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The Association of the
Churches of God in Oregon &
SW Washington



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Vol. 3, Issue 1

NOV / DEC 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



— CONNECTIONS —

Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events



Greetings Friends,

When this article hits your inbox, we will be one day away from the 2020 election. Many of you will have already voted and will be anticipating the outcome. This has been a contentious election cycle due to many factors including COVID-19, high unemployment due to the virus, continued restrictions on the type of gatherings we can have that are keeping us socially distanced and the racial tension around the nation. There seems to be a great divide in our country that has spilled into the church. My social media feed is littered with angry rants and fake news from both sides of the aisle—

Christians questioning the validity of another's faith based on the way you choose to vote or whether you do or do not have in person worship gatherings. John 10:10 tells us "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." But Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." One of the main tactics of the enemy is to sow seeds of accusation and division among followers of Jesus in order to destroy us or have us destroy each other.

Jesus knew that one way to the abundant life he came to offer his followers, was through unity. As He prayed just before his death, and as it is recorded for us in the gospel of John 17:20-23 (MSG) . . .

"I'm praying not only for them
But also for those who will believe in me
Because of them and their witness about me.
The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind—
Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
So they might be one heart and mind with us.
Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me.
The same glory you gave me, I gave them,
So they'll be as unified and together as we are—
I in them and you in me.
Then they'll be mature in this oneness,
And give the godless world evidence
That you've sent me and loved them

**Unity . . .
ONE Heart
& Mind**

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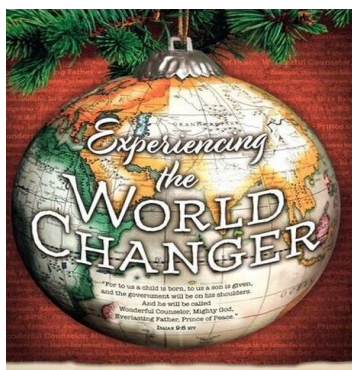
District Office, Church & National Events



- Nov 1: Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 1&2: ONE Day of Prayer
- Nov 3: Election Day
- Nov 11: Veterans Day
- Nov 26: Happy THANKSGIVING!!!
- Nov 29: First Sunday of Advent

Dec 21: First Day of Winter

Dec 25: CHRISTMAS



Christ's Birthday Observance 2020

Theme: World Changer

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 NIV

With one tiny cry, everything changed. Years of oppression withering under the weight of a tiny child. But this was no ordinary child. Hundreds of years before this child came into the world, deliverance was promised. Isaiah spoke to a people who had wandered from faithfulness, who were lost in darkness. While he prophesied the coming captivity, he also promised liberation.

On that night, in the most unlikely of places, Jesus was born. Imagine his mother Mary, carefully swaddling her new baby, counting his fingers and toes. She probably gazed at his innocent face, unaware of the weight of the moment. This was the moment the world changed.

Join us as we celebrate this moment—the moment when the world changed. Many times, we approach Christmas absorbed with tradition or busyness. This year, however, let's recognize the change that Christ brought to the world. Let's acknowledge that in his life, death, and resurrection, we find wholeness and healing. Let's celebrate that because Jesus' birth changed the world, we are now called to also embody this change to a world so desperately in need of a loving savior.

Each year, we invite you to join us on a journey through advent. This year we continue this journey, by focusing on the change that Christ brought and the change we are invited to embody. This journey through the advent series will culminate in the collection of an offering called the Christ's Birthday Offering. This offering enables missionaries around the world to spread the gospel. It funds domestic organizations like HEART, a training school for missionaries, as well. It contributes to the Church of God's ministry to youth through the International Youth Convention and the National Inspirational Youth Convention. This offering changes the world.

At Christian Women Connection, we invite you to partner with us as we seek to change the world. Journey with us through a devotional booklet. As a church, utilize our worship recommendations, sermon outlines, and materials to reach out to those in your community. Materials are available to plan your Advent experience with us.

For more information, go to www.christianwomenconnection.org or call 866-778-0804.

