

March 2024



MARCH

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Becky Hickok

FISH FOOD

Juices




SOLVE THE RIDDLES

What do you get when you cross a bumblebee with a rabbit?

I'm hunted, but never killed. I'm painted, but never on canvas. I can be real or fake. What am I?

Stumped?
See page 5 for the answers.

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

THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

Volume 47, No. 3

Jesus said, "Why are you crying? Who is it that you are looking for?" John 20:15

Throughout Lent, we have been focusing our time in worship on the questions that Jesus asked. We have learned that Jesus was forty times more likely to ask a question than to give his disciples a direct answer. These are questions that probe deep within our hearts to see if we know the answers to what he is asking.

On the Sunday following Jesus' crucifixion, the resurrected and glorified Jesus encountered Mary at his tomb. We aren't sure exactly which Mary it was, but we know she was one of Jesus' followers. Mary was grief struck that her beloved Rabbi had been brutally executed by the Roman authorities and dumbfounded his body was not in the place where it was last left...in the tomb. All of the evidence pointed that Jesus' grave had been robbed and his body had been taken while the expensive grave clothes had been mysteriously left behind.

I must admit that Jesus' questions seem strange. Typically one arrives at a graveside grieving the loss of a loved one. And when we grieve, we cry. On top of all that, everyone must have known that this was Jesus' tomb because they followed Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus there when they got permission to remove Jesus' body from the cross and place it in a borrowed tomb.

So at face value, the answers to Jesus' questions seem elementary and obvious. "Duh! Don't you know anything? Where have you been these past days?"

But often when Jesus asks his questions, he is asking so much more. Questions that beg follow up questions.

"Why are you crying?" Do not you remember what I taught you while I was with you? This had to happen to fulfill all of the prophecies about the Messiah. Did you not know that I had to die so that you might be set free from the grips of sin? **And who is it that you are looking for?** You came here looking for the flesh and blood. Do you not remember how I said that I would be crucified, buried, and raised again on the third day? And that because I live again, you too will live again one day? You will not find me among the dead, but among the living."

These are questions that Jesus not only asked Mary (hypothetically), but asks us this Easter as well. Questions that invite us into a new reality of what Jesus is doing in our lives. What or who are we grieving that we have lost? A loved one, a season of life, a career, a status? Maybe Jesus is inviting us to let go of what or who was lost and live into the truth that anything or anyone who is in Christ is never truly lost, but found, whether in this life or the next.

Continued on Page 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Who or what are we looking for? Sadly, our American culture is becoming less and less Christian and more and more spiritual. What I mean by that is that people are seeking truth more than ever, but instead of looking to Jesus for answers they are finding their truths in all sorts of areas that will not lead to the fullness of life they truly desire...politics, wealth, careers, education, various identities, relationships, material possessions, status, what have you. Only Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and life to the full." John 10:10 Everything else only leads us to dead ends, back to the tomb.

So this Easter season, my hope for each of us is that we might truly ponder Jesus' questions in our hearts. And come that blessed Easter morning, we might proclaim with all of our might. He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

BUNCO NIGHT

Saturday, March 2 @ 6:30pm

The youth group would like to invite you to a Bunco night! We will be doing this in lieu of the Sweetheart Banquet. We welcome all age groups. There will still be a free-will offering for the youth group camp fund.

We hope that you will join us for an evening of Bunco, prizes, community, desserts, and coffee (decaf will be served, too). Keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet in the narthex!

We look forward to seeing you there!
Sarah and the Youth Group

**GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER*****New Members Information Event and Welcoming Celebration***

Have you been attending Cascades Presbyterian Church and wanting to learn more about how to become a member? If so, please join us on Saturday April 6, 2024 from 9am to noon for a new members information event. We will begin with breakfast with the elders where you will learn more about what makes us tick and how we do things around here. Then on Sunday April 7, 2024 we will welcome our new members before the congregation during the worship service and have an all church celebration luncheon immediately. Child care will be available on Saturday for all who might need it. Please let us know if you will plan to attend. Come, Be Fed, Be Sent as part of Cascades' church family.

