

January 2024



CASCADES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Deborah Shaner

FISH FOOD

Peanut Butter,
Jams & Jellies




SOLVE THE RIDDLES

Which of the following is not white? Igloo, a white dove, polar bears, milk, marshmallows, or snow?

What can be a cap, a bed, a bank and a bird at the same time?

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 47, No. 1

Recently while away on a spiritual retreat, I reflected on the story of Jesus healing a blind man named Bartimaeus in Mark 10. One day, as Jesus traveled through Judea and came to Jericho, he encountered this blind man begging by the roadside. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was about to pass him by, he called out to get his attention. Jesus' disciples told him to be quiet as they assumed Jesus had more important things to do. But Jesus stopped, gave this man his full attention and asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

I was struck by the motive behind Jesus' question because to everyone present and to me as the reader, his need was very obvious. He was blind. He wanted to see. Everyone could "see" that. But Jesus' question probes much deeper than just about meeting this man's felt need. This was a spiritual "seeing" that the man needed.

Throughout scriptures we "see" that whenever Jesus asks a question, it is never because Jesus does not know the answer. Jesus asks the question to "see" if they know the answer to the question that is being asked...to "see" if we know the answer.

So that got me thinking, what other questions does Jesus ask throughout the four Gospels? What might we learn through them? At just twelve years old, he asked his parents who had lost track of him in the temple as they traveled home from the holidays, "Why were you searching for me?" Then once his first disciples began following him, he asked "What do you want?" Then to the invalid at the Pool of Bethesda, he asked "Do you want to get well?" And there are many others. Again the answers to these questions were obvious on the surface, but more complex underneath.

Over the course of this winter, Lent, Eastertide, and spring, we will focus in worship on the stories in which these questions are raised. Not only will we explore their meanings within the text, but we will also "see" how the Holy Spirit turns them back toward us to answer for ourselves.

Back at my retreat setting, I sat with the question "What do you want?" For the whole afternoon, I allowed the Holy Spirit to meet me where I was at. So I told Jesus, I was tired. I was feeling a little weary from the journey. I needed some renewal. This series sprung from this rich time of just being with the Lord. My hope is that it will be a very rich season of learning for us all.

So this year, let us sit with these questions that the Lord puts before us. Let us be honest with him and one another about exactly what we need. And then let us trust that Jesus knows best how to satisfy our hearts' desires.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino

WARM HAND WARMS HEARTS CLOTHING DRIVE

Winter is here and the schools we support need jackets, sweaters, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, shoes, boots, even blankets for their families in need. All sizes are helpful. So when you are cleaning out closets or shopping, look for new or used items in good condition to bring to Cascades during the month of January. Thank you in advance for warming the hands and hearts of others.

Janet Van Fleet
Elder for Mission and Peace



CALLING ALL MEN-CHILDREN'S SERMONS

Each Sunday we are blessed by so many people who take time to bring us Children's Messages during worship. We know that these are cherished moments by all of God's Children regardless of our ages. What we need are more diverse voices to share with our children. That being said, we would love especially to hear from some of the men in our congregation. It's really quite simple and you don't have to come up with the content on your own. Pastor Chris selects the children's messages in advance to follow along with his sermon series and will provide it to you with enough time in advance to prepare. If you are interested, please contact Heather Hartrim-Lowe. Thanks for prayerfully considering!

CASCADES MEN'S TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER

Saturday January 20, 2024. Save the date for this year's Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament at Pastor Chris' house. Dinner starts at 5:30pm. This year, we will not be playing for money so that some of our younger men can join in as well. This will be in lieu of the Men's Saturday Breakfast and Bible Study which will resume in February.

RESULTS OF FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who submitted a planned giving card for this fall's Stewardship Campaign. Session is pleased to report that based on the anticipated income from these cards that we are projecting a nearly balanced budget for 2024. Once again, God has faithfully provided for all of our needs through the generosity of our members. If you haven't been able to turn in your blue card, you will find them located as you walk into the sanctuary.

DECEMBER SESSION NOTES

Devotional reading provided by Faye Salomone. Approved Benevolence Board request to provide \$5,000 in WINCO Family Friendly Gift Cards to families in need at Sunset, Silver Star, and Orchards Elementary Schools, Covington Middle School, and Heritage High School. Reported on Fall Stewardship Campaign. Approved nearly balanced budget for 2024. Reported on new custodial services. Received appreciation from local neighborhood group who uses our space for meetings. Overall feeling was gratitude for God's provision for 2023 and 2024 through the generosity of the congregation and that God was present as we discussed particular issues. Prayed for specific people facing difficulties in our church.

daily Devotions



Living in Faith

Jan 1 Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Jan 2 Mark 1:1-8
Jan 3 Mark 1:9-11
Jan 4 Ecclesiastes 3:5-8
Jan 5 Acts 19:1-7
Jan 6 Matthew 2:1-12

