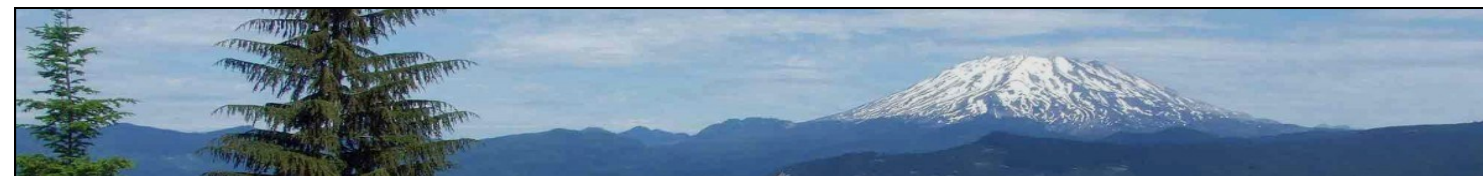




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NOVEMBER

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Becky Hickok



SOLVE THE RIDDLES

What happened to the turkey who got into a fight?

What did the turkey say when it was invited to Thanksgiving dinner?

Stumped?
See page 4 for the answers.

As you enjoy reading the Newsletter try to find the hidden cross somewhere in the newsletter. It looks like this.



THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

Volume 48, No. 11

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16

I don't know if it is the time of year as we head into the holiday season or if it is because we are in the midst of our stewardship campaign, but my heart is overflowing with gratitude. According to one writer, gratitude is important because it makes sense of our past, brings peace to our present, and creates a vision for our future. The Bible also has a lot to say about giving thanks. As in the scripture above, we give thanks to God always, under all situations. We give thanks to God in prayer. We give thanks to God in worship. We give thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives...food, shelter, meaningful work, family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Today, I am especially grateful for the many gifted people with whom I get to work. Not only do they make my job easier, but they lead me closer in relationship with Jesus Christ.

- Take Lisa Kupfer, for example, our new office administrator and bookkeeper. Lisa is such a gift. Lisa brings a servant's heart, joy, and faith into her work. Her attitude is always, whatever serves Christ and needs to be done, I'm on it.
- Or Nancy Bisbee, who has such a beautiful heart that brings joy and faith into her work. Nancy is also very punny, quick with a sense of humor and desire to make you smile. One thing I greatly appreciate about Nancy is how she directs our choir to preach the sermon through song. And she really, I mean really, likes the Beatles.
- Or Sarah Shewbert, who though juggling many plates as a collegiate online course creator, busy mom of two, and a skilled accompanist, seems to find time to select offering songs that nearly always melt my heart and minister to me in ways that only the Holy Spirit could know. Thank you Sarah!
- Or Josh Krane, who brings his spirit of calm and contemplation into our sanctuary as he prepares our hearts to worship the Lord. Josh also juggles work, a young family, and personal workouts while cultivating the hearts of our worship team.
- Or Sarah Ostrand, who is so fun and quirky, that people young or old just love being around her. Sarah has a heart for forming Christ in others regardless of where they are and always brings relevancy to their relationships with Christ.
- Or Pam Boehning, who cares for our youngest in the nursery. Pam had worked with us a few years ago and was so excited when she learned that we were hiring nursery workers that she asked if she could re-apply. Yeah! I love how Pam takes charge of the nursery and creates space where our little ones grow into worshipers who will follow Christ throughout their lives.

And then there are all the volunteers who make what we do possible, day in and day out. As a small church we rely on our volunteer force to do the work of the ministry. To the entire Priesthood of All Believers at Cascades, Thank you for everything. Not only do you make the work lighter, but you exercise our Body's gifts as Jesus' hands of love to a hurting world.

With a grateful heart,

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

give
Thanks

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS



Cascades Church has an amazing historian and storyteller. Growing up, she, her sister, and mom kept to themselves. She heard just a very few family stories from her mother and grandmother. But later as she desired to learn more of her family history, she corresponded with various family members and then wrote down what she learned. After multiple letters back and forth she now has filled three notebooks full of stories, even self publishing one book for her immediate family!

