

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



— CONNECTIONS —

Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events



Greetings Friends!

As I talk with pastors, I hear some of the same struggles. Pastors are tired, burned out, and in need of some good rest. Other pastors have developed a wonderful rhythm in their life and ministry that includes time for rest. God has built into our created world, and in each of our lives, the need to have a balanced cadence of work and rest. Often driven by the need to succeed or by the unrealistic expectations placed on them by the congregations they serve, some pastoral leaders are not given the space to take care of their physical, spiritual, and emotional health. When the balance is off, burnout might not be close behind. As

congregations, most of us want to see our pastors take care of themselves because we know that a healthy pastor leads to a healthy church. One way congregations can help assure their pastor is taking care of themselves is to hold them accountable for taking time off. I believe pastors should be required to take at least one day off a week (and hopefully two) with no church responsibility, as well as several weeks off each year for vacation. How the pastor chooses to use that time should be up to them. Another way to assure your pastor's health is to offer your pastor a sabbatical and that is what I want to focus on in the rest of this article.

According to a Focus on the Family article. "The concept of sabbatical is rooted in the biblical concept of 'Sabbath' which God modeled (Genesis 2:1-4a) and commanded (Exodus 20:8-11). In Leviticus 25: 1-7, the Lord says that after the sixth year the people were not supposed to sow the fields or harvest a crop. The land was allowed to rest, and therefore, so were the people."

Sabbaticals have often been given by churches and academic institutions to provide a time of rest, recovery, renewal, and re-education for the individual staff member. I know of some businesses that now provide paid sabbaticals for employees as an added benefit and a way to keep their employees healthy and happy. A sabbatical is typically offered to each full-time pastoral staff member after the completion of their seventh year of service and every five years after that. The sabbatical is paid time off for a minimum of six weeks and is in addition to vacation given in the year of the sabbatical.

(continued on pg 3)



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District Office, Church & National Events



Sept 4: Labor Day
Sept 10: Grandparent Day
Sept 15-17: CWC Fall Retreat @ CWB
Sept 23: Autumn Begins
Sept 27: See You At The Pole

October: Pastor Appreciation Month
Oct 24: United Nations Day
Nov 4: CWB 65th Anniversary
Nov 17-18: Small Church Conference.
Oak Park Church of God, Salem

*If we ask anything according to his will,
he hears us. I John 5:15*

*I will praise thee. O Lord, with my
whole heart. Psalm 9:1*

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE CHURCH OF GOD

CHOG NEWS

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



REGIONALS 2024

Bringing the Kingdom to Life...Together

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and join us next
summer at one of our three collaborative events!

May – June – August 2024

Pastor Jerry—District Team to Assist You

(continued from page 1)

In the twenty years I pastored in Tulare, California, I was given the opportunity to take part in two sabbaticals. The first was six weeks and the second eight. I credit those times away with helping to sustain me and keeping me at the church for those many years. Many pastors feel burned out and rather than taking a sabbatical they quit the church and take the time in-between churches to find the rest they need.

Some churches fear that their pastor might take those couple months to find another church. The church I served required me to serve the church for an additional two years after returning from the sabbatical so that it was a benefit to both. I came back refreshed and with a new passion for the people and the ministry of the church.

According to a 2022 Barna research poll, 42% of pastors surveyed had considered quitting in the past year. The reason given was the stress of the job on their health and family. Not all pastors are considering quitting, but rest assured, your pastor is working hard for you, serving under extreme pressure. I believe it is both the pastor and the church leadership that are responsible for the health and well being of the leader. Do you love your pastor? One way you can support them is by making sure they are taking time off from work each week as well as making sure they have adequate vacation time and are using it. Another way is to offer a sabbatical for your pastor if they have served you for at least seven years. If you would like more information about how you can develop a sabbatical policy for your church or how you can better support your pastor, contact our office and we will get you the information you need. Your pastor's health is important to the health of your congregation. Make sure you are caring well for him or her.

Together in ministry,

Pastor Jerry



Prayer Needs & 2023 Calendar Dates

Please continue to **PRAY** for our churches in transition with pastoral leadership and for Camp White Branch. We greatly appreciate your prayers.

