

CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS

Silverton First Christian Church

From the Pastor...

As we take down the decorations, lights, and Christmas trees, as we stop singing the carols, as we journey like magi and shepherds back into our lives, how do we hold Christmas in our hearts and continue to carry its hope, peace, joy, and love into the world?

My favorite song based on the words of a poem by theologian and civil rights leader, Rev. Howard Thurman, says “When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the magi and the shepherds have found their way home, the work of Christmas is begun.”

It says:

That work is to find the lost and lonely ones.

That work is to heal the broken with love.

That work is to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food.

That work is to feel the earth below and the sky above.

That work is to free the prisoners from all chains.

That work is to make the powerful care.

That work is to build the nations with strength of good will.

That work is to see God’s children everywhere.

That work is to bring hope to every task you do.

That work is to dance at a baby’s new birth.

That work is to make music in an old person’s heart.

That work is to sing to colors of the earth.

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Contact Information

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Contemporary Service
9:10am

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

Traditional Service
10:45am

From the Pastor Continued...

So, as we enter the year 2025, let us keep up the work of Christmas or Christ-mas, bringing more of Christ's light and love into the world. Let us indeed strive to be a community where all are family, and where all are welcomed as God beloved children as God has welcomed us. Let us keep striving to do the hard, messy, challenging, and beautiful work of Christ, reaching out with care, support, and love. And let us never stop learning and growing in our faith together as we dare to truly be Christ's Disciples at work!

Love,
Pastor Eric

We want to say a special thank you to **Dylan Barcroft** for his amazing art work that he did for our bulletin covers for the month of December



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SILVERTON

Sundays

9:10 a.m. ~ Contemporary Service

9:10 to 10:00 a.m. ~ Children's Sunday School

10:00 to 10:45 a.m. ~ Coffee and Fellowship Time

10:00 to 10:45 a.m. ~ Youth Sunday School

10:45 a.m. ~ Traditional Service

1st & 3rd Sundays of each month (September- June)

Youth Group Gatherings, 5-7 p.m.

2nd Sunday of each month

Intergenerational Family Fun Nights, 5-7 p.m.

4th Sunday of each month

Finding God at the Movies, 4-7 p.m.

5th Sundays

Blended Service, 10:00 a.m. (Potluck Meal following)

Tuesdays

Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. (Fireside Room)

Wednesdays

Stone Soup Dinner, 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.

3rd Saturday of each month

Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8:00 a.m. (Water Mountain Restaurant)

3rd Monday of each month

Prayer Shawl Ministry, 3-4:30 p.m. (Fireside Room)



CWF Christmas Sale

The CWF had a wonderful Christmas Sale with Grab Bags and Cookies by the pound. The CWF raised over \$1,100. At the event there also were several crafters that sold good as well. The Group wants to thank everyone who supported them and helped with setup, cleanup, and serving. A special thanks to Marcus for his help moving all the Grab Bag Boxes over to the fireside room.





Family Fun Night- Christmas Craft Fair

We had a wonderful Christmas Craft Fair this last month. We had 43 people attend and we had a wonderful time making wreaths, gingerbread houses, snow globes, ornaments, snow people, and more. We made crafts and special Christmas gifts for 30 plus members of our community who we wanted to send some Christmas love and remind them how special they are to us. Thanks to Norma, Sofia, Beth, Kara, Jonathon, Brogan, Chris, Laurie, Karen, and all who helped make a wonderful night!



More Family Fun Night- Christmas Craft Fair



Christmas Tea

We had another wonderful Women's Christmas Tea at Donna Laney's this last month. We had 22 attend. It was a beautiful morning. Thanks to Donna for all her hard work putting this together.





Christmas Pageant

We enjoyed our annual Christmas Pageant last month.

Thanks to Jonathon for all his hard work directing.

Thanks to the youth for their extra work with the pageant this year.

Thanks to Johnny for helping move all the props and costumes over to MP room and thanks to all who helped with the practice and cleanup.

Special thanks to the Contemporary Team for leading us in Away in the Manger. It was a beautiful morning and a wonderful pageant!





Pop Up Shoe Store



The Free Shoes Ministry led by Dixon Bledsoe and the Rotary Club and hosted at our church continues the 3rd Friday of each month.

