

The Lamplighter

A Newsletter of **Community Presbyterian Church**
529 NW 19th St. ~ PO Box 1689
Redmond, OR 97756
541-548-3367 www.redmondpc.org



JANUARY
2024



Growing In Christ and Loving One Another

CPC Friends,

As we step into 2024, we have regular reminders of our and our world's need of the Savior whose coming we are still celebrating in the remaining days of Christmastide. There's a lot of chaos in our communities, in our country, and in our world. And it's easy to feel disoriented by the rate of change in technological, political, or even meteorological trends. The Church is not immune from this vortex, and struggles with these and other destabilizing forces that have led to a downward spiral in membership, financial strength, and spiritual maturity - across pretty much every denomination and tradition in this country right now. What are we to do? I appreciated a reflection by Daniel Baumgartner that I read not too long ago. He says,

The truth is, as the rate of change and confusion accelerates, followers of Jesus have—and always have had—exactly the things needed to thrive in the chaos. They aren't glamorous, of course. Sometimes we call them “spiritual disciplines,” sometimes “faith practices.” Followers of Jesus **pray**, including listening prayer. We make time for **silence**. We prioritize listening for God through **scripture**. We **confess our sins**, keeping short accounts with God and cultivating humility. We **fast** to break or avoid attachments to unhealthy patterns. We **worship** to put our eyes on God rather than ourselves. We **meet together** for encouragement and care.

Ho-hum, right? Been there, done that. Isn't there something new, something dynamic, something innovative that can get our spiritual adrenaline pumping, something that will grab the attention or admiration of our culture? Those things come along all the time, but they never last.

The practices listed above are things that followers of Jesus have done for centuries. In a time of dizzying change, they become more important, not less, more countercultural and require more intentionality. Just as one example, a couple of months ago when I was at a leadership retreat, we built a three-hour silent time into the schedule. People went off to hike, walk, ride a bike, sit by the river...for three hours. No conversation, no technology. Three hours with no agenda other than this question: “*Is God speaking to you?*” For every single one of the participants, it was profoundly meaningful. Things slowed down.

Revolutionary, eh? In other words, what if we returned to the ordinary, time-honored practices or disciplines that have always kept God's people awake to God's abiding presence, to the outpoured love of God within us, and to the will of God for us? *Prayer, silence, scripture, confession, fasting, worship, fellowship. Are we practicing these as 2024 gets underway? Are we leaning into God's loving arms through these practices, embracing the ancient wisdom of our forebears in the faith?*

As Baumgartner puts it, “In a world that is increasingly complex, there's even more need to keep it simple. I wonder if it's what Jesus thought about when his disciples asked him to teach them to pray. He gave them what we now call The Lord's Prayer. It is disarmingly simple. No glitz, no eloquence, uncomplicated.” I'll end here with the version of the Lord's Prayer from *The Message* (Luke 11):

Father,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.

(continued) Karl Barth once said “To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.” Now more than ever, may we enter into the simple, life-giving prayers and practices that our Savior has given us to build our lives and life together on.

Grace and Peace,
Kevin

Music Ministry January 2024

Welcome to a New Year at CPC! In December, we had several missional events: Angel Fest, Angel Tree, food and clothing drives for several organizations, plus many other ways people purposefully served the Redmond community. One of my favorites was Caroling the Community. About 20 of us gathered on December 17th to sing Christmas carols in the neighborhood and at Juniper Springs. There were tears and laughter along the way, and the best part was hearing that the Spanish church, which meets at CPC on Sunday afternoons, would like to join us next year. We are planning on doing some get-togethers with them in the near future.



On December 31st, it was a delight to invite a string quintet from Bend, student instrumentalists from Redmond HS, and several of our members to join with the choir in presenting the Cantata “The Promise of a King.” This cantata is designed to review the birth of the baby Jesus and also have us imagine what this birth means for us today.