Valley Hope, Hillsboro—beginning a restart, Pastor Ken Hoole—Interim
Camp White Branch—Seasonal Fires affecting the Area

CWC Women's Fall Prayer Retreat @ CWB September 15-17, pg 5

CWB 65th Anniversary Celebration November 4, pg 4

Small Church Conference @ Oak Park November 17-18, pg 8&9

CWB— November 4th “65th Anniversary”

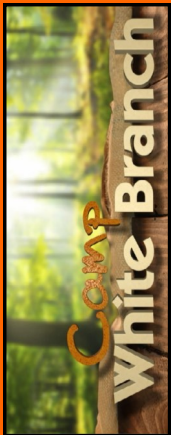
We are going to have a **CELEBRATION** on Saturday, November 4th!

It was 65 years ago that the Association of the Churches of God, Oregon and SW Washington purchased the Camp White Branch from the Nazarene Church.

Please come to help us celebrate ... individuals, church families, friends & family ... especially those who have never been before. We are offering overnight stay in the cabins for Friday and Saturday for \$20/night and meals at \$6.50 each for those coming from far away (or who want to experience sleeping in a cabin bunk again.) Please check out the packing list should you stay. To make a reservation, scan the QR code or contact Faye at 541-732-3551 or cwboperationsmanager@gmail.com . It will be an afternoon filled with good food, stories, and fun that you don't want to miss!



**Plan NOW to Attend
Saturday, November 4th**





**65TH
ANNIVERSARY
2023**

Celebration Party

SATURDAY 4 NOV

11AM-5PM

**\$10 SUGGESTED
DONATION**

Join us for Food, Stories & Fun to celebrate
our 65th anniversary under the ownership of
the Association of the Churches of God of
OR & SW WA.

61500 Old McKenzie Hwy,
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413

To RSVP Scan the QR Code
or contact us for an Invite



www.campwhitebranch.org
cwboperationsmanager@gmail.com or 541-822-3511

Women's Retreat @ CWB—Sept 15-17



CHRISTIAN
WOMEN
CONNECTION

Fall RETREAT

Sept 15-17, 2023

At Camp White Branch

Moving Forward... Psalm 119:105

Registration was due September 1st. If you would like to go and have missed the deadline, please contact Leslie Duclo at 503-320-1369 right away.

Registration forms are available on the COG website and in your churches.

Cost is \$105 for entire weekend, \$80 for Friday/Saturday only.

We look forward to our time together. Hope you can join us!!

Speaker and Worship Leader



Janelle Irwin was raised in Missouri. She met her husband, Tim, while attending Anderson College in Indiana; they married in 1979. They are the parents of two sons, Ben and Will, and grandparents of Lyla Rose. Janelle was raised in the Church of God, the daughter of a pastor, and accepted Christ at the age of 9. Professionally, she has spent many years in sales, including several years in real estate. Currently, she's a Family Service Counselor with Dignity Memorial at Skyline Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home. In addition to church and family activities, Janelle enjoys reading, music, hiking, walking, cooking, travel and connecting with friends. Janelle has a deep love for her family and for the church, with a desire to see people live abundant, happy lives, free from the weight of the past.



Rev. Ashleigh Carnley is the Associate Pastor at Albany First Church of God, where she focuses on empowering and guiding youth, young adults, and the worship ministries. With five years of dedicated service on staff, Ashleigh brings a wealth of experience and passion to her role. She holds a degree in Music and Ministry with an emphasis on worship arts leadership from Warner Pacific College (now University). She is committed to fostering spiritual growth, discipleship, community outreach, and multigenerational communication within the church community. Her commitment to fostering spiritual growth and creating impactful worship experiences has made her a valuable asset to the church community.

Schedule

Friday:

4 pm — Check in begins

6 pm — Dinner

7 pm — Session 1 Janelle and Ashleigh

Games to follow

Saturday:

8 am — Devotions

8:30 am — Breakfast

9:15 am — Session 2 Janelle and Ashleigh

11:45 am — Lunch

12:30-5:45 pm — Free Time

6 pm — Dinner

7 pm — Session 3 Janelle and Ashleigh

**Please bring a fun skit to share*

Sunday:

8:30 am — Breakfast/ Time for Reflection

Clean up and prepare for 11:00 departure

Saturday Free Time

Free time Options on Saturday :

Hiking...Games...Resting... a trip to Belknap Hot Springs for a walk or soak in the pool. Cost to soak in the pool is \$10.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. NIV

By your words I can see where I am going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path. Mssg



What Should We Call Ourselves?