Jerry's Update Cont. / Camp White Branch

The truth of Jesus' prayer is that our unity does not come from sharing the same ideology or by ascribing to the political platform of one party or the other. Our unity comes as we are "One heart and mind" with God the Father and his Son Jesus. That unity only happens as we submit everything to the leadership of Holy Spirit. We may disagree with some of our brothers and sisters over their political beliefs, but let us make sure we don't allow the enemy to divide us. Whatever happens in the next few weeks put into practice the words of James, "EVERYONE SHOULD BE QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK, AND SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY!" James 1:19. Remember Jesus prayed for our unity so that the nations would know that God sent Jesus and that he loves them and desires a relationship with his creation. Whatever the outcome of the election let us show the world the love of God found in Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

Jerry

Unity . . .
ONE Heart & Mind



God's Camp

**What a Challenging Year 2020 has been
for our Camp!**

As many of you may know the Association's youth camp, Camp White Branch, has not been able to have camps or offer our facility for rental since March of this year due to COVID guidelines for overnight camps. And at this time, we are not sure when we will be able to open again.

The Holiday Farm Fire in the McKenzie Bridge area on Labor Day weekend moved west of the camp, which was a blessing since our facility was spared. Unfortunately, the devastation from the fire impacted many between the camp and Springfield. Leonard and Stacey, our current directors, have been actively involved in supporting the community. Since a majority of the fire fighters were west of the camp and another facility provided services for firefighters closer to camp, our services weren't needed this year to house them.

All of this has impacted our income and operating budget for this year. The CWB board, district council, and CWB task force have discussed ways to cut costs and have had to make some difficult decisions to ensure funds will be available to support reopening when this time comes.

We all believe the camp is first and foremost God's camp. It is a sacred space where God meets with people of all ages through His creation. It is also a place the Association has chosen to invest in, to provide much needed—age appropriate—camping experiences for children and adults.

We are requesting support from you, our churches and donors, to help us 'keep the lights on' with financial donations and with your prayers. Donations can be sent to the Association office and given through Palpal at <https://campwhitebranch.org/donate/>. Please help us ensure this important ministry will be here for future generations.

With Heartfelt Blessings,

Lisa Switzer, Chairman, CWB Board of Directors

COVID Happenings—Jesus with Skin On

2020 has been such a difficult year for all of us. On September 8th, as you are aware, the Rogue Valley was devastated by multiple fires with nearly 3,000 homes and hundreds of businesses being lost. At First Church of God in Medford, we have partnered with our community in several ways to meet the needs of those affected.

We began by hosting several families at our church the evening the fires erupted. We provided a safe place to stay, food, clothing, etc throughout that first week. The people at First Church of God worked tirelessly during this time. In the aftermath, our church held a “Free” Yard Sale for the community over the next week. This “free” yard sale meant that everything was free. So many from our community were able to come by the church and begin putting their lives back together. We had clothing, household items, toys, furniture, etc.

The outpouring of love and grace was a miracle to behold. We continue to stay connected to those in need and are prepared to assist our Rogue Valley families as they recover. Please hold the Valley in your prayers.

Pastor Larry D. Wilson
First Church of God, Medford, Oregon



The flames of the fires burning in Phoenix and Talent can be seen in the background from our parking lot



SOCK IT TO THE PASTOR—Pastor Appreciation



Facebook posting from Pastor Doug Balzer and his wife, Jan, from River Street Church in Newberg . . .



31 pairs of socks full of gift cards, cash, treats, & notes for "Sock it to the Pastor Appreciation Day!" Thank you, River Street Family, for showing me your love & appreciation this past Sunday!

I loved it and was very surprised!! Some of you were very creative. . . desert design, big foot, sonic, bacon & eggs, and striped socks! I love them ALL!! (Doug)



Good job, River Street Family!!! You really "socked" it to him good!! We love & appreciate all of you too!!! I can scratch socks off his Christmas list! 31 pairs of socks filled with gift cards, cash, treats, and notes of appreciation!! Socks flying from all over the sanctu-

**Church families—it's not too late to show appreciation to your pastor.
A note of thanks can mean a lot. Be creative ... there are lots of ideas online or
call the District Office. Paula can give you suggestions!**

COVID Happenings (Lents-Gilbert COG)

Celebrating the Lord at Lents-Gilbert Church of God!

At a ministry council meeting we at Lents-Gilbert decided to open the church for worship. Working together with our AV worship partners we went forward. There was much prayer and planning. We researched the COVID guidelines for church gatherings and made preparations and got needed supplies. With final approval from our elders, we scheduled worship meetings.



Not knowing the response, we communicated with our people that we were open for worship. We also told about the guidelines we all would need to follow. To our delight, more than 80% of our people joined us, along with some visitors. We have been worshiping in the church building for six weeks now, and the response has been wonderful. A lady said to me, "You know, pastor, I wasn't so sure it would seem like church worship with all these restrictions, but it does, it's great!"