January 6th will be Epiphany, the last day of Christmastime, but imagine if our church family focused on keeping Christmas in our hearts throughout the year. We already have a variety of ways we show Christ’s love, but we can always do more. Community outreach is the effort of a company or an organization to provide support, resources, or services to its community, thereby adding value to the community’s environment. What do you envision as ways our CPC family can further share Christ’s love in our community and beyond? Send me your thoughts, and I’ll share them in the February Lamplighter. Happy New Year, CPC!



Blessings, Karen Baldwin-Kuntz
Director of Music Ministries

Notes From Session

The December Session meeting was opened with a Christmas poem entitled “Bethlehem, House of Bread” by Kate Compston from *Bread for Tomorrow*:

Thank you, Scandalous God, for giving yourself to the world, not in the powerful and extraordinary, but in weakness and the familiar: in a baby; in bread and wine. Thank you.

For offering, at journey's end, a new beginning; for setting, in the poverty of a stable, the richest jewel of your love; for revealing, in a particular place, your light for all nations. Thank you

For bringing us to Bethlehem, House of Bread, where the empty are filled, and the filled are emptied; where the poor find riches, and the rich recognize their poverty; where all who kneel and hold out their hands are unstintingly fed.

After pondering this poem, we opened in prayer and passed several motions, including a purge of the membership rolls that leaves our current membership at 200; approval of recent updates to the Finance Manual, with gratitude for Kathi Hayward’s efforts; approval of the 2024 budget pending further modification that might be required with continued pledges coming in; and designation of the Safe Parking Program to receive our 2023 Christmas Eve offering.

Finally, we expressed gratitude to those leaving Session: Connie Stoaks, Kathi Hayward, Jack Nelson, Todd Peplin, and Jeanne Simonsen; and we welcomed Julie St Peter to her first Session meeting.

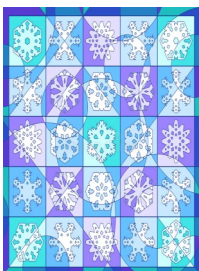
CPC Session

“Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah
43:18-19



Quilters Quips January 2024



HAPPY NEW YEAR! The quilters hope you all had a wonderful Advent season filled with love, hope, and joy! As the New Year is upon us, we wish to all continue to be blessed and wrapped in

His warmth and comfort. As quilters, we try to pass on some of that warmth and comfort to those in need. We will continue to meet on Thursdays to sew, get inspiration, fellowship, and, of course, eat! You are welcome to join us at ten in Teddy’s Hall. We ask that you keep this ministry in your hearts and prayers as the new year begins.

During 2024, those who want to can participate in a block of the month. Jean will present a new block every second Thursday at 10:30. Contact Jean Hoffman if interested.

Quilters, keep February 5th - 8th open for our Winter Quilting Bee. Monday through Thursday, we will sew from 9:30 to 3:00+. This is a week of working on whatever project you wish to work on, be it personal or mission. In January, a sign-up sheet will be at quilting on Thursdays and in the narthex on Sundays. Please let us know if you are planning to attend. We would love to have a full house! See you Thursday, January 4th.

Becky Dennis

Deacon’s Report

Your Board of Deacons met on December 11th, 2023. The Deacons act as an extension of the Pastor. We held a graveside service for Bruce Smith, we served home communion for Tom and Barbara Barbers, Angel Tree provided the means for 13 families and 37 children to have a holiday meal as well as purchase gifts for the families, we provided transportation to members who otherwise could not attend services, we visit with shut-ins, we provide medical equipment for those that need it: such as walkers, knee mobilizers, shower chairs and other durable medical equipment, we hold memorials for lost loved ones, and many more things that I can't remember!



We also plan on having Lenten Soup Suppers, starting on Ash Wednesday (February 14th, 2024) and continuing every Wednesday until the day before Maundy Thursday. The deacons will clean up after the first supper and will ask various groups to clean up after dinner on the following Wednesdays. Pastor Kevin will provide a short devotional message after supper.

We want to ensure our Church Directory stays current; please help by letting Gina know if any changes in your information have happened. Let us know of others who may enjoy home communion. Let us know if anyone wants to help with transportation. Thank you all for your generosity in helping finance Angel Tree and our other mission programs.

