

A PUBLICATION OF
Church of God
Northwest



— CONNECTIONS —

Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events



I recently finished the book, *Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity* by Catholic author Ronald Rolheiser. There were many sections in the book that challenged me to a deeper spirituality but the one section that really caught my attention, in both its simplicity and its depth, was his section on drawing strength through prayer.

Rolheiser uses the classic definition of prayer stating that, “prayer is lifting mind and heart to God”. He explains how that may sound easy but it is not and we rarely open our mind and heart to God in such a way that allows God to see what is truly inside us. He explains that “mostly we treat God as a parental figure or as a visiting dignitary and tell God what we think God wants to hear

rather than what is actually on our minds and hearts at a given time. Consequently, we have a pretty narrow range of thoughts and feelings that we consider suitable for prayer.”

Too often we feel like we are praying when we have good thoughts or somehow feel holy or positive. But what about those angry feelings we have toward others or maybe even toward God. Are we willing to lay those all before God and allow God to deal with what is truly below the surface? Prayer takes effort. Prayer requires us to identify our thoughts and feelings and lay them before God.

So, what are we to do with Paul’s admonition in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 to “rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” According to Rolheiser “it cannot mean that we should always be at formal prayer, that we should strive to be full-time contemplatives, or even that we should seize every possible occasion we can to pray formally. To ‘pray always’ invites us, rather, to live our lives against a certain horizon... like a married [person] who goes on a business trip and who, in the midst of a demanding schedule of meetings and social engagements, is somehow anchored in a certain consciousness that he/[she] has a spouse and children at home.”

We must live in the awareness that God is present and not only when we feel good or holy but . . . all the time. With this in mind, Rolheiser identifies two types of prayers that are essential. Priestly prayers and affective prayers. He explains that “one of the responsibilities that comes to us from our baptism is that of praying for the world. Like high priests of old, we need to offer up prayers daily for others.” I see a lot of people lamenting that the world is falling apart, that our culture is sliding away from God but quite frankly I don’t hear a lot of people describe the solution to the cultural ills as prayer. We are often looking for an economic or political solution and not to God who is the one responsible for the world.

(continued on pg 2)

Church of God Northwest

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Rev. Jerry Davison, District Pastor—Rev. Fred Douglas, Assoc District Pastor
Rev. Michael Guzman, Multi-Media/Resource District Pastor—Rev. Paula Wilson, Office Admin

2024 Sept/Oct Calendar



- Sept 2: Labor Day
- Sept 7: WPU Unity Service
- Sept 10: WPU Prayer Walk
- Sept 20-22: CWC Fall Retreat @ CWB
- Sept 25: See You At The Pole

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

- Oct 1-5: WPU Homecoming
- Oct 3-5: Regional Conf-Columbus, OH
- Oct 13-15: Minister/Spouse Retreat
- Oct 24: United Nations Day

Pastor Jerry—Drawing Strength Through Prayer

(continued from page 1)

How do we pay priestly prayers? We follow Jesus' example in John 17 and pray selflessly for others and the world around us. When was the last time you truly prayed for the challenges our world faces rather than just complained about them?

The second type of prayer Rolheiser identifies is Affective Prayers. He explains that in affective prayer “you must try to pray so that, in your prayer, you open yourself in such a way that sometimes—perhaps not today, but some-time—you are able to hear God say to you: ‘I love you!’ These words, addressed to you by God, are the most important words you will ever hear, because before you hear them, nothing is ever completely right with you, but after you hear them, something will be right in your life at a very deeper lever.” When was the last time you opened yourself up to hear the voice of God say to you, “I love you”? Because prayer is a two-way street, we must also find time to express the same sentiment to God.

I would suggest that to be able to fulfill the Great Commandment to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves we need to become proficient in praying these two types of prayers.

Let me challenge you, the next time you find yourself complaining about the state of the world, stop and pray a priestly prayer for whatever it is that is bothering you. Open yourself up to God. Let God in on your frustration. Cast your care on God because he cares. Also, let me challenge you to stop for a moment and let the love of Jesus wash over you. Be still and let God whisper in your ear, “I love you!” “You are my beloved child”.

There are many other types of prayers we can participate in but how might our perspective change if we started with these two?

Together in ministry,

Pastor Jerry

CWC Fall Retreat, September 20-22

Ladies, Register by Sept 6th

Fall Retreat

Sept 20-22, 2024

@ Camp White Branch



CHRISTIAN
WOMEN
CONNECTION

Cost is \$105. Registration forms available @ www.chognorthwest.org

Questions—call Leslie @ 503-320-1369 or Nancy @ 971-570-1633.