We have used our monitors to share many uplifting worship videos. We have been delighted.



We have shared a series of messages from Philippians about our everyday walk with the Lord in the midst of any and all circumstances. We are now turning to the book of James to inquire about "A Working Faith."



We have encouraged one another to be in touch with people throughout the week. In many ways, this has brought us closer together as a congregation.

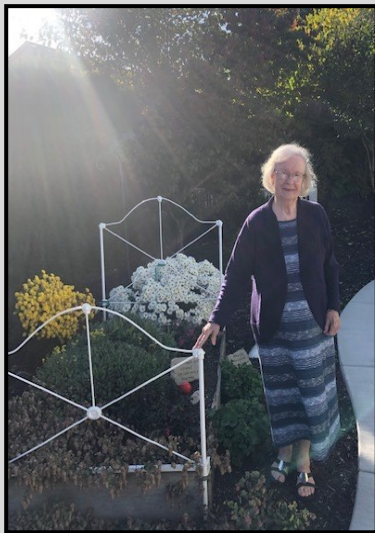


We are meeting to finalize our plans for the holidays. This may include a revival of the Christmas drama entitled "A Nicodemus Christmas" which we offered two years ago.



Having to reinvent worship is challenging but we have a greater sense of reliance on the Lord and we are praying for His guidance and blessing.

Pastor Harry Hermansen



Marilyn in her Backyard
(bedframe is her childhood bed)

A Encouraging Note from Marilyn Goin

Standing by my hospital bed, October 2019, after I had returned from surgery, were three doctors, one saying— "Best you get your affairs in order as you have two months to live." That wasn't exactly the words I expected to hear. But then I thought ... maybe I was still under anesthesia ... "Oh GOOD! I'll get to be with Jesus in my Forever Home by Christmas." But later, as Clyde and our two girls were by my side, we all cried! Pancreatic Cancer was the diagnosis, which has also progressed to my liver. Well, Christmas passed, then Easter, then in July of this year my dear husband, Clyde, went to HIS Forever Home. Hospice had been caring for BOTH of us, but now I was on my own, each day thinking, When ... but here it is, one year later, able to do my own work and learning to trust God for the future, but still wondering how God can use me. I often say: "The doctors didn't check with God first before giving me the critical news!" But I am learning to love God's Word more and am fully trusting that the God who knew me from my Mother's womb, will be faithful in knowing my time to "Come Home." Thank you for all your prayers, and remember: **"GOD IS FAITHFUL!"**

Ordination Celebration—Rev. Kristen Zetsche



Kristen's ordination "ceremony" was a surprise to her. It happened at the end of their regular church service on September 27, at her home church in Reedsport when she was presented with her ordination plaque and a beautiful scrapbook full of letters that her congregation members had written to her. Kristen's mother, Donna Kenagy, and her husband, Jost, joined her on stage during the presentation by their lead pastor, Allen Chaney. It was a lovely and creative celebration during a time when they weren't able to meet together with their full church family. Kristen says that the book of letters is something she will treasure and return to often.

Kristen recently completed all the requirements for ordination and was approved last summer by our District Credentials committee and District Pastors to receive her ordination credentials.

Kristen is the Associate Pastor at the Reedsport Church of God and has been a pastor there for seven years. Just as it is for many of us, Kristen's ministry has changed this year due to COVID, though some things remain constant: she continues writing small group study content, does counseling, oversees the children's ministry outreach, and plans and prepares with their music team. They are expanding their online outreach as well by livestreaming and branching out on social media, which has been an exciting challenge.

One of the events they geared up for in October was something called a "Mobile Trunk & Treat"- a decorated float with lots of costumed candy dispensers that was to loudly wind its way around Reedsport. This is a variation of their annual Trunk & Treat that reaches needs in their community.



Kristen Receiving her Ordination Certificate and Scrapbook from Senior Pastor Allen Chaney

Congratulations Kristen and Jenny on your achievement. We recognize your calling from the Lord!!

Ordination Celebration—Rev. Jenny Elliot

Jenny Elliot received her Ordination Certificate at a service at Friendly Street Church on September 27th. She had recently completed the requirements for ordination through our Church of God National Credentialing program and was approved by our District Credentialing committee as well the District Pastors this last summer.