Blessings, Steve Cross

Kisauni Update

The Presbyterian Church of East Africa, part of our Kisauni Parish partnership, has gone through a reorganization that concluded on December 17th. Our Kisauni friend and Elder Beatrice explained that this affected Kisauni by creating a new parish from one of the churches (Bamburi church) that was in the Kisauni Parish. Kisauni will continue to have four churches within their parish, with Beatrice continuing to serve as the Clerk of Session. (Beatrice is in the far right of the picture below.)



Wellness Ministry Update

WELLNESS MISSION STATEMENT: *To help the congregation attain, maintain, and/or regain the best possible health, wellness of mind, body, and spirit that can be experienced. This is realized through education, guidelines, screenings, and providing ongoing support. Lois Millspaugh, Chairman*

Wellness Ministry

The Wellness Ministry of Community Presbyterian Church strives to support members and friends, of all ages in our church, by encouraging more physical exercise, healthy nutrition, spiritual awareness, and love of family, both church and personal. We are working on programs to support all of these endeavors and invite anyone interested in working with us to achieve these goals to join our team. The next Wellness Ministry meeting will be held at the church on Tuesday, January 9th, at 1:00 pm in the Eby Room. If you would be interested in participating in this special ministry, please contact Lois Millspaugh .

Attention All Singles ~ Singles Lunch Group

For January, we will enjoy a wonderful lunch at Baldy's Barbeque (343 NW 6th St) in Redmond. On Thursday, January 18th, we will meet at noon and have lunch at 12:30 pm. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the church's Narthex, so we have adequate seating planned. For additional information, please contact Lois Millspaugh.

Free Blood Pressure Screenings

Our Free Blood Pressure Screening will be held on the second Sunday of the month from 9:30 – 10:00 am in the Eby Room. If you are interested in knowing your blood pressure, our nurse is there to help you. Remember, high blood pressure is a silent killer; see your doctor with any concerns. If you are a nurse and are interested in helping with this program, please contact June Isaak.

Hospital Equipment

The Wellness Ministry has an inventory of equipment to be loaned out to anyone needing assistance following a health issue. We have walkers, crutches, shower chairs, and numerous other items to support our church members and friends. If you find you need equipment or would like an additional walker, please get in touch with Lynda Talbot our equipment coordinator.

Wellness Ministries has purchased a second knee scooter to replace the scooter that was taken without being checked out. We also have purchased an infant car seat to be loaned out to anyone having a small visitor and needing proper seating for a short amount of time.

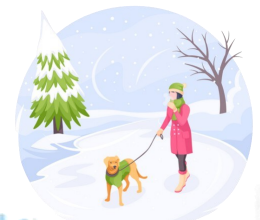
**** All equipment that is loaned out needs to be coordinated with Lynda Talbot. She is willing to deliver the equipment and pick it up if you need assistance in this matter.

Parkinson's Support Group

The Parkinson's Support Group will be conducting their regular meeting on Monday, January 8th at 1:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. Reach out to Ginny Weeber for more information.

The Dementia Interaction Group Is Paused

The Dementia Support Group meetings will be paused for the time being. We hope to resume the meeting in the spring. We will keep you updated.



Health Tip

As we begin a New Year, we ask ourselves if we have a prayerful attitude... is God our Refuge and Strength?

1. Do we have love, perseverance, and gratitude in humble submission to God's will?
2. Prayer develops and strengthens a relationship with God.



Prayer helps us make the right decisions.
Prayer gives us direction in life.
Avoid temptations with the power of prayer.
Prayer allows us to be present.
Miracles can happen through prayer and faith.

Wholeness and health are a combination of many aspects. God leads the way to keep us whole and healthy when we follow His commandments.

A Prayer for the New Year

Heavenly Father, as we step into the new year, we pray for your guidance and blessings.

We ask that you help us to be more compassionate, kind, and loving towards others. May we be a source of hope and light to those around us, and may we be a reflection of your love and grace.

We pray that you will give us the strength and courage to face any challenges that come our way, and that you will help us to grow in faith and wisdom. We pray that you will bless us with good health, joy, and spiritual blessings in the coming year.

