

November 2023



NOVEMBER

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Anne Wiley

FISH FOOD

Soups, Stews, Chili




SOLVE THE RIDDLES

What sound does a turkey's phone make?

Which of the Thanksgiving beverages is considered to be sad?

Stumped?
See page 5 for the answer.

As you enjoy reading this month's Bell, try to find the hidden cross. 

THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

Volume 46, No. 11

Jesus said, "You have heard it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to them the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let them have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:38-41

In preparation for a long awaited and hoped for first trip to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel tracing the Israelites journey from Egypt, into Sinai Desert, and eventually into the Promised Land this winter 2024, I have been reading Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy during my morning quiet times. Sadly with all that is going on right now in the Middle East, I have decided to put those plans on hold, yet again. Because of this, it has caused me to reflect upon what seems to be the source of all of these heart breaking hostilities.

While what is going on in Israel and Palestine are much more complex political issues than I can comprehend, it seems to boil down to this. Jesus. We have heard it said, "Know Jesus, Know Peace. No Jesus, No Peace." As Christians we believe that Jesus is our Prince of Peace and the only one who can free humanity from the retributive law of human justice mentioned above. You take my eye, I'll take yours. You take my tooth, I'll take yours. You bomb my village, I'll bomb yours. You see there is no way out of this repetitive cycle of death, destruction and retribution. Just more violence. More death. More destruction. No peace. And no matter how hard we try to diplomatically solve these issues, any achieved peace will only be momentary and tenuous at best.

But Jesus truly offers everyone one of us, Christian, Jew, and Palestinian another way toward peace. It is his way of unconditional love and sacrificial forgiveness. My friends, I believe with my whole heart that this is only trajectory which can get us off such a mutually destructive spiral downward.

In his same Sermon on the Mount, Jesus confronted yet another societal norm...hating one's enemy. "You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons and daughters of your Father in heaven." Love means we keep no record of wrongs. Love means we do not delight in evil but rejoice with the truth. Love even means we hope for the best for our enemy even when we do not feel that way. This is hard teaching considering the atrocities we've witnessed by Hamas terrorists upon innocent Israeli citizens and the retributive barrage of missiles launched by Israel upon the innocent Palestinian people in Gaza.

So please join me, in this season of Thanksgiving, that we, with God's help, would love those who wish to harm us and pray that God would instead shower blessing upon them...that all would turn toward Jesus and follow his way of peace, and for a true shalom where human flourishing exists for all people, Christian, Israeli, and Palestinian.

Come Lord Jesus, Come!

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

NEW BENEVOLENCE BOARD MEMBER

We are delighted to welcome Tim Rettberg-Speed as the newest member of our Benevolence Board. Tim and his wife Kensie have been worshipping with us online for some time and are looking forward to getting more involved in person. Thank you Tim for saying yes to God's invitation to our important work of serving under-resourced and unhoused people in Clark County.

CHURCH USE AND MONTHLY CALENDAR

Curious about what's going on at Cascades today or this week? Check out the church calendar on the bulletin board as you first walk into the Narthex and at the church website homepage. Just click on one of the activities listed to the right side of the page and the entire month of programming pops up. Not only are our facilities used by Cascades and two other churches, the Junior Symphony of Vancouver, and Alcoholics Anonymous but a whole host of 4-H Groups call Cascades home as well.

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Each fall your session elders consider the ministry they feel called to for the following year and create a proposed budget of what they expect that ministry to cost. From that we generate a narrative budget brochure which highlights snapshots of the congregation, any changes we anticipate, and the impact that these funds have in our church and surrounding community. Along with these brochures are green planned giving cards which detail how much you and your family prayerfully pledge or tithe to the church. We will receive these cards in worship on Sunday November 5th. For those who worship online, if you would mail those cards in, that would be greatly appreciated. We always strive for 100% return whether or not people are able to make commitments at this time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of your session elders.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to all!
We are so grateful for your generous giving. The community has really joined together in helping us secure longevity. You are part of that for His kingdom!

