



April, 2023

Volume XLIX, No. 4

Presbytery of the Cascades



Presbytery to Meet Both Together and On-Line

April 21-22

Friday Meeting times: 3-6:30 p.m.

Saturday Meeting times: 9-12:30 p.m.

United, Albany

330 5th Avenue SW

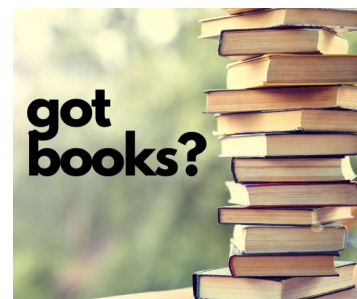
541-926-5551

[Register Here](#)

According to our polls, 75% of those planning to attend the April 21-22 meeting will be coming IN- PERSON to Albany! We will only be holding ONE in-person meeting this year. Therefore, if you have been on the fence about attending live and have missed the connections you've enjoyed at previous in-person presbytery meetings, maybe this is your sign to make that hotel reservation.

Because this is our one 2023 in-person meeting, we are scheduling multiple opportunities to connect with others (over break times, meals, etc.). To help us facilitate meaningful connection, please register today and fill out the questions included in the registration about plans.

One of the opportunities to connect will be a book swap. Do you have books that were useful to you in the days of yore but are now collecting dust on your shelves? Are you in the market for some new theology, sermon prep or leadership resources? We are bringing back the BOOK SWAP at our April presbytery meeting. Bring some books to give and leave with new (to you) books. If you would be interested in helping to set up, organize or box up the leftover books, click [HERE](#) to let us know.



Inside This Issue

Ask the Clerk	2
McKenzie Valley, Walterville	3
Transitions	4
One Great Hour of Sharing	4
Moreland, Portland	5
Viewpoints	6
Resource Page	7
Prayer Calendar	8

If you plan to stay overnight, we advise that you book soon!

Pre-Presbytery workshops will be held 1-2:30 p.m. Workshop content to be determined.

Questions? Contact our [office](#).



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, 97289-8526 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 are your thoughts on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to replace Clerks of Session in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

Dear Reader,

Yes, this is actually me, Paul Belz-Templeman, typing these words. However, I did ask Chat GP a similar question: *Can Presbyterian Clerks of Session be replaced by Artificial Intelligence?* Here is the answer I received:

As an AI language model, I cannot make decisions about replacing human roles in organizations, including Presbyterian Clerks of Session. However, it is important to note that Presbyterian Clerks of Session play a vital role in the governance of the Presbyterian Church, which includes maintaining records, overseeing meetings, and providing guidance on matters related to polity and procedure. While some aspects of this work may involve routine administrative tasks, there are also important relational and pastoral aspects to the role that are based on human interaction and communication. Therefore, it is unlikely that the role of a Presbyterian Clerk of Session could be entirely replaced by artificial intelligence, but technology could certainly be utilized to support and enhance the work of the Clerk and other church leaders.

If my fingers weren't tired from all this typing it would be interesting to get Chat GP's take on the effectiveness of AI prayer. I'll leave that one for interested readers to pursue on their own. In the meantime, on the assumption that Presbyterian Stated Clerks cannot be replaced by AI, I will continue to be available to answer any questions that AI cannot answer (yet) as well as offer encouragement and prayer as together we seek the Spirit's leading in service that embodies God's love in Jesus Christ.

[Return to Index](#)

Walterville, Oregon and Its Little White Church

Mike Hubbard,

South/Central Regions Reporter

Some place names are evocative and some are not. Eugene—no offense intended—the bustling home of the Oregon Ducks, may call to mind the name of a distant cousin. Or maybe not. However, a name like Walterville will likely evoke a nostalgic sigh. Walterville feels like spring rains and worn, but comfortable shoes. In our mind's eye, we see a small town anchored by a little white church with a tall, pointed steeple. A Walterville will have been founded by farmers, tillers of the land.



The real-life Walterville is a short 20-minute-drive east of Eugene, Oregon. Farming has, along with lumbering, gone the way of the mule and Model T, replaced by fly fishers, kayakers, and rafters drawn to the white waters of the world-famous McKenzie River. Highway 126 skirts the town and travelers pass by without a glance. However, one nostalgic notion remains tied to today's Walterville reality—the little white church with a tall, pointed steeple.