One of my areas of responsibilities as the Media & Resource Pastor for the District is to refresh our website. I will be making some technical moves (like moving to Squarespace), adding some currently missing features (like online giving), and updating the imagery, but one of the hurdles before me has to do with the language that will be used on the website.

A key influence in my life, Mike Breen, says that “Language defines Culture”. By this he means that the culture you long to see in your organization is going to be shaped by the language you use. Language is one of the mediums a leader uses to shape the environment around them. Language matters.

So, when I look at our existing website and the language that is currently there, I recognize that someone has crafted that language in the past and shaped it for a purpose. As that language is now in a season of transition, I am asking myself a lot of questions.

What is the goal of our common work?
Are the mission, vision and purpose statements currently deployed only aspirational?
What can be cut or edited and what needs to remain?
How can the language carry the same meaning but be translated for our current era?
What language could be most motivating and could give phrase to our common focus?

I recently hosted a Pastors' Gathering call where I invited input from Pastors and Leaders from the District to speak into the development of the language for our website. It was a great conversation. There were many hard things shared and many encouraging points to rally around. You can reach out to Paula at districtoffice@orwacog.org to ask for the recording from that call if you'd like to hear it yourself.

One of the questions we spent some time on is this: *When you think about our geographic region (Oregon & Southwest Washington), is there a **name or identifying trait** that positively stands out as a descriptor?* I'd love to invite your voice into that conversation and hear from you.

Our current legal name is The Association of the Churches of God of Oregon and Southwest Washington. It is true and accurate, but it's not very motivating (or even memorable) because it's quite a mouthful. We abbreviate that name as ORWACOG. We use that moniker as our web address - www.orwacog.org. Like I said, it works. It's functional. But it's not very captivating.

So, when you think of our geographic region, is there a name or identifying trait that we could adopt as our name?

I'm looking for something that is meaningful, memorable, and motivating.

If you have any ideas or would like to talk about this further with me, please reach out to me via email at mguzman@orwacog.org or by phone at 559-303-1571.

Pastor Michael Guzman

Language Defines Culture

Region Three Mexico Trip to Welcome Home

Region 3 Churches joined together in August for a mission trip to Welcome Home Outreach Ministries (Vicente Guerrero region of Baja California). They had participants from the Hoodview Church in Woodburn, Oak Park Church in Salem, and a welcome team member from outside their region from the Aloha Church.

The **Mexico Mission Team** safely returned home several weekends ago.

Here is a great side-by-side view of the "BEFORE" and "AFTER" of the house built for Luis & Janeth and family.

What a difference a week (five days) makes!



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.

Karl Vater Conference—November 17-18



**Pastors & Church Leaders,
mark your calendar now for this conference!**

Beginning Friday evening and ending Sat afternoon.

Location—Oak Park Church of God, Salem

It is available to you for FREE.

(Lodging, as needed, will be your only cost—with some scholarships available.)

The local church is the main way Jesus chose to bring hope and love to the world. By “church” we don’t mean denominations, buildings, organizations, sacraments or creeds. We believe the church is at its most profound and basic when it acts as an extension of Jesus’ command to love God and love others.

People getting together to love Jesus, each other and the world is what the church looks like when it is stripped back to its essential core. Or, as Jesus put it, “when two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”

Megachurches are great! Not only do we have nothing against them, we believe the world needs more of them.

House Churches are great too! No one knows how many of them exist all over the world but, especially where the church is illegal, they are a vital spiritual lifeline for untold millions of believers. They deserve and need our prayer and support.

So, if megachurches and house churches are so wonderful, why is New Small Church all about the churches in between and what do we mean by “Small Church?”