This last month they had over 100 people come through and gave away 214 pairs of shoes.

They continue to need donations of new and gently used shoes and need volunteers to help setup the Thursday before, set up and serve of Friday, and cleanup afterwards.

If you can help please contact Jana in the church office.

Finding God At The Movies

We had a wonderful Finding God at the Movies this past month.

We had 18 people attend and enjoyed the movie, ***“The Muppet Christmas Carol”***.

Our next Finding God at the Movies will be Sunday, January 26, 2025, from 4 to 7pm.

We will be watching the movie, ***“American Underdog”*** which tells the inspiring true story of Kurt Warner.

Come enjoy dinner, the movie, and a brief discussion about where we saw God in the movie.





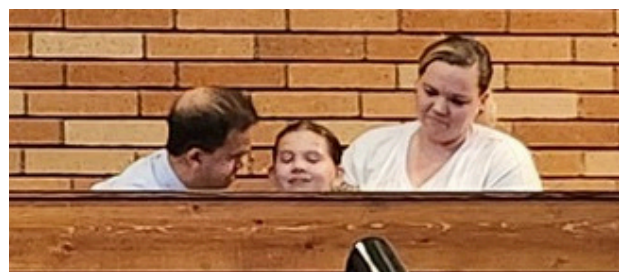
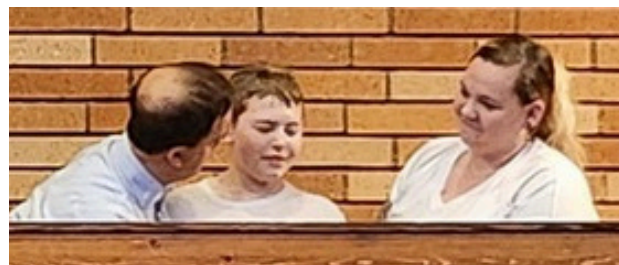
Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Arrived

We got word this last month that the 100 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes that we filled arrived in time for Christmas for children in the West African country of Benin. It borders Togo, Niger, and Nigeria. It has a population of about 13 million people. French is the main language. Most of the people live on the southern coastline. It is one of the world's poorest nations and most of the people are involved in farming and cotton production. Let us keep the people of Benin in our prayers.

Thanks again to all those who helped with our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Mission Project.

Rhylee and Ryker Hays Baptisms

This last month I had the honor of getting to wade in the water and baptize Rhylee and Ryker Hays. It was a beautiful afternoon and holy time with family. Huge thanks to Allan, Libby, Linda, Karen, and Dylan for all their help. Welcome to the family Rhylee and Ryker!





The youth had a wonderful month of December. This year we introduced a new pageant script with speaking parts and the youth group really stepped up to take on different roles that needed to be assigned. They had a lot of fun working through the process of the script, and learning about the birth of Jesus through the story of Luke and Matthew. A twist on the traditional program, this script involved directly pulling the story from what is written in the bible. The youth worked hard preparing to perform for parents and members of the church. After spending time working through pageant practice, the youth played their annual white elephant game with gifts they brought. They all did a great job at remembering to bring their gifts with them, and everyone was able to be a part of the game. It was a great way to celebrate the season of giving, and this most beautiful time of year filled with love, friendship, and fellowship.

Upcoming:
Youth Group 1.5.2025 - Holiday Celebration

Youth Group 1.19.2025 - Fundraiser and Mission Project Planning

Reminders:
We are looking for volunteers to donate dinners for youth groups. The sign-up sheet for the 2025 year will be posted with coffee hour sign ups. Thank you in advance for signing up, the youth group appreciates it.

Bottle Drop Fundraiser will be ongoing through the 2025 year. Thank you everyone for your donations, this money helps fund activities, fundraisers and future mission projects. If you need to schedule a bag pick-up, please contact Jonathon or Brogan.





HAPPY NEW YEAR Families!

