

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



## — CONNECTIONS —

*Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events*



*Greetings Friends!*

Fall has finally arrived. The weather is getting cooler and wetter and the smell of pumpkin spice is in the air. As we begin the Holiday season, I hope you will all have time to get together with family and friends and celebrate what God is up to in your life and the life of the faith community you are a part of. We here at the Association are certainly thankful for you and your continued support for our work here at the district. We are excited to announce that we are now taking resumes for the new position of Associate District Pastor. This will be a part-time (20-30 hour) position. The individual will be working alongside myself, our

office staff, and the district council to enhance connection and provide support in the area of communication as well as provide leadership in producing and curating resources for our pastor's and churches. The ministry outcomes we hope to accomplish through this position are as follows:

Communication and shared vision are of utmost importance for the success of any organization. It is the hope that in three to five years there will be an increase in the health and vitality of our Association churches. In cooperation with the District Pastor, the Associate District Pastor will play a vital role in helping to connect the resources provided by the Association with the needs of our churches as well as telling the story of how the kingdom of God is coming to the communities where our churches reside. In these times of discontinuous change, innovation will be key. The ADP will work alongside the District Pastor to help foster creativity and imagination to support our churches in bringing the gospel of Jesus to their neighborhoods. The position will include travel and speaking.

If you or someone you know might be interested in this position, a full job description can be sent to you via email. Please send any inquiries or a resume to me at [jdavisson@orwacog.org](mailto:jdavisson@orwacog.org) or Glen Hossler at [glen@oakparkchurch.net](mailto:glen@oakparkchurch.net).

During this season of Thanksgiving and Advent, my prayer is that you will find time to celebrate and give thanks for Jesus who, as John recounted, "became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish" (John 1:14 The Message).

*Jerry*

*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



Nov 6: Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Nov 8: Election Day  
Nov 11: Veterans Day  
Nov 24: THANKSGIVING  
Nov 27: First Sunday of Advent

Dec 21: Winter Begins  
Dec 24: Christmas Eve  
Dec 25: CHRISTMAS  
Dec 31: New Years Eve



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

Check out this event and so much more at [Jesusisthesubject.org](https://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.**



# Lents Gilbert Operation Christmas Child

Lents Gilbert has an average Sunday morning attendance of 30-40, with about 50 who identify Lents Gilbert as their home church. Their mission was to pack 100 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. They gathered with the children from their congregation to pack the boxes after donations were made of toys, socks, school supplies, etc. (A family in the church is packing another 50.) This has been their family tradition for many years.

In addition to in-kind donations the church raised at least \$1500 to cover the cost of shipping for 150 boxes and another \$1050 to purchase additional items.

Barb Darnelle, contributor



*Note: We are aware that many of our churches contribute to Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for being the hands of feet of Jesus!!*





# Camp White Branch

Greetings from Camp,

I am amazed each day how God is providing for the camp in so many ways. We have been able to hire staff, have received funds needed for repairs and new capital improvements, and continue to have many faithful donors and volunteers committed to the camp. Thanks to each of you for your support and prayers.



## New Roofs

In May, McKenzie Roofing reroofed the dining hall, Fir cabin, and the caretaker house (pictures below). This was much needed and will ensure longevity of the buildings. We had received funds from a Memorial Donation that enabled us to do this. This summer we received a grant from the State of Oregon and part of this will be used to reroof the remaining 5 cabins, the staff house, the pool house, and the office. Work will begin this next Spring.



Cabin BEFORE Roofing & Remodel



Cabin AFTER Roofing & Remodel with New Windows



Manager House after Roofing



Dining Hall after Roofing

## Donations

We received donations for items on our needs list posted on the website this summer to address some of our current needs which was super helpful leading into the camp season. Memorial gifts have been coming in from several individuals who recently passed and also an IRA that we are hoping will enable us to build a new bath house. We currently have some leaks and mold issues with the current structure and also need to increase our ADA accessibility and provide more showers for guests. A committee on the board is looking at a few different options and working with the forest service on these plans. We are feeling so blessed!

