



June, 2022

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Presbytery of the Cascades

Presbytery to Meet Online Again as Future Formats for Meetings are Discerned

By Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk

After a survey and deliberation, Presbytery leadership decided to hold the summer stated presbytery meeting online only. This reversed the earlier announcement that the meeting would be held at Medford, First. The meeting will be on Friday, June 24 from 3-8 pm and continue on June 25, if necessary.

The summer presbytery meeting will be the seventh held online only, a practice that began through necessity at the beginning of the pandemic in the summer of 2020. Nevertheless, we envision new possibilities for meetings as we move forward through the pandemic and beyond!

As your Stated Clerk, I'm trying my best to keep up with the ever-changing possibilities for presbytery meeting formats as we go forward. What is challenging today may be easy tomorrow. Consider that in September of 2014 the presbytery held a multisite "Confluence" gathering where a presenter was filmed in McMinnville and the video livestreamed to four other churches where the regions gathered. The video portion of that gathering was not uniformly successful- I recall that in Newberg we lost the connection early on but adapted and had a great time anyway. If we were to duplicate that event today, I am confident that the video would be clearer and more consistent- perhaps even flawless!

Here are the options as I see them for future meetings:

1. In-person meetings. In-person meetings served us well since our inception in January of

1974. In the future many of us would like to go back to in-person. There is a quality to physical presence that cannot be duplicated online, the ability to eat together, to sing together, to chat informally at breaks.

2. Hybrid meetings. Hybrid meetings seem to combine the best of both worlds- those who wish to meet in person are able to gather in one place. Those who don't wish to be in person join the meeting online. In theory these meetings work smoothly. In practice, they are more complicated. Yes, many of our congregations have had success with hybrid worship. However, a hybrid meeting changes the dynamic. People online need to be able to be recognized, speak and vote in real time. And the people in person need to be able to hear them. Furthermore, the natural pace of an online meeting is very different than an in-person meeting. Both meetings have their efficiencies and inefficiencies and unfortunately the field of efficiency for each type of meeting is quite different. So, a hybrid meeting is doubly inefficient! If you have lots of routine business, participants may not notice but add complicated or controversial issues and the

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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.

Ask the Clerk



By Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk

Q: What is the process for deciding how to use the real estate when a church dissolves?

A: When a congregation is permanently dispersed, the presbytery forms an Administrative Commission to wind down the affairs of the corporation.

Part of this work is working with the Board of Trustees to address building maintenance issues.

At the same time, the New Ministries Team begins to look at potential ministry uses for the building. New ministries emerging in the presbytery are considered, existing building users may be consulted, and the neighborhood and community are surveyed. The New Ministries team is to make a recommendation to the Presbytery Leadership Commission as soon as possible, preferably within six months of notice that a property is being vacated. If the New Ministries Team cannot find a potential ministry use for the building then the Presbytery Leadership Commission directs the Board of Trustees to sell the building.

According to the most recent amendment to the Vacant Property Policy in November of 2021, if a building is sold then 25% of the funds go to New Ministry Development, 10% to the Barnabas Fund, 10% to the Vitality Fund and 5% to the Technology Grant Fund. The remaining 50% of the funds are for unrestricted program reserves where they remain available to advance the presbytery’s mission in other ways.

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issues make a difficult situation even more unpleasant. That said, there are plenty of companies working to solve the present problems and I believe that in the not-too-distant future, hybrid meetings will be a more attractive option.

3. **On-line meetings.** We are getting better at our online meetings and I envision a future for them.

Now, here are some questions to ponder:

1. What if we hold more frequent on-line meetings to get the business done in a more timely fashion? By eliminating driving time and motel stays, we can have shorter, more frequent business meetings.
2. What if we continue to hold in-person meetings but focus the in-person meeting on worship, education, celebration and fellowship? Perhaps we hold one in-person meeting per year.
3. What if we hold regional in-person meetings that focus on worship, education, celebration and fellowship? These could be similar to the “Confluence” event we held in 2014.

I invite you to join me in dreaming and then in experimenting with these models in the coming year as we discern the way to have the best of in-person, online and hybrid meetings to advance the mission of our presbytery. If you have comments or questions, contact paul@potc.life.