After such a beautiful season, January can seem rather dark. During December, the neighbors behind us display the most beautiful lights, but then, January 1, I have watched with great sadness as the neighbors unplugged, picked up, wound up and packed up every last light. Then, as I looked across that darkened part of the neighborhood, I have to remember the light in order to not feel sad

January 6th marks the Epiphany, the celebration of when the kings who visited Jesus brought him gifts from their lands; a celebration of when wisemen who had studied the scriptures of the prophecies foretold, left their homelands to seek out the promised light in the dark world.

But why? Wasn't Christmas over? No, far from it.

Isaiah 60:1 settles me, shining light through the darkness:
“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you...”

On Christmas day, the shepherds didn't follow the star to the stable, coo at a baby and then go home. Angels didn't just throw a sweet baby shower with their heavenly host, call it a good day's work and go home. And kings from far away lands didn't leave their families and their kingdoms to face darkness just to kiss a baby and return home. Christmas isn't over just because the last presents were unwrapped, the last of the bulbs packed away and the tree hauled to the attic. Christmas is not just a fun place to visit, it is an experience to continue to share with others.

Christmas is just the beginning...

Close your eyes. Concentrate on the darkness. See the light. See the goodness. Hear the laughter. Can you see the face of Jesus?

God is so good. Even as we gasp for breath, he is the air that comes.

Even as we search in the darkness, his is the light that comes.

He is the joy in the morning.

He is the joy yesterday, today, tomorrow, and forever.

Happy New Year friends. Keep the joy alive in '25!
Thank you for a wonderful year with your children!

Laurie

Epiphany Party

All are invited to join us for our annual Epiphany Party between the services on January 5, 2025, as we celebrate the arrival of the magi.

Come enjoy some special cake with opportunities for God's epiphanies in the new year. There will also be some fun Epiphany crafts people can do. We also ask for people's help after the 2nd service this Sunday to take down all the decorations in the sanctuary.



Family Fun Night- All Church Birthday Party

All are invited to our Family Fun Night on Sunday, January 12, 2025, from 5 to 7pm.

It will be our All-Church Birthday Party. Come enjoy dinner and a special evening of honoring and celebrating all our birthdays.

If you can help check in with Sandi and Karen.

2nd Service Worship Committee

Join us on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 1pm in Pastor Eric's office for our monthly 2nd Service Worship Committee Meeting.

Come help us review the past month's 2nd Services and work on planning the one for the coming month. We hope you can join us!





Mission Project For January 2025

Our mission project for January 2025 is collecting items for Sheltering Silverton.

Below are 2 lists to choose from.

Welcome Kits

Laundry Basket or Garbage bin filled with start-up items:

Cleaning items: sponges, dish towels, dish soap, laundry soap.

Kitchen items: small set of dishes/silverware/glasses, salt/pepper shaker, can opener, oven mitts, small baking pan/pots/pans, cutting board/knife, paper or fabric towels.

Bathroom items: bath/hand towels, toilet paper/brush/plunger, soap/shampoo/conditioner, bathroom cleaning supplies
clothing hangers, pillow, blanket/comforter, first aid kit, basic home toolkit

Frequently requested donation items:

- warm socks, gloves & hats
 - coffee, creamer & sugar
 - men's/women's underwear (currently we have women needing sizes for 6/8 3x and men's small & medium)
 - phone minutes
 - gas cards
 - gift cards to goodwill (this helps in a pinch when we get a client with a significant need and we don't have the available sizes/etc)
 - ear buds/headphones
 - small reading lights
 - re-usable water bottles
-

CPR & FIRST AID CLASS

The church will once again be offering for church staff & church volunteers a CPR & 1st Aid class on Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 8am-12pm. Please contact Jana in the church h office to register.





Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group continues to meet the 3rd Saturday of each month at 8 am at Water Mountain Restaurant.

We had 8 attend this last month's meeting and even got a special visit from Santa. Hope you can join us on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 8am for our next Men's Fellowship Group.

Come enjoy some delicious breakfast, a time of fellowship, and a devotion.