Numerically, the boundaries between churches of each size are fairly fluid, but here’s a guide:

House Church: Less than 25 (and meeting in a house), **Small Church:** 25 – 350 (or under 25 meeting in a church building), **Big Church:** 350 – 2,000, **Megachurch:** Over 2,000

Helping Small Churches Thrive

WHY WE EXIST

Small Churches don't appeal to everyone. But, as it turns out, they do appeal to most people. More followers of Jesus have attended Small Churches in the last 2,000 years than any other type of church. That doesn't mean they're the best way to do church (we believe the "best" way is whatever works for the people who need it), but as the most popular type of church in existence, they need to receive more attention, support and encouragement than they typically have.

Small Churches make up 80% – 90% of the known churches in the world, but are the subject of probably less than 1% of the books and blogs about how to do church ministry. Small Churches are no better and no worse than churches of any other size. But they have been the most neglected, especially when it comes to pastoral training.

New Small Church wants to help fill that gap. We exist to encourage, connect and equip innovative Small church leaders. That's not just a slogan – it's what we actually plan to do. We want to see better, stronger, healthier Small Churches, led by passionate, prayerful, capable, innovative and loving pastors.

We believe being small is not a problem to fix, but a strategy God wants to use.

Most Small Church leaders have not been told that – or at least they haven't been told it enough. If we can help turn up the volume on that message, we will have done what we set out to do.

Karl Vaters is the author of four books.

[*The Church Recovery Guide: How Your Congregation Can Adapt and Thrive after a Crisis*](#)

[*100 Days to a Healthier Church: A Step-By-Step Guide for Pastors and Leadership Teams*](#)

[*Small Church Essentials: Field-Tested Principles for Leading a Healthy Congregation of Under 250*](#)

[*The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches and the Small Thinking That Divides Us*](#)

Want to know more about Karl Vaters and his ministry, go to www.karlvaters.com. There are many free resources available on his website.



Sessions at the November conference will include:

- *Redefining Success in Ministry*
- *Big Churches, Small Churches—What's the Difference*
- *How to Discover and Use What Your Church Does Well*
- *Finding & Mentoring Volunteers in Today's (And Tomorrow's) Small Church*

Registration information will be available soon.

Plan now to attend!

Camp White Branch—2023 Summer Camps

Greetings from Camp White Branch,

Greetings from Camp White Branch,

Thanks to all for your continued prayers for our staff, the local community around camp, and firefighters as the Lookout Fire is still burning in the area by the camp.

Faye has been doing a great job updating the Camp White Branch facebook with the latest information, so be sure and check this out. Currently our staff is back at camp and monitoring the situation.



2023 Church of God Summer Camps

What a **GREAT SUMMER CAMP SEASON** this year. We had 150 campers in attendance. Thanks to all those who took time out of their schedules and vacation from work to support camps as counselors, directors, healthcare staff, speakers, activity directors, kitchen support, drivers getting youth to camp, and many other roles.

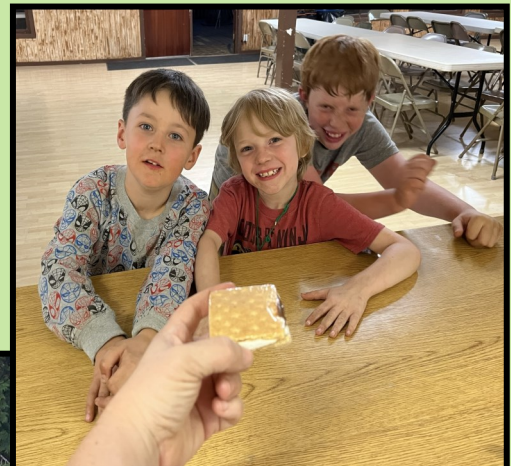
Danette is also super excited to share that two people stepped forward to be Middle School camp directors next year. Filling these roles early really helps with planning.

It was Faye and Clayton's first summer camp season and they did more than survive. They did a great job!! Please continue to let them know you appreciate all they do at the camp.

Blessings,

Lisa Switzer, Camp White Branch, Chair

Danette Beisley, Church of God Camp Coordinator



CWB Summer Camps



More Camp Adventures



Remembering Rev Hazel Brown

Dr. Hazel Lee Brown

October 30, 1930 – July 9, 2023



Dr. Hazel Lee Brown, 92, of Portland, Oregon, transitioned to glory on July 9th, 2023, peacefully in her sleep.