Special Presbytery Meeting Report

Our Special Presbytery Meeting held on Zoom on May 24 did the job! Thank you to all who attended.

Char Mace was elected as a Commissioner to the 225th General Assembly. Char joins Rev. Brett Webb-Mitchell, Lucy Foster (**Salem, Westminster**) and Paul Lewis (**Ashland, First**) in this summer's General Assembly work.

We also granted an easement across the property of the **Siuslaw, Florence, OR**, to Northwest Housing Alternatives so they can proceed with their development of over 60 affordable and senior housing units next to the church.



**MEETING
NOTICE!**

June Presbytery
Summer Presbytery Meeting On Zoom Only

Register [Here](#)

Friday, June 24 from 3-8 pm and Saturday June 25 (if needed)

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NOTES FROM THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

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

Clark and I just returned from a one-week training with approximately forty other presbytery executives from around the country. If one scripture could capture the message that repeatedly showed up in my heart and soul, it would be this: “So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away, new things have come into being!” (1 Corinthians 5: 17)

Conversation after conversation confirmed that the deepest task of the Church in this time is to make room for the new thing that God is doing—a sort of cleaning out of the house so that God can re-decorate, repaint, remodel and reform.

I need to be blunt here. Since the year 2000, the Presbytery of the Cascades has lost 59% of its membership. I have for years said that we are on the precipice of a dramatic wave of potential closures. I sometimes hear that things are not as urgent as I portray them. But the truth is we have been able to soften the impact of membership decline by keeping congregations intact, albeit with much smaller memberships.

If we had closed congregations at the same rate of our membership declines, we would now have fifty congregations rather than the ninety-four churches currently listed.

You will notice that I chose my words carefully above. I used “potential closures” rather than closures. If we do nothing we can anticipate a steady flow of closures over the next two decades until there are but a handful of congregations remaining.

But it doesn’t have to be that way.

The task before us as those who are “in Christ” is to allow for that which must pass away so that the new thing God is doing can come into being. Notice in this verse where Paul writes, “everything old has passed away” that the only thing untouched by this dying process is being “in Christ.” That remains the same!

For decades the larger church, aware of the trends toward decline, encouraged churches to adopt a process of revitalization. I believe that language has largely died and is outdated. Today, the language is transformation. Today the language is “dying to that which is old and making room for that which is new in Christ.”

I believe every one of our churches will have to adopt some form of transformation in the coming years. The question is not if, it is when. Most churches will need to take on this task immediately. Some churches will have the luxury of holding off a few years. All churches will need to learn how to embody the reality of 1 Corinthians 5: 17—letting go of the old to make room for the new.

I want you to know that the presbytery is dedicated to walking alongside you in this process. Transformation is one of God’s most hopeful, inspiring and beautiful acts of creation. It is also difficult and painful work. Just ask the caterpillar in the cocoon. Just ask Jesus on the cross.

I remain with you in Christ...

Brian



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Moreland, Portland Welcomes Afghan Families to a New Life

By Pat Berger, Northeast Region Reporter

Where does a whole new piece of life for a congregation begin? For **Moreland, Portland**, it may have begun several decades ago, when Moreland member Christine Hsu was welcomed to this country from Vietnam. Fast forward, then, to last summer, when Christine heard about Afghans brought to this country, and our area, and their needs.

Christine brought this to the attention of the Mission & Peacemaking Committee at Moreland. Last November, they connected with Lutheran Community Services, and through that were put in touch with an Afghan family living at a motel in Gresham. After going through all of the necessary processes, and partnering with and receiving additional support from the Community of Pilgrims NCD, a mom and dad and one child (with another on the way!) were able to be moved into an apartment near the church two days before Christmas! People in the neighborhood and at Moreland helped with getting them settled, getting the children to appointments, going to the Social Security office -- all of the things necessary for those new to this country.

