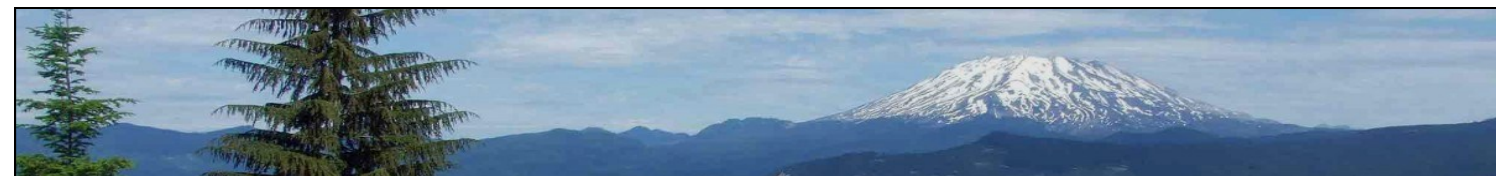




9503 NE 86th Street
Vancouver, WA 98662
(360) 892-6613
office@caspres.org
www.caspres.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

Volume 48, No. 9

SEPTEMBER

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Lynda Wittren




SOLVE THE RIDDLES

Why do birds fly south
in September?

Why did Humpty
Dumpty love
September?

Why do leaves always
travel in groups during
September?

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. 

If there was anything that was constant in our lives amidst an ever changing world, it would be the very character of God. Indeed, the Old Testament Prophet Malachi speaking for God stated, "I the Lord do not change." Malachi 3:6. Likewise the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews said the same thing about Jesus Christ. "He is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8. The theological term for this is the Immutability of God.

This quality can be an anchor in a storm and a comfort in the constant wind of change. New philosophies. New laws of governance. New technological trends. New ways of being the people of God. They can all be quite dizzying.

It's this last change that is on my mind most as I write today. American culture is constantly changing and yet if you think about how we do things at Cascades, very little has actually changed over the years. We sing the same familiar hymns, follow the same liturgy, and hear the same stories over and over again. While there is nothing bad in that, I find it interesting that the writer of Psalms, David, challenges us to "sing a new song to the Lord." Look at Psalms 96, 98, and 149. Why new songs? I think it's because new songs cause us to pause, to listen, and to really take in that which we are professing. Do we hear what we are singing? Do we believe what we are professing? Do we live it? These are important questions to ask as we are encouraged to learn new songs in worship.

Now this doesn't mean that we need to throw out the old and familiar and replace them solely with the new. It just means that we have to open to a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit of God as we are being led into a new future.

Over the next year, I am very excited about a new worship initiative that Worship Arts Elder, Laura Livingston, will be leading. Laura has been doing some great reading and asking important questions about how Cascades can more confidently step into the future together. In this newsletter, you'll read how she will be gathering a group of people together who will look at the way we worship together and study a book called *Future Focused Church, Leading Through Change, Engaging The Next Generation & Building A More Diverse Tomorrow*. This book provides leaders with a compass as well as guardrails for navigating our way forward. I can't wait to hear what they discover.

I once heard it said that the Church is always just one generation away from extinction. Indeed when one looks at the statistics of younger people leaving the Church, it can be quite sobering to consider. But then we also cling to the immutability of Christ and the fact that the Church has weathered much more challenging storms over its existence.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:15am Worship Service
Sunday School at 9am beginning September 14

Sept 1 Labor Day
Church Office Closed

Sept 7 Pancake Breakfast 9am

Sept 13 Men's Bible Study Fellowship 8am

Sept 17 Youth Group 6:30pm

Sept 20 Women's Fall Conference 8:45am

Sept 21 Top of the Hill 12:00pm

Choir Practice Thursdays at 6:45pm

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS



Born in Trenton, NJ, while her dad was attending seminary in Princeton, she is the youngest of four children. Her Louisiana grandmother, upon realizing the enormity of the upcoming event, remarked, "My baby's going to be born a Yankee!" Growing up with the influence of our church, she appreciates her childhood and the impact of her parents, Chris and Karen, who named her Sofia Grace, foreshadowing her wisdom and freely bestowed grace.