Founded in 1901, **McKenzie Valley, Walterville** (MVPC) has remained a relevant and vital part of the surrounding communities. In the aftermath of the 2019 Holiday Farm fire, that relevancy and vitality became a central part the recovery effort. Prior to the pandemic, the church, in partnership with Lane County Mental Health, hosted a Story Sharing program, as well as counselor-led support groups.

Blue River, 35 miles upriver lost all but a handful of buildings; other communities suffered similar fates. MVPC has been able to host community groups whose meeting places were lost in the fire. Four years later, they are providing space for fundraising events for those groups to rebuild. Their food-bank, with its ongoing food and sundry drives, continues to bring relief to upriver communities. And, on a lighter note, the clatter of rackets and the pinging and ponging of little white balls will once again be heard as weekly community ping-pong returns.

However, despite its community engagement, MVPC is not a social service agency. This is a worshipping community in every sense of the word. Their Reformed roots go deeper than the bedrock that lies beneath the fertile soil that drew those original farmers. In 2017 Rev. Bruce Cameron (HR) began preaching at MVPC, bringing his Scottish Presbyterian heritage to the pulpit. In 2022, Cameron was joined by Commissioned Ruling Elder Karen Keady, whose contagious energy drives much of MVPC's programming. Recently, Koinonia Center chaplain, Rev. Maggie Lewis, became a part of their worship team. And, lest there be a shortage of preachers to call on, retired Executive Presbyterian John Mahon and his wife Peggy call MVPC home.

This Lenten season, Kara Eidson's—*A Time to Grow: Lenten Lessons from the Garden to the Table*—pays homage to Walterville's agrarian past. And with a nod to the nearby McKenzie River, on Palm Sunday, MVPC's children will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing fish-shaped boxes in, you guessed it, fishing nets.

If on a Sunday in the near future, you find yourself in the Eugene/Springfield area, take that short drive upriver to Walterville, a place where past and present share a sacred place—McKenzie Valley Presbyterian, where the Great Cloud of Witnesses have calloused hands and a farmer's heart.

[Return to Index](#)



~ *Transitions* ~

Pastoral Changes

- The Rev. Derek Richman has completed his Interim at **East Woods, Vancouver**.
- The Rev. Leonard Sponaugle is now serving at **Aloha, Reedville**.
- The Rev. Patricia Berger is a Parish Associate at **Plymouth, St. Helens**.
- The Rev. Barbara Campbell is a Parish Associate at **Moreland, Portland** and is Honorably Retired as of the first of the year.
- The Rev. Laurie Newman has dissolved her ministry at **Westminster, Portland** and is now serving an Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a Temporary Pastor Serving Another Denomination.
- The Rev. Mark McIlraith has dissolved his ministry at **Lake Grove, Lake Oswego**.
- The Rev. Ken Hood has dissolved his ministry with **Tualatin** and the Rev. Ken Henry is now filling the pulpit there.

New Pastors

- The Rev. Joyce Emery has transferred her membership back to this presbytery to serve as the Pastor at **East Woods, Vancouver**.



Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. This special offering is typically received during the season of Lent. Or give through this [website](#) which also offers churches the resources to promote the offering.

Providing **RELIEF** from natural disasters, **FOOD** for the hungry, and **SUPPORT** for the poor and oppressed.

PHOTOS COURTESY FROM: (TOP) THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL CENTER; (MIDDLE) JEFFREY HARRIS; (BOTTOM) JEFFREY HARRIS

MATTHEW 25

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

02.22.23
04.09.23

[Return to Index](#)

Stained Glass Windows Add to the Worship Experience

By Pat Berger, North Regions Reporter

Have you been to worship at **Moreland, Portland**, and seen their wonderful stained glass windows? If you have not, here is a suggestion. Go!!

The symbolism in the windows and the stories they tell, the glass used, the colors of the glass -- all of this and more add to the worship experience that one has on a Sunday morning at Moreland. At a point in time, it became clear that it had been a while since there had been a class to teach about the windows. The booklet that would help one to learn about them was dated; it was printed in 1966. Think about duplicating machines at that time -- as you might imagine, the pictures in the book and their symbols were no longer clear enough to be seen. It was time for a project.