“Trust in the Lord ...”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Come expecting to hear from the Holy Spirit as Pastor Jenny shares from Proverbs 3:5-6 concerning Trusting in the Lord, Leaning not on our understanding, Submitting to God, and How He makes our paths straight. You don't want to miss this! Great food, fellowship & beautiful surroundings!

Our Speaker and Worship Leader



Pastor Jenny Elliot is the lead pastor at Friendly Street COG in Eugene. She is married to Nate and has two daughters Natalie, age 5, and Abigail, age 3. She is native to St. Helens, OR, graduated from Warner Pacific, and received her Master's of Divinity from Anderson University of Theology. She is passionate about preaching, teaching, learning and listening. Her hobbies include watching movies, taking road trips, eating food her husband makes, and spending time with family and friends.



Angellee Kloppman lives just outside of Rainier with her husband, Dan. They have two adult sons, Noah and Daniel and a daughter-in-law, Cheyenne. Angelee helps run their family business, Nichols Logging. She also volunteers at the Columbia Pregnancy Center, The Hope Chest Thrift Store, leads worship at the Rainier Church of God, helps with youth and social events and is co-treasurer for the church. In her free time, she enjoys crafts and watching various murder mystery shows.

Schedule

Friday, Sept 20

4pm—Check-in Begins

6pm—Dinner, Session 1, Games

Saturday, Sept 21

8am—Devotions, Breakfast, Session 2, Lunch

12:30-5:45—Free Time (Rafting, Crafts, Hiking)

6pm—Dinner, Session 3, Games

Sunday, Sept 22

8:30am—Breakfast, Session 4, Clean Up

White Water Adventure Option



For an additional \$50 you can register to go on a White Water Adventure. Wet suits are provided and this will be soooo fun!! Be sure to indicate on your registration form if you plan to go & include payment.

Good Things Happening at WPU

Warner Pacific University is looking to connect with the Church of God in a new way. There have been many conversations with President Johnson and their chaplain, Pastor Zo. We were told last week that 30 students gave their hearts to the Lord in the August 29th chapel.

Here are some of the exciting things coming up that you can attend and ways to support the mission of our University as they reach students where faith and knowledge go hand in hand. Students come to WPU to know their careers in concert with their callings, with the gospel written on their hearts.

September 7—Unity Fest

Unity Fest will begin with a worship service from 2:30-4pm in McGuire Auditorium with music, guests pastors, etc. The second part of the event follows a volleyball game and will involve outside activities which include food trucks, games, vendors and activities.



Pastor Zo and one of the ministry students—Ja'shawn Young-- is heading up this event. Have questions—jyoung3@warnerpacific.edu

September 10—Prayer Walk

Alum, friends, pastors . . . Come join community pastors every 2nd Tuesday of each month as they walk the Warner campus praying for the students. Meet in front of the cafeteria at 2pm. Can't walk the campus? Come meet those committed to praying and then pray in the parking lot. 2pm doesn't work for you? Lift up the students and staff from your home. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up . . . rejoice always, pray continually." I Thess 5:11, 16, 17

More Happenings @ Warner Pacific University

2024/25 WPU Convocation in Review

Convocation for the new school year took place Tuesday, August 27th. It was a very special homecoming for alums and CHOG members Ed and Jane Whitehead. The keynote speaker was Michael Guzman, Media and Resource Pastor for Church of God Northwest and WPU Board of Trustees Member.



Men's Soccer

The Men's Soccer is dedicating this season to Bernie Fagan. All are wearing Bernie armbands to recognize him and the contributions he made to Warner Pacific. (WPU has also started an endowment in Bernie's name to fund athletic scholarships to future soccer players)



WPU Homecoming—October 1-5

October 1-5—Homecoming Activities

WPU has a busy week planned for Homecoming during the first week of October. Their Board of Trustees will be in town for meetings and it is also Founder's week. The 'Give Day' fundraiser will also be held this week. Here is a list of the events (except student events that are still being planned):



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024

- 10:30am** Alumni Chapel—McGuire Auditorium
11:30am Lunch in Cafeteria /Give Day –Dining Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024

