



CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SUNDAY WORSHIP
9am Sunday School
10:15am Worship Service

1st Happy New Year!

4th Pancake Breakfast 9am

10th Men's Bible Study Breakfast 8am

18th Top of the Hill after Worship Service

22nd Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Office Closed

24th CPC Women's Gathering 8:30am

25th Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship Service

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



CASCADES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Debbie Engley



SOLVE THE RIDDLES

What did the book do
in January before
heading back to
school?

In me, you might find
strength or doubt, as
I'm a promise made to
change one's route.
What am I?

Stumped?
See page 5 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 49, No. 1

"Yet when Jesus heard that [his friend] Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days." [And he died.] John 11:6 [my paraphrasing]

This is a difficult story to process. Why would Jesus wait and not hurry off to Bethany to attend to his good friend when learned that he was sick? Healing the sick was clearly in his wheelhouse. Lazarus' sisters certainly didn't understand why Jesus was NOT in a hurry to arrive at their brother's bedside. When Jesus finally did arrive, he was several days too late. Lazarus was dead. And his sisters blamed Jesus for it. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here my brother would not have died."

Throughout the gospels we learn how Jesus was never in a hurry. Whether in his daily life or in his ministry, he proceeded at the same speed. Slow. His disciples, however, and everyone else with such pressing needs were always pushing him to go faster, do more, heal more, raise more...more, more, more.

Who does this sound like? Us and our American culture! Thanks to technology, we are constantly being pressured to go faster, do more, and consume more than ever each and every day. And it's created a disease known as hurried sickness.

Pastor John Mark Comer in his book, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, defines hurried sickness as "A behavior pattern characterized by continual rushing and anxiousness...a malaise in which a person feels chronically short of time, and so tends to perform every task faster and to get flustered when encountering any kind of delay." One cardiologist said that this disease is a major cause of heart attacks among particularly type A people. Got your attention?

But friends, Jesus was not like this. He was never driven by the intense ministry demands nor the unending to do list of his day. No. He was slow. Intentionally slow.

I was convicted by this at a recently personal spiritual retreat at Mount Angel Abbey in Mount Angel, Oregon. This is a place that I have gone to for years when I have needed to slow down so that I could get in touch with my soul. This past Advent season, I had gone there to get away to a private place where I could be with God and listen for His small quiet voice. And God said, "Chris, you've got to slow down. It's killing your soul." So that got me thinking, certainly I'm not the only one who suffers from this disease.

Starting in January 2026 all the way through Easter, we will be looking at the Gospels and specifically at Jesus' slow pace of life and ministry. We will learn from him and take his unhurried yoke upon us. For here we will find rest for our weary souls.

Looking forward to all that God is going to teach us together this next year at the speed of Jesus.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS



Born into what had once been a 10-bedroom stagecoach stop/inn and raised in a former log school house in southwestern Ohio near the Indiana border, Sharon Morrison loves the history of old houses. The last of seven children, 21 years younger than her sister, she was a year younger than one niece and pretty much the same age as the rest. Her father worked nights, allowing Sharon to spend countless evenings watching her mother, a professional seamstress and upholsterer, create beautiful pieces. She fell in love with fashion and also HATS. Sharon did well in school, was a member of National Honor Society and the high-school version of the GE College Bowl (which her team won).

Sharon's traveling adventures began after high school, finding employment in Chicago, living in a women's boarding house, a Victorian mansion created mostly for students of Moody Bible Institute. She became a Navy wife, stationed in Pensacola, FL; Bar Harbor, ME (where daughter Larisa was born); North Shore of Oahu, HI; San Diego, CA; and Adak, AK. She later lived in Anchorage, working for a firm where she once had the "privilege" of wearing a miserably hot moose costume in their annual Wild About Anchorage parade: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91abAn747IQ>

While living in Elmira, OR, she acted as her own contractor, building her dream home, a Queen Anne Victorian. Later, she moved to Duvall, WA, and built the same home IN REVERSE. In those houses, she raised her daughter, Heather. Life led to her living in Eureka, CA, with her brother, later moving to Vancouver, WA, where she volunteered with Friends of the Carpenter and the YWCA as she attended First United Methodist Church downtown.

Sharon has lived all over the USA, loves Southern mansions and manners, Pacific Northwest weather, and old-fashioned Midwest hospitality. In Hawaii, Sharon first learned how to crochet and earned money by creating bikini tops decorated with puka shells from her neighborhood beach.