Rev. Denise Currie, The Giving Closet



daily Devotions



God's Words for You

- Nov 1 Matthew 5:1-2
- Nov 2 Psalm 43
- Nov 3 Psalm 34:1-10, 22
- Nov 4 Matthew 23:1-12

Witnessing to God's Word

- Nov 5 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
- Nov 6 Amos 5:18-24
- Nov 7 Psalm 70
- Nov 8 Psalm 78:1-7
- Nov 9 Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16
- Nov 10 Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20
- Nov 11 Matthew 25:1-13

Gifts from God

- Nov 12 Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov 13 Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov 14 Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov 15 Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov 16 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Nov 17 Psalm 90
- Nov 18 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Nov 19 Psalm 100

Giving Thanks to God

- Nov 20 Psalm 100
- Nov 21 Psalm 100
- Nov 22 Psalm 100
- Nov 23 Deuteronomy 8:7-18
- Nov 24 Matthew 25:31-46
- Nov 25 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Before You Know It

- Nov 26 Isaiah 64:1-9
- Nov 27 Isaiah 64:1-9
- Nov 28 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- Nov 29 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- Nov 30 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

OCTOBER SESSION NOTES

Began with devotions from Isaiah 5:1-7 on Bloom Where You Are Planted. Discussed whether or not to have two services on Christmas Eve since it falls on Sunday. Decided on two simpler services. Plan to submit presbytery grants to help cover replacement costs of the sanctuary projectors and addition of sound deadening panels to the back sanctuary wall. Provided update on letters sent to Clark County Commissioners and state representatives about our school permit application. Reported on Men's Saturday Breakfast and Bible Study. Gave feedback from some visitors. Approved several facility use requests. Overall still figuring out new rhythms after COVID. Lots of changes in new people coming to Cascades. Excited about what the future holds.

IMAGO CHRISTI

Geordie and Sharon Ziegler serve with *Imago Christi* (www.imagochristi.org), the spiritual formation team for Novo, a multi-national mission agency with direct impact on over 115 countries around the world. Imago Christi exists to support the spiritual health of global Christian leaders – missionaries overseas, inner city justice workers among the poor and marginalized, pastors leading churches, Christian leaders of all walks of life sharing the gospel and discipling new believers.



Kingdom ministry has never been easy. Even before the corrosive effects of a global pandemic, church leadership and cross-cultural ministry have always been difficult. Half of those who enter vocational ministry do not last even 5 years under the weight of demands and needs. In our work with *Imago Christi*, we come alongside these leaders – before they crash – to help them ground their ministry in a life of abiding in the love of God, and a deeper intimacy with Christ. This past year, *Imago Christi's* team of 15 people trained or mentored over 450 global church leaders serving in 26 countries around the world.

Through *Imago Christi*, we serve Christian leaders in two primary ways: 1) spiritual accompaniment – spiritual direction, coaching, healing prayer, and soul care; and, 2) experiential equipping events – discovery-based teaching and experiential learning courses, retreats, and classes. In addition, Sharon and Geordie encourage and support the marriages of those in vocational ministry through marriage and ministry retreats based in Sunriver, OR.

Your financial support helps the Ziegler's minister to ministry leaders who need hope and healing without the dollar sign being a barrier. Together, with your financial support, we can have a massive ripple effect on Christ's kingdom by positively impacting the relational and spiritual health of these global Christian leaders. If you would personally like to receive the Ziegler's newsletter or find out more about their work, email them at geordie.ziegler@novo.org. If you feel led to give on an individual basis in addition to CPC, you can do so here: <https://gsziegler.novostaff.org/>

Prior to joining Novo/Imago Christi in 2022, Geordie and Sharon had more than 30-years experience in missions and pastoral ministry. Geordie is an ordained PCUSA minister, and has served 3 congregations on the West coast, and as a hospital chaplain during the Covid pandemic. Together, they have lived in China, Canada, and Scotland, and currently reside in Camas, Washington. Sharon has a Masters of Christian Arts, and Geordie an M.Div., both from Regent College. Geordie also earned an MTh and PhD from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Geordie and Sharon are the proud parents of three large-hearted adult children and an amazing daughter-in-law.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

A few years ago, Cascades formed a working group of three elders. They were joined by a young high school girl, Madelyn Hartrim-Lowe, who immediately dazzled the others with her intelligence and work ethic, especially impressing the older generation with her computer skills. She now studies biology and economics at Wheaton College, her sisters Catherine and Chloe also attending college near her. In Madelyn's own words:



Being the oldest of seven is full of surprises and is a dynamic role. When we were all younger, I was more of the ring-leader of the group and could get my siblings to join me in productions of plays, talent shows, and fashion shows. When I first entered college, however, I felt more distant and out of sync with my siblings. It took me some time to learn how to individually keep up with what was happening in their lives since it was hard for me to be part of conversations over the phone that would organically happen between three or more of us at home. I am still learning how to best be a big sister of seven especially in this new season of life outside the home. I love my siblings and I love that they are my built-in friends and adventure buddies. We keep life interesting for each other.