Dr. Brown was born on October 30th, 1930, to parents John and Clydie Banks in Houston, Texas. After spending her earlier years in the Wharton/Kendleton area of South Texas, she married the late Pastor Victor R. Brown on November 25th, 1948, before migrating their family to Portland, Oregon in the mid 50's.

While serving as a dedicated mother and member of the community, Dr. Brown answered the call to ministry and was formally ordained to the Church of God on October 9th, 1977. She was also among the first in her family to pursue a doctorate degree in divinity in the early 80's.

Dr. Brown and her husband had 5 children: Victor R. Brown Jr., Hazel (Honey) Louise Brown, Franklin Brown, David W. Brown, and Cheryl L. Brown. She is survived by children: Honey, Franklin, and Cheryl; grandchildren: Ashley S. Flowers, DeAngelo J. Garner, and Amonique R. Brown; great grandchildren: Annaliessa J. Flowers, Cairo E. Flowers, and Devon S. Johnson Brown, and siblings: Theodore C. Banks, Sang Easley, and Evelyn Pipkins. She is also survived by Pastor Charles Hunter Sr, Pastor Richard Hunter Sr, Donald Hunter Sr, Pastor Michael Hunter Sr, and Donald Warren, whom she loved as her own sons, and a host of spiritual daughters.

She was an excellent wife, mother, sister, aunt, and First Lady of the Community Church of God where she faithfully served with her husband for over 60 years. After her husband passed away in 2005, she continued her work in the faith by overseeing the livelihood of the church and devoting her time to praying for her family and community. Her prayer life was of paramount importance to her, and her earnest prayers transcend space and time.

Dr. Brown was also an exemplary gospel singer who was blessed with the opportunity to sing nationwide. The anointing power of God was ever-present in her songs and in her preaching. Outside of the church, Dr. Brown was an excellent cook and homemaker. She took great care to curate her house as a place of love and comfort for herself and her family. She will be remembered as a powerful woman of God who also worked fervently to ensure her husband, children, family, friends, and community were always well taken care of.

There was a memorial service held for Dr. Brown on July 24th at the Maranatha Church.

The Awakening ...



I continue to regularly meet with leaders from inside and outside the Movement week by week for the Awakening Series. Each interview leaves me encouraged and challenged in various ways. By the time you read this article, we will likely have our eleventh episode in the archives. There are now several topics addressed from a very diverse group of leaders.

If you haven't yet watched an interview, the goal of the Awakening Series is to infuse voices and inspiration into the Movement. I believe there is something important we carry in our historical roots that the world needs today. I would love to see us working together in Oregon and Southwest Washington awakened to that reality. You might be interested in our conversation in episode one with Dr. Barry Callen or you might love my conversation with Dr. Kimberly Majeski in episode six.

Episode 1, “**A Movement Captivated by Idealism**” is a conversation with **Dr. Barry Callen**, the Movement's most prolific writer. He and I discuss some new resources he has recently published, and as always with Dr. Callen, we discuss the beauty and the agony of the Church of God.

Episode 2, “**The Five Non-Negotiables**” is a discussion with **Dr. Jim Lyon**, Executive Director of Church of God Ministries. Jim shares the back story of the five non-negotiables and their importance in his story and our story. They capture well the unique nature of the Church of God and deserve to be built upon for the next decades.

Episode 3, “**Taking Back What Hell Has Stolen**” is a second discussion with **Dr. Jim Lyon**. In this episode, we talk about the aggressive language Jim used for a previous ChoG Convention. Jim provides the back story and narrative scriptural background but also addresses some areas of pushback to the language.

Episode 4, “**Embracing the Ways of Jesus**” is a lengthy talk with my friend and mentor, **Bob Rognlien**, Director of 3DM West and Founder of The Footsteps of Jesus and The Footsteps of Paul—immersive, experiential, guided trips to the Holy Lands. We discuss the way of Jesus and how it is such a helpful outline for the life and the ministry in which we find ourselves in this post-Christian, post-pandemic, secular era.