**daily
Devotions*****Gifts for God's People***

Mar 1 John 2:13-22
Mar 2 John 2:13-22

Our Salvation Comes

Mar 3 Numbers 21:4-9
Mar 4 Numbers 21:4-9
Mar 5 Numbers 21:4-9
Mar 6 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Mar 7 Ephesians 2:1-10
Mar 8 Ephesians 2:1-10
Mar 9 John 3:14-21

Relationship With God

Mar 10 Jeremiah 31:31-34
Mar 11 Jeremiah 31:31-34
Mar 12 Psalm 119:9-16
Mar 13 Hebrews 5:5-10
Mar 14 John 12:20-33
Mar 15 John 12:20-33
Mar 16 John 12:20-33

To Be With God

Mar 17 Psalm 118:1-2, 29-29
Mar 18 Psalm 118:1-2
Mar 19 Philippians 2:5-11
Mar 20 Isaiah 50:4-9a
Mar 21 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mar 22 Mark 11:1-11
Mar 23 John 12:12-16

Holy Week

Mar 24 Mark 11:1-11
Mar 25 Philippians 2:5-11
Mar 26 Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)
Mar 27 Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)
Mar 28 Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)
Mar 29 Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)



CASCADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SAFETY & SECURITY TEAM

Because we care deeply about the people who visit or attend Cascades Presbyterian Church, we have developed a safety and security ministry. Our goal is to maintain a group of trained volunteers who can quickly respond to medical emergencies and other situations that may arise. We practiced one of those situations immediately after the Annual Meeting of the Congregation when we shared what to do in the event of an active threat present in our building. It has been shown that organizations rise to the level of which they have been trained. Lord willing, we will never have to implement these procedures, but having them in place and knowing what each of our roles is in that moment will help us maintain as safe of an environment as possible. Though there are unique volunteers who serve in the ministry, every person is a member of the team. If you see something odd or out of the ordinary, please report it as soon as possible so we can evaluate it properly. Thank you for your support of this ministry. Pastor Chris Montovino

FEBRUARY SESSION NOTES

Devotions focused on Mark 1:35 where Jesus invited his disciples to get away with him to a quiet place for rest and renewal. Talked about the importance of retreats and the need to schedule both Men's and Women's Retreats soon. Added a new Organizational Theft Coverage to our policy to cover internet/email fraud and prevent loss. Reported on 21 new homes going on vacant property immediately in front of church parking lot entrance on 86th St. Reconvening the Church Safety and Security Team soon to discuss Sunday morning door security and medical emergency plan. Discussed neighborhood complaints about quad vehicle disturbances during snow days. Lenten Zoom Bible Study to focus on Pastor Francis Chan's video teaching on Jesus' final words to the disciples before going to the cross. Planning new format for new members class on Saturday April 6. Purposed to be more of a celebration. Approved more neighborhood association meetings to discuss railroad usage in area. Overall felt like we are back to a normal rhythm. Spent closing time with elders sharing prayer requests and praying over them.

CLIMATE SUMMIT REPORT

I attended the 2024 Oregon Interfaith Earth Summit on February 5 by Zoom. The theme of this year's summit was "Hope for Our Common Home". The event focused on things that are happening in Oregon, but they have counterparts in our state, too. Here are some highlights from the event.

We hope, not based on the probability of a positive outcome, but on the strength of an inspiring vision and the strength of our love. We need to see that our actions to restore the earth are a spiritual call. We need to gather with community for strength and encouragement.

Climate concerns are interwoven with social justice concerns. Think of homeless people who don't have a place to get away from wildfire smoke or people living in low-income housing built near a high-pressure gas pipeline. We need to raise our voices in support of action to limit climate change AND to address economic inequality.

We need to become active with organizations such as Washington Interfaith Power and Light (at <https://earthministry.org/>) that share information about legislative and regulatory activities that have large impacts on our environment.

We need to include in our prayers lament about environmental degradation and requests for God's help as we commit to take on the actions needed to protect our common home for all life.

I would be glad to talk with anyone who would like more information.

Lindsay Winsor



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

What leads to a life of beautiful music? Could it be growing up in two foreign nations? Or perhaps spending one's 10th birthday being evacuated during a national crisis? Perhaps a broken drumstick?



She, born in Milwaukie, OR, and raised there and also in XinXiang, Henan Province, China and in Jos, Nigeria, had a Lutheran Christian education, which led her to Concordia College in Portland, OR, where she met her future husband. He, a lifelong resident of Portland, and she were part of the praise team at St Michael's Lutheran Church, next door to Concordia. One day as he played "enthusiastically," his drumstick broke and whistled past her ear. Such is her first memory of him. Sarah married Brandon Shewbert there in the beautiful chancel, with "floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on lush Northwest foliage."