Barbie Baker, a real California girl who was born in Los Angeles, moved to Banning, then South Arcadia, eventually graduated from Arroyo High School in El Monte, where she had so much fun playing flute in the school's small band. Later, she worked as a telephone operator for Pacific Telephone in Alhambra, then was employed in Monrovia at California Water & Telephone. Her marriage ended, but she was blessed with her wonderful son, Denny. She moved to Costa Mesa and found a job as a PBX receptionist for AMF Voit in Santa Ana, where she met John, a friendly golf projects manager who helped Barbie with questions she had about the business.

Barbie, John, and Denny moved to Vancouver in Novober 1980, where Barbie found employment as a binding operator and front person for Print Right/Lazerquick. They looked up Presbyterian churches in the yellow pages and found Cascades to be closest, so Barbie, who sees our church's friendly people as a second family, is a long-time member here.

Her last occupation was as a registrar at Summit View Alternative High School in Brush Prairie. She says, "I really liked that job as we all, the staff and teachers, loved encouraging the students that, yes, they can succeed and graduate." As the graduating students finished the school year, "we would all get out our crazy, silly instruments and make noise, embarrassing the new graduates and letting other students know that they could finish, too."

She enjoys sewing, genealogy, and gardening. She and John liked to play golf and to camp, having good memories of campgrounds in Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Canada, and all over California. Son Denny is now retired from Intel, but he and wife Elaine provided two grandchildren, Justin and Mandy, and two great-grandchildren, Damen and Maike. Husband John had two children: Ron (deceased) and Laurie. Barbie loves being with family, friends, and neighbors. Four years ago, just after John passed away, neighbor Jillian, on maternity leave at the time, asked Barbie if she would like to walk with her and the baby. They have continued this ever since. "We have so much in common and we've both talked about how this was meant to be. We needed each other at that time. Now we walk in the evening, her husband has joined us, and occasionally the neighbors across the way from me join us. With five adults, three kids and another baby on the way, and a dog or two, we are almost a parade!"

ADVENT SERVICES



The busy season of Advent is upon us and worship planning is in full swing. Please mark your calendar for the following events and activities.

First up will be **Hanging of the Greens** on Saturday the 29th of November that will start with a soup supper potluck at 6pm followed by the service at 7pm. Sign up sheets for the soup supper will be posted on the entrance hall bulletin board soon. We have refreshed the service with some new elements, such as Youth reading scripture and quizzing an adult, a children's choir to sing a Christmas carol in Swahili, the adult choir singing a Christmas carol medley and the possibility of signers available to sign Silent Night. Don't worry, other parts of the previous service have been retained and there will still be plenty of carol singing and tree decorating. Guaranteed to be a very busy, active service for all!

The youth have also refreshed the Nacimiento with each youth assembling their own tableau using the figurines from the Nacimiento. These tableaus will be assembled in the same location as the previous Nacimiento was displayed and available during the Hanging of the Greens.

Next up is **The Longest Night** service on Wednesday the 17th of December at 7pm. The purpose of this service is to provide a sacred night for naming our sorrows and lamenting our losses. If you attended the service last year the liturgy will be the same with the addition of a homily from Pastor Chris. We are also exploring some car-pooling options for those who wish to attend but are prevented from doing so because they don't drive at night. Stay tuned for more information on possible car-pools.

Lastly, we will have our usual **Christmas Eve Service** on Wednesday the 24th of December at 7pm. Last year we had a full house that evening so please plan on arriving early to ensure you can get family seating together. And a note to parents of young children; we now have new LED candles for children too young to handle real candles. These candles will be available in the Narthex with the regular wax candles.



November



Nov 1	8:45am	Women's Fall Conference
Nov 2	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship Service
Nov 3	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Nov 4	7:00pm	Deacon Meeting
Nov 5	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:45pm	Youth Group
Nov 6	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Nov 8	8:00am	Men's Bible Study Fellowship
Nov 9	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Nov 10	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Nov 11	7:00pm	Sessions Meeting
Nov 12	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Nov 13	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Nov 16	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
	12:00pm	Top of the Hill
Nov 17	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Nov 19	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Nov 20	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Nov 23	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Nov 24	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Nov 26	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:45pm	Youth Group
Nov 27	Thanksgiving!	Church Office Closed
Nov 29	7:00pm	Hanging of the Greens
Nov 30	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service