We thank you for your love and mercy, and we thank you for continuing to watch over us and guide us in all that we do.

Be gloried in our lives this year and always.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Reminder - 6 For 6 Starting in January!

Suppers for Six has changed its name to 6 for 6. This is open to everyone and the group will decide what they want to do.



the narthex (lobby).

One example is game night, or everyone attends an event together. The new groups will start in January, and they will run through June.

A sign-up sheet is in the

George Johnson - Congregational Life

Mental Health Ministry through a Matthew 25 Lens



Matthew 25:31-46 focuses on the parable of the sheep and goats in which Jesus clarifies that what we do matters to God and how we treat others is essential. Mental health ministry happens in communities that nurture authenticity, know how to respond when someone is in crisis or pain, and walk alongside with healthy boundaries, recognizing our common humanity and gifts, whatever our mental health status.

How can faith communities create mental health ministries that nurture healthy relationships with mental health at the core? Having a passion for those on the journey with mental health and a toolbox with resources is a good start. The Wellness Team embraces the call of Matthew 25 and has created a toolbox for the journey with mental illness.

We welcome you to explore the extensive resources in the toolbox with Linda. Email: longjourneyhome40@gmail.com. Linda is a trained Family Support facilitator with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for Oregon and California.



CPC's Presbyterian Women's Bible Study Circle



Our Women's Bible Study Circle and Warm Springs Church express a giant "THANK YOU" to our congregation for supporting our mission project.

The supplies of warm winter clothing, hygiene products, and water were greatly appreciated. Many from the Warm Spring Church, along with members of the community, have benefitted from your generosity. Also, our donations of cookies were a big hit; they sold at the annual holiday bazaar for \$5.00/doz.

Mark your calendars for our next Women's Bible Study, Tuesday, January 23rd, at 12:30 pm, in the Youth Room at CPC.



A Great Big Thank You

TO: Our generous congregation
FROM: Your Board of Deacons
FOR: Your support and donations to our 2023 Angel Tree



WHAT: Groceries for a Christmas dinner for 13 families and Christmas gifts for 37 children!
WHO: Neighbor Impact's Head Start & Early Head Start families in Redmond

WE DID IT AGAIN! GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE!

Jericho Table

Do you have a heart for local mission work? Volunteers are needed to assist with serving meals to our unhoused community and families who experience food insecurity. CPC joins hands with Jericho Table and other churches in Redmond to serve meals to our local community.

Please contact Chris Slabaugh for more information or if you want to serve meals.



2024 Lenten Soup Supper's

Join us for our Lenten Soup Supper Program.
Mark your calendars! Soup suppers begin
Ash Wednesday, February 14th, at 6:00 pm.
Ash Wednesday worship will start at 7:00 pm.

Soup Suppers will continue every Wednesday for six weeks during Lent at 6:00 pm, and a Lenten devotional will be included.

Church Teams will be responsible for clean-up, following soup and devotional.

Deacons: February 14th Mission Team: March 6th
Worship Team: February 21st Choir: March 13th
Property Team: February 28th Session: March 20th

The board of Deacons is sponsoring the cost of food supplies for soup making.

Volunteers Needed: Are you a soup maker?

Do you have a heart for cooking? Sign up for making soups on a Wednesday afternoon; please see the sign-up list in the church narthex/lobby.

For details or questions, call or email Lynda Talbot or Sharon Lynch; their contact information is listed in the church directory, or call the church office.

Deacon of the Month for January is Chris Slabaugh

The Deacon of the Month is On Call to Help With Special Needs.

Chris Slabaugh has lived in Redmond most of her life and has attended CPC since she was a young child.

She was born and raised in Redmond and attended college in Monmouth, Oregon. She spent four years teaching in Portland, returning to Redmond to accept a teaching job.

While teaching at Jessie Hill School, she met her husband, Mike. They were married for 45 1/2 years, and in April 2023, Mike passed away. They have two wonderful daughters, Kelly and Ashley, and their families.