Growing up with ADHD taught her to do two things at once. She certainly isn't afraid of hard work. At Camas High School, as an avowed nerd, Sofia succeeded at many AP classes and participated in the no-cut tennis team. An art class led to her interest in design. One particular ceramics class teacher treated the students as adults and taught her that the process is so much more important than the product, learning that how to do something is better than just possessing some final object. As a teaching assistant, she also developed an interest in law and history, with a favorite time period being the Gilded Age, which she sees as similar to our present time.

Sofia Montovino has now earned her two-year technical degree from Fashion Institute of Technology (part of the State University of New York), and will focus on fine arts for the final two years as she finds her specialty in the fashion world. Already she is discovering her mission and purpose to be in the area of sustainability, inspired by a performance art exhibit where a white piece of material was affected everywhere black-painted fingers would touch it. A goal is to encourage people to buy less, but higher quality, so items are mended instead of being tossed aside, and where workers are paid more.

An interesting thing about New York City, with all its people, Sofia has discovered that it is easy to find time alone there, especially when she needs to hide or cry! Also, she finds people there can be quite helpful, though perhaps in a seemingly unfriendly manner. That said, it is a city of great opportunity, with a niche for everything if one can find it.

Teachers at FIT all have at least 15 years of employment in the fashion industry. Already, Sofia is learning to make connections because her fellow students will be fellow employees someday. Competitors, yes, but also friends. She says, "You'll never be the weirdest, the best, or the most successful, so take a step back."

She hopes to be employed someday in a larger fashion company in New York City where she can develop her personal brand. Along the way, she hopes for an internship with, perhaps, Ralph Lauren.

Sofia enjoys travel, has been to London, Scotland, France, Portugal, Greece, Canada, and Mexico, but hopes to visit a variety of countries, and, in fact, would love to see all seven continents, except maybe for Australia, because they have...spiders! Big, scary ones!

We, as part of Sofia's Cascades' family, can help by praying for direction for her. She is spending the first term this coming school year in Milan, as, by God's good grace, she received her student visa just three weeks before she needed to travel.

Cascades Presbyterian Church

Join us for

Women's Fall Fellowship Conference 2025 "Shine & Bloom Through Your Cracks"

*When God's light seeps out through the cracks others can see our blooms.
2 Corinthians 4:7*

**Saturday, September 20, 2025
8:45am—2pm, Lunch Included
Guest Speaker Dr. Deborah Baker Hampton
On Time Ministries—Tacoma, WA**

RSVP by signing up at the church or by calling the church office by 9/14.



AUGUST SESSION NOTES

Pastor Chris opened with devotions. Welcomed Wesley VanFleet, Janet VanFleet's grandson to talk about receiving the sacrament of baptism. Creating 2026 Budget for September session meeting. Discussed the importance of hiring yard and sprinkler service company to take over volunteer yard work. Will look into costs for 2026 budget. Received rebate from Clark PUD for new LED church sign. Considering chain fencing options to prevent people from driving on yard. Kitchen Remodeling Committee meeting in September to interview potential contractors. Approved several Benevolence Board Grants. Discussed possible change in Elementary Sunday Education program. Reviewed and discussed Strategic Planning Work from 2023. Overall there were several joys (retirement, birthdays, and celebrations) and concerns (surgeries) shared and prayed over. Feeling refreshed and excited about upcoming ministry season.

BENEVOLENCE BOARD FALL GRANTS

The Cascades Benevolence Board was recently pleased to provide the following grants to several of our ministry partners. Family Promise of Clark County (\$9,500); Council for the Homeless: (\$15,000 total. \$5,000 for 2025-2026 Winter Housing Overflow Season, \$5,000 each to Evergreen and Vancouver School Districts Housing Support Funds); Friends of the Carpenter (\$10,000); The Giving Closet (\$5,000); and East Clark County Young Life (\$4,300 in Campership funds to help students from Heritage High School and Covington Middle School afford summer camp). These resources are given in trust by several individuals not directly connected to Cascades who desire to support under-resourced families and students in Clark County. They are not connected to Cascades Annual Budget.

