

CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS

Silverton First Christian Church



From the Pastor...

Majeda was just 10 years old when her family had to flee Syria. Fleeing the civil war and violence.

Farzaneh was a young widow and mother of two children fleeing Afghanistan after her husband who had been a translator for the US military was killed by a terrorist group leaving her and her children also target.

Stepan and Tymofiy were brothers whose parents and family were killed when Russia invaded Ukraine. They were forced to flee as Russia invaded their town.

This past year there were over 36 million refugees in our world. Refugees are those who are forced to leave their countries and homes, to flee conflict and persecution and violence, to seek safety in other nations. The greatest proportion of these refugees currently come from Afghanistan, Syria, and Ukraine. And over 40 percent of the world's refugees are children.

In the US this past year, close to 25,000 refugees arrived seeking to begin new lives in this nation. In Oregon alone, our state has worked to help settle close to 1200 refugees this last year. Organizations like Salem for Refugees work to help refugees create homes here. They work to help them begin new lives and to navigate the language and cultural challenges of a new place, as well as to deal with the grief and trauma of the crises that have caused them to have to flee.

This issue:

1-3 - From the Pastor

4-14- Past Event's Overview

15- Youth Group

16 - Children's Ministries

17-20- Upcoming Events

**21 - Personnel
Board of Directors
April Scriptures**

22 - Splinters from the Board

23- Giving & Volunteers

24- God Winks



Contact Information

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402 N. First Street
Silverton, Oregon 97381
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Email:
fccsilverton@gmail.com

Website:
www.fccsilverton.com

Contemporary Service
9:10am

Fellowship/Refreshments
10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Traditional Service
10:45am

From the Pastor continued...

Refugees arrive in another country and often have nothing more than the shirt off their back. If they are lucky, they have family members. Often families are separated, and it takes years if ever to be reconnected. Imagine arriving in another country with nothing, not able to speak the language, in a place where everything is different than everything you knew. It would be hard, it would scary, and it would be overwhelming.

Jesus and his parents were refugees for some of Jesus' early childhood. They were forced to flee Israel to the land of Egypt due to the violence and hate of King Herod. They relied on the gifts from the magi and the generosity and compassion of the people of Egypt.

Jesus told us that the world would know we are His disciples by our love. He speaks about welcoming the stranger, caring for those in need, helping the widow, the orphan, and the refugee. He reminds us that what we do for the least, what we do for others, what we do for those who the world overlooks, we do for Him. Jesus calls us to see His face in those we serve.

Now maybe, many of us have never been refugees. But maybe, we've had to move to a new part of the country. Maybe, we've faced a difficult loss, or a challenging time. And when we think about those times in our lives, we also are reminded of those who were there for us. Those who walked with us, and loved us, and supported us, and cared for us. Those who helped us get through that difficult time.

This next month I challenge all of us to step up, as we work together as a church to care for refugees like Majeda, Farzaneh, and Stephan and Tymofiy and many others. We will be working with Salem for Refugees who in the past 6 to 7 years has worked to help care for over 600 refugees here in Oregon. I challenge each and all of us to step up to collect supplies and help build refugee restart kits. These are kits designed to provide refugees with the supplies and things they need to begin new lives here. We will also be exploring the possibility of becoming a sponsoring community for a refugee family in our area, helping support others as they navigate the challenging waters of a new life here in the Salem area.

Looking forward to working with all of you as we come together to be God's love made visible to those around us in need.

Love,
Pastor Eric

All Church Mission Project: Refugee Restart Kits

For the month of April we will be working with Salem for Refugees, a local nonprofit that helps to settle refugees into the Salem area.

When most refugees arrive in the US they have nothing more than the shirt on their back. We will be working to gather supplies for Refugee Restart Kits. These provide refugees with basic supplies and things needed to start a home.

Please help us collect these items this month and bring your donations to the marked tables in the Multipurpose room.

Our Family Fun Night for this month on April 14, 2024 from 5 to 7pm will tie in with this mission project.