Episode 5, “**BibleProject for the Church of God**” is a dialogue with **Mike McDonald**, Chief Strategic Relations Officer for the BibleProject. We explore the full variety of free resources the BibleProject has available, hear Mike's testimony and amazing strategy for engaging with change, and hear an open invitation for our Association and churches to partner with the BibleProject to see our people experience the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus.

In Episode 6, “**The Rooted Impact of Women in Ministry**” I sit down with the **Dr. Kimberly Majeski**, Executive Director of Christian Women Connection. We discuss Kimberly's ministry history and influences and hear about some of the new initiatives at CWC. We also discuss the impact of women in ministry in the Movement's early days, but the decrease in the number of women in ministry in our current day. You will hear about many open doors currently available to see more sisters leading Kingdom work in the present and future.

A Series of Conversations

New Episodes ... [Race Relations, Pioneering Ministry, Fresh Expressions of Church, and Warner Pacific \(the newest episode of the Awakening Series\)](#)

If you have been tracking along with me, then you will want to know about the most recent episodes. I'll describe them below.

Episode 7, In this episode I sit down with **Bishop Timothy Clarke**. Bishop Clarke was the previous Chair of the General Assembly for the Movement. He led during the season of COVID and the murder of George Floyd. We talk about the movements history in racial unity and address what happened at the General Assembly back in 1915 when the KKK was threatening the gathering. We bring it to the present as well and have a sobering discussion about the difficult position we find ourselves in.

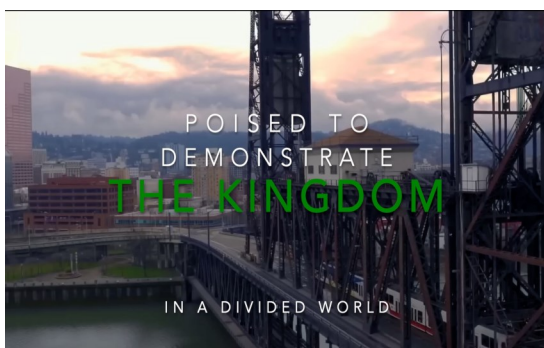
Episode 8, My friend, **Andrew Chalmers**, leads a cluster of ministries in Columbus, Georgia. He shares about his radical conversion to Jesus after a life on the streets in addiction. He shares about pioneering new ministries and about the importance of abiding in Jesus. At the end of the call we talk about a time when Andrew visited my church after a weekend of ministry together and left to get gas only to start a mini-revival at the gas station.

Episode 9, We all know and love **Dr. Jerry Davisson**, our District Pastor, but sometimes familiarity can cause us to miss what a person carries. In this episode we talk about Jerry's ministry history, but we also dig into the Missional Church topic that Jerry has his doctorate in.

Episode 10, Have you read about the **Decentralized Church**? I sat down with **Dr. Lloyd Moritz**, the former Regional Pastor of the Pacific Northwest Association. We talk about decentralized models of church— something that Dr. Moritz has spent this career experimenting in. We also address Transformation Communities- the active project Lloyd launched with multiple leaders in Washington and Idaho that is now open to other interested leaders across the US.

Episode 11, **Dr. Brian Johnson is 8th President of Warner Pacific University**. He carries a rich testimony and has vast leadership experience at the University level— having led or been on staff at Tuskegee University, Mercy College in New York and Austin Peay State University in Tennessee. We discuss Dr. Johnson's desire to see the Pastors and Leaders involved again at Warner Pacific and his thoughts about the current season the University finds itself in.

I'd love to hear your feedback on these interviews. You can do so by adding a comment to the YouTube video, sharing the videos on social media, or by contacting me directly at or [559-303-1571 or mguzman@orwacog.org](mailto:mguzman@orwacog.org).



Our Movement was born with a vision for change. The moment is ripe for our Movement to be awakened again.

Find the full YouTube playlist at www.bit.ly/orwacog-awakening

Michael Guzman
Multimedia/Resource Pastor
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Willamette Valley Campmeeting

Campmeeting 2023 ...