Jenny has served as the Associate Pastor for Friendly Street Church of God in Eugene, OR since September 2013. She enjoys assisting with preaching, volunteer coordinating, communications, event planning and community outreach. She and her husband, Nate, have a 22-month-old daughter, Natalie, and are eager to welcome baby girl #2 on January 1.

Jenny has grown up in the Church of God, attended Sunset Park Community Church of God in St. Helens, went to Warner Pacific College for her bachelors of Arts in Religion and Christian Ministries, and received her MDiv at Anderson University. She first felt her calling to ministry in Junior High when her youth pastor began using her in leadership. Jenny says that she has always cherished Ordination Services and that September 27th was such a special time for her—one she will always remember. Her prayer is that others will be encouraged to follow the call God has placed on their lives. God is so faithful!



Below are a few pictures taken at her Ordination event. The service was recorded for those who were unable to attend. The link can be found here: <https://amber.faithlife.com/shares/Z1o4HgxOaDTtE9IU>



Jenny Sharing



Senior Pastor Mike Mugford
Washing Jenny's Feet



District Pastor Jerry Davisson
Presenting Ordination Certificate

**Do you have a story you would like to share about what God is doing in your church or community?
We would love to hear from you. GOD is ALWAYS PRESENT and AT WORK
and we would like to hear about it. Email your stories to Paula at districtoffice@orwacog.org**

Holiday Happenings

Experience the **TRUE** meaning
of **Christmas**

Hosted by  **Hoodview**
CHURCH OF GOD


WOODBURN COMMUNITY
Living Christmas Story
A FREE
WALK-THRU
Experience for the entire Family

December 11-13
6:00 - 8:00 pm

1530 Mt Hood Avenue, Woodburn OR
 www.hoodview.church  503.981.1660



Scenes from last year...

Plan now to bring your
friends and family!!



**Do you have HOLIDAY 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.**

In Loving Memory—E. Joe Gilliam Sr.



E. JOE GILLIAM Sr.
September 14, 1929—October 21, 2020

Warner Pacific University Mourns the Loss of the University's Fourth President, Dr. E. Joe Gilliam

E. Joe Gilliam Sr., fourth president of Warner Pacific University passed away on Oct 21, 2020.

Named as president in 1966, Dr. Joe, as he was known, served the university faithfully until 1979. A loyal Knights fan, it is appropriate that in the first year of his presidency the Warner Pacific Men's Basketball team won the W.C.C.C. Championship. Gilliam had a reputation for engaging thought leaders in the life of the university, including Senator Mark Hatfield, Dr. Elton Trueblood, and Representative Edith Green. Perhaps most notably, under Gilliam's leadership President Gerald Ford delivered a commencement address to the university in May 1976. Warner Pacific's facilities on the Mt. Tabor campus grew significantly during his tenure as McGuire Auditorium, Egtvedt Hall, and Gotham Hall were built during his presidency. Additionally, Gilliam secured several sizable estate gifts that benefited the university long after his retirement.

E. Joe Gilliam Sr. and alumna Marilyn Balser ('49) were married on July 29, 1948. In addition to her successful career as an educator, his wife served alongside him at Warner Pacific as coordinator for visiting scholars and social events during her husband's tenure as President. After their retirement from Warner Pacific, E. Joe and Marilyn co-founded The Christian Leadership Institute.

Current president Dr. Brian L. Johnson remarked: "The Warner Pacific University community will continue to honor Dr. Gilliam's legacy of helping develop the character of our students as they pursue their career and callings. We offer our deepest empathies to the Gilliam family, and yet rejoice with them that 'Dr. Joe' has his well-deserved reward."

Dr. Joe is survived by daughter Felicia Joann and her daughter Christy Joann and grandson Ashton Michael; son E. Joe Jr. and children E. Joe III, Hannah Marilyn, and Olivia Ann, along with great grandchildren Caitlyn Rose and Nora James; and daughter Marilyn Sue and her children Jackson and Evelyn. He is also survived by his son Vic's daughters Rebecca Sue, Leanne Ruby, and Leanne's newborn Milo Henri. He is preceded in the path to the Lord by Martha Marilyn, his daughter Amelia, and his sons Victor Stephen and Steven (Milo) Joseph.