**Family Fun Night:
Assembling Refugee Restart Kits**

April 14, 2024

Refugee Restart Kits:

Kitchen Kit 1

Dishes (plates and bowls for 8)
Cups/glasses and mugs (for 8)
Silverware (forks, knives, spoons for 12)
Silverware tray
Dish towels [2]
Potholders [2]
Hand soap
Garbage bags
Measuring Cups
Measuring Spoons

All donations need to be new

Refugee Restart Kits:

Kitchen Kit 2

Mixing Bowl
Serving bowl
Tupperware or storage containers
Large frying pan
Small frying pan
Large pot with lid
Small pot with lid
Baking dish (glass or ceramic)
Cutting board
Large carving knife, smallerparing knife
Spatula
Can opener
Wooden spoon
Serving utensils
Serving tray

All donations need to be new

Refugee Restart Kits:

Cleaning Kit

Sponges
Cleaner spray bottles
(1bathroom, 1 kitchen, 1 all purpose)
Toilet bowl cleaner & brush
Dish soap
Laundry detergent
Dishwasher Detergent
Paper towels [2 rolls]
Paper Towel Holder
Tissues [2 boxes]
Dish drying rack

All donations need to be new

Refugee Restart Kits:

Bathroom Kit

Bath towels and hand towels
[4 of each]
Washcloths [6-8]
Shower curtain with rings
Liquid Hand soap [2]
Rolls of toilet paper
Small waste basket w/ liners
Bathmat
Toilet Plunger

All donations need to be new

Refugee Restart Kits:

Bedding Kit

* Choose twin or queen size,
include on kit label
Comforter
Blanket(s)
Sheets and pillow cases
Waterproof mattress cover
Pillow(s) [1 for twin, 2 for queen]

All donations need to be new

Refugee Restart Kits:

Personal Care Kit

Toothbrushes [4-6]
Toothpaste [2]
Shampoo [2]
Conditioner [2]
Deodorant [2 men, 2 women]
Bar soap [3]
Razors [4]
Shaving cream [2]
Feminine hygiene pads
Toilet paper rolls [4]

All donations need to be new



Family Fun Night: Easter Craft Fair

We had a wonderful Family Fun Night: Easter Craft Fair this last month. We had 27 people attend.

We made 12 Easter baskets for shut-ins and members in need. Thanks to Laurie, Chris, Karen, and Sophia for all their hard work and thanks to everyone who helped with cleanup afterwards. We continue to offer Intergenerational Family Fun Nights on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 5 to 7pm.



Family Fun Night: Easter Craft Fair (Continued)



All Church Clean-up

We would like to thank all youth and adults that participated in the church clean-up day on Saturday, March 16.

The group put out some new wood chips in the flower beds, trimmed trees and shrubs, pulled weeds, mowed lawn, blew down the parking lot and sidewalks, and pressure washed parking lot sidewalk.

God bless,

Allan and Sheila





Ecumenical Palm Sunday Service

We had a wonderful Ecumenical Palm Sunday Service this year even with the rain.

People gathered at our church for coffee and donuts at 9:30am. Thank you to Chuck, Lynn, Steve, Vanessa, and Lola for all their help!

Then we met at 10:00am in front of the sanctuary. Around 75 people gathered as Pastor Eric reminded us of the two parades that happened that day and challenged us to join Jesus in the parade for the kingdom of God, the working for God's love, peace, justice, and grace in the world.

Gail, Ami, and Aaron led us in a beautiful song entitled "Hosanna".

Then we began our parade up the hill with our palm branches waving. The second part of the service began at Immanuel Lutheran at 10:30am.

We had over 250 people in attendance from six Silverton churches (*Immanuel Lutheran, First Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, Oak Street Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, and the Friends Church*).

It was a beautiful service with songs and readings retelling the events leading up to Jesus' death and burial.

The special offering went to Sheltering Silverton.

Thanks to all who participated and helped create a beautiful service together.



Ecumenical Palm Sunday Service continued...





Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service

We had a wonderful Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service last night. We had 35 people attend. Huge thanks to Jeff, Beth, and Ric for setting up the space. Thank you to Barbara and Nellie for all their work decorating the space and making it truly feel like an upper room. A huge thank you to Karen, Korinna, Elise, and Dylan for all their hard work preparing the amazing food. To Gail and Wayne for the beautiful music, and Cara, Ric, Jeff, Beth, Ginni, Donna, and Lynn for doing powerful readings around the table, and to all who stayed after to help clean everything up. Simply put, it was holy time together!





