

CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS

Silverton First Christian Church

A Note From...

"Grace Period" Minister Rev. Sandy Berry

Turning Points

When I reflected back on the day of my baptism, I knew I had taken the first steps on a lifelong journey to follow Jesus. I was baptized into the Body of Christ, but also into the church where my journey began. I have learned that in both our individual journeys, and also in our journeys together as a church, we come again and again to transition points. As I prepare for my last worship with you on Sunday 2/27, I know that you and I have come to a turning point in both our journeys.

As a church you have already negotiated some complicated turns, as you moved from one interim to another to yet another. As I reflect on my own time in service here at Silverton, I have witnessed some remarkable transitions in the life of this church: a new board chair, a new elder chair, a renewed search committee. Even as you continue your search for a settled pastor, you may also be reconsidering what other new directions you might want to take going forward.

Even so, Silverton's faith journey over the last couple of years may have been a little more complicated than you first expected it to be. The path forward has probably included a few more twists and turns than you originally counted on. At this point you might even be feeling like you've run out of energy to take even one more step. But I know that you can depend on God to strengthen your steps and the Spirit to empower your decisions as you move through each new turning point.

As we approach the forty-day Lenten season that leads to Easter, the prophet Joel reminds us that every turning point offers new opportunities. Each transition offers each of us a chance to

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Contemporary Service
 9:15 - 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship/Refreshments
 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Traditional Service
 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.



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reconsider our relationship with others and our faithfulness to God's call. This is especially important in the life of the church. Joel calls for us to re-turn to God with hearts wide open. That is, to keep turning toward God, whose love is solid and steadfast even on the most winding road.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart... Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and full of steadfast love... Joel 2:12-13a

Speaking from the communion table, one of our Elders recently reminded us that each and every new morning offers us a new beginning. For the church gathered here at Silverton First Christian, each turning point offers the chance of a new beginning – new opportunities, new possibilities, new ways of being church together. Thank goodness you can count on the grace of God to guide you through every turn along the way.

I have been grateful for the call to walk alongside you. To get to know and worship with so many fine and faithful followers of Christ. Even though our paths will diverge and our relationship will necessarily be different, please know that I will continue to pray for the people and ministries of Silverton First. Thank goodness, no matter where our paths may lead us, we can all count on Jesus to walk beside us every step along the way.

Until we meet again, may the peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Sandy

Thank you!

My Dear Church Family,

You knew I would need your love and support, as I said goodbye to my daughter Beth. It has been over a month now and the loss is still there but it gets easier each day, as you well know, but I want you to know how much I thank you for all your cards and phone calls.

Tootie Marcum

CHURCH OFFICERS/PERSONNEL

ELDERS:

Julie Bersin, Marcus Clark
Ric Dettwyler, Jon Koenig
Donna Laney, Tootie Marcum
Ginni Stensland, Cara Zitzelberger

CHURCH BOARD CHAIRMAN:

Elia Annen

CHURCH TREASURER:

Jennifer Clark

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:

Cindy Schmidt

KEEPER OF THE HOUSE:

Libby Bordewich

FACILITIES DIRECTOR:

Allan Graves

LAY MINISTER TO SENIORS/HOMELESS:

Cherry Hoffman

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

WORSHIP MUSIC TEAM:

Gail Frassenei, Wayne Cawfield
Ryan Koenig, Erik Morgan
Lynne Koenig, Wendy King
Kate Koenig
Gil Wittman, John Meye
Raymond & Joanna Rios
Marilyn Woodward



Silvertown First Christian Church Scholarship

Any First Christian Church regularly attending high school senior wanting to apply for the FCC scholarship needs to call or stop by the church office to pick up a scholarship application.

**Application deadline is
Sunday, May 1.**

A WORD FROM...

Board Chair

Dear Church Family,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and say goodbye to Pastor Sandy Berry. Pastor Sandy has completed her interim time with us, and we are grateful for her guidance these last three months. For the month of March, we welcome back Pastor Renee Windsor-White. Many of you remember Pastor Renee from a couple of years ago when she provided coverage during Pastor Steve's sabbatical. Pastor Renee will be with us every Sunday for the month. Please join me in welcoming her back.

This last month I have enjoyed Pastor Sandy's preaching on who we are and who we are called to be. I've especially enjoyed the story when Jesus calls on his first disciples. In Luke 5, verses 4-6 Jesus asks Simon to go out into deeper water and let down the nets. Simon is tired and disappointed from a long night of not catching anything, but does what Jesus asks of him and is rewarded with an abundance of fish. In our church, there are many of us who are tired and disappointed with the amount of needs our church currently has. I am asking all of us to not give up on our church, to pray a little deeper, and hang on a little longer, and trust that we will be rewarded abundantly, for we are Disciples of Christ.

Elia Annen, Board Chair

Easter is Sunday, April 17, and we will have an

Easter Egg Hunt

for the children during Coffee Time,
from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.,
in the Multi-Purpose Room.

More details will be coming soon!



Splinters from the Board

February is a good month to be thankful for God's good gifts. One of our many blessings has been our "grace period" pastor, Pastor Sandy Berry. Pastor Sandy has certainly graced us with her relevant messages, quick smile, and warm presence these past three months. We thank you with heartfelt appreciation, Pastor Sandy, for a job well done. Thank you, too, for giving us hope for the future as we move forward to finding a permanent pastor.

