2022 Junior Camp

August 8-11, 2022 Primary Camp

Our reroofing project (dining hall, caretaker house, Fir cabin) will start in the spring once the snow melts. Prior to roofing we need to have some of the dining hall stairway awnings repaired/rebuilt, a new window put in on the north side, one of the awnings/stairways taken off to apply the roofing, and other minor repairs. If you have the skills and knowledge to help with this work, we can use your help.

Urgent Need for Full Time Staff—CWB

Also, when reroofing starts, we can use folks to clean up when the old roofs are removed. As mentioned last month, reroofing each additional cabin 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 at camp 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. If you are interested, please contact us at volunteer@campwhitebranch.org or call 503-915-2872.

Thanks for your continued prayers for Camp White Branch and the upcoming Church of God camps.

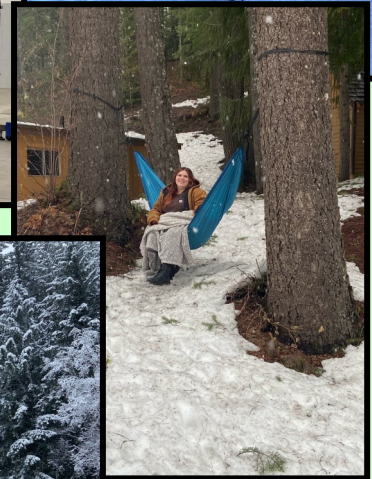
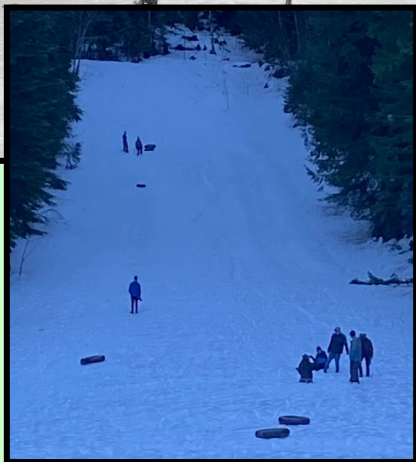
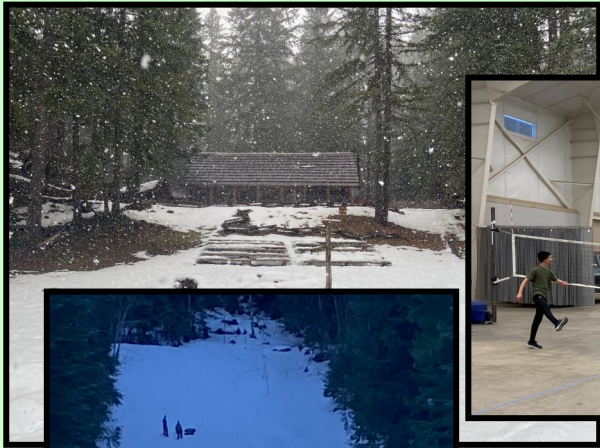
Blessings,

Lisa Switzer, CWB Chairman

www.campwhitebranch.org



Winter Wonderland @
Camp White Branch



URGENT NEED!

We will have to close Camp White Branch for our 2022 Summer Season unless we are able to find qualified full time staff to hire by the end of March. If you are interested in applying for the Operations Manager or the On Site Maintenance Specialist, or know of someone who might be, please respond immediately.

More info can be found at: www.campwhitebranch.org under JOBS.

Have?? Call or email our Camp Chairman Lisa @
503-915-2872; chairman@campwhitebranch.org

CWC Spring Connection/21 Day Fast



will be joining with the Rainier Community Church of God for a special

SPRING CONNECTION



Friday, April 29: 7 – 9 pm

Saturday, April 30: 9:30 am – 4 pm
(Coffee & Scones from 8:30 - 9:30 am)

at Rainier Community Church of God
321 West C Street – Rainier, OR
503-556-5661

IT'S FREE!! (LUNCH TOO)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS APRIL 10.

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



A Special "DO" during the Lenten Season

We are often challenged to listen, reflect and/or do something to remind us of what Jesus did for us during the Lenten Season. If you would like to participate in a **21 Day Fast** (adopted from the Cornwall Church of God), it will be posted on our website @ www/orwacog.org soon. This is a great way to make your spiritual walk with Christ a personal one.