# Camp White Branch—Faye Strudler & More

## Welcome Faye!

This October we welcomed Faye Strudler, our new CWB Operations Manager. Her role will focus on reservations, registration, promotions, and many other administrative duties associated with the camp. We are super excited to have her join our staff.

Faye grew up in Oregon City, Oregon, with her twin sister( Nadia - Clayton's wife) and younger brother. She accepted Christ at the young age of 4 and was baptized at 8 years old. She was a tomboy growing up and always loved climbing trees. To this day she still prefers wearing pants to dresses! Growing up with dogs, cats, goats, and horses around her has led to her love for animals. Since Faye will be living at the camp I am sure she will enjoy the wildlife.



Faye has an Associate Degree in equine science and taken art and writing classes over the years. She has spent most of her career working in customer service and inventory management prior to moving to be a caretaker for her grandparents in BC, Canada before they made their way to heaven. Prior to moving to the camp she spent time in Central Oregon working remotely and enjoying time getting to know the people in her church plus exploring avenues of creative worship.

If Faye isn't working, she loves to travel and has spent a month traveling cross-country in her customized van, having fun visiting friends and family. She just might show up at your church to tell you more about the camp!

Meeting new people excites Faye, even though she may spend time on her own. You may find her buried in paperwork or outside exploring depending on the day, either way you'll find a twinkle in her eye and a greeting on her lips.

Please call the camp or send a note to welcome Faye and Clayton, Nadia, and Pearl, letting them know how much we appreciate having them on staff at the camp.

## 2023 Camp Dates

Danette Beisley, our camp coordinator, has just confirmed the 2023 camp dates. Registration will open in February and the website will be updated soon with more details.

July 10-14, 2023 Senior High Camp  
July 17-21, 2023 Middle School Camp  
July 21-23, 2023 Introductory Camp  
July 24-28, 2023 Junior Camp  
August 7-10, 2023 Primary Camp

**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.

Blessings,

*Lisa Switzer, CWB Chairman*

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



# Reedsport Church of God



## LIFE CHANGE MARKS OREGON CHURCH'S OUTDOOR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

By Ashley Tinstman

On a cool, September morning in a small town along the Oregon coast, 170 people from the Reedsport Church of God congregation and the surrounding community

gathered together for church. But this particular Sunday morning service was slightly different than usual. Rather than gathering together inside the church's building, the congregation moved their worship service outdoors for "Church in the Park" at Tugman State Park.

Surrounded by a canopy of spruce and cedar trees and a sprawling, serene lake, the congregation worshipped together and listened in as Pastor Justin Linseisen spoke about Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. Highlighting the eunuch's immediate response to the gospel and his decision to be baptized, Justin encouraged the congregation that they, too, could decide to follow Jesus right then and be baptized—and their lives would be forever changed because of it.

Recounting his decision to preach this particular message, Justin explained, "Sometimes it can be challenging to repeat the gospel message over and over, particularly when you're preaching to the same people week in and week out. But you also never know who is going to be there. You never know who's going to respond. So, you keep preaching because you don't know what God is doing."



Pastor Justin speaks at the park.

## Reedsport COG continued

And, that morning at Church in the Park, God was definitely doing something. As Justin finished his message and gave people an opportunity to respond, the mayor of the town just south of Reedsport was in the crowd, listening. He had been invited by a member of the church congregation, but initially dismissed the idea until a second person invited him and offered to bring him to the event. Compelled by Justin's message, he knew that "this was the day." He stepped out from the crowd, gave his life to Jesus, and made a decision to be baptized.

"This is a prime example of why we do Church in the Park," said Justin. "The heart behind it is out-reach. It's an opportunity for church members to reach out to those who might not step foot in a church building and invite them to be a part of something where they can feel comfortable and know they belong. And that's what happened here with the mayor."

In addition to the mayor, six others were baptized in the lake that day, ranging from a first-grader to a man who had experienced God's redemption in the midst of a battle with addiction. After the service, those in attendance spent the afternoon together, as well, sharing a meal, playing games, and enjoying the park's beautiful trails and scenery.