God is Always with Us

Jan 7 Psalm 139:1-7, 13-18
Jan 8 Psalm 139:1-7, 13-18
Jan 9 Psalm 139:1-7, 13-18
Jan 10 Psalm 139:1-7, 13-18
Jan 11 Psalm 139:1-7, 13-18
Jan 12 Psalm 139:1-7, 13-18
Jan 13 John 1:42-51

Listening to God

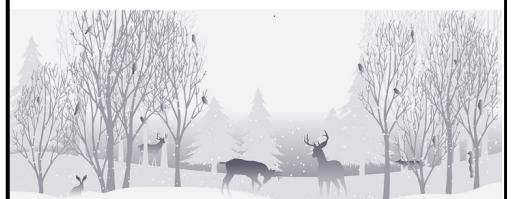
Jan 14 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Jan 15 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Jan
16 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jan 17 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Jan 18 John 1:43-51
Jan 19 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jan 20 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Trusting God's Grace

Jan 21 Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Jan 22 Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Jan 23 Psalm 62:5-12
Jan 24 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Jan 25 Mark 1:14-20
Jan 26 Mark 1:14-20
Jan 27 Mark 1:14-20

Proclaiming God's Name

Jan 28 Isaiah 40:21-31
Jan 29 Psalm 147:1-11
Jan 30 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Jan 31 Mark 1:29-39



CASCADES MISSION TRIP

Cascades Mission Trip
New Hope School in San Pedro Sula, Honduras
June 24-28, 2024

Last chance to sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested in going on a mission trip to New Hope School in Honduras next June. Join us as we help New Hope School minister and teach the poorest of the poor of God's children. We will be supporting them during this week with their Vacation Bible School and truly be a witness of God's love being expressed through the dedicated staff of New Hope. Together let's help their children break the cycle of poverty and give them opportunities that they never dreamed were possible. This mission trip can be a life changing experience. It certainly was for me.

We will be having a meeting in January (date not yet set) to give more details on costs, fundraising, and what to expect. Heather Hartrim-Lowe and I are happy to answer any questions you might have.

Janet Van Fleet
Elder for Mission and Peace



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Born in Alhambra, CA, then to Grants Pass, OR, to Weiser, ID, this farmer's daughter attended Idaho State College (now University) in Pocatello. He, born and raised in Pocatello, son of a Union Pacific conductor and a legal secretary, met her at a fraternity/sorority social event at the Downata hot springs pool. He noticed that all except two girls were paired up with guys, so he flipped a coin with another of his fraternity brothers and said, "Heads, I get the blonde, tails, I get the brunette!" He got the blonde and eventually married her!



Jerry and Dorothy Cochran have lived in Pocatello, ID; Baltimore, MD; Salt Lake City, UT; Biwabik, MN; London, England; Ayr, Scotland; Pacific Grove, CA; Roseburg, OR; and now Vancouver, WA. In 1959, Jerry, with his BS degree in math, was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army, but was retired after 91 days because of a medical condition.

Dorothy, for 24 years, was the office manager for KFC's largest franchise with over 300 stores. For the corporation, she supervised about 20 bookkeepers, handling payroll, receipts, and sales accounting.

Jerry traveled the world during his time of employment, visiting all 50 states, all Western European countries, South Africa, Colombia, North Korea, Formosa (Taiwan), Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, New Zealand, and Australia. He worked as a reliability engineer for two years with Westinghouse Electric Corp, analyst for two years with Hercules Powder Co, 13 years as marketing manager and purchasing director for IRECO Chemicals, and 14 years as purchasing manager and subcontracting manager for EIMCO. Jerry has worked with satellite and missile systems, chemicals and explosives, and sewage/clean water products.

Everywhere they have gone, they have exhibited leadership. Dorothy, an accomplished quilter, has presided over quilt groups and other ladies' organizations. Jerry has been moderator of his local church and board chairman nationally, club president and various other roles for the Rotary, and, as a Mason and Shriner, is a Past Master and Past Potentate, as well as a 33-degree Scottish Rite Mason.

In retirement, they loved their home above the North Umpqua River, but they moved to Vancouver to be near their son (Jim, with an MBA from New Mexico, who works at a Hillsboro chip manufacturer, and whose wife Judy teaches in the Evergreen School District), three grandchildren (Amy, Jeremy, and Katherine, all Portland State graduates), and great-grandson (Laith). Longtime Congregationalists, they were intrigued by Cascades Church's webpage, so they came to visit. They like when we sing the old hymns. They stayed because of the sermons and the kind reception of the members.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

If you are like me, you are struggling to wrap your brain around the current state of affairs in Israel. Should we be pro Israel? Pro Palestinian? Neither? Both? It is a very complex issue with a very long history (millennia actually) and comes packed with a ton of emotions. I have been reading some books and watching videos to help cultivate my own understanding. For that reason, I would like to create a space during our Sunday Adult Education hour where we can learn and process together so that we can faithfully get a better understanding. Some years ago, the General Assembly of the PC (USA) took some stances against Israel that created a lot of pain for the Jewish community. We will explore topics like: The History of the Israeli Palestinian conflict. What is antisemitism? What does the Bible say? What is the Jewish perspective on the issue? What is the Palestinian perspective on the issue? Is a two state solution and peaceful coexistence even possible? While I don't think we will solve any of these issues, what I hope is that we each walk away with a greater appreciation for how Jesus' way is the only way out of the violent cycle of retribution that both sides have clung to for generations. This class will start on Sunday January 14 at 9:00am. Thank you for prayerfully considering participation. Pastor Chris



IMAGO CHRISTI AND NOVO

Dear people of Cascades, Sharon and I want to thank you for your generosity and vision for God's kingdom by stewarding some of your resources toward increasing the spiritual health of global Christian leaders, both here in the United States and across the world. That is what you are doing by partnering with us in our work with Imago Christi through Novo mission. Pretty cool, yes?!