And then: another Afghan family...also needing housing! As it happens, Moreland owns a home across from the church, and the family renting that home was just getting ready to purchase their own home. Church member Becky Mowe put an article in the *Sellwood Bee* newspaper, and Pastor Brian Marsh said it was like a barn-raising: suddenly there were offers for help not only from church members, but from community members as well. A neighbor offered to power wash the house and driveway, another offered to build a gate at the home. Generous gifts of housing and clothing items and financial resources were offered from throughout the neighborhood. The home was readied, and in February the family moved in: dad, mom, two young children (with a third on the way!), and dad's sister.

The Sellwood Community House has the children enrolled in its preschool program. One of the men is working at Bob's Red Food Mill in the area, and the other is working for Lutheran Community Services as a case worker. People continue to help with driving and with the immigration process. A member of Moreland who is a linguist is helping the women as they learn English. Brian has said that this project has become a central part of Moreland's life as a congregation and as they increasingly connect with their neighborhood. And they have seen their experiences bearing fruit in other communities as well (like the Hillsdale neighborhood and Willamette View Senior Community, both of whom are now welcoming and hosting Afghan families as well after hearing about Moreland's experiences and reaching out for support!)

What else is happening at Moreland? They are a part of the Thriving Communities Cohort in SE Portland, with Lilly Foundation sponsorship. (Common Ground — formerly Colonial Heights PC — is also a part of this group.) Using a Sacred Organizing Spiral, this group focuses on getting to know themselves and their neighborhood and how they can better connect. While Brian is on sabbatical this summer, the congregation will do Sacred Pause to reflect, listen and learn from all their encounters and experiences.

Several months ago, one of the Girl Scouts from a troop hosted by the church came with her mother to Pastor Brian, and then the session, with an idea for a free food pantry. The presentation was so well-done that the session approved it right away; the scouts and their parents got to work building and setting up the pantry, and on the first Sunday in April, the pantry opened at the corner of Nineteenth and Bybee.



Afghan Families Welcomed

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Songs of Hope

By Roberta Schlechter, CCE, NW Region reporter

The tulips and peonies are not the only things ‘opening’ this spring, and they’re not the only ‘faces’ we’re seeing. While conscious of new virus strains, congregations are embracing the joy of in-person fellowship and even ... *music!* **Multnomah, Portland** (MPC) recently welcomed back its “MPC Coffeehouse Concert” tradition with an in-person and online fundraiser called *Songs of Hope* to benefit the Presbyterian Disaster Fund for Ukraine.

Ray McKean, Director of Music, launched the concert series in spring 2010. The first performance was to raise funds for *Soles4Souls*, supporting victims of the Haitian earthquake. This began a yearly tradition of either a spring or Christmas concert. McKean says “We also did a series of concerts ‘in the round’ with two grand pianos. That was really cool!”

McKean, who came to MPC 27 years ago, says his son was then 6-months old; “He’s the drummer now.” Starting as choir accompanist, he took on the Praise Choir in 2010 and became choir director four years later. His wife, Amy, now Director of Marimba Ministry, previously served as choir director and taught church preschool. A percussionist, she leads the youth and adult marimba ensembles and teaches elementary music in the Tigard-Tualatin School District.

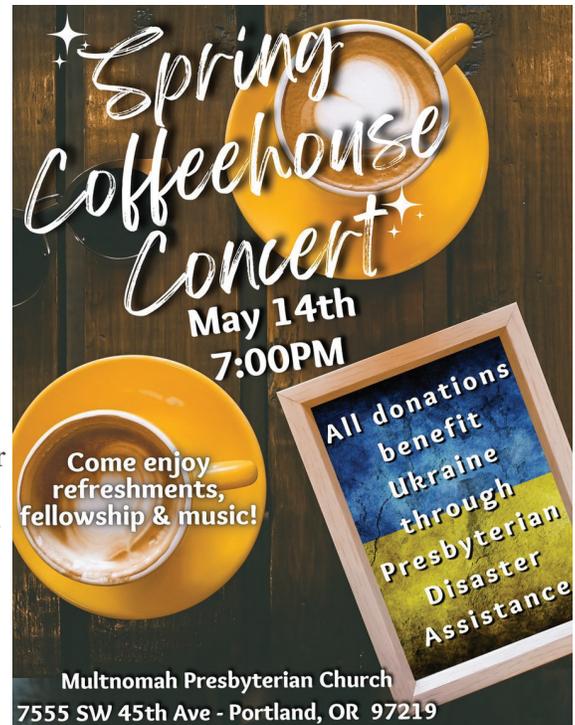
For a coffeehouse ambiance the church sanctuary gets reset with tables and chairs to accommodate between 125-150 people (see photo). This year overhead fans and open doors provided additional ventilation and people were encouraged to wear masks.