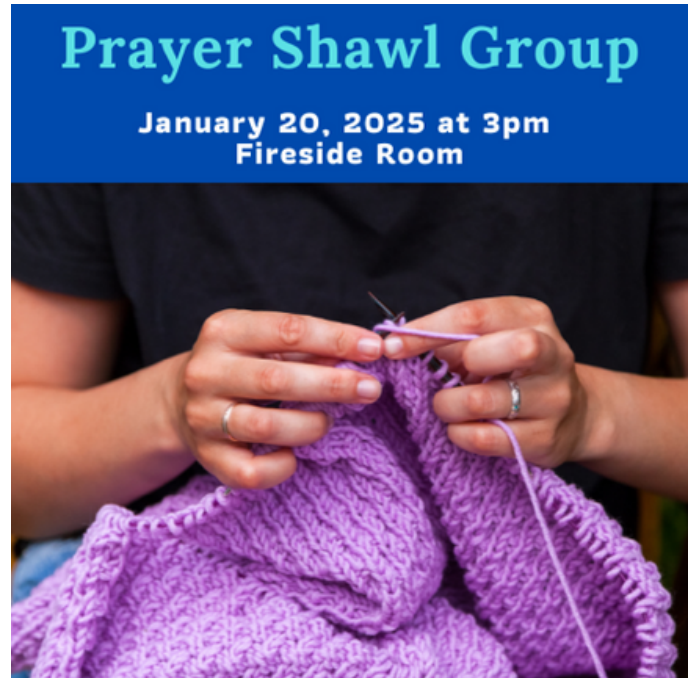
The men's group is looking for help moving Diane Hill to Davenport House on January 3rd and 4th. If you can help please contact Ric Dettwyler.

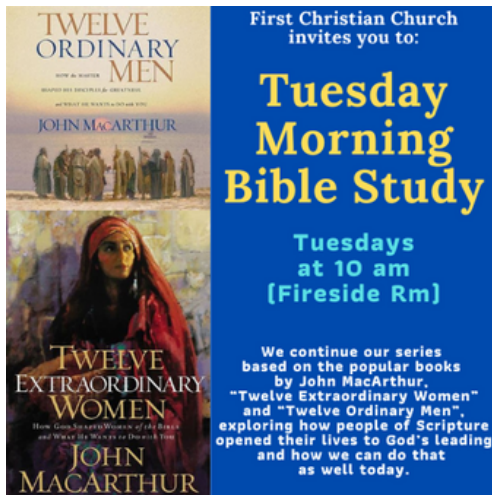


Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Group continues to gather on the 3rd Monday of each month from 3 to 4pm in the Fireside room. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to come help knit together. This past month the prayer shawl group made two beautiful shawls for Rhylee and Ryker Hays with their baptisms.

If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact Pastor Eric or one of the prayer shawl team members- Lynn K, Vida S, Mary M, Beth N, Wynelle D, and Erin S.





Tuesday Morning Bible Study

All are invited to join us for Tuesday Morning Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10am in the Fireside room. We continue to explore the books,

“Twelve Ordinary Men”
and
“Twelve Extraordinary Women”

By John MacArthur as we learn about people of Scripture and how they stepped up to letting God work in their lives.

Our group this month worked hard to wrap the book that the church gave out at the Christmas Eve Service. Thanks to Char, MaryBelle, Ginni, Kara, Marilyn, and Erin for all their hard work!



Stone Soup Meal

Each Wednesday afternoon a team of volunteers makes our Stone Soup meal for the Sheltering Silverton shelter, and they would love your help. People are invited to come down to the church at 4pm to help prepare the meal and then at 5:30pm all those who helped are invited to gather for a simple meal together as we bless the food we are sending to our neighbors in need. If you can help touch base with Sue, Marilyn, or Kara.

