



October, 2023

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Presbytery of the Cascades

Seeking Applicants for Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

The Stated Clerk Nominating Committee is now accepting applications from Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Ruling Elders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and abide by the unique authority of Scripture and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The position exists to carry out the responsibilities and functions outlined in the Book of Order, the General Assembly Organization for Mission of the General Assembly, and the Standing Rules of the Meetings of the General Assembly. The work of the Stated Clerk must be undertaken as a conscious act of discipleship to Jesus Christ.

As the Organization for Mission directs, “In partial fulfillment of [their] role as the continuing ecclesial officer and Head of Communion for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Stated Clerk will offer constitutional and spiritual leadership for the life and witness of the church and exercise pastoral authority over concerns of the church in times of crisis. The Stated Clerk is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s chief ecumenical officer and its primary representative in national and international interchurch and interfaith organizations and speaks to and for the church in matters of faith and practice in accord with the beliefs, policies, and actions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” (Organization for Mission III.B.2.a).

Minimum Required Qualifications:

- A commitment to Jesus Christ and a strong understanding of the Reformed tradition
- Membership in good standing of a congregation or presbytery in the PC(USA)
- Ordination as a Ruling Elder or Minister of the Word and Sacrament
- A bachelor’s or equivalent degree in an appropriate field of study
- Leadership and management experience of staff and volunteers
- Experience in leading organizations through times of transition

- Ability to reside in the greater Louisville metropolitan area
- Ability to travel internationally and nationally

Desired Qualifications:

- 10 years of cumulative experience in all Councils of the PC(USA)
- Executive level leadership experience Ecumenical and/or interreligious experience
- Experience with parliamentary process and procedures
- Transitional ministry education or change management training
- An advanced degree in an appropriate field of study

To begin the application process, submit a cover letter, statement of faith, and resume with references to scnc226@gmail.com . Applications will be received until December 28, 2023.

A complete job description can be found here – [English](#) [Es-panol](#) [Korean](#) .



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October 29
Reformed and
Always Reforming

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, OR 97239-8526. 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.



Save the date!

Our fall Presbytery meeting has been scheduled for Friday, November 3 - Saturday, November 4.

Beginning time is 12 p.m. November 3. Time, however is subject to change depending on the length of docket. Watch the Cascades Connections for further updates.

This meeting will be online only.

If you are on the fence about coming, we wanted to share a few of the many topics that we will discuss at this upcoming stated

meeting. At the November meeting, we will be:

- Nominating General Assembly (GA) Commissioners;
- Hearing from the New Ministries Team about recent ministries that have received grants;
- Voting about the transfer of the presbyterian property of Laurelhurst Land to Future Generations Collaborative.

Please register in advance by clicking the button below. We hope to “see” you there!

[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

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ViewPoints

Omnibus Approaches Fifty Years of Service!

By Kathleen Waugh, *Omnibus* Editor



At the last Communication and Technology Team (CATT) meeting, we had an extensive conversation about the *Omnibus* which is approaching its fiftieth year of publication. We took a hard look at what purpose is served by the *Omnibus*, how it differs from our weekly Cascades Connections, what could be done to update it, what should be saved?

For much of the time the *Omnibus* has been in existence, we have been blessed with up to four regional reporters who each month contacted individual churches to see what news they may have to share. We learned about the valuable contributions these congregations made within their communities. Through such reporting, we've been able to share with one another ways to do mission, Christian Education, worship and fellowship. What amazes me is that we continually discover wonderful, new ways to do church, even after 50 years of sharing. This contribution, then, continues to be useful.

We looked at what other ways we can share ministry with one another through the *Omnibus*. Someone mentioned a publication in the presbytery that used to share inspirational writings. Is it possible to add such writing to today's *Omnibus*? Storytelling like the one you will read in the "Voices" column this month; poetry that touches our deeper selves, slice of life articles that allow us to chuckle such as last month's "peanut butter wars," are examples.

I continued the conversation with others after the meeting and learned that keeping up to date with the business of the presbytery and denomination was also considered an important element included in the *Omnibus*. The "Viewpoints" column is written by various leaders of presbytery – giving the opportunity to keep us informed of policy decisions, financial decisions, and updates of activities the presbytery takes based on theological values. The columns written by the stated clerk and other elected leaders have been helpful in keeping members up to date.

I wonder what challenges we are facing as we enter the fiftieth year of publication? How are we different from social media? What separates us from the Cascades Connection? What can be done to keep up a lively conversation with one another through the *Omnibus*. I've always hoped the "Voice's" column could be an invitation for such conversations. And so it is, I invite you to share your thoughts about the *Omnibus*. I would invite you to share a creative moment that can be inspirational for the rest of us. Do you have a poem to share? Has there been an event in your spiritual life that has touched or enhanced your journey of faith?