As a certified Instructor for crochet, Sharon is currently working on becoming a Master in Crochet. She started the original yarn ministry here at Cascades. She is also working towards being a master gardener through WSU and has created Italian and English Cottage gardens with Bill Honey at their home located near the church.

Daughter Heather, now living in Redmond, OR, is the mother of Isabella (Bella), who so enjoyed being a "candle-lighter girl" at Cascades, and who had the privilege of lighting the candles along with Sofia Montovino at the dedication of Cascades' new sanctuary. Larisa, now living in Chesapeake, VA, provided Sharon with twin granddaughters, Chelsea and Courtney, and grandson Ian, who provided great-grandson Mason. You know Sharon is a proud grandma/great-grandma!



EPIPHANY STAR WORDS



On Sunday, January 4th, we will celebrate not only Communion Sunday but the Epiphany. This is the day in the church liturgical calendar when we acknowledge the story in the Gospel of Matthew when Magi came from the East to Jerusalem in search of the one who was born King of the Jews. They were guided by a star to Bethlehem and the place where Jesus was born.

A couple years ago as part of our Epiphany celebration, we started handing out what we call "Star words." These are randomly distributed words that could be used to "guide" us for the coming year. For example, for 2025, my randomly selected star word in 2025 was "Dream." I took that as a divine invitation to dream of new possibilities for 2026 and beyond. And as I have done that I look forward to seeing some of those dreams take place this year.

So don't miss out on your chance to get your 2026 Star Word. May we be curious about how God might use these to guide us into the coming new year!



Jan 1	Happy New Year!
Jan 4	9:00am Pancake Breakfast
	10:15am Worship Service
Jan 5	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
Jan 6	7:00pm Deacon Meeting
Jan 7	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm Youth Group
Jan 8	1:30pm Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm Choir Practice
Jan 10	8:00am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
Jan 11	9:00am Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am Worship Service
Jan 12	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
Jan 13	7:00pm Sessions
Jan 14	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm Youth Group
Jan 15	1:30pm Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm Choir Practice
Jan 18	9:00am Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am Worship Service
	12:00pm Top of the Hill
Jan 22	Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Office Closed
	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
Jan 21	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm Youth Group
Jan 22	1:30pm Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm Choir Practice
Jan 24	8:30am CPC Women's Gathering
Jan 25	9:00am Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am Worship Service
	Annual Congregation Mtg
Jan 26	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
Jan 28	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
Jan 29	1:30pm Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm Choir Practice

Deadline for submissions to the February Bell Newsletter will be Thursday, January 22nd

BIRTHDAYS

JoAnn Blinsman
Rod Swanson
Ralph Hudelson
Jason Schaeffer
Steve Lind
Marcella Chandler

NOVEMBER FINANCES

Income \$27,976
Expenses \$23,363
Total \$ 4,613
Year to Date 2025
\$29,964



The New Year
by Martha Snell Nicholson

Dear Lord, as this New Year is born
I give it to Thy hand,
Content to walk by faith what paths
I cannot understand.



Whatever coming days may bring
Of bitter loss, or gain,
Or every crown of happiness;
Should sorrow come, or pain,

I only ask, loose not my hand,
Grip fast my soul, and be
My guiding light upon the path
Till, blind no more, I see!

DECEMBER SESSION NOTES

Pastor Chris started with a devotion from Max Lucado's Advent Devotional called *In the Manger*. Reviewed stewardship results, made adjustments to the 2026 budget to reflect pledged income, and approved final budget. Janet VanFleet gave update on Team Construction's design and costing for the Kitchen Remodeling Project. Longest Night Service planned for Wed December 17. Selected Family Promise of Clark County as this year's Christmas Eve Offering recipient. Discussed new people who have come to Cascades recently. Looking at a New Members Gathering soon. Began discussing book *Canoeing the Mountains* about the importance of adaptive change in our culture and in the Church. Overall we see progress in our church ministry and mission. Seeing how people in our church give of themselves so selflessly in many ways. Looking forward to slowing down over the Christmas holidays, spending time with family, focusing on what's truly important, and spending more time in prayer.

TOP OF THE HILL



All seniors in our church family are invited to gather for our Top of the Hill Senior Potluck on Sunday, January 18 following the church service. Top of the Hill meets the third Sunday of each month and will include discussion topics or information shared by members or guests. All seniors are welcome.

HELP TO PUT AWAY DECORATIONS



We will be packing away all the wonderful Christmas decorations on Monday, January 5th, 10am to noon. We are in need of some helping hands for this task. If you would like to help, please contact Laura Livingston, Worship Arts Elder.