“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

~ 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT



January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR</p> <p>2024!</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30 Women's AA</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 Women's AA</p> <p>10:00 Quilters</p> <p>4:30 Spiritual Growth Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9 am</p> <p>Unhanging of the Greens</p> 
<p>7</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>11:00 Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 Sermon</p> <p>Zoom Discussion</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30 Property Mtg</p> <p>100 Parkinson's Group</p> <p>3:00 Deacons Mtg</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30 Women's AA</p> <p>1:00 Wellness Mtg</p> <p>3:00 Worship Mtg</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2:00 Mission Mtg</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 Women's AA</p> <p>10:00 Quilters</p> <p>4:30 Spiritual Growth Zoom</p>	<p>12</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:30 Blood Pressure Check</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>11:00 Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 Sermon</p> <p>Zoom Discussion</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 Women's AA</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3:00 Finance Mtg</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 Women's AA</p> <p>10:00 Quilters</p> <p>12:00 Singles Lunch Group</p> <p><i>12:00 Lamplighter Articles Due</i></p> <p>4:30 Spiritual Growth Zoom</p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>11:00 Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 Sermon</p> <p>Zoom Discussion</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30 Women's AA</p> <p>12:30 PW</p> <p>6:00 Session</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 Women's AA</p> <p>10:00 Quilters</p> <p>4:30 Spiritual Growth Zoom</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>11:00 Annual Congregational Meeting</p>  <p>5:00 Sermon</p> <p>Zoom Discussion</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30 Women's AA</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>			

College Scholarships for High School Seniors



The CPC Scholarship team was formed in 2014. As a result, our church has been able to honor 22 CPC graduating high school seniors with a college scholarship. WOW, what a blessing this scholarship has played in the lives of our young Christians.

By giving to the D.F. #45 Scholarship Fund, you have the opportunity to play a significant role in the continued growth and educational development of the youth in our church. If you are able to support the Scholarship fund financially, in the next few months, your gifts will be greatly appreciated.

The Scholarship program was developed to award CPC high school seniors scholarships for attendance at universities, colleges, trade or technical schools. Seminary students are also eligible.

Scholarship applications and guidelines are available through the church website or in the office. In addition, students receive recognition at their high school honor assembly and a church service.

We hope you are inspired to support this worthy church program. Make your check payable to Community Presbyterian Church and write on the note line: "Designated Fund #45, College Scholarship Fund." This ensures your monies are deposited into the designated fund account, explicitly earmarked for scholarships.

The team welcomes your questions; please contact Mary Lou Hall, Carol Nelson or Nancy Patterson (their contact information is in the directory).

January Birthdays

1/2	Amanda Kinhnarath
1/4	Sherry Mink
1/8	Ann Thomas Ginny Weeber
1/11	Cheryl Edwards Mike Rooney
1/12	Andrew Barr Frank St Peter
1/13	Linda Fern Jim Hayward
1/15	Walt Taylor
1/16	Nancy Patterson Steve Thorp
1/19	Colin Leutschaft
1/22	Soren Kinhnarath
1/27	Megan Barr
1/28	Cathy Edgerton Dennis Lisius
1/29	Elaine Johnston Sharon Lynch Carol Nelson
1/30	Robie Harano



January Anniversaries

1/5 John & Michelle Duff



Can & Bottle Return

Thank you for all the offerings.
In December was \$172 was collected
for the CPC Mission Team!

There are three ways to give cans and bottles to the Mission Team.

- 1) **Drop them off behind the church underneath the vehicle canopy.**
 - 2) Drop them off at Walt Taylor's home at 1849 SW Canyon Dr. Leave on the north side of the house on the sidewalk.
 - 3) Call 541-548-4472 and Walt will pick them up at.
- Thank you for your support of the CPC Mission Team!

Walt Taylor

I wanted to take a minute to express my gratitude to those who came and made our White Elephant Christmas party such a success. Thank you for bringing your presence, your kindness, and your sense of fun to the party. It was a great time! Happy New Year and God bless!



George Johnson - Congregational Life



The next Lamplighter news **due date** for the February issue is **Thursday, January 18th, at noon.** Articles for publication should be sent to Gina at: frontdesk@redmondpc.org. You will receive a reply letting you know your contribution was received. Thank you!