I love the welcoming atmosphere [at Cascades] and how the congregation is like extended family. Coming to Cascades is like coming to a family reunion. I have loved helping out with VBS, serving as Elder of Worship Arts, and participating in Sunday School, youth group, and confirmation class over the years. You all love me so well and I appreciate your support of my endeavors and those of my siblings. Thank you for providing opportunities for my whole family to grow and flourish in faith and community.

I enjoy reading, playing the piano, and spending time with any animals (especially my own and the horses at the barn I volunteer at). I also love events that bring my friends and communities together with a common purpose or cause for celebration.

I have enjoyed the variety of trips my family has taken from beaches to hikes in mountains. My favorite place that we have vacationed is Hawaii. I would love to explore the world a little bit more, particularly more of Europe and Africa.

My days during the school year at Wheaton are long. I have most of my classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Tuesdays and Thursdays are my days in the lab for my classes, working as a teaching assistant, and doing research. In the evening, I generally have a few meetings for extracurricular activities such as the Symbiosis Biological Health Sciences department club or a discipleship ministries small group for fellowship, bible study, and prayer. Any other time I have in the day is spent doing assignments for classes, studying, and getting together with friends.

I am ecstatic to have my sisters so close this fall. It will be a joy to share my community and my life with them as well as be part of their college journey and experiences being so far from home.

I am in the process of applying to medical school...so that I can start the fall after I graduate from undergrad. I am not sure where I will end up yet and am ready to have an open heart, hands, and mind for wherever the Lord wants to open doors.

Submitted by Bill Honey, Elder





NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov 1	6:30pm	Youth Group
Nov 2	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	1:00pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Nov 5	8:30am	Choir Practice
	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	10:15am	Worship Service
Nov 6	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Nov 7	7:00pm	Deacons Meeting
Nov 8	6:30pm	Youth Group
Nov 9	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	1:00pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Nov 12	8:30am	Choir Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Nov 13	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Nov 14	7:00pm	Session Meeting
Nov 15	6:30pm	Youth Group
Nov 16	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	1:00pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Nov 18	5:30pm	Family Game Night
Nov 19	8:30am	Choir Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Nov 20	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Nov 23		Thanksgiving—Office Closed
Nov 26	8:30am	Choir Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Nov 27	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Nov 29	6:30pm	Youth Group
Nov 30	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	1:00pm	Giving Hands Ministry

BIRTHDAYS

Ewan Hickok
Jill Clifford
Rhyan Montovino
Cassy Holcomb
Ray Young
Linda Beck
Sofia Montovino
Bill Gibson
Chris Montovino

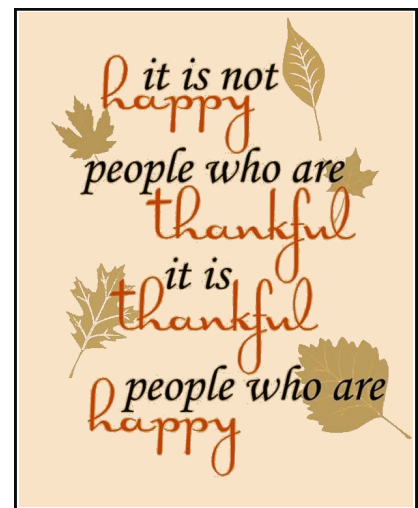
ANNIVERSARIES

*If you don't see your anniversary
or birthdate listed here please
contact the church office!*

SEPTEMBER FINANCES

Income \$22,611.58
Expenses \$23,671.27
(\$ 1,059.69)

Year to Date 2023
(\$ 9,314.82)





CASCADES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9503 NE 86th St
Vancouver, WA 98662

(360) 892-6613
office@caspres.org
www.caspres.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

FAMILY GAME NIGHT
Nov 18 @ 5:30pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:15am Worship Service