Good Friday Time of Prayer

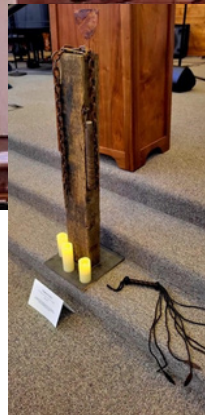
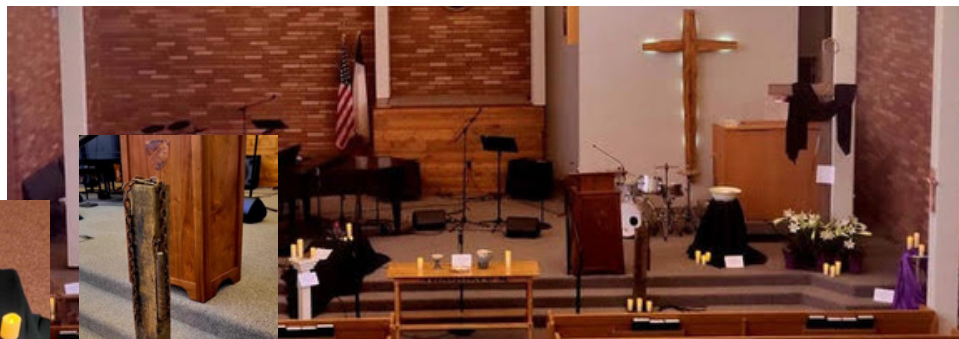
Thanks to the hard work of Allan and Sheila Graves,
Karen Brock, Gil Wittman, and Cara Zitzelberger.

We had a powerful Good Friday Time of Prayer.

There were moving stations setup to allow us to reflect and meditate on the
final events of Jesus' life leading up to His death and burial.

We also enjoyed beautiful music throughout the afternoon by Gil Wittman.

Thanks to Cara for these moving photos.



Easter Activities- Celebrating the Rising of the Son

We had a wonderful Easter Sunday. We enjoyed a delicious and amazing Easter Breakfast put on by the Youth Group.

Thanks to Jonathon and Lydia and all the youth and all their helpers. Thanks to Mary and Sandi for all their hard work with the flower cross, it was beautiful. We had a powerful Easter Worship with 145 people attending.

We enjoyed music from both our music groups.

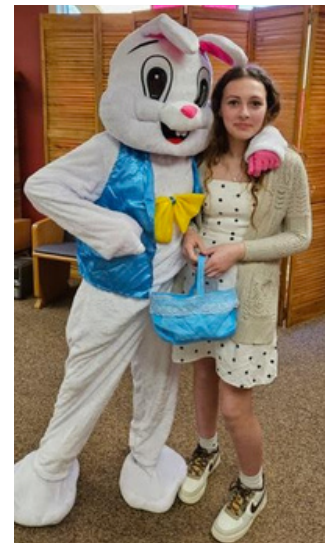
Our children and youth were leaders in the service and did great. Thanks to everyone who shared their gifts to make such a beautiful service. We had a wonderful unveiling of Ken's Bench, thanks again to Ron and Doug for all their hard work and for the generosity of this whole community.

The Easter Bunny came to visit. Lynn and the CWF put together another amazing Easter Egg Hunt. It was a gorgeous day as we celebrated together the rising of the Son.

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!





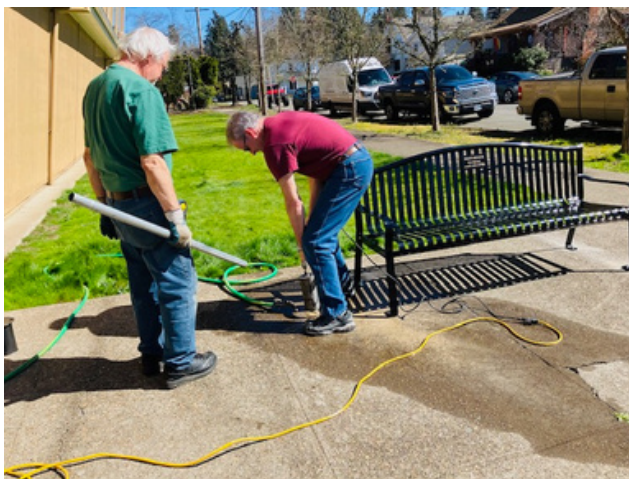




Ken's Bench

On Easter Sunday immediately following the worship service, we unveiled "**Ken's Bench**", our memorial bench in honor of Ken Brock. A huge thank you to Ron and Doug for all their hard work building and installing the bench.

Thanks to the generosity of those in this community who have made this bench a reality. We hope that "**Ken's Bench**" will be a place where amidst all the stress and business of our world, people can take time to pause, to sit, and to listen and hear the wisdom and encouragement of a true friend and loyal servant of our God reminding each of us that we are not alone and calling each of us back into this world to love, serve, and care.



