



July, 2022

Volume XLVIII, No. 7

Presbytery of the Cascades

Presbytery Votes to Support Gun Safety Litigation and Elects New Lay Leadership



With sincere thanks to **First Medford**, the summer presbytery meeting opened with a deeply thoughtful opening worship.

Highlighting the meeting were two important decisions:

1. The Presbytery of the Cascades became a **public endorser of the Lift Every Voice Oregon (LEVO)** project to collect signatures and advocate for the passage of the resulting bills. Statewide Initiative Petition 17 would ban large capacity magazines over 10 rounds, calls for a permit (license) to purchase any gun and complete background checks. Initiative 19 calls for a ban on future sales of assault style weapons and registration of those already owned.
2. It was decided that the **minimum FTE compensation for Pastors, Elders Commissioned to serve as Pastors (CRE'S) and Certified Christian Educators for 2023 will be \$56,129.**

With grateful hearts, the presbytery wants to:

- **Thank our leaders** who will **conclude their service** to the presbytery at the end of this month.
- **Thank our leaders** who have **signed on for another term.**
- **Say welcome to** our new leaders who will be entering new roles.
- Again, welcome **new Treasurer, Mary Blain** and give thanks to **Craig Butler** for his seven years of service as the presbytery treasurer.

The presbytery also celebrated the Honorably Retirees: **Bob Stebe, Jeff Sievert and William Delong.** Well done, good and faithful servants! We wish you rest and joy as you conclude your many years of leadership.

Most importantly, recognition and thanksgiving is given for all the **commissioners** who attended the June meeting. It is with this kind of active presence and voices that make for meaningful, collaborative meetings.

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Summer Blessings

Omnibus

Omnibus is published twelve times a year by the Presbytery of the Cascades for distribution to churches and individuals.

Omnibus welcomes news and views of all the churches of Presbytery and all its readers. Send all communications to Kathleen Waugh, *Omnibus* editor, Presbytery of the Cascades, 245 S. Bancroft St., Suite D, Portland, Oregon. Email: kwaugh8@outlook.com

Omnibus retains permission to modify submissions for clarity and space limitations. The Presbytery “Communications and Technology Team” (CATT) is the editorial board.

**Paul, our very hard working stated clerk, is going on sabbatical.
May he be held in prayer as he finds time for
true rest and re-creation.**



Ask the Clerk

By Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk

Q: When an Administrative Commission is given original jurisdiction with full powers of the session for a congregation does the congregation lose its commissioners to presbytery?

A: At the June presbytery meeting the Commission on Ministry was given authority to create administrative commissions with original jurisdiction for two congregations if the need arises to do so. Original jurisdiction means that the administrative commission takes the place of the session and manages the affairs of the congregation. When congregations are in transition an administrative commission can provide extra support to the session. Normally an administrative commission cannot do this, so a special motion was needed to allow for it. Please note that in this case the administrative commissions, if given original jurisdiction, will include members of the church session.

When an administrative commission is given original jurisdiction, it has the full power of the session. One responsibility of the session is to “elect commissioners to presbytery, ruling elders from the congregation” G-3.0202. So, the administrative commission is charged with ensuring that the congregation has a commissioner to attend presbytery meetings.

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NOTES FROM THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

*By Rev. Brian Heron,
Presbyter for Vision and Mission*

Many years ago I began using the phrase, “Follow the energy” when I was working with churches looking to revitalize or redevelop. It is not necessarily Christian language, but I felt like it was something tangible that members could relate to when talking about “trusting the work of the Holy Spirit.”

I still find that language helpful. That mantra sometimes helps churches let go of programs, ministries and commitments that have lost their vitality. At other times, the mantra helps churches trust the movement of something even when they can’t imagine what the future will look like.

I share this with you because, at the presbytery level, I am discovering one of those places where energy just seems to keep growing. As many of you know, the Presbytery Leadership Commission has both supported me and asked me to continue pursuing the possibility of a religious pilgrimage route along the Oregon Coast Trail.