- 12:00pm** Give Day Fundraising Table and Founder's Week cupcakes—Tabor Grind/Lower Egtved Lobby (Historical displays of WPU history/free cupcakes)
5:30-7:30pm Nursing Alum Cohort Reunion/Nursing Open House—Tabor Grind/Lower Egtved Lobby (Open House/tours of new nursing classrooms, appetizers and refreshments)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024

- 4:30-5:45pm** Hall of Honor Ceremony—Jay Barber—McGuire Auditorium
Welcome Message—President Johnson, Memories/Reflections—Matt Gregg, Derek Bradford, Bart Valentine, Slide show and recorded video messages, Appetizers and refreshments, yearbooks, historical displays, balloons
5:45-6:00pm Presentation of Hall of Honor during volleyball game in CC Perry Gym

(Dr. Jay Barber served as president of Warner Pacific College from 1996-2008. During that time he was a champion of the athletics program. After a period of seven years without intercollegiate athletics at the college, President Barber led the move to reinstate Knights intercollegiate athletics. In the fall of 1997, he reintroduced the sports of Women's Volleyball, Men's Soccer, and Men's and Women's Basketball. President Barber understood the value of athletics as a tool to recruit students, to bring a sense of community pride to the campus, and to serve as a means to teach Christ-centered values to our students. As a result of his commitment to athletics, many young men and women participated in a life changing experience and encountered Christ in that process. Because of his unswerving commitment to athletics, the university proudly inducts him into the 2024 class of the Athletic Hall of Honor.)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

- 12:00pm** Soccer Tailgate starts during Women's game—Eastside Timbers Complex
Refreshments for students and their families, T-shirt & WPU swag giveaways
2:30pm Men's Soccer game /Bernie Fagan Memorial Presentation
At halftime, Assistant Coach Cameron will speak and introduce Mrs. Fagan and Ross Fagan who will share about Coach Bernie's legacy and the Fagan Memorial Endowment Scholarship. Former President Jay Barber will also be introduced as Hall of Honor inductee.

Exciting New Ministries begin . . .

Seeds of Hope

Restart in Hillsboro (Valley Hope)

Pastor Erin shares . . .

WE ARE SO CLOSE!!!

To mark our first full month in Hillsboro, our bold prayer of faith for August has been for 50 households to partner with us for Seeds of Hope.

AS OF LAST WEEK, WE HAVE 45! We're in awe of what God is doing!

Will you help us get to 50 by giving? One time gifts are wonderful. Reoccurring gifts help even more.

It is PURE JOY to have so many kingdom partners with us on the journey. We are so grateful. Thank you!

You can give at: www.seedsofhope.me



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HISPANIC MINISTRY BEGINS

The Hoodview Church in Woodburn has been praying and preparing to begin a Hispanic Ministry for several years. They now have a lead pastor who will be installed on September 29th and you are invited to come welcome Alex Gunter's during the 10 a.m. worship service.

Donald Franz from Oklahoma City, OK, will be their guest speaker. He is the former pastor of the large Church of God congregation in Encarnacion, Paraguay, where Alex used to serve. Donald is now planting a church in Oklahoma City in partnership with Crossings Community Church. Donald was key to Pastor Alex's early ministry and continues to serve as a mentor to him.

Watch for more information about Pastor Alex Gunter and the ministry beginning very soon!



CWB—Summer Camps & More

Greetings from
Camp White Branch!



2024 COG Summer Camp



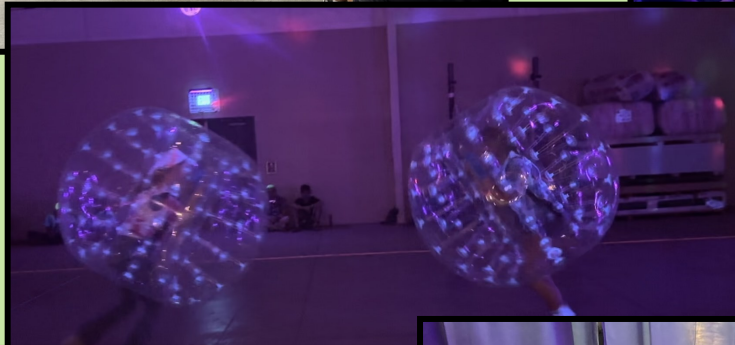
What a great camp season we had this year. Many youth gave their lives to Christ as guest speakers and leaders poured into these youth. We had 159 youth in attendance, 45 COG camp volunteers, and 6 volunteers helping in the kitchen this year. The volunteers are so important in making the COG camps happen. Many thanks to all who helped!!