Worship, Fellowship,
Mission "Go Bags",
Youth, Children,
Working Together,
Corn Hole Tournament



WVC Pictures



Plan Now for
2024
July 28th—Aug 1



Exciting Things Happening at Lents Gilbert

On May 6th, Christian Women's Connection hosted a spring bazaar and plant sale. The event included a limited number of vendor tables. Lunch included dessert and a beverage for \$9.50. The event was a big hit with neighbors. According to Virginia Graybeal, the spring bazaar and plant sale was the most successful financially in recent history. More importantly the church continues to build relationships with neighbors.



Easter Sunday brunch attendance was 77. Average attendance continues to fluctuate but it is slowly increasing. We have about ten members who consider this their home church but are unable to attend in person due to health or other life circumstances. We are a praying church. Despite challenges we have witnessed miracles and seen lives changed.

About two years ago, Lents Gilbert Church launched a children's ministry program. We offer a robust curriculum during the school year. The Summer is more relaxed, and project based. We had no babies using the nursery. We now have up to three in the newly furnished nursery. The Samoan and Hispanic churches also use the nursery. Our nursery coordinator, Tonya Lang, and daughter Octavia, have done a superb job. We are thankful to many who work tirelessly behind the scenes and who help fund special projects or needs as they arise.

Our youth and one young adult need a youth leader. In the interim Children's Ministries and Ministry Council are investing in them. All four were presented with a new digital camera. Youth will have the opportunity to learn new skills, develop relationships, and learn about God through His creation. Three youth and one parent child team have signed up for Camp White Branch. The church is providing partial scholarships.

Pastor Harry and Carol Ann Hermanson have poured themselves into preaching, worship music, and special music often to the point of exhaustion. Due to their steadfast faithfulness, relationship building

Lents Gilbert Church

skills and prayer, the church now has two more musicians, a student pianist and two or three vocalists. In addition, Pastor Harry and Carol Ann began hosting a closed friendship group in their home. The focus is building relationships, creative arts and sharing life and meals together.

Though small with 45-50 average Sunday attendance, we share a close bond.

Submitted by Barbara Darnal

Homecoming Potluck and Pie Baking Contest a Success

The Lents-Gilbert Church Homecoming Potluck and Pie Baking Contest was a huge success! The church was filled with delicious food and friendly faces. There were 13 pies entered in the first annual contest, and the judges had a hard time choosing just one as the ultimate winner. In the end, Mel Leap won Best in Show with his delectable chocolate nut pie. He also won a blue ribbon and audience favorite for that pie. First time pie baker David Nydigger won a blue ribbon for his popular yam pie.

The Homecoming service and potluck was a great opportunity for the church community to come together and celebrate family and friends. It was also a chance to show off some of our amazing pie baking skills! We hope everyone had a great time, and we can't wait to do it again next year!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the potluck and pie baking contest. We couldn't have done it without you!

Sincerely, The Lents-Gilbert Church Community



District Prayer List for 2023

Be sure to remember our Church of God congregations in prayer during the year. (Below you will find our District Prayer List for the remainder of 2023.) There is power in prayer and we are stronger together.

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

Eugene - Friendly Street Church of God	8/6/23	Oregon City - Faith Rock Comm Church	10/22/23
Gales Creek - Gales Creek Comm COG	8/13/23	Oregon City - Hilltop Community COG	10/29/23
Hillsboro - Valley Hope Community Church	8/20/23	Portland - Community Church of God	11/5/23
Husum, WA - Husum Community COG	8/27/23	Portland - Lents-Gilbert Church of God	11/12/23
Klamath Falls - First Church of God	9/3/23	Portland - Lynchwood Church of God	11/19/23
La Grande - Crossroads Comm Church	9/10/23	Portland - Maranatha Church	11/26/23
District Committee Members	9/17/23	Portland - Neighborhood Church of God	12/3/23
Longview, WA - Westview Church	9/24/23	Portland - Richmond Community Church	12/10/23
Medford - First Church of God	10/1/23	Portland - Rockwood Church of God	12/17/23
Newberg - River Street Church of God	10/8/23	Our Pastors & Spouses—Active & Retired	12/24/23
North Bend - College Park Comm Church	10/15/23	District and CWB Staff	12/31/23

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.