You know how some projects are like pulling teeth? It seems like every step has some barrier to overcome or some wall to break through. That isn’t true about this project. I am convinced that we are onto a spiritual movement. This is Holy Spirit stuff!

The wonderful thing about this project is that we don’t have to create the energy for this. The energy is already there. We only need to strap on our belts, tap into it, and trust that if God is behind this, this will be a ride worth taking.

On the one hand, this is a project that could be seen as limited to our churches on the coast. I think that would be a mistake. The location of this pilgrimage is the coast, but the energy behind it is grounded in people and organizations all across Oregon and Washington and beyond.

We are already ecumenical partners with the leadership of the [Camino de Sonoma](#) in California, and the large Oregon infrastructure that includes [Travel Oregon](#), [Oregon Coast Trail Foundation](#), [Oregon Solutions](#) and the [Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation](#).

But speaking of energy, last week I walked with thirty pilgrims from the [Portlandia Chapter of the American Pilgrims of the Camino](#). It was clear that this was a marriage waiting to happen.

Right away, we began planning how I could work with their 900-member local group. Then they suggested that I speak at the national assembly of the [American Pilgrims of the Camino](#) (28,000 members) next year. What they said was, “Brian, the national group has been hoping for years that a stateside pilgrimage like the Camino de Santiago in Spain could be developed. They are going to want to be involved in this.”

What does all this mean right now? Honestly, I can’t tell you. But, what I do know is that there is energy and momentum here. And where energy shows up, the Holy Spirit is often the engine behind it.

With you in trust as we embark on the great spiritual unfolding...

Brian

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Camino de Sonoma Walkers

Team Ministries Strives for Openness and Creativity

By Pat Berger, Northeast Region Reporter

When one talks with Pastor Gregg Neel at **Westminster, Portland**, it is clear that this is a church where ministry is a team practice. He began to speak of one of their programs, and he said, "I should really have you talk with Chris (Associate Pastor Chris Dela Cruz) about this." Then we spoke of another of their programs, and he said, "I should really have you talk with Lori (Associate Pastor Laurie Newman) about this." And then: "I should really have you talk with Beth (Pastor Beth Merrill Neel) about this!" We may be just getting through the pandemic, and it is clear that Westminster and its people aren't wasting any more time!

Pastor Gregg said that Westminster folk are not any different from anyone else in this time: when they worship together in the sanctuary, there are fewer worshipers than there were before COVID; when they combine with their online worshipers, there are more than there used to be. There are fewer volunteers than there were before, and many of them have changed to different areas of interest in the life of the church.

A few in the church attended an online, livestreamed seminar by Susan Beaumont. Dr. Beaumont is a pastor and consultant specializing in large churches and helping their people to work together better, and to enjoy more what they are doing in the church. Pastor Gregg highly recommends her work, and those who attended the workshop gained much for re-starting post-COVID.

One of the church projects at this point is to move their library. The new space will have more space for their books! The former space will still have some books, and it will become a cozy meeting room. It will be fun to see this transformation.

There are other new ministries starting in the COVID era. One of them is OIKOS Accelerator. When one looks at the background material for this program, one finds that those who participate will find how to work at having a church building that is not empty all week. Participants will find ideas for using church properties during the week, and likely use some of the entrepreneurial ideas to make some income for their congregation. The training runs about a year, and then team members are ready to start. We look forward to hearing about the outcomes.

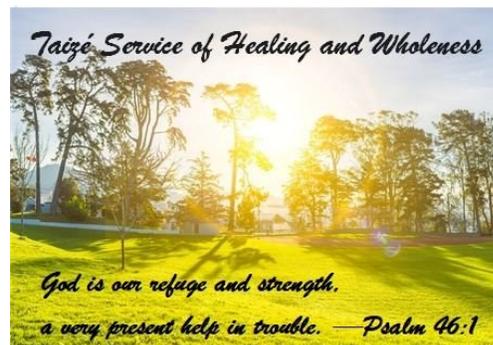
Westminster is excited about "Makers". Makers is one of the 1001 Worshipping communities, part of the PCUSA, and it's sponsored by Westminster. This worshipping community attracts people of faith – and those new to faith – who are also artists, creators and makers. They currently meet in the former Laurelhurst Presbyterian Church.