Retired pastor Bill Taylor happens to worship at Moreland, and he happens to like to teach -- and he happens to be (wait for it . . .) a stained glass artist! About four years ago, he got excited about working on this project. He could do some research on the glass that was used and those who did the work and on the symbolism they used. He could bring all of this together and write a new booklet for the church. Then, he could teach a class at the church, and help members and friends begin to add all of this to their worship experience.

And then the pandemic happened. Not unlike everyone else, they had to change much about how they worshipped and where they worshipped, and when and how classes happened. After that long delay, Pastor Taylor was able to get back to his research. There is now a new booklet with beautiful, color photographs and descriptions of all that is found in the windows.

There are windows that tell Old Testament stories, and windows that tell New Testament stories. There are symbols for each of the major events of the Christian year -- Christmas, Easter, etc. The windows have representations of Bible and pulpit, candles and table and font -- all that one would see in the sanctuary. Studying the windows can help one to understand why particular colors were used in them. For instance, blue is, "the color for divine wisdom and contemplation." The booklet details each of the symbols in each of the windows and how it and its colors are important to our faith.



In 1950, the new sanctuary at Moreland was built and stained glass windows were a major part of that design. Great attention was paid to contracting with recognized artists in the field of stained glass. Some of the windows had plain glass, but all along the plan was that, as finances allowed, they would eventually be replaced with more stained glass in order that the atmosphere they were creating would only increase.

The new booklet has beautiful photographs of the windows, in addition to the full story of the windows. You, too, can have a copy of this booklet, and learn much, much more about these lovely windows, by contacting Pastor Bill Taylor, 11940 SE Idleman Rd., Happy Valley, OR, 97086, and enclosing \$5.00 to cover copying costs (he will give the money to the church -- this saves the office staff some work). Enjoy!

[Return to Index](#)

ViewPoints

By Vicky Brown, Chair of Presbytery's Leadership Commission

1981 was a momentous year in my life; college graduation, marriage to Dwayne Brown, and becoming a first-time member of a PC(USA) congregation, **Valley Community, Portland**. The first committee work came soon after, as the church Peacemaking Committee invited me to join them in the study of the then new document, "Peacemaking, the Believer's Calling."

Since those days, I have participated in the life of multiple congregations on countless committees, and also the life of the presbytery on various camps, conferences, and committees and even on the national level as a delegate to the General Assembly. Participating in the church in its various aspects is an essential part of my life of faith. I particularly enjoy learning the variety of ways congregations carry out their ministries and watching the work of the church around the country and world.



Working together in community is how I understand that God has designed humanity to function. The apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth explaining the various gifts as parts of the body all intended to work together. There is an old story about a church sanctuary built with bracket hooks along the walls going by each aisle of pews. The family associated with each pew was given a lamp to bring with them to light and hang on their hook as they arrived. As a result, when they were not in attendance, that portion of the sanctuary remained dark.

Each of us as individuals and as congregations are gifted by God's Spirit for the work of ministry. Congregations and presbyteries are how we organize the Body of Christ and we are all needed to work together to shine the light of God's love in the world. When we hold back from participating there are gaps and glitches in the system. Please prayerfully consider your interests and the needs of the church/presbytery to discern how you might strengthen our community of faith.

My term as Moderator and Presbytery Leadership Commission chair is ending soon. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Special thanks to our Presbytery staff for their careful attention to detail and deep hearts for ministry. I look forward to meeting and working with a growing number of you in the months and years to come.

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-25



[Return to Index](#)



Resources help Ministry and Mission



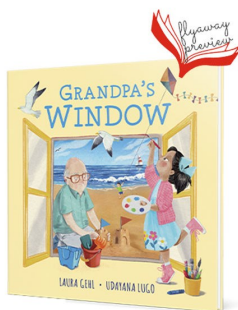
The Thoughtful Christian.com

I use this website often. One resource that is quite helpful is the downloadable studies. The studies are often written by pastors who have used them in their ministry. There are studies aimed for particular groups such as parents, older adults, youth,

Sample Titles

- A Biblical Diet: the ethics of food production and consumption.
- Bible Study Tools for Older Youth
- Subjects for Parenting Teens
- Bridging the Generation Gap

To explore click [here](#).



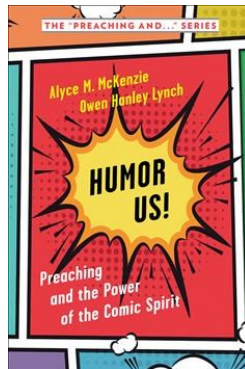
Grandpa's Window

By Laura Gehl

This touching exploration of a child's experience of loss offers an unexpected ending, encouraging creativity and self-expression in the midst of grief.