The venue (see program below) included rock and reggae, country and folk and jazz music. McKean says there was also “world” music. The two marimba ensembles showcased music from Africa, Mexico and South America.

McKean describes the performing ensembles. “Members of our Praise Team were in-person soloists” he says. “Special guests included my piano duet partner, Karin Chesnutt and her husband, Jim.” The 12-member Chancel Choir meets all year via Zoom. Each person records themselves and the McKeanes produce a single video for weekly online worship services and the concert.” (See video below)

Finally, there were performances from MPC’s two full marimba ensembles, under Amy McKean’s direction. “Rejoice” is the junior high/high school ensemble and “Jubilation” is the adult marimba ensemble, each featuring 12 members. McKean explains, “Portland and the Pacific Northwest is a big hub of marimba groups. A gentleman from Ghana moved here in the 60s-70s.” MPC owns nine marimbas, made locally, and another is on order.

McKean estimates a live audience of around 130 people, and another 40 online. “More will watch later” he says. “We’ve raised over \$10,000, thanks to matching donations approved by the church and Mission Committee.” He adds, “The performers said it was just fun. There’s lots of joy singing and playing. Most performers are volunteers who do this out of love.”



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Post Pandemic?

By Mike Hubbard, South Region Reporter

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy...

In 0.51 seconds, a Google search of the phrase “Post Pandemic” yields something in the neighborhood of 484 million results. Humanity’s collective dreams and expectations of that day—when and if it becomes a reality—are probably greater. And, like Israel in the days of Cyrus, our lives are resuming, and will continue to resume, in fits and starts. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah provide a cautionary tale about “getting back to normal,” and what that looks like.

Congregations in the South Region struggle forward a step or two, only to stumble backward into masks and closed doors. A recent Sunday in the life of **First, Medford** was something pastors and worship leaders would have considered a minor disaster even two or three years ago.

Saturday, six o’clock in the evening, Pastor Mike Hubbard, his wife and a friend were heading across town when his phone began ringing.

Wife: “You’d better answer that; It’s Murray” (Pastor Murray Richmond).

The vehicle, safely in a parking lot, the conversation continues.

Murray (obviously driving as well): “Hey, I’m on my way home from Bend after spending time with my granddaughter. Caitlin (Murray’s daughter) just called and said the baby tested positive for COVID and...”

Wife (with a chuckle): “So, you’re saying you won’t be at church tomorrow.”

Murray: “Yeah, something like that.

Mike: “Shouldn’t be a problem.”

Murray: “I can email you my sermon; you can read it or do something on your own”.

Mike: “Probably read yours; I heard it when we filmed on Thursday. That will be easier.”

Murray: “Good deal.”

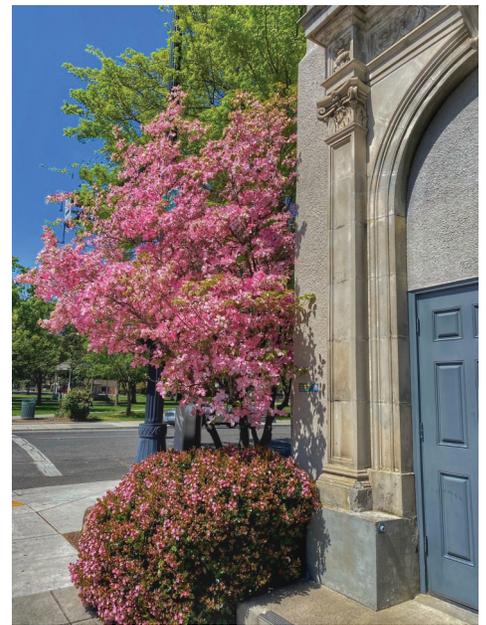
Mike: “I’ll add Willow (his granddaughter) to the prayer requests. Take care.”