BIRTHDAYS

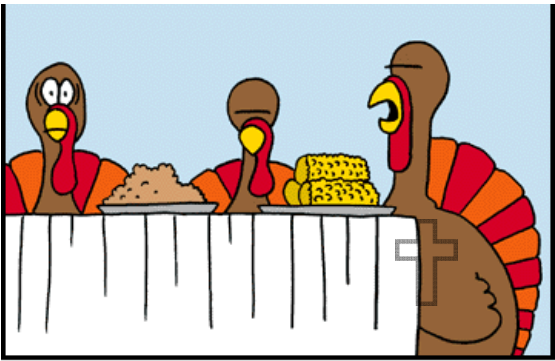
Ewan Hickok	Sofia Montovino
Rhyan Montovino	Bill Gibson
Cassy Holcomb	Allegra Bisbee
Michi Weber	Weston Poujade
Amy Miley	Marlene Taylor
Ray Young	Chris Montovino
Linda Beck	



SEPTEMBER FINANCES

Income	\$24,513
Expenses	\$35,763
Total	- \$11,250

Year to Date 2025
\$23,195



WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THE BOUNTY
THAT FARMER BOB HAS BLESSED US ALL
WITH THESE PAST FEW MONTHS

Deadline for submissions to the
December Bell Newsletter will be
Tuesday, November 18th

Answers:
1. He got the stuffing knocked out of him!
2. No thanks, I'm already stuffed.

OCTOBER SESSION NOTES

Christie Mistrot led devotions. Discussed 2026 Stewardship Campaign and Narrative Budget Brochure. Commissioned Kitchen Remodeling Committee. Reviewed Owner's Representative Process. Need to remind people to pay their Per Capita for 2025. Received update on New Hope Opportunities Solar Project. Discussed Christmas decor in the sanctuary. Lack of interest in Trunk or Treat. Approved HOA meeting in January. Spent time in prayer for country, Middle East, new jobs, and how to discern God's work from our agenda.

TOP OF THE HILL

Top of the Hill attendees will discuss their Spiritual Gifts at the next potluck on Sunday, November 16 following church services. If you did not get a chance to complete the questionnaire to identify your gift, let me know and I will get a copy to you. We can share what we think our gifts are and see what others might add. The activity will give us a chance to get to know each other better.

If you know in advance you will be coming, please let me know when the reminder is sent out the week before the luncheon so we can be sure we have enough tables and chairs.

Reading Thru the Bible...

How did your Bible reading go in October? Did you enjoy reading chronologically? Was it challenging?

The Bible Recap is a 365-Day Chronological Reading Plan you can start any day of the year. Reading through the Bible chronologically takes you through the story of Scripture as it happened. It helps you to see where and how it all fits together. When you read through the entire Bible it helps you see the big picture of God & what He is trying to tell us about Himself. Let's get going on the month of November and no matter how well you did or didn't do in October, consider this practice because you are just getting into the habit of it. If you are not able to read every day keep track of where you are by marking the boxes or just read on the days that you can. The most important thing is to keep reading and don't give up! As a help for understanding what you are reading each day you may want to purchase "*The Bible Recap One Year Guide*." More info for The Bible Recap can be found at thebiblerecap.com

Day 305 Matt 20-21 NOV 1	Day 306 Luke 19 NOV 8	Day 307 Mark 11 John 12	Day 308 Matt 22 Mark 12	Day 309 Matt 23 Luke 20-21	Day 310 Mark 13	Day 311 Matt 24
Day 312 Matt 25 NOV 8	Day 313 Matt 26 Mark 14	Day 314 Luke 22 John 13	Day 315 John 14-17	Day 316 Matt 27 Mark 15	Day 317 Luke 23 John 18-19	Day 318 Matt 28 Mark 16
Day 319 Luke 24 John 20-21 NOV 15	Day 320 Acts 1-3	Day 321 Acts 4-6	Day 322 Acts 7-8	Day 323 Acts 9-10	Day 324 Acts 11-12	Day 325 Acts 13-14
Day 326 Jas 1-5 NOV 22	Day 327 Acts 15-16	Day 328 Gal 1-3	Day 329 Gal 4-6	Day 330 Acts 17	Day 331 1 Th 1-5 2 Th 1-3 Thanksgiving!	Day 332 Acts 18-19
Day 333 1 Cor 1-4 NOV 29	Day 334 1 Cor 5-8					