Grandpa's Window addresses the grieving process, both as a family member approaches the end of life as well as after death. The book includes a note for adults by Dr. Sharie Coombes (www.drsharie.com), a child and family psychotherapist, about how to support children who are grieving the loss of a loved one. A discussion and activity guide for children written by Laura Gehl is available at flyawaybooks.com/resources.

"Offering a tender view of one girl's experience, this powerful picture book shows children that they can feel both heartbreak and ongoing love simultaneously. . . . A touching window into a child's mourning process." Kirkus Reviews



Humor Us: Preaching and the Power of the Comic Spirit

By Alyce M. McKenzie and Owen Hanley Lynch

Homiletics textbooks often discourage the use of humor in preaching, regarding it as trivializing or distracting. The result is that many preachers have failed to understand humor's positive power, demoting it to the opening

joke to get a guaranteed guffaw to warm up the crowd. *Humor Us!*, the second volume in the "Preaching and... series," is a collaborative effort by homiletician Alyce M. McKenzie and humor scholar Owen Hanley Lynch that promotes humor, a force capable of great good, to its rightful place in the pulpit. Establishing humor as a divine gift, *Humor Us!* opens to preachers the world of humor studies with its positive portrayal of humor's usefulness to speak truth to power, unite people in their common humanity, and strengthen them to cope and survive in tough times.

Humor Us! helps preachers understand how humor works and shows them, in very practical and specific ways, how preachers can put it to work in their sermons. It combines the wealth of knowledge of two highly regarded scholars-practitioners to show how humor can become a potent tool for sharing the good news in sermons. McKenzie and Lynch prove that humor, when applied thoughtfully, can foster compassion and a sense of common humanity, help challenge an unjust status quo, and invite listeners into a shared experience of the presence of God.

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 kwaugh8@outlook.com

[Return to Index](#)



Saturday, April 1

David W. Allison, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2016

Sunday, April 2

Suzan Ireland, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2012

Monday, April 3

James Erixson, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2012

Tuesday, April 4

Donald Caughey, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2015

Wednesday, April 5

Michael Wilson, installed as Pastor, Prineville Presbyterian Church, this day, 2014

Thursday, April 6

Community Presbyterian Church, Waldport -- chartered this month, 1901

Friday, April 7

Leonard Sponaugle serving at Reedville, Aloha as Interim

Saturday, April 8

Sung Man Kim, ordained this day, 1992

Sunday, April 9

Joyce DeGraaff, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2011

Monday, April 10

Todd Martin, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2001

Tuesday, April 11

Clark Scalera -- Advocate for Congregations and Clergy, Presbytery of the Cascades

Wednesday, April 12

Benjamin Paroulek, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2017

Thursday, April 13

Pray for our committee members.

Friday, April 14

Maggie Lewis serving as Campus Minister at the Koinonia Center in Eugene on the UofO Campus

Saturday, April 15

Andrew Lindahl, granted HR status this month, 2019

Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, Florence -- chartered this day, 1984

Sunday, April 16

James Peterson, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 1999

Monday, April 17

Linda Pflugfelder, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2012

Tuesday, April 18

First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver -- chartered this day, 1882

[Return to Index](#)

Continued from page 10

Wednesday, April 19

Brian Craker, ordained this day, 2009, serving as Interim at Hillsboro PC.

Ian Doescher, ordained this day, 2009

Thursday, April 20

Thomas Nolen, ordained this day, 1980, hospice chaplain at Kaiser Permanente Hospital

Friday, April 21

Hope Korean Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 2002

Saturday, April 22

John Rodgers, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2010

Monday, April 24

Nominating Committee , Presbytery of the Cascades -- Dave Smith, Chair, and members

Tuesday, April 25

Kennan "Ken" Smith, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1999

Wednesday, April 26

Alan Guffey, ordained this day, 1992

Thursday, April 27

Young Han Hyun, installed as Pastor, Korean Presbyterian Church, Corvallis, this day, 2014

Friday, April 28

John Mahon, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2014

Saturday, April 29

James McDonald, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 1997

Sunday, April 30

Beverly Hovenkamp, ordained this day in 1989

Dong in Baek, ordained this day, 1985, now serving in Austria

[Return to Index](#)