Another project came out of the last Triennium. There is a group of six churches (Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians) whose young people get together once a month for activities. The name is the NE Youth Cooperative. Most weeks they meet separately, but once a month they gather for work projects and for recreation.

This article would not be complete without mentioning the line dance and swing dance groups! Pastor Laurie got them hooked on swing dance. There is a large swing dance community in Portland. Some dancers meet monthly at Westminster on Friday nights from 7 - 9:30 in their Great Hall (yes, it is permitted to visit. The next date is July 5.) Line dancing meets two Tuesdays a month in front of the church.

Many things are happening at Westminster, Portland. Blessings for your ministries!

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A meaningful quiet time of worship offered the fourth Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m

Friends in Need; Friends Indeed

By Mike Hubbard, South Region Reporter

On a recent warm and breezy evening, **First, Phoenix** hosted Phoenix Community Center's annual barbeque. Those of us who attended were treated to hamburgers, hot dogs, bean salad, potato salad, watermelon, brownies, cookies, pop-sicles, and soft drinks. We listened to a variety of local musicians and visited with old friends. Pretty much what we're accustomed to. However, that we were even sitting on green grass in the shadow of First's grand old building was a miracle, owing to the devastation brought upon the community by the Labor Day fires of 2020.



First, Phoenix BBQ

For nearly two years, the destruction of the Jackson County Fuel Committee (JCFC) headquarters, directly across the street from the church, has served as a reminder of that day. On this particular afternoon, that reminder was one of hope and perseverance, as JCFC's new headquarters' building nears completion. And, like the solid new building rising from the ruins, and much to the benefit of the community, the relationship between First and JCFC remains rock solid.



Jackson County Fuel Committee's new building across the street from the church, rising out of the ashes of it's previous housing.

When the flames died and the smoke cleared, that relationship became more than one of mutual support. The church, with upstairs office space available, extended an invitation and JCFC had a temporary home. In short order, another name was added to the church and community center sign, and once again, Jackson County residents facing a utility disconnect or who were running out of firewood had someone to call.

Among those enjoying the music, food, and fellowship was JCFC Operating Manager, Noelle O'Dell. O'Dell is optimistic about an October occupancy for what is now called "JCFC Office Central." She stated, "We are not only reconstructing a physical building, a permanent home for JCFC's programs and activities, but also bringing stability and hope to JCFC's membership base."

That base is large and diverse. Founded in 1978, the all-volunteer organization offers more than just firewood and help with utility bills. From the beginning, their goal has been "to form an organization to attack the economic root of the problem and government policies that promote profits over people, while immediately providing critically needed resources." Today, those ideals have broadened to address climate change and the very down-to-earth, local ramifications surrounding the issue. O'Dell's thoughtful and measured approach cannot fully hide her passion for justice.

Soon, JCFC's temporary banner, affixed to the church's signboard, will move back across the street to 120 West Second, Phoenix, Oregon. There it will grace the organization's new home. That, however, will not signal an end of the mutually beneficial relationship enjoyed by the two groups. Rather, it will be the beginning of a new chapter in this story of collaboration and comradery. As the presbytery explores a future of promoting community partnerships, the association of First Phoenix, Jackson County Fuel Committee and 1st Phoenix Community Center stands as a model of what that future might look like.

Summer blessings from the South

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ViewPoints

By Rev. Clark Scalera, Advocate for Congregations and Clergy

The Bones of Jacob

A friend of mine recently shared with me an article with the provocative title: Jacob's Bones. It was composed for the Texas Methodist Foundation and the Wesleyan Investive and written by Gil Rendle. If you're not familiar with Rendle, he is a Methodist pastor who moved out of the parish setting to pursue doctoral studies in organization and group dynamics, and has since expressed his vocation by helping churches and denominations better focus on their mission and leadership as they navigate this rapidly changing world. I've found his writing and reflections instrumental in comprehending the challenges facing churches today.