Murray: “You too.”

It was just that simple.

The next day, the congregation took the whole incident in stride; it had happened before and will probably happen again.

While effective vaccines, boosters, and rapid result self-testing have lowered hospitalizations and death rates, highly contagious variants continue to cause concern. Two years ago, congregations lifted fervent prayers to heaven about the COVID-19 virus. Today, like most days, **Medford’s** Pastoral Prayer and



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Moreland/ Portland Continued from page 5

Another neighborhood project has been building their connection with the SMILE neighborhood organization and Sellwood Community House. Moreland led the caroling at their holiday tree lighting event, and helped with the community-wide Easter egg hunt. Pastor Brian says that "it has been fun and very meaningful being more a part of the community."

As the congregation re-engages in person, they are maintaining their vibrant online presence. One woman who participated regularly online wanted to become a member of the congregation. She met with the Session -- online -- and joined the congregation -- online. On Mother's Day, she came -- in person, for the first time -- with her mother, who had been online with them from her home in Everett, Washington! Online opportunities have made it possible for people to connect who wouldn't normally be able to do so (including people with mobility challenges and those who are geographically distant, even out of state and out of the country!)

Much is happening at Moreland -- blessings for your ministry!

Multnomah, Portland Continued from page 6

Over the past dozen years, the Coffeehouse concerts have supported several local organizations. *Door to Grace Day Home*, provides shelter and support services for young sex traffic survivors.

Hotel Ministry of Portland serves people living in low rent downtown hotels, offering meals and hygiene kits, among other services. MPC put on concerts at some of these hotels. The *Operation Nightwatch* hospitality center welcomes street people and provides individual counseling sessions and crisis intervention, as well as food, clothing and blankets. *Neighborhood House* delivers an array of services to over 14,000 community members who speak over 40 languages. MPC connected with these ministries via previous pastors, the Dillworths. The Missions Committee is very active in the community.



Chancel Choir

Looking ahead, McKean says there are plans for a Christmas Coffeehouse in December. MPC hopes to offer two benefit concerts a year, in spring and at Christmas, starting in 2023. "It's good outreach," he says, "It's uplifting, a shot in the arm for everyone."

First, Medford Continued from page 7

their on-line prayer request updates are for friends and loved ones who **have** COVID. Most recover with little ill effect, but in an aging congregation, every positive test adds to the collective anxiety.

Still, there are signs of hope. Two weeks ago, First was able to conduct a well-attended memorial service for a beloved member of their congregation. It was the first in over two years.

The full choir now raises their voices in praise and worship. Resumption of their informal first service is scheduled for mid-June and the fellowship committee is making plans for coffee hour. Coffee with the Pastor at a local coffee shop is further evidence of normality. And yet...

When *the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion*, they were fortunes of a different sort. Israel would never get back to the normal they remembered and longed for. Yet, God did bring a season of restoration. And God is doing so again, one day at a time.

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~ *Transitions* ~

Commissionings

- Erik Huget was commissioned at Eagle Creek on May 22, 2022

Transitions

- Seth Wheeler will dissolve his relationship with First, Creswell, effective June 19, 2022
- Morgan Schmidt stepped down from Pastor of Teens and Twenty-somethings at First, Bend, effective March 31, 2022

Honorably Retired

- The Rev. William DeLong has retired from Director, Spiritual Care and ACPE Clinical Pastoral Education at Legacy Emmanuel, Portland, effective May 6, 2022
- The Rev. Robert Stebe has been granted Honorable Retirement and will end his ministry at Hillsboro PC on June 5, 2022
- The Rev. Jeff Sievert has been granted Honorable Retirement and will end his ministry at Reedville PC, Aloha, on July 31, 2022
- The Rev. Linda Stewart Kalen has been granted Honorable Retirement and will end her ministry at Colonial Heights on July 31, 2022



A prayer in response to the Uvalde, Texas Shooting

Holy One...