Here are some pics and comments from director Teresa Hellstrom about Sr High Camp . . .

“We had an Amazing Week at Sr High Camp—Jammed Packed with theme days, worship, speaking, cabin times, rafting, bumper balls, and other crazy activities!! Our speaker, Jerod Brown, did an awesome job challenging us in our sessions & devotions to believe and live out being an Xample from 1 Timothy 4:12. What a blessing to have such an incredible team of staff & counselors to make this camp so fun... not to mention all the amazing students!! We hope this week has made an impact for all involved for many years to come!!”



Camp White Branch—Summer Camps



Many hours go into the planning of each camp to make sure there is lots of fun and opportunities for spiritual growth. We are so grateful to the following directors and our camp coordinator . . .

Danette Beisley—Coordinator

Teresa Hellstrom—Senior High

Nicole Gordon & Brian Arnold—Junior High

Doug & Danette Beisley—Junior

Brandon & Michelle Borst—Primary

Nicole Gordon—Introduction

Thank you! Thank you!

Camp White Branch continued . . .

The field at the bottom of Payne Hill was amazingly green all summer and the trees were trimmed for a park-like setting. We are so blessed to have great staff at the camp to care for our groups and outside rentals.



What's Happening at Camp

The office at camp is looking really good and Tiffany is working in the office. The plan is to have the exterior work complete before the winter. This interior work is almost finished giving our office a new look. We are in need of funds to purchase a few items to furnish the office (office chair, desktop computer, storage cabinets, etc.) with some new equipment once complete. If you feel led to donate funds please contact Tiffany at camp.

In September, we have four groups coming on site after a crazy busy summer. Chris, Tiffany, Brady, and Morgan have been able to take some much needed time off. Chris will be prepping the facility for winter and Tiffany is working on rental contracts for next year already. Please continue to pray for them and their ministry at the camp.



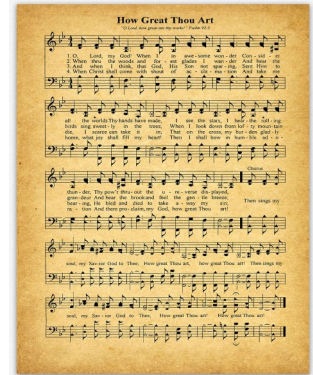
Blessings,

Lisa Switzer, Camp White Branch, Chair
Danette Beisley, Church of God Camp Coordinator

Heritage Homecoming @ Lents-Gilbert COG

On September 22nd, **we are excited to INVITE you** to join us for a special Heritage Homecoming at Lents-Gilbert Church of God. The service will begin at 10:30 am, followed by a potluck at noon. This day of celebration is an opportunity to honor the rich history of the Churches of God.

Throughout the decades, Lents-Gilbert has remained steadfast in its mission, with Jesus Christ as the unchanging focus of our faith. We will celebrate this enduring heritage through the cherished songs from the Church of God Hymnals—traditional hymns that have sung God's praises for generations. These hymns, along with the stories and memories shared by our elders, children, grandchildren, and the many generations of families raised within Lents-Gilbert, remind us of the deep bonds that unite our congregation with all the other congregations throughout the Churches of God.



Although some members have moved on to other churches across the Pacific Northwest and beyond, their connection to Lents-Gilbert remains strong. The memories we share keep us bonded as one family of God, reminding us of the love, support, and community that define our church.



We invite you to take a walk down memory lane with us, reliving the moments that have shaped our church and celebrating the heritage that continues to guide us. If you're able, please bring your favorite dish to share at the potluck as we gather to enjoy fellowship and good food.

We look forward to celebrating with you on this special day.

Questions: Jill @ 503-349-8684 or cog.lentsgilbert@gmail.com

Prayer Needs

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

Hillsboro Restart—Prayer & Giving Partners Needed

Hoodview (Woodburn) Hispanic Ministry Begins
Pastor Alex Gunter Arrives

Maranatha—Leadership & Pastoral Search

Redmond—Pastoral Search

Our Nation during this election year!!

October Pastor Appreciation Month—Pray for your Pastors!



Willamette Valley Campmeeting in Review



WVC Campmeeting '24

Connections and spiritual growth are two of the reasons we hold our campmeeting each year. Here are just a few pictures of the great week together.

WHO ARE YOU?