Youth Group

March was a great month for youth group.

We had a fundraiser with selling Willamette Valley Pies for Easter, and our annual Easter breakfast fundraiser- final profit numbers coming. The youth group appreciates all the love and support each of you gives them with fundraisers as well as kind words of encouragement.

We couldn't have youth group without each of your support.

April we will have youth group on April 7th and 21st.

We have a special youth group planned with the local Davenport house on April 7th and youth group will be held earlier in the day.

Announcements to come.

Mark your calendars youth group parents and families- our next lock in event is June 22-23rd!

Shoutout to Vanessa and Steve Reid and Jonathon and Brogan for making dinners for the youth this month!

The kids LOVE the homemade meals.

If you are interested in making a meal for a Youth Group Night, please reach out to Lydia Miller or Jonathon Thompson.

Love, Lydia Miller and Jonathon Thompson



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Since Ash Wednesday, our Sunday school classes have taken various events of Holy Week and broken them into bite-sized lessons geared to help us develop healthy habits which bring us closer to Jesus. We called it Journey to the Cross. The elements we concentrated on were prayer, praising Jesus, church, quiet time and serving God and others. Each week the children were given “Kindness Challenges” to take home and practice on others in their homes, at church, school or out in the community. Some of the challenges included writing a note of encouragement to a community member, sitting with a new person at lunch, helping with household chores, saying thank you. We found some of the challenges were a little, shall we say, challenging, while others, like giving a high five to others or saying “thank you” may not have been as challenging.

This world brings many of its own temptations taking us in all directions. Without that focal point of Jesus, it’s easy to get lost and just flounder about. When we can get in the habit of taking quiet time alone with God, as Jesus taught us; praying regularly; praising Jesus in prayer, in song and reading the Bible; when church is a priority, worshiping with other believers; and we learn to serve others, not just set them apart those we disagree with... we will grow stronger spiritually.

Thank you to all our teachers, Vanessa Reid, Linda Sutter, Kathy Lamoreaux, Nellie Graves, Jennifer Hensley, CW, Allan and Sheila Graves for all your patience and love. And as Allan, Sheila and Nellie take a step back from Sunday school, we ask that some others please pray and step forward to help in this important ministry to help our kids grow spiritually.

Be kind to one another, enjoy the beauty God has provided this spring.

Joy, Laurie



Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Book Study of “The Rocking Chair Prophet”



Starting Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 10:30 am, join us as we begin a new Tuesday Morning Bible Study series. We will be starting a Book Study of “The Rocking Chair Prophet.”

Each week we will discuss chapters in the book and our lives and faith. The story is a powerful story by Matthew Kelly that talks about suffering. You do not have to have read the book ahead of time and we will read chapters together at the study and we will do a summary of the story up to where we are each week for those who can’t make every week. Please invite friends and family and join us for this powerful study together. Tuesday Morning Bible Study is open to both men and women. We have copies of the book for free if anyone would like one.

Free Family Movie at the Palace Theater

The Noble Men of Oregon are hosting their second free family movie at The Palace theater on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

They are continuing The Chronicles of Narnia series with “Prince Caspian”. The showings will be at 2 pm and at 7 pm. People are encouraged to get there a little early to get a seat as we filled The Palace last time. There will be a short presentation of the gospel before the movie and then people are encouraged to watch for themes of faith in the movie.



2nd Service Worship Committee

Come help us plan 2nd Service worship services for the next month on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 1pm in Pastor Eric's office. Join us as we review the last month's 2nd services and talk about music and ideas for this coming month.



Stone Soup Meal

Every Wednesday, Kara, Marilyn, Sue, Jerry, and others show up and create some delicious soup.

Are you getting off work?

Would you be eating by yourself?

Are you tired and just need

a night not to cook a meal for the family?

Come and join us for some tasty soup and salad and Holy fellowship together.

Come and join us for our Stone Soup Meal on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

Baptism and Membership Class

Have you been thinking about getting baptized or wanting to join the church?

Pastor Eric will be offering a class with youth and adults this month.

If you are interested please contact Pastor Eric.



FCC Men's Fellowship Group

The men's monthly fellowship breakfast will take place on Saturday, April 13, at 8:00 a.m.

We will meet at Water Mountain Restaurant located at 1397 S. Water Street in Silverton.

All men of First Christian Church and their adult male relatives, friends, and neighbors are welcome to join us for food, faith, and fellowship.

Co-leaders are Ric Dettwyler, Jeff Marcoe, and Clint Sanford.