Brandon has worked as a personal trainer and strength coach. Sarah followed her bachelor's degree with postbaccalaureate work at Portland State, a master's degree from the University of Portland, and a PhD from the University of Washington. She currently is "an instructional designer working with professors at a nursing college to craft online courses." She also has "run a musical theater camp (MADE for Kids) for 2nd through 8th graders in Portland since 2004." While in college, she and Brandon "formed a Christian rock band with some friends (something that came naturally to him but was definitely a stylistic stretch for this classically trained pianist!)" They "played primarily in pubs around Portland, which was always an adventure."

Sarah also currently blesses Cascades church with her talented piano playing and beautiful singing voice as our accompanist on the piano and providing special music. Daughter Rachel volunteers with the choir and praise team, loves music and theater as she sings "incessantly" at home and practices French horn. Son Jonah enjoys anime, video games, superheroes, Parkour, and martial arts.

Growing up as a child of missionaries, Sarah lived fairly isolated in China where she learned the importance of family. Evacuated during the 1989 Tian'anmen Square Massacre, her family was part of one of the first American organizations to return a couple of months afterward. Later, in Nigeria, she started seventh grade at a school run by 10 cooperating mission groups. She learned that "God does not ask us to check our brains at the door of the church; He welcomes our questions and our doubts." She also learned the differences between the denominations and how minor they really are.

An avid and excellent photographer, Sarah produces photobooks of outdoor scenery, wildlife, and her kids. Brandon and Sarah hope to visit Ireland and backpack in New Zealand someday. Brandon has seen Japan, while Sarah has visited her dad's ancestral home in The Netherlands, attended *Henry V* at London's Globe Theatre, spent a week in Naples, Italy, seen Cairo, and stood at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. She is allergic to mostly everything.

Sarah sang non-stop as a child, made up her own tunes before learning to talk, began piano lessons while in Nigeria, practiced for hours, and accompanied the choir and played for church within a year. Most of her education and instructing involved music. Cascades is far beyond fortunate to enjoy her incredible talents each Sunday!

Submitted by Bill Honey





CALENDAR

Mar 2	6:30pm	Bunco Night
Mar 3	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	10:15am	Worship Service
Mar 4	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Mar 5	7:00pm	Deacons Meeting
Mar 6	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
	6:30pm	Worship Team
Mar 7	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Mar 10	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Mar 11	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Mar 12	7:00pm	Session Meeting
Mar 13	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
	6:30pm	Worship Team
Mar 14	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Mar 16	5:30pm	Family Game Night
Mar 17	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
	11:30am	Top of the Hill Potluck
Mar 18	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Mar 20	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
	6:30pm	Worship Team
Mar 21	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Mar 23	7:30pm	Junior Symphony Concert
Mar 24	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Mar 25	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Mar 27	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
	6:30pm	Worship Team
Mar 28	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:00pm	Maundy Thursday Potluck
	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Mar 31	6:30am	Easter Sunrise Service
	10:15am	Easter Worship Service

BIRTHDAYS

Cordell Beck
Anisa Drexler
Seth Hartrim-Lowe
Sam Hartrim-Lowe
Jordan Montovino

ANNIVERSARIES

Drew & Susan Kenney
Fred & Dian Poujade
Janet & Buzz VanFleet

JANUARY FINANCES

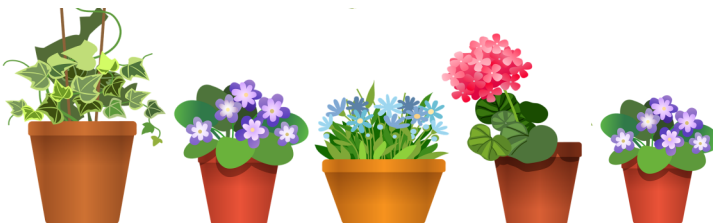
Income \$17,109.06
Expenses \$25,918.97
Total (\$ 8,809.91)

Year to Date 2023
(\$ 8,809.91)

HAPPY EASTER

May your Easter be happy,
May your day be bright,
May you enjoy the treats,
And sweet delights.

But remember the meaning,
Remember God's gift,
Remember the resurrection,
May your soul uplift.





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

He is Risen

<u>BUNCO NIGHT</u> March 2 @ 6:30pm	<u>PANCAKE BREAKFAST</u> March 3 @ 9:00am
<u>MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY</u> March 16 @ 8:00am	<u>FAMILY GAME NIGHT</u> March 16 @ 5:30pm
<u>TOP OF THE HILL POTLUCK</u> March 17 @ 11:30am	<u>JUNIOR SYMPHONY CONCERT</u> March 23 @ 7:30pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:15am Worship Service