Hold in your arms the families of Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas whose lives were ended by another horrific act of gun violence. For the parents, siblings, and grandparents of these young children and classroom teachers we ask you to comfort them in their sorrow and give them strength to endure the wound of loss that will never heal.

For their classmates, teachers and school staff who survived — help them to cope with the terror of this event and to regain their balance and footing for the road ahead of them.

For the first responders, whose sense of duty is to protect and serve, some of whom were wounded in an effort to stop the gunman as well as those who brought about its resolve, heal their physical and psychological wounds.

For community leaders, pastors, counselors and mental health professionals as they come alongside these families and offer their support. May they be effective in showing love and care wherever it is needed.

We pray for our national leaders and elected officials to put forth legislation that would minimize access to assault weapons and guns commonly used in mass shootings. How many more lives must be lost before leaders are willing to say enough is enough?

For our nation as a whole, may we learn what makes for peace. Help us Lord move from reactions of fear and distrust, to being people who act in ways that serve the good of others. Have mercy Lord and grant us your peace, Amen.

Offered by First Presbyterian Church, Santa Rosa

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What to Do with Mental Health Awareness Month?

By Bruce Smith, Central Region Reporter

It seems that each month of the year has a special designation, many times a number of designations. This is a good thing as it brings to the reader's attention certain issues that need to be highlighted, thought about and perhaps acted on. Since 1949 this country has given the month of May the designation of "Mental Health Awareness." Some churches have taken the issue in hand and have made a special effort to let their congregants know about this emphasis.



The organization National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), provides support, educates the public and advocates for policies that support people with mental illness and their families. The need for church involvement is great since 1960 when "institutionalization" was limited and mental health care was often left to the local community. **Community, Redmond** created the Grief and Loss committee to help families with the stigma of mental illness. They use Scripture to show how Jesus with his healing touch reached out to mend broken bodies, minds, and spirits for the restoration of well-being and renewal with God and neighbor. They will work with CPC Deacons to provide opportunities to attend workshops in utilizing art to express emotion for individuals who need help.

First, Bend used the NAMI Walks Your Way group in May at the Riverbend Park to walk the three-mile loop around Old Mill. Individuals who couldn't join the team were encouraged to walk around the house or simply dream up another activity to do instead.

First, Corvallis has also identified mental health as an area in which to focus their efforts, not for just a month, but as an ongoing mission. The church is in the midst of transforming the manse on Madison Street from residential to commercial so that it can house therapists and mental health professionals. Also, they use the month of May to explore topics each Sunday and offer additional opportunities to learn and discuss ways to support one's own mental health and those you love.

Kally Elliott, Pastor for Spirituality, Community & Care at **First, Bend** described in the church's newsletter her personal contact with mental illness. She was stalled in the traffic in downtown Atlanta when she began to feel like everything was closing in, her heart was racing, and her palms were sweaty. She had to get off the freeway and finding an exit she was finally able to jump out of her car and begin to breathe again. She did not know when it happened. It happened a few months later and she only told her husband. She was embarrassed that this was happening to her. Eventually she told her doctor who confirmed that she was experiencing panic attacks and prescribed some medication and with therapy she was able to keep the panic attacks at bay.

Kally continued to explain that mental illness is persuasive in its shame messages. Rarely do people want others to know someone they love is struggling yet NAMI statistics reveal that one in five people will experience a diagnosable mental illness each year. When Kally's friends at church learned of her problem, she and her family were surrounded by people who cared about them.

Mental illness has a reputation of being the "non-casserole." Unlike other diseases where friends will bring a casserole to help a family get through a tough time, we do not think those living with mental illness need the same kind of support. It can be difficult to understand and therefore sympathize with those needing support. Mental illness isn't something that's just going away. The good news is that with proper and regular medication, counseling, a healthy support system, balanced nutrition and sleep, mental illness is often manageable. With these support systems in place and working, most people living with mental illness can lead a full life

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ViewPoints

By Kathleen Waugh, Omnibus Editor

I think I've discovered how to bring about world peace. Take one rather adorable puppy; pack him in a carrier and go flying with him. Make sure he is able to peek out of the carrier on a regular basis while waiting for one's flight to board. Everyone anywhere near will be irresistibly drawn to said puppy and love will abound. Not only will they be attracted to the puppy, but they will start talking with one another and sharing stories together. No barriers will matter – race, religion, gender, age – all will come together with joy-filled smiles and tender stories.