"I think the event was an incredible success," Justin recalled. "There was something really special about it, and people responded. And, at the end of the day, it was a reminder that God is still doing something here. He still has ministry he wants to do here in Reedsport and beyond—and it's an honor that we get to be a part of that."

Now, as Justin looks toward the future, he believes Church in the Park—which Reedsport Church of God has held annually for more than ten years—will continue to play an integral role in supporting the church's mission.



**Baptisms at the lake!**

"As a church, we exist to connect people to Jesus and to one another in community," Justin shared. "And Church in the Park is an event that says we are still focused on doing that. We're still trying to reach as many people as we can and connect them to Jesus and one another—which is what we believe will change their life."

*The author Ashley Tinstman serves as connections pastor of White Chapel Church in South Daytona, Florida. In her role, she oversees the church's social media and communications, community groups, and special events. Originally from Pittsburgh, she is a diehard Steelers fan and enjoys playing golf and tennis in her free time.*

*This article was taken from the National Church of God website. Learn more about the Church of God movement at [www.JesusIsTheSubject.org](http://www.JesusIsTheSubject.org).*

# Remembering Dan Arnbrister



## Daniel Arnbrister † 1928-2022

Rev. Daniel Arnbrister went home to be with his Savior on September 2, 2022, just shy of his 94th birthday. He was born on September 15, 1928, to Carl and Mary Arnbrister, in Fresno, California.

At 21, Dan joined the Navy during the Korean War. After his Navy service, he received the answer to his prayers and met LaVerne. They were married in 1955, and together they enjoyed 67 years of marriage and shared ministry.

In life, Dan was a pastor, builder, and farmer. He achieved 50+ years of ordained ministry with the Church of God. He was an active believer in doing all the good he could, while he could.

Dan the Man was known for hard work, hard work and hard work. That work went into many churches in the Pacific Northwest, Camp White Branch, and Warner Pacific University. However, mainly his work was ministering to God's people. His reach was farther than most can imagine.

Dan's legacy is continued by his wife LaVerne, children Linda, Lawrence (Carmen), and Douglas (Cheryl), as well as grandchildren Brandon, Kate, Stephanie, Amanda, Joshua, Emily, McKenzie and David, and great-grandchildren Alec, Regann and Adline.

A host of others would also call him Father, Grandpa, Uncle, Friend and Pastor.

A memorial service was held on September 24, 2022 at the Lynchwood Church of God.

The family requests that donations in Dan's memory be made to Camp White Branch @ [www.campwhitebranch.org](http://www.campwhitebranch.org).

*"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."*

Romans 12:1 (NIV)



# CWC Fall Prayer Retreat in Review

Christian Women's Connection (CWC)

## Fall Prayer RETREAT

Sept 16-18, 2022 @ Camp White Branch

"Encourage One Another"

Ladies from all over our District came together in September for a relaxing but challenging time with God and each other.

Danette Beisley was the speaker for the weekend and she shared about encouraging others. Using the scripture "Therefore encourage one

another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" found in 1 Thess. 5:11, Danette led us in study, discussion, and action. One of the things we did was write notes of encouragement to the ladies we interacted with by putting them in a colorful bag just for them.

Other highlights were: being led in worship by Marva Adams, hiking the Camp White Branch trails, sharing great food and laughter around the table, crafts, games and even a movie. Nancy Kernutt, our CWC President, would love to hear from anyone interested in sharing ideas and/or planning as we look ahead to events in 2023. Feel free to contact her at 971-570-1633.



Worship Leader,  
Marva Adams



Speaker,  
Danette Beisley



CWC President,  
Nancy Kernutt





# Minister's Retreat in Review

The Ministers & Spouse Retreat held in October was a great time of connection in oh so many ways!! Jim Lyon (Exec Director of the CHOG) shared God's Word with the 25 couples who came in a way we will never forget. As pastors we were reminded of . . .