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.

Hymn Sing/Annual Business Mtg/Minister's Retreat

HYMN SING
Sunday, March 27
4:00 PM
Fireside Room

This Hymn Sing will feature Church of God heritage songs, as well as a very interesting video that gives historical background and context for the building of the Gospel Trumpet facilities in Anderson, Indiana, and the establishment of the church's headquarters and Anderson University in that place.

Lynchwood Church of God invites you to join them on March 27th. Their address is:
3818 SE 174th Avenue, Portland, OR.



Annual Business Meeting

Our Annual Business Meeting for our Association is scheduled for

Saturday, July 9th
@ Oak Park Church of God in Salem.

Pastors & Delegates please mark this date on your calendar. Your participation is important to us as we move forward as an District.

Pastor & Spouse Retreat

October 10-12, 2022

Agate Beach Inn, Newport, OR

Jim Lyons—Speaker

(Executive Director of the CHOG & Innovative Communicator)

Cost options begin at \$364 for a single and \$464 for a couple. More info out soon.

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.

Campmeeting and Churches in Transition

July 31st—August 4th, 2022 Campmeeting

Exciting plans are being made for this year's Willamette Valley Campmeeting with . . .

Handel Smith—Speaker & Victoria Smith—Worship Leader

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 planning details for this year.



Registration begins in June. Watch for more information in our May/June Connection.

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—New Pastor, Justin Linseisen
(wife Stephanie & daughter Olivia)
will arrive soon—Installation service will be April 10th

Roseburg—Hugh Heinrichsen, lead pastor
(Church is in the process of a restart.)

Westview Church in Longview

Please forward names and contact information of any qualified interim or permanent pastoral candidates to info@westviewchurchfamily.org



Remember we are stronger together!!

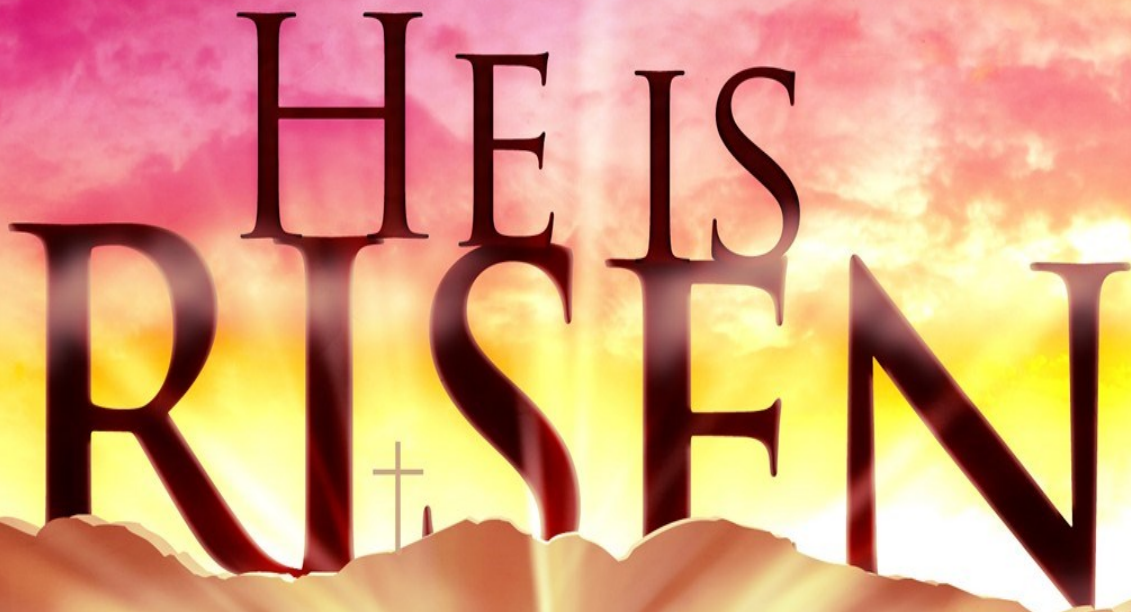
District Prayer List for 2022

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

HE IS RISEN



“WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?”

*“It is Christ who died, and furthermore **is also risen**, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.” Romans 8:34*

Jesus gives us inspiration, encouragement, exhortation and HOPE – not only at Easter, but all year round!

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.