Needless to say, when I received Jacob's Bones, I put everything else aside to meditate upon their meaning! In this insightful article, Rendle begins by considering the last days of Jacob, as he makes Joseph solemnly swear that after his death, his bones will be taken out of the land of Egypt and back to the land of Canaan so he can be buried alongside Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah and Leah in the cave at Machpelah.

Reflecting on this story from Genesis 47-50, Rendle draws a parallel to our circumstances with the reminder that our "futures are not disconnected from the past. We can carry with us the critical gifts from the past, limited in number but well chosen, that will remind us of who we are. What we choose to carry forward will be used to sustain our identity and purpose in the changed conditions that will be faced."

Rendle's article continues, focusing on the challenges ecclesiastical institutions face and providing direction and perspective for organizations as they seek to function purposefully in our rapidly and dramatically changing world. The article can be found at https://tmf-fdn.org/assets/files/JacobsBones_Revised.pdf and I'd commend it to you along with his book *Quietly Courageous*, particularly if you've found yourself in church or presbytery leadership and are interested in exploring some new vantage points as you strive to faithfully lead and serve in your context.

Simultaneously, I'd like to borrow Rendle's metaphor, and reflect with you on what Jacob's bones might be for us as a community of faith. What are those "critical gifts from the past," which may be few in numbers, but are well chosen and that remind us of who we are?

To be sure, just as the ancient Israelites faced challenges to their identity in the land of Egypt and on their subsequent wanderings in the wilderness, we too are in the midst of a dramatic cultural upheaval that has left many of us feeling disoriented, overwhelmed, and uncertain of how to proceed. Former ways of doing things that we relied upon have gone out the window, no longer fitting the challenges and situations in which we now find ourselves. We feel left with precious few reference points and can grow discouraged trying to discern how we should proceed.



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But, we are not without some truly precious gifts from the past. One that I hope you will find both comfort and orientation in is our church's constitution – The Book of Order and the Book of Confessions. Now, this may sound like a bit of a stretch, and perhaps like something only a presbytery staff member would say! However, gentle reader, before you discard this publication assuming I'm hopelessly out of touch, please hear me out!



The Book of Order does not begin with dry or tedious rules, dictating how churches should be organized in the world. Rather, it begins with the foundations of our faith and our governance. The very first section is entitled “God’s Mission” and orients the church squarely in the midst of God’s transformative work in the world. The church is invited into the good news of the gospel, and equipped by the grace of Jesus Christ to participate in God’s own mission in the world. It then continues to articulate how “the mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church” (F-1.01).

Throughout this “Foundations” section of the Book of Order, there are critical and treasured assertions that define our tradition of faith and how we together seek to live in response to God’s love made known in Jesus Christ. In the second half of our constitution – The Book of Confessions – the church “declares to its members and to the world who and what it is, what it believes, and what it resolves to do” (F-2.01).

In days such as these, days that Rendle describes as “changing so quickly that the time necessary for a reasoned response is disallowed,” our presbytery is faced with existential challenges. Many of our policies and procedures no longer fit the circumstances, and the demands placed upon our ecclesial structures are causing them to falter. In many ways, we have already left the equivalent of our land of Goshen in Egypt. And yet, we have these treasures, these sacred relics, these commitments laid upon us by prior generations. Wonderfully, these bones of Jacob, entrusted to our care, do not restrict our activities, or force us into outdated patterns of organization. Rather, they remind us of who we are. They sustain our identity and our purpose in whatever changed conditions we face.

Isn't it a comfort to be reminded that our calling is not to prop up an institution? Rather, our institutions are but our best efforts to organize ourselves for coordinated and meaningful participation in the mission of God. As the world changes, our institutions may prove unwieldy or unhelpful, and they may even pass away. But the mission of the triune God persists, and we as people of faith will continue to receive anew the invitation to participate in the “transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God’s love , offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ” (F-1.01).

Uncertainty and change abound. But the bones of Jacob remind us that the same God who called forth creation from the waters of chaos has covenanted with us to our God, and we God’s people. May our faith be enlivened and our futures opened by such good news!