*the power of our words and actions (Jesus told who He was by the things He did)—obedient risk—I am not a child of chance because I am a child of God—when we find ourselves reviewing the past, we need to move on because we don't live there anymore—God is going to call us to that place where we have never been before—we should be a restoration movement, a people who live in wonder—I may be the answer to someone else's prayer, someone I may not even know—giving is the signature of God and we need to be generous with what has been given us—if I am really walking with God I can not sit still—we need to see every person as someone created by God—we have to be people of the Holy Spirit—what can I do to problem solve in Jesus' name? and so much more!!! Wow!*

Time with God and each other is so important and our ministry teams were so blessed! Thank you Ministerial Fellowship for your planning, Jim Lyon for sharing God's Word, and Dan & Darla Smatlak for leading us in worship. (written by Pastor Paula)



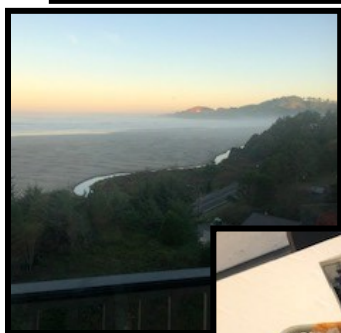
## *Ministers & Spouse Retreat*

**October 10-12, 2022**

**Agate Beach Inn, Newport, OR**

*Jim Lyon—Speaker*

(Executive Director of the CHOG & Innovative Communicator)





# Remembering Grant Fall

## Grant Fall † 1935-2022

Grant Fall exited this earthly realm and entered into the presence of his Savior and Lord on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the age of 87, surrounded by family. Physically, Grant struggled with diabetes, congestive heart failure, and kidney failure, yet spiritually he was being renewed day by day.

Grant was born May 28, 1935 in Yakima, Washington to Percy and Dora Fall, where he spent the first 18 years of life in Yakima. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corp at 18, serving as a communications specialist in the Korean War. Upon his return from Korea, Grant began attending Oceanside Church of God, where he met his Savior, Jesus Christ, and future wife, Margaret Lee. Margaret was the love of his life and they married on September 28, 1957.



Grant devoted his life to The Lord, his wife, his family and the church. Over their 53 years of marriage, Grant and Margaret had 5 daughters and sons-in-law, 28 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. He loved his family and felt great pride in them. He especially enjoyed watching and/or participating with them in sports, music, hunting and fishing. He spent many hours canning and in his later years enjoyed a little gardening. He loved being in the presence of his family and was blessed to live with his daughters Janelle and Janine the last 4 years of his life.

Grant loved people and loved the Church. He served the Church of God as lead pastor in 5 churches over 44 years, and in associate roles for 9 years later in life. He ministered in California, Oregon, Alaska and Washington.

Grant was preceded in death by his wife Margaret, and his great grandson, Kaysen James Augustavo.

Grant is survived by his daughters Janelle, Janine, Jackie, Joy and Jill, their husbands and 48 grandchildren.

Grant's celebration of life service will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am, at Edmonds Church of God. It was Grant's wish that any memorial tributes be made in the form of charitable donations to 'Edmonds Church of God, Grant Fall Memorial Fund', 8224 220<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Edmonds, Washington, 98026.

# Upcoming Christmas Events



Here are the Christmas Events going on in our District that we are aware of. We encourage you to include one or two in your calendar for the season if you can.

## Friendly Street Church of God

2290 Friendly Street, Eugene, OR

### “Live Nativity”

Sat Dec 17th & Sun, Dec 18th from 7-9pm

Please join us this year in taking time to consider that Jesus is the reason for the season, and enjoy a relaxed time with family and friends.

We encourage you to take time to reflect on the hope of Christ by reading the story of Jesus as found in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John). A great place to start is the profound story of the birth of Christ in Matthew 1 and Luke 1-2.