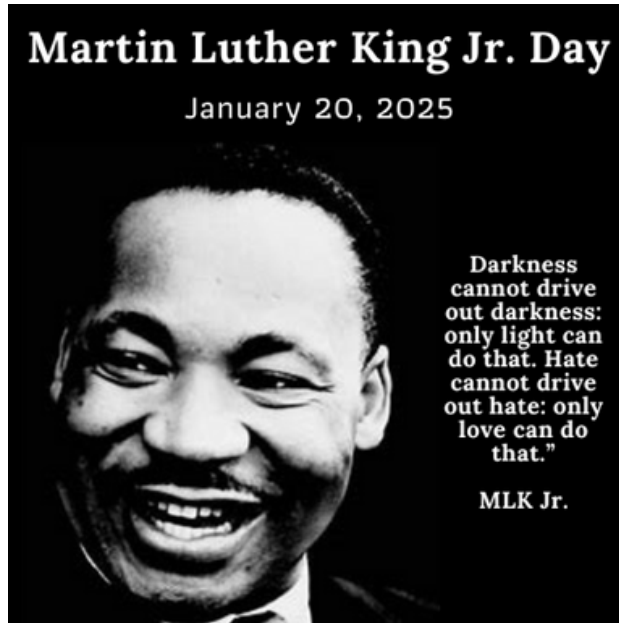


Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday

We want to remind everyone that Monday, January 20, 2025, is Martin Luther King Jr. Day and it is a staff holiday.

The church office will be closed that day and staff will be off for the holiday.

May we continue to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and dare to dream and work for the kingdom of God together.



Pastor Eric On Vacation

We want to remind everyone that Pastor Eric will be taking vacation time with his family from December 25, 2024, to January 4, 2025.

He will be back in worship and preaching on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

For needs while Pastor Eric is on vacation, please contact the elders.



Church Officers/Personnel

Elders:

Cara Zitzelberger - Elder Chair
Marcus Clark, Ric Dettwyler,
Lynn Koenig, Donna Laney,
Beth Negrey, Ginni Stensland

Church Board Chairman:
Steve Reid

Church Treasurer:
Erin Stone

Office Administrator:
Jana O'Connor

Keeper of the House:
Libby Bordewich

Facilities Director:
Allan Graves

Children's Ministry Leader:
Laurie Dyer

Youth Leaders:
Brogan Allen-Olsen

Jonathon Thompson

Worship Music Team:

Gail Frassenei, Wayne Cawlfeld,
Chris Dyer, Ami Barstad,
Aaron Barstad, John Meye,
Gil Wittman, Marilyn Woodward

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Slate of Officers

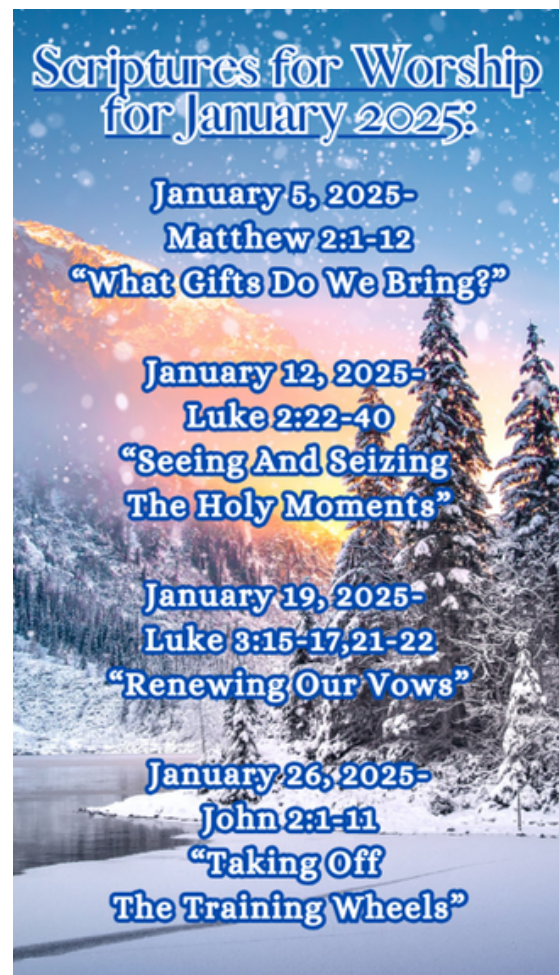
Board Chair - Steve Reid
Vice Chair - Danika Beard
Treasurer - Erin Stone
Board Secretary - Jolene Smoot
Financial Secretary -
Vertene Beard
Assistant Financial Secretary -
Erin Stone
Trustee Chairperson -
Allan Graves

Board Members

Elder Chair -
Cara Zitzelberger
Deacon Chair -
Karen Brock
CWF Chair-
Lynn Koenig/Karen Brock