For those of you who may not be aware, Imago Christi is the spiritual formation team of Novo, a discipling and church planting and leadership equipping mission agency with active work in 115 countries around the world. Our passion is to see pastors and missionaries thrive, not only in their ministries, but spiritually as well. We come alongside these pastors, missionaries, and other Christian leaders to help them ground their ministry in a life of abiding in the love of God, and a deeper intimacy with Christ. Statistically, half of those who enter ministry drop out within the first 5 years, and 80% of pastors state that ministry is detrimental to their marriages and families. Through our work with Imago Christi we are helping to reverse these trends by offering spiritual direction, training courses, and marriage retreats, along with many other resources, to provide this much needed (and too-often overlooked) soul care and spiritual formation support. Thanks to the financial partnership of friends like you at Cascades, we are able to offer our services free or below-cost so that Christian leaders and missionaries can access the support they need without money being a barrier.

We are looking forward to sharing many of the resources of Imago Christi with the people of Cascades, both online and in person. While there are many possibilities, we want to highlight specific offerings right away for you to consider, one for all of you and one specifically for your staff:

Spiritual Formation Discovery (January 13, 19-21) – for those of you who have been Christians for a while and have been serving faithfully, and wonder if there is anything 'more' to this Christian life, this online-retreat course may be just what you need. The Discovery course will show you how to cooperate with God in your spiritual growth in a way that gives vision and hope for a life-long journey of love into love. To sign up or find out more, visit: <https://www.imagochristi.org/discovery>

The Table Marriage and Ministry Retreat (April 18-21) – send ministry couples away for 3 nights to revitalize their marriage and ministry by connecting with God, themselves, one another, and other couples in vocational ministry. [<https://www.thetabletreats.org/>]

About every 4-6 weeks, we put out an email newsletter in which we share stories from the field along with upcoming spiritual growth opportunities. If you would like to receive these emails, you can sign up here (<https://gsziegler.novostaff.org/>) or scan this QR code:





JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan 1	Office Closed-New Years Day
Jan 2	7:00pm Deacons Meeting
Jan 3	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm Youth Group
	6:30pm Worship Team
Jan 4	1:00pm Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm Choir Practice
Jan 6	7:30pm JSV Concert
Jan 7	9:00am Pancake Breakfast
	9:00am Prayer Partner Kickoff
	10:15am Worship Service
Jan 8	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
Jan 9	7:00pm Session Meeting
Jan 10	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm Youth Group
	6:30pm Worship Team
Jan 11	1:00pm Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm Choir Practice
Jan 13	10:00am Seedlings Poetry Workshop
Jan 14	9:00am Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am Worship Service
Jan 15	Office Closed—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
Jan 17	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm Youth Group
	6:30pm Worship Team
Jan 18	1:00pm Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm Choir Practice
Jan 20	5:30pm Family Game Night
	6:00pm Men's Texas Hold'em Poker
Jan 21	9:00am Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am Worship Service
	11:30am Top of the Hill Potluck
Jan 22	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
Jan 24	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm Youth Group
	6:30pm Worship Team
Jan 25	1:00pm Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm Choir Practice
Jan 28	9:00am Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am Worship Service
	11:45pm Congregational Meeting
Jan 29	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
Jan 31	12:30pm Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm Youth Group
	6:30pm Worship Team

BIRTHDAYS

Marcella Chandler
Ralph Hudelson
Steve Lind
Rod Swanson

ANNIVERSARIES

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

NOVEMBER FINANCES

Income \$31,167.90
Expenses \$21,675.51
Total \$ 9,492.39

Year to Date 2023
(\$ 575.88)



Answers: 1: Polar bears, because their fur is colorless. Each fur strand is actually transparent and pigment free with a hollow core which reflects light. 2: Snow



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



*Happy
New Year!*

<u>JUNIOR SYMPHONY OF VANCOUVER CONCERT</u> January 6 @ 7:30pm	<u>SEEDLING POETRY WORKSHOP</u> January 13 @ 10:00am	<u>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</u> January 28 @ 11:45pm
<u>SUNDAY WORSHIP</u> 10:15am Worship Service	<u>PANCAKE BREAKFAST</u> January 7 @ 9:00am	<u>FAMILY GAME NIGHT</u> January 20 @ 5:30pm
		<u>TOP OF THE HILL POTLUCK</u> January 21 @ 11:30am