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

Hosted by  **Hoodview**  
CHURCH OF GOD

  
WOODBURN COMMUNITY

**Living Christmas Story**

**A FREE**

**Drive-thru or Walk-thru**  
Experience for the entire Family

**December 9, 10, 11**  
**6:00 - 8:00 pm**

1530 Mt Hood Avenue, Woodburn OR  
[www.hoodview.church](http://www.hoodview.church) 503.981.1660

## Hoodview Church of God

1530 Mt. Hood Avenue, Woodburn, OR

### “Living Christmas Story”

December 9, 10, & 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

A free outdoor drive-thru or walk-thru event featuring 14 different scenes from the life of Christ, from the announcement of His birth to His nativity and ministry, death on the cross and resurrection. Many of the scenes feature vivid backgrounds and beautifully costumed characters. Refreshments will be served.

### Christmas Candlelight Services

Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.  
& Sunday, December 25 at 10am

A special worship experience that retells the Christmas story through Scripture, carols, candles and communion.





# Upcoming Christmas Events

## Vancouver Church of God

3300 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665

### *Christmas Schedule:*

**Dec. 10 - Christmas Concerts @ 2pm & 4pm—Family Extravaganza @ 3pm**

**Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services @ 3pm & 5pm**

**Christmas Sermon Series: This Is Our Hope—4 weeks starting Sun Nov 27**

### *Giving during the Season (starting Nov 13):*

**Lakota Boots and Backpacks** - giving drive for Lakota Tribe in North Dakota

**Giving Tree** - 5 wks of opportunities (gifting tags) to give to our 8 community partners



## Lynchwood Church of God

3818 SE 174th Avenue, Portland, OR

### **“Live Nativity”**

Sat Dec 10th & Sun Dec 11th, 5-8pm

34th Annual  
**Live Nativity**  
**Dec 10th & 11th, 5-8pm**

*More than just a birth!*  
We invite you to walk or drive by to view scenes depicting the life of Jesus Christ, from His holy birth to His resurrection.

Lynchwood Church of God  
3818 SE 174th Ave, Portland, OR  
[lynchwood.org](http://lynchwood.org)

**Walk Through and/or Drive By**

**A CAROL FOR CHRISTMAS**  
An Evening of Music and Drama  
**December 18th**  
**6:30 pm**  
Lynchwood Church of God  
3818 SE 174th Ave. - Portland  
[lynchwood.org](http://lynchwood.org)

### **“Evening of Music & Drama”**

Sun, Dec 18th at 6:30pm



**We will post other holiday events on our website as we hear about them.**

# Christ Birthday Observance



The Advent season is a special time in the life of the church. It is a time when we celebrate Jesus, but also the time of waiting that preceded the coming of Christ. We are so excited for this year as we plan to gather together to celebrate Jesus. This year, the season of Advent begins on November 27, 2022. Advent is a time of preparation that is marked by prayer. We offer prayers of humble devotion, submission, and supplication for deliverance for those walking in darkness and awaiting the birth of Christ. Our National CWC is offering resources for the whole congregation to celebrate and experience Jesus together.

Note: Local congregations are permitted to make copies of materials for use with Christ's Birthday Observance. Materials will also be available online at [www.christianwomenconnection.org](http://www.christianwomenconnection.org). For any questions you might have, please contact Christian Women Connection at (866) 778-0804.

## 2023 Calendar Dates

WARM Pastor's Conference @ Citrus Heights, CA April 25-27  
CWC Spring Conference @ Aloha TBA  
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  
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 end 2022 and begin 2023. 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 - Community Church of God	11/6/22	Portland - Kingdom Nation	1/1/23
Portland - Lents-Gilbert Church of God	11/13/22	Portland- Winding Road Church of God	1/8/23
Portland - Lynchwood Church of God	11/20/22	Powers - Powers Church of God	1/15/23
Portland - Maranatha Church	11/27/22	Prineville - Living Water Church of God	1/22/23
Portland - Neighborhood Church of God	12/4/22	Rainier - Rainier Community COG	1/29/23
Portland - Richmond Community Church	12/11/22	Redmond - First Church of God	2/5/23
Portland - Rockwood Church of God	12/18/22	Reedsport - Reedsport Church of God	2/12/23
District Pastors and Church Leadership	12/25/22	Roseburg - Hucrest Church	2/19/23
		Salem - Oak Park Church of God	2/26/23

## 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**—Pastor Martin Shrout, interim

**Valley Hope, Hillsboro, OR**—seeking direction for what's next

**Remember we are stronger together!!**



**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 COG, Anderson, IN;
- Provide support for the development of healthy Church of God congregations.