Sheila Graves 2
Kole Michael Pedigo 3
Jennifer Cote 4
Terry Cawlfeld 6
Laurie Dyer 10
Gary Hadley 10
Kara Pilcher 10
Wayne Cawlfeld 22
Taryn Desmarteau 22
Anna Bonney 25
Nellie Graves 25
MaryBelle Mays 26
Adam Stone 31
Alyssa Tanksley 31



Splinters from the Board

Board Meeting Minutes, December 09, 2024

The meeting began with a prayer led by Board President Steve Reid

Previous Minutes: Jolene Smoot

Questions to any additional changes to the November 11, 2024, minutes as previously emailed. No changes, Lynn Koenig made a motion to approve the minutes as e-mailed. Verlene Beard seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Erin Stone

Looked over the report, nothing unexpected to report overall. Allan made a motion to approve the Treasure Report as presented, Verlene seconded motion. Motion passed.

Giving/Income Report: Verlene Beard

The Board discussed the report as presented by Verlene Beard.

Facilities Report: Allan Graves

-Thanks to Steve putting tape on the pipes so it doesn't freeze.

The education wing boy's and girl's bathroom drain clogs: We had someone come out and unclogged the boy's and girl's bathroom sinks. It turns out they were disintegrating under the sink and ultimately the sinks had to be replaced.

-The heating in the sanctuary has been fixed. A plumber had to redo the fittings - if it doesn't work again, there are instructions on the device on how to fix it.

-The back door by the office has been fixed and no longer slams shut.

-Eric reported he is having issues with the heat in his office, as well as the heat in the business office. Allan stated he is not familiar with the wall units and may have to call someone in to look at it.

Deacon's Report: Karen Brock

Steve reported for Karen that we need greeters for both services on December 22nd. An email will be sent out asking for volunteers.

Elders Report: Cara Zitzelberger

-Our annual Christmas Eve service will be held Tuesday, December 24, at 9:00 p.m.

-Work is continuing on the Listening Session. They are continuing their work on things they can take effect immediately and the more complicated issues are being worked on as well.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Eric Eide

-Thanks to Jana for assisting with putting the Wall of Memory together, which ran for the whole month of November.

-Thanks to CWF for their work in putting the Thanksgiving baskets together.

Finding God at the Movies "Christmas Child"

Thanks to everyone who made that night a success, with the stoves down everyone jumped in to improvise using the microwave, grills and crockpots. Well done!

Finding God at the Movies "The Muppet Christmas Carol"

December 22, from 4:00 - 7:00. Dinner will be simple, serving yummy pizza.

Family Fun Night/Christmas Craft Fair

43 people attended. Mission projects for more than 30 shut-ins and members. Ornaments, wreaths, gingerbread houses and 35 snow globes were made and will be delivered. Karen Brock had shared a wonderful story at the end.

The Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 15, between services. A huge praise goes out to Johnathan Brogan for really stepping up.

Splinters from the Board Continued...

Giving Tree

Thanks to Gracie Davis, Lynn Koenig, and Jolene Smoot for their assistance.

Grab Bag/Cookie by the Pound Sale

Praise goes out to Lynn for organizing the event. Thanks to Marcus and his crew for moving the grab bag boxes to the tables for the ladies. Thanks to Sofia, Lola, Cole, and anyone else who assisted with washing cookie sheets.

Annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th, 9:00 p.m.

Vacations

- Eric will be on vacation from Wednesday, December 25 – through Saturday January 4th.
- Cara will be on vacation Sunday, January 4th - 12th but will have someone to cover for her.

Epiphany Party

- January 5, between Services
- We will be taking down the decorations after 2nd service, looking for volunteers to assist. Karen will be helping with the cupcakes.
- Thanks to Steve and Vanessa for the decorations.

Regional Search Committee

- Pastor Eric is chair of the regional minister hiring. They are down to two candidates. They will bring them out on 1/ 6 and 1/9 and again on 1/26 and 1/30.
- Pastor Eric will be working remotely, shuffling candidates but will be able to be reached by phone or e-mail.
- The hope is to announce the winning candidate in February.

Baptisms

- Eric reported an upcoming of five or six baptisms, beginning with a private baptism for Ryker and Rhylee Hays this Sunday, December 15.
- Thanks to Allan for assisting with the water.