Reading Thru the Bible...

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.

Hopefully after the last 2 months of reading you have developed a habit and maybe even an excitement for the Word of God and for what might come next in your reading!

Let's keep that momentum going and get a great start as we begin the New Year!

If you are not able to read every day you can 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! An option to reading would be to listen to the Bible on an app such as YouVersion®. 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 001 Gen 1-3 JAN 1	Day 002 Gen 4-7	Day 003 Gen 8-11	Day 004 Job 1-5	Day 005 Job 6-9	Day 006 Job 10-13	Day 007 Job 14-16
Day 008 Job 17-20 JAN 8	Day 009 Job 21-23	Day 010 Job 24-28	Day 011 Job 29-31	Day 012 Job 32-34	Day 013 Job 35-37	Day 014 Job 38-39
Day 015 Job 40-42 JAN 15	Day 016 Gen 12-15	Day 017 Gen 16-18	Day 018 Gen 19-21	Day 019 Gen 22-24	Day 020 Gen 25-26	Day 021 Gen 27-29
Day 022 Gen 30-31 JAN 22	Day 023 Gen 32-34	Day 024 Gen 35-37	Day 025 Gen 38-40	Day 026 Gen 41-42	Day 027 Gen 43-45	Day 028 Gen 46-47
Day 029 Gen 48-50 JAN 29	Day 030 Exo 1-3	Day 031 Exo 4-6				

NEW MEMBERS GATHERING

Have you been attending Cascades for a little while and are interested in possibly joining the church as a member or transferring your membership from another location? Join the session for a breakfast fellowship on a Saturday (from 9am to noon) coming soon and to learn more about what fuels our mission, vision, and plans for the future. Contact Elders Jerry Cochran, Jeff Engley, or Pastor Chris Montovino for more details.

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Active members and friends of the Congregation are invited to gather after worship on Sunday January 25 for our annual meeting, to receive the 2025 Annual Report, to set Pastor Chris's terms of call for 2026 and to field any questions about the 2026 Budget. Please plan to stay and join us!



WORSHIP ENVISIONING COMMITTEE

The Worship Envisioning Committee will be wrapping up their preliminary review of many different facets of worship in January. This review has resulted in some insights and revealed the challenges of worship at Cascades. The committee will use the results to prepare a series of interview questions for advisory members of the congregation. We hope to begin these interviews starting in February. If you were previously contacted to help as an Advisor, we do hope you will be willing to participate in our interviews. We will start scheduling the interviews soon.

So what will we do with the interview results? The Committee will meet and roll up the interview results into a series of recommendations for additions, modification and possible retirement of some worship practices. The recommendations will also include resource estimates and timelines for implementation. We hope by summer to be able to brief the congregation on these recommendations. If you have any questions about the Envisioning Committee's efforts please contact Laura Livingston, Worship Arts Elder.

BAPTISM

Have you been baptized yet as a public way to acknowledge your decision to follow Jesus Christ? Or have you considered baptizing your children in the faith that you hope for them to follow throughout their lives? On January 11, we will be celebrating Jesus' baptism who paved the way for all believers to also show others that they are beloved children of God who have been signed as God's special creation, sealed with the Holy Spirit, delivered from the grips of sin. If God is prompting you to take this special step in your walk with Jesus, talk to Pastor Chris and let's celebrate your baptism on January 11th as well.

WOMEN OF CASCADES

All women of Cascades are invited to join us **Saturday January 24 from 8:30-10:00 am**. Bring something to share for a casual breakfast and prepare for a time of connection and opportunity to learn and share with other women. Debbie Engley will lead our conversation on "the aroma of faith". Mark your calendar for **March 21 and June 6 from 8:30-10 am** for future women's gatherings.



JANUARY NEW SHOES

January New Shoes, New Smiles, Shoe Drive
Silver Star Elementary School is in need of tennis shoes, socks and underwear for kids of all ages and sizes. During the month of January, please help us fill our basket in the entry with donations and imagine the happy smiles of kiddos who receive them.



2026 STEWARDSHIP RESULTS

We've tallied our pledges for 2026 and received responses from 45 giving units totaling \$236,000. This is an increase of 5 giving units and \$12,100 from our 2025 pledges. Thank you to the entire congregation for your continued generosity and faithfulness. The Session meeting in December made reductions in our planned 2026 budget to reflect the pledged giving. Praise God for his blessings this past year and into the new year!