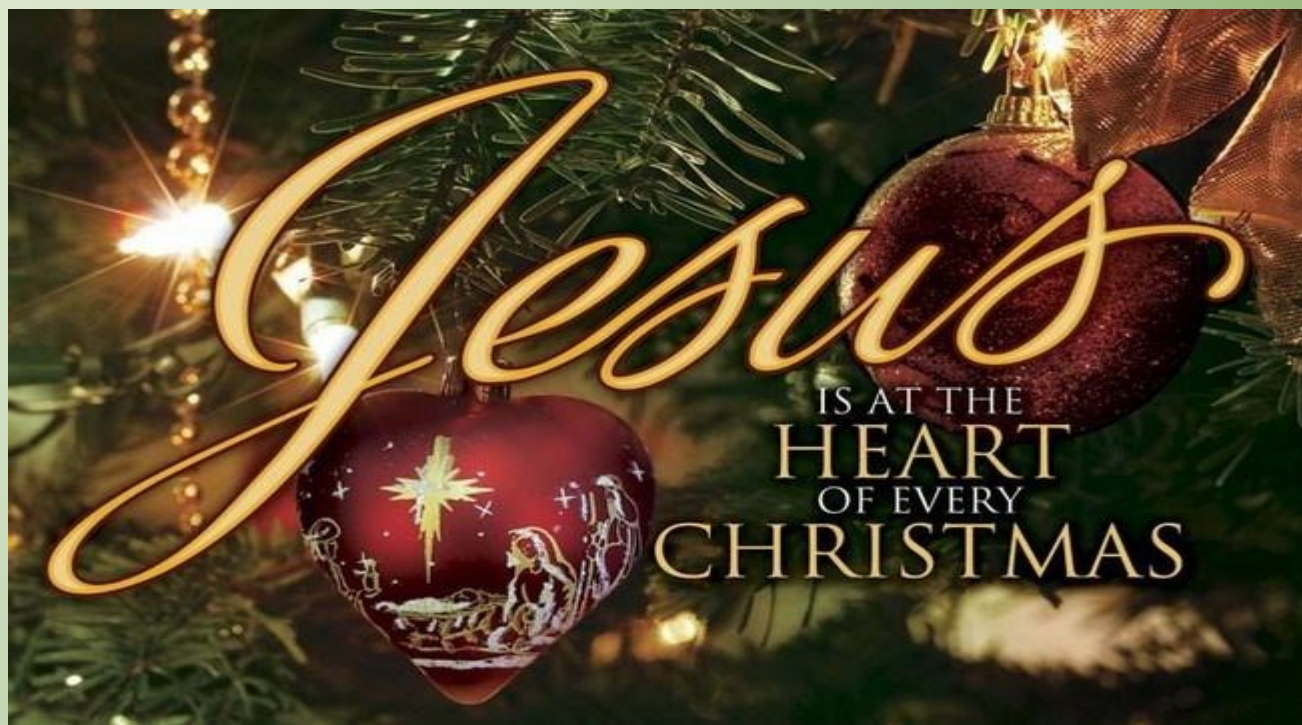
# Holiday Greetings

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

*Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!!*

2022 has had challenges and also opportunities to celebrate.  
We are so grateful to know that God loves each one of us, that he wants a  
personal relationship with us, and that HE wants to meet us in our reality.

Please know that WE care very much about YOU 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.



Always remember ... We are GOD's CHURCH and We are Better Together!

*District Pastor Jerry Davisson, Paula Wilson, Glen Hossler  
Randy Archer, Robbin Foster, Teresa Hellstrom, Richard Hunter, Jim Minkler,  
Jason Mitchell, Steve Robertson, Jackie Scott, Aaron Sprunger,  
David Thompson, Linda Tucker-Bays*