TOOLS IN GOD'S TOOLBOX

We are learning more about the Holy Spirit every week. One of the best lessons was presented in the Children's Message. Sarah focused on how we are each a tool in God's tool box. We each have talent to use to God's glory and right now our church needs someone with a special talent. Plainly and simply, we need a handyman. Every so often we need minor repairs. The toilet is running, a faucet leaks, a little bit of painting. In the last three months we've needed to make these types of repairs three times so it's really not an overwhelming task. If it's anything major we call in a contractor. A broken pipe definitely needs a plumber as does a heating problem or door locks. Please search your heart and pray for God's guidance. Your help is seriously needed and this an opportunity to answer your mission call.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY 80'S LADIES!



Happy Birthday to the incredible 80's Ladies of Cascades Presbyterian Church! May we continue to be blessed by their living testaments to grace, strength, and enduring faith and may their stories continue to inspire, and their wisdom guide generations to come. Blessings for many more joyful birthdays ahead! Doris Raspa, Sherry McKusick, Betty Scott, Sue Holcomb, and Lynda Wittren. Not pictured, Carol VanderPloeg.



KITCHEN REMODELING PROJECT UPDATE

On October 5, the members of the Cascades congregation met to discuss the possibility of remodeling our existing kitchen facilities. While this has been a project on the back burner for many years, during the meeting some questions were raised as to why it was felt that this was an important project to undertake at this time. Great questions!

If you talk with those who use the kitchen regularly, namely, Sue Holcomb and Deborah Shaner who do our wonderful monthly pancake breakfasts, or Christie Mistrot, Elder of Community Life who prepares the fellowship treats after worship, or the Deacons who prepare communion on the same day as our pancake breakfasts, or the men who host our annual women's tea, or the folks who attend the monthly Top of the Hill Seniors potluck, or anyone else who uses the kitchen, they will attest that at most two or maybe three people can work in the kitchen at a time. Our kitchen was designed to be a warming kitchen only and not a commercial food preparation kitchen. And with three church communities sharing the same kitchen, one of which requires a separate Kosher refrigerator that they keep in the back office, there just isn't enough space to support the complex communal life of our congregations. We need more storage. We need more counter top space. We need more floor space. ALL of which will facilitate our ability to share life together both now and for years to come.

That is why we are undertaking this project.

So where are we now? The congregation gave Session and the Kitchen Remodeling Committee approval to take the first step...To hire a contractor/architect who will get us through the design and costing phase and get us ready for permitting with the Clark County Permitting Office. We hope to have this phase completed by the first of the year in 2026. We expect both the permitting with Clark County and our in-house fundraising to take roughly three months. Construction would take place during the summer of 2026 and will take approximately two months. Hopefully by September of 2026, we will be eating pancakes from our new kitchen. Unfortunately, we won't know right now exactly how much this will cost until we get though the design and costing phase. But rough guesstimates are somewhere between \$100,000 to \$150,000, much of which depends on what the County Permitting requires after our Pre-Approval Conference. Our goal is to prove that what we have had all these years and what we need going forward is a warming kitchen, and not a commercial grade food preparation kitchen. Hopefully that will save us a considerable amount of money.

We already have about \$15,000 set aside from previous donors towards the kitchen remodeling project. We anticipate that this first phase will cost about that much. Once we have the design and costing completed, we will come back to the congregation with this information and seek approval to take the next steps of fund raising and permitting.

The Kitchen Remodeling Committee immediately got to work interviewing four different contractors and has settled on one who they will recommend to session to begin contract negotiations for the design and costing phase only. Then once we get the funds raised, we will establish a second separate contract for the construction.

So that is where we are. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the members of the Kitchen Committee or Faye Salomone (elder), Janet VanFleet (elder), Christie Mistrot (elder), Sue Holcomb , Betty Scott, Tom Holczer, Barbie Baker, or Pastor Chris Montovino.