Church Directory

- Drafts were distributed by Eric. The board members went through the directory page by page and added any comments or suggestions for edits.
- There are still some photos that were not submitted. Eric stated he will try and take some pictures when he sees someone, if possible. However, we are moving forward with finalizing the directory with or without the missing photos.
- A big thank you to Cara for all her hard work on this project.
- Lynn made a motion to approve the draft version with the edits of the directory. Danika seconded motion. Motion passed.
- It was decided to print 100 copies to begin with.

Board Chair & Vice Chair: Steve Reid, Danika Beard

2025 Rental Contracts

Danika mentioned that last year we missed getting our rental agreements in on time. She asked if we should be proactive to determine who we will rent to this upcoming year.

“Not Just CheeseCake”, after discussion, Allan made a motion to terminate their contract Verlene second motion passed. The motion passed. Because you must give the renter a 60 day notice, it was decided to give her the option of going out in 30 days and not have to pay for an additional 30 days. Steve stated he will be here when she collects and loads her equipment/belongings.

Splinters from the Board Continued...

“Sunshine Preschool”, Steve will check in with Marcus to see if he agrees with continuing to work with Terry. Steve will report back on his response.

Rent Increase:

–After discussion, Lynn made a motion to approve a 3% rent increase for all 2025 contracts. Danika seconded the motion. Motion passed.

–If Sunshine Preschool renews their contract, they will receive a 3% increase in rent as well as starting to pay for the summer months, as their equipment is here year-round

CWF: Lynn Koenig, Karen Brock

Thanksgiving Baskets

Lynn reported seven Thanksgiving basket meals were put together and given out.

Cookies by the Pound and Craft Fair

Gift boxes and cookie sales went well. Combined they made a profit of \$991. Several craft booths didn't fare as well as we thought – bad weather, economy, could be factors

Christmas Tea

Donna Laney will be hosting an all-women's Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 14, from 10:00 – 1:00.

CWF Meeting

Lynn stated they are going to try and have a meeting sometime during the end of January, first of February to see what ladies would like to do in the coming year – need to get more people involved.

Clean Out

Lynn reiterated that the Oktoberfest room needs to be cleaned out, as well as where the chairs are being stored. The room dividers are getting ruined. It was decided that once Christmas is over, a date for cleaning will be set. The exact date will be chosen at the next board meeting.

Metal Chairs

We need to figure out what we want to do with them. Maybe see how much we can get for it at the metal recycle. In the meantime, Steve will do some research on how much money we can get for them? Or sell them. Then look at purchasing more. Steve will also touch base with Allan.

Extras:

Gutters

Steve commented to have someone check the gutters.

Boy Scouts

–Steve shared that Johnny from the Cub Scouts approached him saying they have outgrown their current location where they meet for an hour on Tuesday nights from 6:30 – 7:30. He asked if they could use a space at the church on Tuesdays to meet instead. They have approximately 40 K – 5 children in their group.

–Lynn made a motion, Verlene seconded the motion. Motion passes. Steve will touch base with Johnny with a proposal after checking in with the “Circle of Friends” after school program on shared spaces.

Yard Equipment

Chuck Koenig shared that the outside yard maintenance equipment is moved to a warmer climate. Only thing that will need to be done is to recondition them for next year when the time comes. Maintenance done for this year.

Meeting adjourned with a closing prayer from Pastor Eric.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jolene Smoot, Board Secretary.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 SILVERTON, OREGON
A Family of Faith

Mission:

We are a community of God's beloved children.
 Growing our faith through supportive,
 caring, and inclusive outreach.
 Where we strive to welcome all,
 as Christ welcomes us.

We are Disciples at work!

**Offering Totals
December 2024**

December 1	\$6,135.00
December 8	\$4,230.00
December 15	\$2,829.00
December 22	\$7,995.00
December 29	\$1,140.00

Total: \$22,329.00

QR Code is a clickable link to the church VENMO offering account.

Silverton Fcc
@Silverton-Fcc



venmo



**Tithes
and
Offerings**

*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!*

Volunteer Opportunities

**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!

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Silverton, Oregon 97381**