ENVISIONING FUTURE WORSHIP AT CASCADES



Starting in the fall I will be assembling a team to help envision what worship may look like in the future at Cascades. What is prompting this you may ask? Beyond the addition of initiating online worship, there have been few changes to how worship is conducted at Cascades for a number of years. Times change, church demographics change, music styles change, and delivery of online worship changes. Though the liturgy remains the constant, how it fits with the other elements of worship needs a prayerful review. It is time to take a fresh look at all the areas that make up worship and determine what, if anything, we need to change. This envisioning project will most likely take a full year (perhaps slightly more). During the year we will assess where we are now (**HERE**), define where we want to be (**THERE**), and **HOW** we plan to get to **THERE**. During the project the team will be guided by an excellent book just published in 2025 and written by three scholars from Fuller Seminary entitled "*The Future Focused Church*". As the team moves through the process outlined in the book, we will be coming to the congregation at a number of key checkpoints to obtain your input and feedback. Please keep the team in your prayers as we embark on the important endeavor. If you have any questions regarding the envisioning project please contact Laura Livingston, Worship Arts Elder.

GREEN BAG REPORT



Warm weather didn't stop us as donors; neighborhood coordinators and volunteers worked together to collect and sort food and household supplies. As schools are opening, coordinators help fill resource shelves there too! Thank you for all you do as we work together to support our Clark County neighbors. Your generosity is simply extraordinary!

We had 28 donors for our August 3rd pick up at Cascades and collected 398 lbs. of food. Thank you to everyone at Cascades for participating. Our next pick-up is Saturday, October 5th. The manager of the F.I.S.H. of Orchards suggested a few baby items that are always needed: baby formula, diapers and baby wipes. For more information on Clark Neighbors Food Project - Green Bag contact Debbie Engley.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BELL?

The Bell Newsletter is available in 2 formats: by email or by regular snail mail. If you are not receiving the Bell Newsletter and would like to, please contact the church office and let Lisa know which format you prefer.

The Bell Newsletter is also available on the church website. Please keep the office informed of any changes in your address or phone number so we can keep the Church Directory up to date!



ONLINE GIVING

To get set up to give online use this QR code or go to <https://www.caspres.org/giving>.

You can use our online giving to donate to several different funds or projects and you can also access your own Giving Statement!

The Lord loves a cheerful giver. Thank you for your generosity!



A BIG VBS THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the following people for their help during vacation bible school. We couldn't have done it without you! Joan Detrick, Sofia Montovino, Otri Mukherjee, Clara Hickok, Kara Kent, Nancy Bisbee, Laura Livingston, Heather Krane, Catherine Hartrim-Lowe, Rachel Shewbert, Debbie Engley, Bill Honey, Betty Scott, Linda Beck, Taushia Wallschlaeger, Tom Holczer, Mia McLemore, Doris Raspa, Dian Poujade, Seth Hartrim-Lowe, Heather Hartrim-Lowe, Sue Holcomb, Renee Lacombe, Lucy Moses, Raynee Wallschlaeger, Sophie Hickok, Camden Suttan, Kanen Poujade, Olivia Scott, Becky Hickok, Cordell Beck, Ishara Mukherjee, Michi Weber, Miriam Hartrim-Lowe, Chris Montovino, Lisa Kupfer, and Michelle Drexler.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 14TH

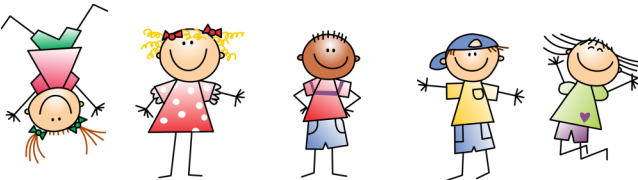
We will be having Sunday school from 9-10am each Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month when the pancake breakfast takes place). This will be for 3rd grade thru High School.

This year we will also be having Sunday School after the children's sermon during church for 4yr olds thru 2nd graders or children may stay in church with their families.

The nursery is for babies thru 3 yr olds and will be available during Adult Sunday School 9-10am and during church from 10:15-11:15am.

We are looking for volunteers to help during both of these Sunday school times. Sign ups will be on the front bulletin board. Materials will be provided.

If you have any questions, please talk to Janet Lind.