There’s a Place for You!

The nominating committee encourages your participation on presbytery committees. Please take this opportunity to suggest yourself or someone you would recommend for service on a committee or taskforce in the presbytery. We will use this information to update our committee and nomination database. Interested? Click [here](#) to nominate yourself or someone you know.

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~ *Transitions* ~

New Pastors

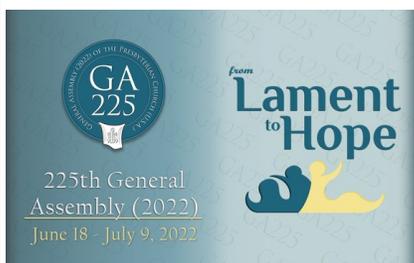
- The Rev. Greg Bolt, member of Twin Cities Area Presbytery, has been called to serve at First, Salem starting September 1.
- United Methodist minister, The Rev. Steve Mitchell, is now serving at Christ's Church Methodist and Presbyterian United, Monmouth, OR
- The Rev. Katherine Keener has transferred her membership back to Cascades from Seattle Presbytery.
- The Rev. Bobbi Neason has transferred her membership back to Cascades from Northwest Coast Presbytery.
- Victoria Bethel is the new Designated Pastor at Tri-City United, Myrtle Creek, OR. She is transferring in from James Presbytery.

Pastoral Changes

- The Rev. Bill Davis is serving Community PC, Lakeside, OR
- The Rev. Bruce Cameron will step away from his ministry at McKenzie Valley PC, Waltherville, on September 11, 2022.
- The Rev. Ben Dake has announced his retirement from Nestucca Valley PC, Pacific City for the end of the year.

Memoria

- Elmer R. "Bud" Frimoth passed away on May 1, 2022 at 95. A celebration will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Saturday, July 9th at 1:00pm
- Weston Gray Jr. passed away on May 24, 2022. A service of witness to the resurrection was held on Wednesday, June 1 at First, Dallas.



The 225th General Assembly has begun! This year, GA includes both in-person committee meetings in Louisville and online plenary sessions, which requires commissioners and advisory delegates to attend virtually. GA will be held from June 18 to July 9, 2022.

The sermon that Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church preached at the Juneteenth service was well worth experiencing.

Click [here](#) to follow the "News Feed" for daily updates, videos and reflections on GA 2022.

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Resources help Ministry and Mission

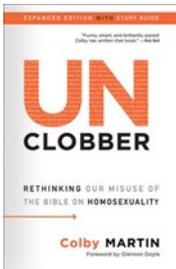


Diana Butler Bass
“The Cottage”

Eileen Sheelar recommends Diana Butler Bass: The Cottage. Eileen states, “There are free and paid

versions. I do just fine with the free version. She challenges my brain.” This website can be found at <https://dianabutlerbass.substack.com>

Bass states on her site, “Drop in. Sit down. This is a place to explore faith and spirituality. Especially for those who feel dissatisfied, discomforted, or uncertain about religion — and who need a different angle, a new view of things of the spirit. Here you’ll find both inspiration and thoughtful commentary. My door is open. Notice: this space isn’t The Sanctuary or The Parsonage or even The Retreat. This is The Cottage. That’s because I’m not a clergy person or a paid religious professional. I’m a writer, speaker, and itinerant teacher. And The Cottage is a real place in my backyard where I write, think, reflect, and even meditate and pray.”



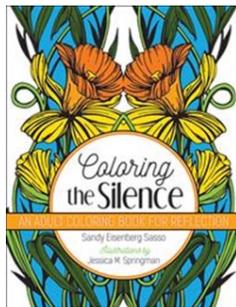
UnClobber by Colby Martin

Armed with only six passages in the Bible—often known as the “Clobber Passages”—the conservative Christian position has been one that stands against the full inclusion of our

LGBTQ siblings. *UnClobber* reexamines each of those frequently quoted passages of Scripture, alternating with author Colby Martin’s own story of being fired from an evangelical megachurch when they discovered his stance on sexuality.