After worrying for weeks about taking a brand new puppy flying home with me, the actual trip went beautifully. Andre attracted crowds practically the whole time we waited in both the San Diego and San Francisco Airports. By the time we boarded, he was so exhausted he fell asleep in the carrier for the entire flight.

What was so interesting to me was how easily people interacted with one another — Andre being the conduit. Spending time in an airport can be a rather solitary pursuit in spite of the crowds roaming all over the place. In one respect, it's a fascinating venue for people-watching. Each person seems to be in his own individual world — reading, talking on the cell phone, working on laptops, staring out into space, or, like me, just quietly watching the crowds. To tell you the truth, I confess to savoring that alone time where the only demand I have is to make sure I get to the gate on time.

After this experience with Andre – having such a nice time getting to know such a variety of folks, watching how they seemed to enjoy the encounter not only with Andre and me, but with the other folks as well – I wonder if we close ourselves off too much from experiences with folks outside our usual circle. What vibrations occurred with Andre that don't normally occur when I am on my own? What nonverbal signals do I give that say, "don't bother me, I'm perfectly happy on my own?"

I can't help thinking it just has to be the unconditional, non-judgmental love that Andre exhibited — what any puppy or baby creature can exhibit — that attracted folks so easily. Soon Andre will become protective. Soon a baby will cling to its parents. And, in our world, that may not be such a bad thing. But it does come to me, that we are all thirsty for that unconditional love, that unabashed welcome into another's circle.

The promise of Jesus Christ is that we are unconditionally loved; we are unabashedly welcomed into his circle. I wonder if we can take a lesson from the babies in our world — all things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small — and witness to that fact with those we meet along the way. Who knows — perhaps extending such unconditional love could be the first tiny steps to world peace!!



Andre and Me

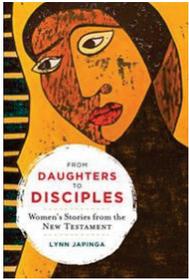


There's a Place for You!

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.

Interest-ed? Click [here](#) to nominate yourself or someone you know.

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From Daughters to Disciples: Women's Stories from the New Testament by Lynn Japinga

For too long, the women of the Bible have been depicted in one-dimensional terms. On one side are saints, such as Mary, while on the other are “bad girls,” such as Eve and Jezebel. Just as often, the female characters of the Bible are simply ignored. However, the women of the Bible are complex, multidimensional individuals whose lives are inspiring, funny, and tragic in ways too many of us never hear.

In this second of two volumes, Lynn Japinga acquaints readers with the women of the Bible. From faithful forerunners like Anna and Elizabeth to female disciples like the sisters Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene to first-generation followers like Lydia and Dorcas, readers will encounter a wealth of foremothers in the faith in all their messy, yet redeemable, humanity. This Bible study introduces and retells every female character who contributes to one or more New Testament stories, diving deeply into what each woman’s story means for us today with questions for reflection and discussion. Click [here](#) for more information.

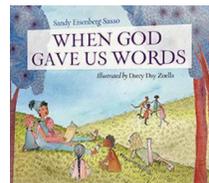


Humbler Faith, Bigger God by Samuel Wells

In *Humbler Faith, Bigger God*, Samuel Wells wrestles with ten common questions skeptics have used to critique or dismiss Christianity, offering first the church’s traditional orthodox response and then a contemporary “rival” story (based more on science and sociology) before humbly offering a new perspective to inspire Christians to a deeper and more dynamic faith. Wells is the vicar of London’s St.

Martin in-the-Fields, a city church that bustles with a café and late night jazz concerts in addition to a lively worship and congregational life — all of which uniquely positions him at the intersection of history and modernity, an ideal location for this task.

[Click](#) for more information.