One idea is to share a story about a social gathering at your church by telling it through a series of pictures. I've done this a few times and it was very well received. A whole page of photographs can delight us all, can invite us to be a part of your mission or fellowship activity.

To close, I want to thank the reporters who have so generously given their time. Recently retired are Bruce Smith and Roberta Schlechter – both of whom gave years of time to report on the activities of their regions. Currently Mike Hubbard (pastormike@firstpresmedford.org), Central and South region reporter and Pat Berger (pfb1202@yahoo.com), Northeast region reporter have been with us for years – every month offering a peek into the churches they contact. And, new to us is Dianna Weston (dianna_weston@hotmail.com), who will be reporting on the Northwest region churches.

Feel free to contact any of them or me (kwaugh8@outlook.com) and let us know what you are thinking or what you would like to share – a poem, a picture, a story that touches the heart.

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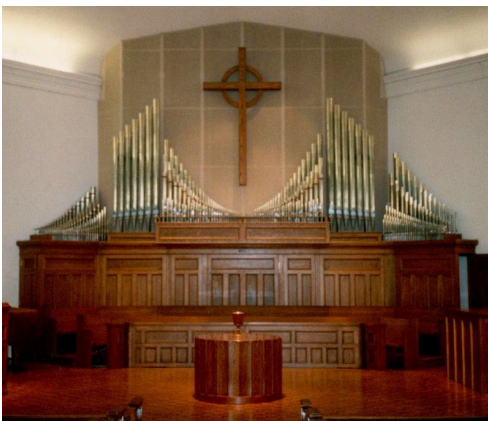
Corvallis Begins a New Juncture in its Congregational Journey of Faith

by Scott Crane, Stated Supply Pastor, First, Corvallis

The Session of **First, Corvallis** has hired Rev. Dr. Scott T. Crane as their Stated Supply Pastor beginning September 1, 2023. First is both an Affirming Church and a participant in the Matthew 25 Movement. We recently had over 20 participants in the recent Clean Up the Beach! SOLVE event held on September 16 - partnering with **First, Newport**, and the local chapter of Surfriders Foundation to clean up Nye Beach.



Our in-person worship each week has been averaging 81 people with an additional weekly online streaming attendance at around 48 (some are couples so probably more). We've moved back into the sanctuary after our summer conversation-style worship in Dennis Hall. This fall we have been exploring elements from Marcia McFee's Worship Design Studio to enrich our weekly worship services. Our current "Come to the Table" series ends with Communion on World Communion Sunday, October 1, with a Mission Opportunity Fair.



Our worship and musical styles blend a weekly jazz combo and hymnology from the Glory to God hymnal with occasional other musical groups and guests including a teenage organist from the local organization Orgelkids.

Advent this year will begin November 26 (a week earlier than the liturgical calendar) culminating in a family-friendly 10 a.m. Christmas Eve morning, "no rehearsal needed," pageant telling the Christmas story and a traditional evening of Lessons and Carols style worship.

This year we will be engaging in some of the traditional "Interim" and nontraditional "Transitional Ministry" tasks which we hope to conclude by September 1, 2024 as we prepare for our next chapter and season of ministry in Corvallis and beyond.



There's a Place for You!

The presbytery 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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Covenant Brings Back Church School, Ending the COVID Shutdown

By Pat Berger, Northeast Region Reporter

"Church school is starting this Sunday!" That was Pastor Josh Dunham's answer when asked, "What is exciting at **Covenant, Gresham** right now?" After the pandemic caused the shutdown of almost everything, and especially programming involving children, most churches would be excited about beginning their church school programs again, and for Covenant, the last Sunday in September is opening day.

For now, there is one class, age 3 through grade 6, and it will meet every other Sunday. Teachers will rotate, so that many have the privilege, and no one misses too much worship. Covenant has seen families with children joining them recently, so: it's time for church school!

Choir also begins again this Sunday, after a summer break. They sang last year, beginning in the Fall, and also have some new members.

Another exciting thing Pastor Dunham hopes is happening is that they are in the final stages of hiring a person whose title will be Community Engagement. Also, they will finally be able to hire an office assistant. Perhaps this week . . . They have been a while without anyone in these positions -- more work for Pastor Dunham and more work for those in the church who can spare time and energies to help out. All are looking forward to being fully staffed.