FCC children had a wonderful time at their Valentines craft party. Thank you, Elia and Chase Annen, for providing this wonderful experience. We all loved the children's smiles and enthusiasm!

Each member of this great church is a blessing sharing their strong faith in God and their lives with others. We have much to be thankful for!

Linda Sutter,
Board Secretary



Welcome to

Jeff Marcoe

who transferred membership
on
Sunday, February 6.

A Word from Your New Elder Chair...

Hello Church Family, I am writing to give everyone a little Elder update. At our last Elders meeting in February, I was asked to take on the Elder Chair position. I prayed about this decision and talked about it with my family and accepted the position with the blessings of the Elder group. I do not take this position lightly. I will do my best to be the best Spiritual leader I can be. Please reach out to me with any spiritual concerns you may have.

Also, as the head of the Interim Search Committee, I want to thank Rev. Sandy Berry for her "Grace Period" time she spent with us. Sandy held us together very well. We wish her and her husband, Henry, the very best on their next adventure together.

For the month of March, we will welcome back Pastor Renee Windsor-White who we remember helping us out when Pastor Steve was on sabbatical. We look forward to Pastor Renee's sermons again!

Blessings to all,
Cara Zitzelberger, Chair of Elders
caralz310@gmail.com



Volunteers Needed:

COFFEE HOSTS FOR
APRIL. SIGN UP WITH A
FRIEND AND HOST
TOGETHER!!!
(sign-up in the MP room)

SUNDAY GREETERS FOR
EACH SERVICE.
CONTACT THE CHURCH
OFFICE: 503-873-6620
fccsilverton@gmail.com
if you are interested!



All-Church Campout South Beach State Park June 24, 25 & 26

Reservations for South Beach State Park can now be made through Reserve America at 1-800-452-5687. We try to reserve sites in B Loop so we are close together. There are RV sites, tent sites and yurts in that area. Reservations fill up quickly so don't wait too long.

We always plan a potluck dinner for Saturday at 5:30 p.m., so if you just want to come for the day, come join us for dinner. If you are one who does not like to rough it, there are many hotels in the area so you could still come and spend time with us, play games and enjoy the beach. This weekend is always a lot of fun so come and join us at our next All Church Campout.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynn and Chuck Koenig, Ken and Karen Brock or Jon and Lynne Koenig.

We hope to see you at the Beach!!!

Worship Team

Happy Happy March! The days are getting longer, and we are receiving more sunny days.

I found this quote and it just stirred such beautiful feelings inside of me that I wanted to share it with all of you.

"I mean what if you knew that you are God's poetry. You were created because someone else was creative. See, long ago He picked up His eternal paint brush, dipped in His glory, placed you in His story and said, they will live for me." Author: Jefferson Bethke

What an absolutely amazing picture to have in your head as you go through your life, knowing that you were Chosen specifically by our ever-loving Father with Purpose and Love.

From the song "Dancing On the Waves" by We the Kingdom...

"Look up and lift your eyes. The future's open wide. I have great plans for you. Oh yes, I have"

What love our Father has for each one of us, just as we are and right where we are at, in this moment. Rest in the love He freely gives to each of us.

Blessings,
Gail and Your entire Worship Team



Lent
begins on
Ash Wednesday,
March 2!



March

LUCAS BENTZ - 02
CARA ZITZELBERGER - 10
TOOTIE MARCUM - 17
DYLAN BARCROFT - 23
GAIL FRASSENEI - 26
DAVID STONE - 28
EDDIE KUENZI - 28
CLINT SANFORD - 30
ISAIAH CLARK - 31

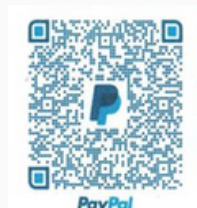
A reminder that...
Daylight Saving Time
begins March 13



MORE GIVING OPTIONS

We greatly appreciate everyone's ongoing support and want to let you know there are two new ways to give to the church - Venmo or PayPal.

The QR codes are:





Regional Assembly- May 20-21, 2022

"Recalculating"

Speakers: Vy Nguyn, Dean Phelps, Blanca Puma

Registration to open February 15

In 2014, Disciples of Christ from Oregon and SW Idaho gathered together in Hood River, Oregon to form a new regional church. During our three worship experiences, we used water brought from the rivers that ran through our cities and towns where we had congregations and combined the waters in different ways and then gave people jars of "changed" water to take home. We formed 5 districts, each of them named for a different river system in our geography.

As we did 8 years ago at our beginning as a regional church, at our 2022 Regional Assembly we will continue to lean into the image of a flowing river moving us into an unknown future beyond the next turn, beyond our current sight line.

A contemporary poet said, "The stream is always revising. Water is always ready to learn...."

We seek to be learners through an experience of the Holy Spirit that unites and propels us forward, inviting us to loosen our grasp on how we have been church in the past in order to grasp the good news of what God is doing in this moment to invite us to future of transformational ministry.

We will be joined by dynamic speakers and come together for worship, workshops, and a time of looking into our future as a regional church.

Plan now to come to Salem or stream into the event.

Watch the Regional Office Website for more details as they emerge at www.oidisciples.org.

Silverton First Chrisitan Church
Christian Connections Newsletter
402 N. First Street
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