Speaker, Pastor Fred



Worship Services



Ordination Service



Young Pastor Gather



Sharing the Table Together

WVC Kids' and Youth



Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry



More of Campmeeting



Missions Project—Hannah Grace



Corn Hole Tourney & Champions



Some of our Leaders & Speakers



Regional Conference—Columbus, OH

It's Not too LATE . . . Register today!



Berean Fellowship of Churches
Welcomes
Church of God Ministries



BEST OFFER

To attend both events
select the
Berean + CHOG
Regional Ticket Bundle

REGISTER NOW



Those who have been blessed to follow in the footsteps or sit under the teaching of Bishop Timothy Clarke, former chair of the General Assembly of the Church of God, know nothing emanating from First Church of God “the City” is less-than or somehow subpar. In fact, it’s just the opposite. To go a step farther, if you’ve observed Clarke’s ministry for at least a short time, you’ve heard of—if not participated in—the Berean Leadership Conference. A real “fall classic,” the Berean Leadership Conference allows students of all ages to “learn and grow in [their] own leadership skills.” Berean Leadership asserts that “anyone who feels a weight of responsibility in their local church or ministry is a leader and should be seen, strengthened, and celebrated.”

All sessions and services [of the Berean Leadership Conference] are relevant to all church staff positions, church leaders, and church members. And because the church is not one-size-fits-all, this conference isn’t either! God works in both large and small congregations in unique ways, and our goal is to be relevant and helpful to you whether your weekly attendance is 25, 250, or 25,000.”

Regionals 2024—bringing the Kingdom to life...together!

Plan now to attend—October 3-5—Columbus, OH

For more information, including registration, go to www.chogconvention.org

District Prayer List for 2024

Be sure to remember our Church of God congregations in prayer during the year. (Below you will find our District Prayer List for 2024.) There is power in prayer and we are stronger together.

*Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this is
God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Portland - Kingdom Nation	1/7/24	Albany - First Church of God	7/7/24
Powers - Powers Church of God	1/14/24	Aloha - Aloha Church of God	7/14/24
Prineville - Living Water Church of God	1/21/24	Bandon - Seabird Chapel Church of God	7/21/24
District Council Planning Retreat 2/2-3	1/28/24	Willamette Valley Campmeeting 7/28-8/1	7/28/24
Rainier - Rainier Community COG	2/4/24	Cottage Grove - Riverside Comm COG	8/4/24
Redmond - First Church of God	2/11/24	Eugene - Friendly Street Church of God	8/11/24
Reedsport - Reedsport Church of God	2/18/24	Gales Creek - Gales Creek Comm COG	8/18/24
Community Outreach in your Neighborhood	2/25/24	Hillsboro - Valley Hope Community Church	8/25/24
Salem - Oak Park Church of God	3/3/24	Husum, WA - Husum Community COG	9/1/24
Scappoose - Chapman Community COG	3/10/24	Klamath Falls - First Church of God	9/8/24
Springfield - Springfield Church of God	3/17/24	La Grande - Crossroads Comm Church	9/15/24
St. Helens - Sunset Park Comm Church	3/24/24	Longview, WA - Westview Church	9/22/24
District Committee Members	3/31/24	Medford - First Church of God	9/29/24
Tigard - Tigard Church of God	4/7/24	Newberg - River Street Church of God	10/6/24
Vancouver, WA - First Church of God	4/14/24	North Bend - College Park Comm Church	10/13/24
Vancouver, WA - Iglesia de Dios	4/21/24	Oregon City - Faith Rock Comm Church	10/20/24
Woodburn - Hoodview Church of God	4/28/24	Oregon City - Hilltop Community COG	10/27/24
Church of God Missionaries	5/5/24	Portland - Community Church of God	11/3/24
Camp White Branch Staff	5/12/24	Portland - Lents-Gilbert Church of God	11/10/24
Warner Pacific University (Portland, OR)	5/19/24	Portland - Lynchwood Church of God	11/17/24
COG Ministries Staff/Council (Anderson, IN)	5/26/24	Portland - Maranatha Church	11/24/24
Church of God District Council	6/2/24	Portland - Neighborhood Church of God	12/1/24
Summer Camp Directors & Counselors	6/9/24	Portland - Richmond Community Church	12/8/24
Summer Camp Children & Youth	6/16/24	Portland - Rockwood Church of God	12/15/24
Opportunities to share God's Good News	6/23/24	Our Pastors & Spouses—Active & Retired	12/22/24
Our Pastors/Church Staff & their Families	6/30/24	District Staff	12/29/24