Things are busy at Covenant on Sundays! They are sharing their space with four other congregations -- three Hispanic churches, and one Kenyan church. (The Kenyan church was a member of the Presbyterian Church in East Africa before they moved here). Covenant worships at 10:30 a.m., Neema Church (PCEA) meets at 12:30 p.m., *Iglesia de Fe en Cristo Jesus* meets at 3:00 p.m., and *Iglesia Fuego de Dios* meets at 7 p.m. *Iglesia Prometida de Dios* meets on Saturdays at 6 p.m. The pastor at the Kenyan church is Rev. Priscilla Ngunju, and she is currently studying for her doctorate at Fuller Seminary. None of these people knew each other before beginning to worship at Covenant. Now, they have a goal of having shared leadership for World Communion Sunday!

Leaven Land and Housing Coalition is another involvement that keeps Covenant members and their pastor busy. Joining them in this are congregations from the Lutheran Church (ELCA), United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, and Disciples of Christ.

One of their projects is to help congregations redevelop properties that are no longer being used as churches. They help with doing inner processing necessary to such changes. This group has been on break for the summer but will begin meeting again in October. The congregations get together once a month to do training. Each congregation is matched with another; together, they work at accomplishing their tasks.

In addition to the churches that meet together, our presbytery is also involved in the projects on Farmington Road in Beaverton (former site of Cooper Mountain Presbyterian Church) and Barbie's Village (former site of Laurelhurst Presbyterian Church). Additionally, they have just begun working with the former Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church and are hoping that it will work into a site for services and housing for refugees and immigrants.

It sounds as if no one is sitting still at Covenant! Blessings for all of your ministries!



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Voices

Walking with Tiffany

By Cynthia Lewis-Younger, member, East Woods, Vancouver

(Editor's note... As mentioned in "Viewpoints," we are looking at ways to expand Omnibus's ability to share our faith stories. We include this story as a beautiful example of what we are considering.)

I never knew Tiffany when she was well. When I joined a new church, **East Woods, Vancouver**, I hardly noticed her.

Tiffany would sit quietly in the service with her husband, Jeff and sometimes their adolescent son, Alex. I assumed that Tiffany, like me, was shy. She was plump and had thinning, curly brown hair. It would be years later, when I saw a picture of her before the disease had manifested, that I would recognize how much it had ravaged her.

Her speech was difficult to understand, so she was often sidelined, left out of conversations. Her permanent tracheostomy tube must have made some people uncomfortable. She could only walk a little way on flat ground. At night, she needed a ventilator to sleep.

I always sat alone in the sanctuary. Tiffany and her husband would sit on the opposite side. I would watch Tiffany lean her head against her husband's shoulder. Sunday after Sunday they would faithfully be present. As I continued to attend, I noticed how tenderly Jeff cared for her. In time, Jeff explained that her neuromuscular wasting disease was genetic. No one knew how long Tiffany would live.

Tiffany was always at church. She helped at every event, doing whatever she could. She also faithfully attended youth group. While she couldn't do every activity, she encouraged them and watched out for them. She was a leader and wished to do even more.

When the women of the church rented a beach house for a retreat, Jeff brought her to the house each morning, left for the day, and returned her each evening to the hotel where he had set up her ventilator, so she could sleep safely. She was the focus of his life. I saw him as a paragon of true love. In part because of him, I knew there were still good men in the world.

Before I moved out west, I attended a marvelous three-day spiritual renewal event, the "Walk to Emmaus," an ecumenical discipleship building program designed to encourage spiritual growth. My life was changed, and I was devoted to bringing that experience to the people of my new church. Many of our congregation wanted to attend, including Tiffany.

The facility where we would be holding the "Walk" that October was an old church. We would sleep in the basement, eat in the fellowship hall on the second floor, and attend services in the first-floor sanctuary. Our mutual friend, Gwen, wanted to ensure that Tiffany could go and was concerned about her physical limitations.

I believed Tiffany would need special accommodation – me. I needed to be her hands and feet. I would push her in a wheelchair so she would not be exhausted and could participate fully in all activities. I would tend to her ventilator. I had Jeff teach me how to work it.

Holding her welfare in my hands was frightening. I'm only a physician, and I knew a well-trained nurse would be a better helper, but her application was accepted because I promised to be her support person. I could not fail her.

I would attend, acting like a pilgrim, just as she was. Tiffany and I would spend a lot of time in a rickety elevator. We would sleep in a tiny basement cubbyhole, where her ventilator could be left undisturbed.

The first night began with introductions to each other and to the purpose of the Walk to Emmaus. Confidentiality created a sacred and safe place for shared emotions, allowing spiritual growth and healing. Each individual's experience would be their own, inspired by the leader, God. Then we were sent to bed.