Finding God at the Movies

We continue to offer Finding God at the Movies on the 4th Sunday of each month from 4 to 7 pm.

Join us for dinner, a movie, and a brief discussion about the ways we saw themes of faith in that movie.

We had a wonderful Finding God at the Movies this last month. We had 17 people attend and enjoyed an incredible meal prepared by Karen Brock which had everything from TANG to Moon Pies to Watermelon Pieces and Sandwiches cut in the shape of stars.

We watched the movie, "A Smile As Big As the Moon," which told the true story of two special education teachers that took their students to NASA's space camp.

Our next Finding God at the Movies will be Sunday, April 28, 2024 from 4 to 7 pm. Hope you can come!



Cast for Kids Event

Save the date! Saturday May 18, 2024, for the “Cast for Kids” event, which our church will once again be participating in at Donna Laney’s pond.

This is a special event where children with special needs are hosted for an incredible all-day event of fishing and fun. We are looking for those to help with setup and cleanup, those to help with the food, and those to be fishing buddies with the kids. Stay tuned for more information but make sure to hold May 18th on your calendars. For more information about “Cast for Kids” you can check out their website at <https://castforkids.org/>



High School Scholarships

Attention **all** high school seniors and parents!

The deadline to apply for the FCC high school scholarship is May 1, 2024.

Please stop by the office Monday through Thursday, from 9-1 to pick up the forms.

Please contact Dennis Hadley at 503-873-4773 for any questions.



Patrick Stone	2
Camden Brock	6
Carson Brock	6
Roc Desmarteau	6
Rod Orr	7
Kylee Beard	11
Wynelle Dettwyler	16
Sandi Hadley White	16
Erick Brock	17
Gordon Mays	17
Jason Orr	17
Kalen Pedigo	17
Phil Clites	20
Ernie Hicks	20
Jennifer Hensley	22
Gary King	22
Ryan Brock	26



**Church Officers/
Personnel**

Elders:

Cara Zitzelberger - Elder Chair

Marcus Clark, Ric Dettwyler,

Lynn Koenig, Donna Laney,

Jeff Marcoe, Beth Negrey

Ginni Stensland

Church Board Chairman:

Steve Reid

Church Treasurer:

Verlene Beard

Office Administrator:

Jana O'Connor

Keeper of the House:

Libby Bordewich

Facilities Director:

Allan Graves

Children's Ministry Leader:

Laurie Dyer

Youth Leaders:

Lydia Miller/Jonathon Thompson

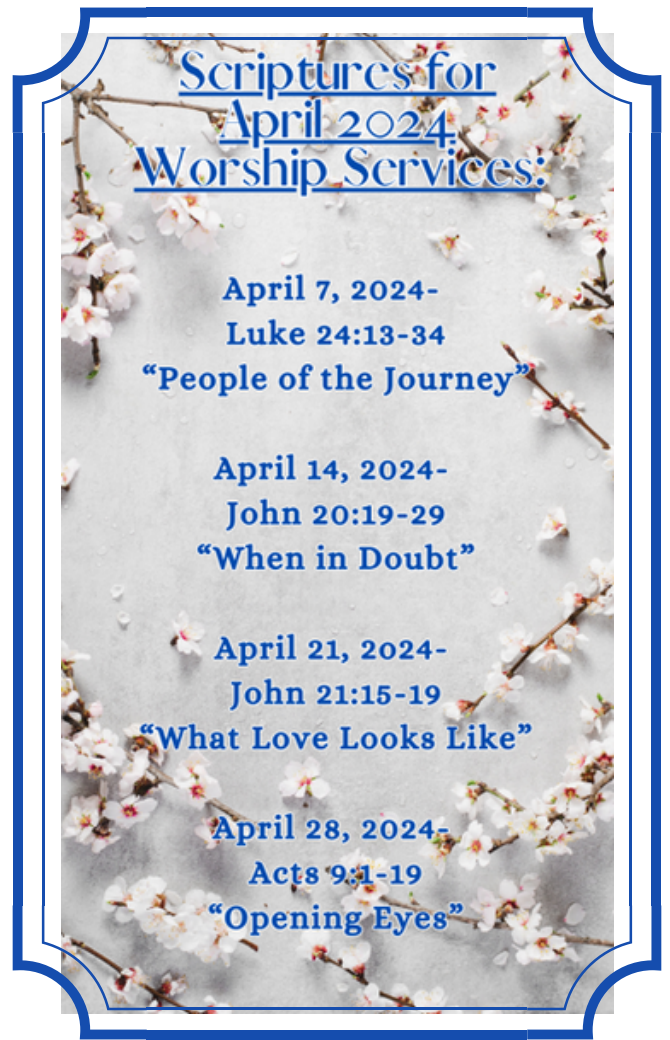
Worship Music Team:

Gail Frassenei, Wayne Cawfield,

Chris Dyer, Ami Barstad,

Aaron Barstad, John Meye,

Gil Wittman, Marilyn Woodward



**2023-2024
Board of Directors**

Slate of Officers

Board Chair - Steve Reid

Vice Chair - Danika Beard

Treasurer - Verlene Beard

Board Secretary - Susan Price

Financial Secretary -

Verlene Beard

Assistant Financial Secretary -

Erin Stone

Trustee Chairperson -

Allan Graves

Board Members

Elder Chair -

Cara Zitzelberger

Deacon Chair -

Karen Brock

CWF Chair-

Lynn Koenig/Karen Brock

Splinters from the Board

The Board met on Monday, March 11, 2024, in the Fireside Room and discussed the following agenda:

Facility Report:

Alan replaced the fan motor in the women's bathroom.

Replaced light sensor on entry to multipurpose room.

Saturday, March 16, there will be a work party doing yard cleanup.

A load of bark dust will also be delivered.

Elders' Report:

Steve reported for Cara Zitzelberger who said that

Beth Negrey was welcomed as a new Elder.

Cara and Jana are working on the new church directory.

Deacons' Report:

Karen Brock announced that all is going well

with the Deacons. She asked if the church had use for

two sheds which were left in Tootie Marcum's estate.

The Board accepted these as donations to the church.

Pastor's Report:

The Pastor brought up issues with the rental of facilities to outside groups. The Board decided to table these issues.

He also proposed changes to three accounts for youth funds on the budget report. Pastor Eric requested that a change be made to the item on the budget report called "Children and Families Ministry" to "Tootie Marcum Memorial Fund for Children and Families".

The Board agreed to this change as well.

He will be starting another Baptism class.

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, there will be a service at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM with prayer led by Pastor Eric.

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Price, Board Secretary



Offering Totals February 2024

March 3	\$3,376.00
March 10	\$1,871.00
March 17	\$2,146.00
March 24	\$4,225.00
March 31	Not Available

Total: \$11,618.00

*Thank you for your continued Support!
You may give through Venmo or place your gifts in the
offering trays by the doors in the sanctuary.
You may also give using your Visa or Mastercard!
Just stop by the office and fill out a form.*



We are looking for
volunteers to be the
next church treasurer
and board secretary.

If you feel God leading you to
take on one of these
positions, please let
Steve Reid, board chair,
know by May 1, 2024.
You can contact Steve at
541-517-2030.

The start date is July 1, 2024.

Coffee hosts
for Coffee Time
between services.
Sign up with
a friend and host
together!!!
(sign-up in the MP Room)

Sunday Deacons/Greeters for
each service.

Contact the Church office or
Karen Brock, Deacon Chair,
at 503-931-8230
if you are interested!



Recently, a friend texted and asked me to have an afternoon meal with her at a local diner. We set the time for 4:00. I got there early and realized the place was closed on Sundays. A woman came over from the house next door and began speaking in Spanish and pointing at my pickup and then, at her yard, where a huge tree had been felled. Her husband stood there looking at us, scratching his head.

I had placed a large pile of debris in my truck a couple of months earlier but it sat in my driveway until I could find more things to make it worth the 25 dollars it took to make a dump run.

My first impression was that they wanted to add some scrap wood to my mass of pruned limbs so I backed up to the house. After letting my friend know we'd meet elsewhere in a bit, I got out to look at the situation. The woman's husband said, "How did you know to come here?"

I immediately pointed up and said with a laugh, "**It was God!**" The man proceeded to tell me he had been burning the stump of a large tree and ran out of fuel. They would not be able to finish burning it, though it was still smoking a bit. He asked if they could have my brush pile. Here, I thought he was going to add to my pile but he was going to clean out my truck and save me 25 dollars! The gentleman told me his wife was getting ready to go look for branches on the side on the road, but he told her to have faith. And then I showed up!

God answers the smallest prayers and even the ones not yet spoken. I laugh when I think about those branches sitting outside my house for so long and how God would use them months later to remind us that He sees and wants to show us His power.

Cindy Baker



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Silverton, Oregon 97381**