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas

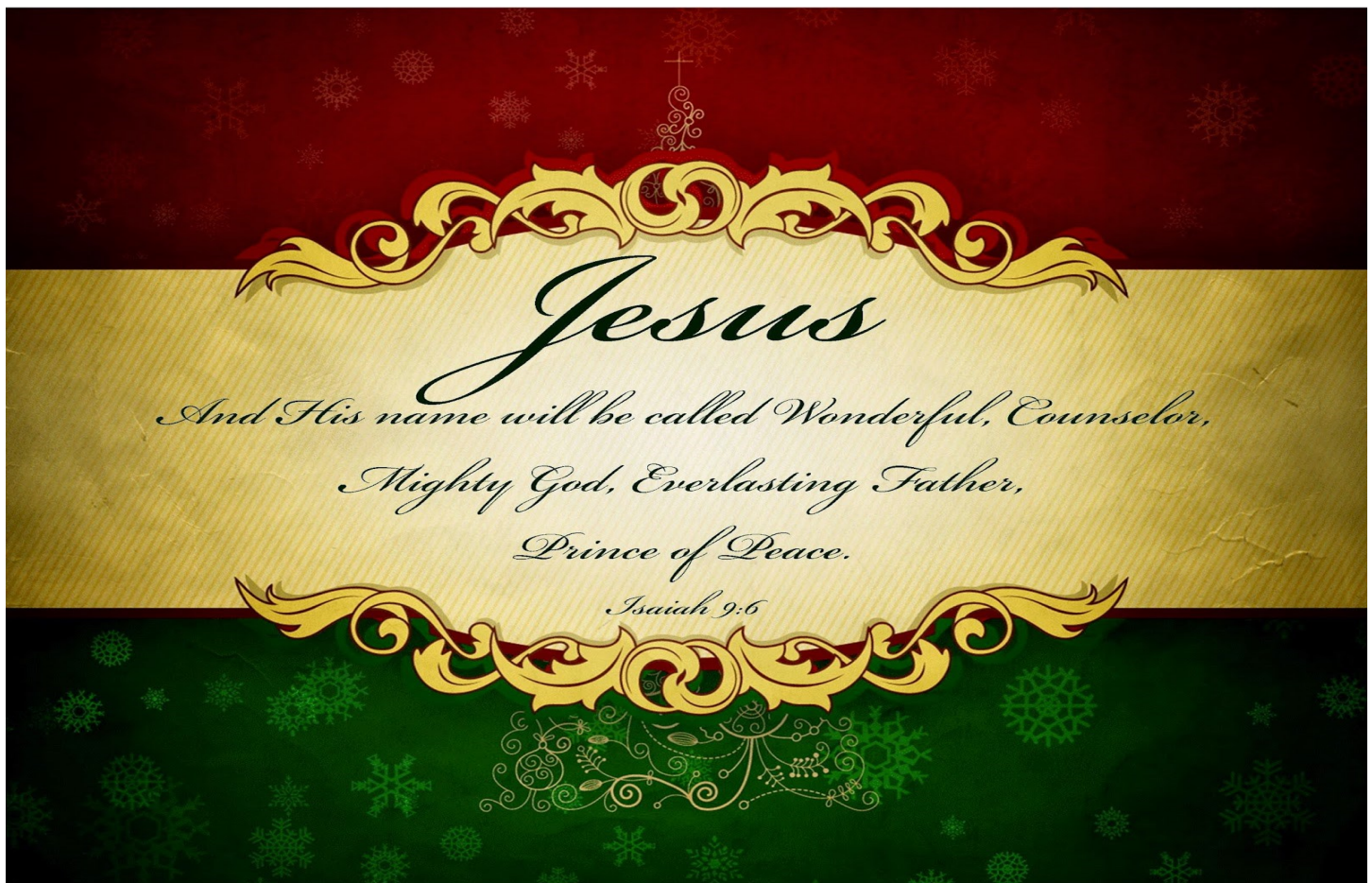
All of us at the District Office and those on our District Council wish for you a

Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!!

*2020 has been a very different year for all of us but God wants to bring us
JOY in spite of our circumstances.*

*Please know that we care very much about how you are doing
and want to be helpful in any way we can. Please reach out to us
if we can pray with you or answer any questions.*

We are GOD's CHURCH and we are HIS Hands and Feet!



*District Pastor Jerry Davisson, Paula Wilson, Glen Hossler
Randy Archer, Teresa Hellstrom, Gary Johnson, Jim Minkler, Jason Mitchell, Steve Robertson,
Jackie Scott, David Thompson, Linda Tucker-Bays*

Be sure to remember our Church of God congregations in prayer during the holidays and in 2021. (Below you will find our District Prayer List for 2020/21.) There is power in prayer and we are stronger together.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.
Ephesians 6:18

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