UnClobber reexamines what the Bible says (and does not say) about homosexuality in such a way that sheds divine light on outdated and inaccurate assumptions and interpretations. This new edition equips study groups and congregations with

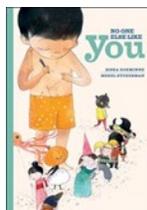
questions for discussion and a sermon series guide for preachers. For more information, click [here](#).



Coloring the Silence: An Adult Coloring Book for Reflection by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

In a world of constant interruption that values speed over reflection, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso offers an interactive way to find the quiet we need to get

in touch with our deepest selves. Designed to give you peace, inspiration and a much-needed pause amid the business of daily life, *Coloring the Silence* contains twenty-five illustrations for coloring along with twenty-five reflections and prayers for meditation. For more information, click [here](#).



No One Else Like You by Siska Goe-minne

There are so many people in the world. Over seven billion! They come in all sorts of shapes, sizes, and colors. Some are happy, and some are grumpy.

Some live in tall towers in the city, while others live in cottages in the field. Some like to read, and some like to sing. And yet, even with so many people in this world, there is no one quite like you! Ideal for children ages 4-8. For more information, click [here](#)

Do you have a book, a Bible Study, a resource that has helped you in your ministry? Please share. Send to editor, Kathleen Waugh at omnibus@cascadespresbytery.org

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Friday, July 1

Ann Bowersox, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2010
David Morelli, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2014
Lawrence Porter, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2011

Saturday, July 2

David Mote, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2004

Sunday, July 3

Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk -- Presbytery of the Cascades, ordained July, 2004

Monday, July 4

Pray for our country, its leaders and people

Tuesday, July 5

First Presbyterian Church, Central Point - chartered this day in 1908
First Presbyterian Church, Cottage Grove -- chartered this day, 1855

Wednesday, July 6

John Neal, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2004.

Thursday, July 7

Donald Gibbs, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1991

Friday, July 8

Cascades Presbyterian Church, Vancouver -- chartered this day, 1979

Saturday, July 9

Michael McCall, ordained this day in 1978 & now Honorably Retired
Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1909

Sunday, July 10

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church, Waltherville -- chartered this day, 1988
Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church -- chartered this day, 1988

Monday, July 11

John A. Hubbard, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2012

Tuesday, July 12

Community Presbyterian Church, Moro -- chartered this day, 1887
First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville -- chartered this day, 1851
Judy Marshall, ordained this day, 1981

Wednesday, July 13

Michial Hubbard, CRE at Medford, First

Thursday, July 14

John Weisinger, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2008

Friday, July 15

Thomas Young Retired this month in 2019

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Saturday, July 16

Springwater Presbyterian Church, Estacada -- chartered this day, 1889

Sunday, July 17

Mark Duntley, ordained this day, 1983, Honorably Retired August, 2021

Monday, July 18

Mark & Wendy Olson, serving in Lincoln City and Waldport

Tuesday, July 19

Warm Springs Presbyterian Church -- chartered this day, 1874

Wednesday, July 20

First Presbyterian Church, Bend -- chartered this day, 1903

Steven Mabry, ordained this day, 1980, now Honorably Retired.

Thursday, July 21

Terri Sutton, ordained this day, 1991

Friday, July 22

Donald Krug, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1986

Saturday, July 23

David Hampton, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2016

Sunday, July 24

Phillip Nessel, ordained this month, 1968

Monday, July 25

Cynthia King-Guffey, ordained this day, 1993

Tuesday, July 26

Montee Kennedy, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2013

Wednesday, July 27

Seung Kyu Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1989

Thursday, July 28

First Presbyterian Church, Gold Beach -- chartered this day, 1912

Mark Smith, ordained this day, 1982 and HR in November, 2021

Friday, July 29

Michael Rinkin, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2005

Saturday, July 30

Kenneth Campbell, Honorably Retired from St. John's PC, Camas

Sunday, July 31

Jeff Sievert, Honorably Retired this day in 2022

Linda Stewart-Kalen, granted Honorable Retirement this day in 2022

Zane Buxton, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2012

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