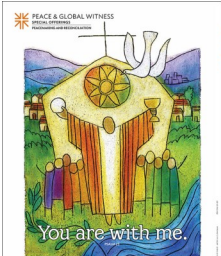
I wheeled Tiffany to our room, attached her ventilator to her tracheostomy tube. She tried to tell me something was wrong, but I couldn't understand when her tube was attached to the ventilator. I became increasingly frustrated, feeling totally useless. Eventually, I had to call Jeff to come and fix the ventilator. It turned out that a tube was leaking. He repaired the machine, then left. Tiffany and I were finally able to settle down, though I slept poorly, waking to check that she was still breathing throughout the night.

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News Briefs



Peace & Global Witness Offering: A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Click [here](#) for more information.



First, Portland is offering an “Ethical Will” seminar on October 15th at 11:45 am. This seminar will help you start thinking about your own will by providing a five-step approach to composing one. Materials will be available to take home so you can begin to think about your own ethical will. The seminar will be held in the Heritage room and led by Pastor Rob Hagan, Ministry Relations Officer for the Northwest Region for the Presbyterian Foundation. Lunch will be provided. RSVP [here](#)

***The Land is not Empty* book discussion** - With Sarah Augustine via zoom Saturday October 28, 2023, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Registration link click [here](#).



Continued from page 6 - Walking with Tiffany

In the morning, after I disconnected Tiffany’s tracheostomy tube from the ventilator, she asked “Are you okay?”

“Yes, I am.”

“You didn’t sleep very well.”

“No, but I have often lost sleep. A hazard of my job. I’m okay.” I was astounded that this woman, so physically fragile, would be concerned about my welfare. I felt loved.

Initially, only I paid much attention to Tiffany. The pilgrims listened to talks reminding us of God’s grace. After each one, we discussed them. We talked and laughed, sang praise songs. We prayed and took communion. People shared joys and sorrows, more freely as we became more comfortable. All were showered in love: *agapé* love that asks nothing in return. For some, there were tears—the tears that heal.

By the second day, Tiffany had become the beloved center of attention. Her smile was radiant. I was grateful that she had been able to come.

The next spring, she died. Jeff had gone to work, her son to school. Alex returned home that afternoon, finding her on the floor. She would not be at his graduation.

Jeff and Alex grieved along with the whole church. Most people with her disease only had one or two copies of the mutation and died quite young. Tiffany had many. I believe that Jeff’s devoted care gave her more time than most.

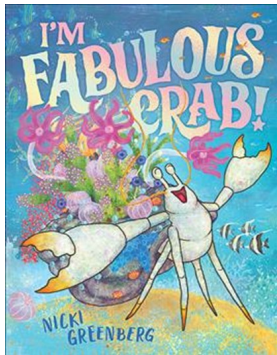
Years before, when Tiffany was extremely ill with her disease, her physician informed them that only if Tiffany accepted a permanent tracheostomy, would she be able to see her son graduate from high school. She almost made it.

Tiffany led me to a deeper faith and greater love. The church planted a pink dogwood tree on our grounds in her memory. It seemed like too little to remember such a great soul.

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Resources help Ministry and Mission

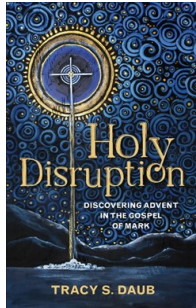
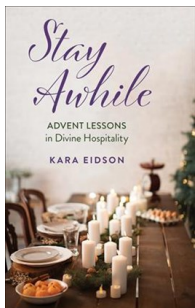


I'm Fabulous Crab
By Nicki Greenberg
"Bright colors and multiple techniques populate the illustrations of this rhyming picture book about embracing your true colors." - Foreword Reviews

A young crustacean is tired of life on the dim, drab, dull ocean floor. He wants glamour! He wants bling! Even when his new dazzle and sparkle lead to the unexpected, he still wants to be... Fabulous Crab!

I'm Fabulous Crab is a sparkling story about joyfully wearing your true colors—and perhaps a touch of glitter!

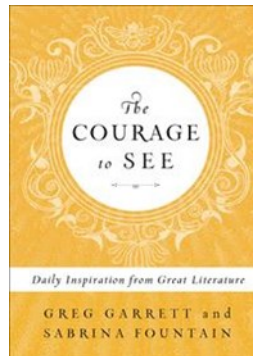
A reading guide with discussion questions based on the book and activities to help children explore its themes will be available September 2023 at www.flyawaybooks.com/resources.