When God Gave Us Words
By Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

Words. There are long words and short words, nice words and mean words. There are silly words, scary words, and hard-to-spell words. There are so many words in our world! But where did they all come from?

Children’s book author Sandy Eisenberg Sasso tells a creative tale about the origin of words, and the power of language, in *When God Gave Us Words*. Inside this innovative children’s book, God gives the power of words to humankind. At first, God and the angels are pleased with how people use words, but over time they start to use words to make curses, lies, and threats. The angels beg God to take back the gift of language, and just as God is about to take it back, new, beautiful words begin to fill the air.

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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Wednesday, June 1

David Horn, ordained this day, 2014, hospice chaplain, Providence Health Services, Mt. Angel

Elizabeth Crawford, ordained this day, 1998

Orenco Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro - chartered this day, 1909

Thursday, June 2

Amy Busiek, ordained this day, 2002.

John Knox Presbyterian Church, Keizer - chartered this day, 1963

Friday, June 3

Craig C. Stein, ordained this month in 1987

Marilyn Allen, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2013

Saturday, June 4

Grace Presbyterian Church-Portland -- chartered this month, 1926

Sunday, June 5

Bob Stebe, Honorably Retired this day in 2022.

Monday, June 6

Chi Young Kay, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2006

Rise Church (Calvin PC), Tigard chartered this day, 1965

Tuesday, June 7

Jae Doo Chung, granted Honorably retired this month in 2003

Wednesday, June 8

Mark Rainey installed this day as Pastor of Orenco Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro in 1986

Thursday, June 9

David P. McDaniels retired this month in 2007

Friday, June 10

Basin Community, Malin, established in 2020

Saturday, June 11

East Woods Presbyterian Church, Vancouver chartered this day in 2000

H. Rodney Landes ordained this day in 1972, service as a private practice psychologist

Sunday, June 12

Chi Young Kay, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2006

Kelly B. Shriver, attending medical school in southern California

Marilyn K. Allen, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2013

Monday, June 13

Carolyn Hampton granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2010

Kally Elliott - Supply pastor at Bend, First

Tuesday, June 14

First Presbyterian Church, North Bend chartered this day in 1903

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Wednesday, June 15

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Portland chartered this day in 1873

Thursday, June 16

John C. Huenink granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2010

Friday, June 17

Bruce C. Armstrong, granted Honorably Retired this month in 2011

Robert J. Elder granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2013

Saturday, June 18

David O. Bales granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2006

Kelly Dickson, ordained on June 18, 2021, and serving as POTC Communications Manager

Sunday, June 19

Jeffery G. Bridgeman ordained this day in 1983

Monday, June 20

Patricia F. Berger, granted Honorably Retired Status this month, 2017

S. Ann Richards, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2001

Tuesday, June 21

Jon Nestor ordained this day in 1992, serving as Counselor at Oasis: Counseling & Psychotherapy LLC

Wednesday, June 22

John W. Wallace granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2008

Thursday, June 23

Douglas D. Rich granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2004

Robert J. Perdue, granted Honorably Retired this month in 2012

Friday, June 24

Isabelle F. Davis, granted Honorably Retired this month in 2013

Paulette Mixon-Weller ordained this day in 2001, serving as Interim at Plymouth, St. Helens

Saturday, June 25

Mark T. Frey, HR, ordained this day in 1979. Now Honorably Retired.

William D. Russell, granted Honorably Retired this month in 2014

Sunday, June 26

United Presbyterian Church, Reedsport chartered this day in 1919

Monday, June 27

Darrell C. Hall, granted Honorably Retired this month in 2010

Jack D. Hodges, granted Honorably Retired this month in 2005

Patricia E. Vanderpol, granted Honorably Retired this month in 2010

Tuesday, June 28

Christopher E. Von Lobedan ordained this day in 1992

Wednesday, June 29

John W. Dilworth ordained this day in 1980

Sylvia C. Dilworth ordained this day in 1980

Thursday, June 30

Catherine R. Quackenbush, granted Honorably Retired this day in 2015

Michael A. Grunwald, ordained this day in 1985