TOP OF THE HILL

Top of the Hill meets on the 3rd Sunday following church services and all seniors are welcome to the potluck. If you forget food, we always have plenty. This month on September 21st Dian Poujade will be on hand to talk about plans for women's events. We will also discuss ideas for future potlucks. We will gather also on the third Sunday in October and November this year. Come and get reacquainted and share what you have been doing over the summer.

MEN'S SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY

Calling all men! Join us for a meaningful time in the Word and fellowship from 8-9:30am on the following Saturday mornings this fall. Let's grow together in faith, friendship, and purpose.



- ⇒ September 13
- ⇒ October 11
- ⇒ November 8
- ⇒ December 13

Bring something to share—food, stories, or encouragement! Together, we'll also begin dreaming and planning for a 2026 Spring Men's Weekend Retreat. Don't miss out on the conversation and connection!

Fall Adult Sunday School Resumes

Join us on Sunday September 14 at 9:00am in the smaller conference room as we reconvene for Adult Sunday School. We will be resuming Pete Greig's series on *Prayer* that we left off on last spring. In October, we will be dovetailing our learning with a series on *The Names of the Holy Spirit* with Dr. Tony Evans. Come join us!



PANCAKE SUNDAY IS BACK!

Pancake Sunday Is Back! Mark your calendars—starting September 7th at 9am. We're flipping flapjacks and serving up smiles! Join us in the fellowship hall for a delicious morning of pancakes, syrup, and good company. Bring your appetite, bring a friend, and come hungry for both food and fellowship. We can't wait to see you there!



HAPPY 67TH ANNIVERSARY!

Happy 67th Anniversary
to
Dorothy & Jerry Cochran!



September

Sept 1	Labor Day	Church Office Closed
	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 2	7:00pm	Deacon Meeting
Sept 3	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 4	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Sept 7	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	10:15am	Worship Service
Sept 8	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 9	7:00pm	Session Meeting
Sept 10	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 11	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	4:00pm	Kitchen Meeting
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Sept 13	8:00am	Men's Bible Study Fellowship
Sept 14	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Sept 15	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 17	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Sept 18	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Sept 20	8:00am	Women's Fall Conference
Sept 21	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
	12:00pm	Top of the Hill
Sept 22	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 24	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Sept 28	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Sept 28	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Sept 29	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship

JULY FINANCES

Income	\$28,549	
Expenses	\$25,345	Year to Date 2025
Total	\$ 3,204	\$30,887

BIRTHDAYS

Drew Kenney	Lynda Wittren
Leigh Taylor	Nathan Kenney
David Dayal	Sue Holcomb
Karen Montovino	Becky Hickok
Doris Raspa	Susan Kenney
Corvin Sieveking	Sharon Morrison



Daily Devotions



Created and Re-Created

Sept 1	Psalm 1
Sept 2	Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Sept 3	Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Sept 4	Jeremiah 18:1-11
Sept 5	Philemon 1:1-21
Sept 6	Luke 14:25-33

Wherever You Fall, I'll Find You

Sept 7	Luke 15:1-7
Sept 8	Luke 15:1-7
Sept 9	Luke 15:1-7
Sept 10	Luke 15:1-7
Sept 11	Luke 15:1-7
Sept 12	Luke 15:8-10
Sept 13	Luke 15:8-10

Wise as Perperents, Gentle as Doves

Sept 14	Luke 16:9-12
Sept 15	Luke 16:1-13
Sept 16	Luke 16:9-12
Sept 17	Luke 16:1-13
Sept 18	Luke 16:13
Sept 19	Amos 8:4-7
Sept 20	Amos 8:4-7

Enacting Our Faith

Sept 21	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Sept 22	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Sept 23	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Sept 24	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Sept 25	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Sept 26	Luke 16:19-31
Sept 27	Luka 16:19-31

Feeling Our Faith

Sept 28	Lamentations 1:1-6
Sept 29	2 Timothy 1:1-14
Sept 30	Luke 17:5-10

Deadline for submissions to the
October Bell Newsletter will be
Wednesday, September 24th

- Answers:
1. Because it's quicker than walking.
 2. Because Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
 3. They like to "branch" out together.