ADVENT RESOURCE GUIDE

Welcome to the PC(USA) Advent 2023 resource guide! You'll find everything you need to fully honor and experience the season of Advent. If you are viewing this on your computer or other device, you can click on any title or cover to be taken to the product page on PC(USA) Store. Also, look for the dark blue blocks to download 2023 resource samples throughout. You can also email or print this to use for personal research or with committees.

This is a fantastic resource for Advent materials, readings, studies, devotions. Click [here](#) to explore.



The Courage to See: Daily Inspiration from Great Literature
Greg Garrett
Sabrina Fountain

Book lovers know there is something sacred in the stories, poetry, and insight of even the most secular books. This 365-day devotional celebrates the beauty of literature and its ability to illuminate elements of the Divine, present all around us. Pairing excerpts from more than two hundred literary works with thought-provoking Scriptures and brief prayers, this spiritual guide invites readers to draw closer to God through the words of both classic and modern authors. Click [here](#) to explore further.



Partnering with Churches and Families since 2018

Advent & Christmas Resources

As Christian educators, our passion is to create affordable tools to equip families to live out Deuteronomy 6 in their homes. Our mission is to partner with you, the local church, to send home interactive, fun, and Biblically sound activities to engage families and help them grow in their faith.

Our resources consist of all-age devotions and activities to help families celebrate and prepare at home for the seasons of the church. Churches purchase our resources and then follow the detailed instructions to put together kits to distribute to their faith community.

Click [here](#) to explore this website. Lots of ideas for the Advent & Christmas seasons.

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

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Sunday, October 1

Linda Gebetsberger, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2013

Monday, October 2

Timothy Winslea, ordained this day, 1994

Tuesday, October 3

Ken Hood, serving at Nestucca Valley PC, Pacific City

Wednesday, October 4

Plymouth Presbyterian Church, St. Helens -- chartered this day, 1959

Thursday, October 5

Margaret Mitsuyasu, Assoc. Pastor at First, Vancouver

Friday, October 6

Randy Lodjic, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2005

Saturday, October 7

Mark McIlraith, pastor and host of soma.digital, a Validated Ministry

Sunday, October 8

Jeffrey Bredeson, ordained this day, 1989

Jonathan Andres, ordained this day, 1989, serving as chaplain, Providence Health Services, Portland

Monday, October 9

Beth and Gregg Neel, installed as co-pastors, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day, 2011

Tuesday, October 10

Carmen Goetschius, Supply Pastor at First PC, Portland

Wednesday, October 11

Duane Brudevold, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2013

Thursday, October 12

Lorne Bostwick, Honorably Retired in March, 2021

Friday, October 13

Matthew Gough, Member at Large, Ordained in 2004

Morgan Schmidt, Ordained this day in 2019

Saturday, October 14

Permanent Judicial Commission, Presbytery of the Cascades

Sunday, October 15

Richard Wiggers, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2009

Monday, October 16

Chris Montovino, installed as pastor, Cascades Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, this day, 2005

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Tuesday, October 17

Robert Stone, [HR] installed as pastor, Community PC, Moro, this day, 1999, & now HR

Wednesday, October 18

Kenilworth Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1908

Korean Presbyterian Church, Corvallis -- chartered this day, 1999

William DeLong, ordained this day, 1987, and now Honorably Retired

Thursday, October 19

David Hutchinson, Honorably Retired

Friday, October 20

Carley Friesen, Honorably Retired in 2020

Paul Quackenbush, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2016

Saturday, October 21

Brandon Lewis, installed as pastor, United Presbyterian Church, Albany, this day, 2014

Carol Prichard, ordained this day, 2012

Erik Huget, commissioned this day, 2012 and now serving at Eagle Creek PC

Sunday, October 22

Mill City Presbyterian Church, Mill City -- chartered this day, 1894

Reedville Presbyterian Church, Aloha -- chartered this day, 1908

Sharon Edwards, ordained this day, 1989

Monday, October 23

Brian Reeves, ordained this day, 1988

First Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1854

Tuesday, October 24

Danny Peters serving as Chaplain Resident at Providence Portland Medical Center

Wednesday, October 25

Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1942

Thursday, October 26

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1892

Friday, October 27

Columbia Presbyterian Church, Vancouver -- chartered this day, 1954

Dwayne Brown, ordained this day, 1985, serving as Chaplain, Veteran's Administration Hospital, Roseburg

Saturday, October 28

Karen Fortlander, ordained this day, 1990

Sunday, October 29

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, West Linn -- chartered this day, 1961

Monday, October 30

Richard Neese, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2012

Tuesday, October 31

Eileen Parfrey, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2015

Roberts Anderson, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2015

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