

# From The Pastor: General Assembly



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## From The Pastor: General Assembly

General Assembly is the gathering of our denomination that takes place now every three years. Thousands and thousands and thousands of Disciples from congregations all over the United States and Canada and the world gather to worship together, to serve together, to stand together, to grow together, and to love together as part of the body of Christ.

We gathered this past July in Memphis, Tennessee. A place with humidity and thunderstorms, a place of blue suede shoes, a place with amazing barbecue, a place where soul music just gives life to dry bones, a place of sorrow and hope where we are reminded of the work and sacrifice of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and so many others, reminded that work of justice, of civil rights, of striving toward the beloved community, that dream of the "kin"dom of God, still requires our hearts, our minds, our hands, and our lives.

We were inspired and moved by powerful worship. We had amazing music in all kinds of different styles and from all kinds of cultures. We were encouraged and challenged by incredible speakers like Rev. Dr. Bernice King (daughter of Rev. Dr. MLK Jr), Rev. Brian Kirk, Rev. April Lewton, Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, Rev. Terri Hord Owens, Rev Dr. Sharon Watkins, Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm, and Rev. John Humpert, calling us forward and beyond as Disciples. Calling us to be people of justice and compassion, a people who dare to arise to the power that God has given us to transform this world, to love one another, to stand with those who the world overlooks and puts down, to gather round Christ's tables of hope and grace, and to never stop striving for dream of the "kin"dom of God. To remember as our hispanic ministries have taught us "Somos Uno" - "We are one", we are tied together as part of one body in a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

General Assembly reminds us that we are not alone. It encourages us to keep at the work of love. It connects us with old friends and helps us make new friends too. It inspires us and challenges us and reminds us who and whose we are and the work to which we have been called together to do and be in this world. It reminds us that we have the power to make change, the call to stand together in a world that calls us to look out only for ourselves, to remember that we are tied together in "a single garment of destiny" working for the wholeness and healing and justice of each other.

## From The Pastor: General Assembly

General Assembly reminds us of the power of our love. It reminds us that when we come together, when we give together, we can and we do change the world. It calls us to once more come to the table, a table so much bigger than any one of us-bigger than our congregations or regions or even our denomination, a table where we all, every one of us, are equal. A table where we all are sacred. A table where we each are called beloved children of God, reminded that we each are made in the image of our Creator. A table where we are forgiven. A table where we are renewed. A table where we are fed. And a table where we are once more filled to overflowing with the grace and love of God. A table that does not leave us in this moment, but a table that calls us beyond-beyond the fears and beyond the limited perspectives. A table that calls us to strive to see the Imago Dei (the Image of God) in everyone. A table that calls us back into conversation even with those we disagree with. A table that takes us from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

I want to deeply thank those who made it possible for Jonathon, Brogan, and I to attend General Assembly this past July. And I hope you all listened to the worships and sermons with us. And I hope that in three years some of you might consider coming with us to the next General Assembly!

General Assembly is not just for our clergy and leaders, but it is for all of us, a reminder that we each are part of something so much bigger than ourselves and that as we strive to do this work of love in our little corners of the world, we do not do so alone. But we are joined with disciples of all traditions and practices working together with a power greater than ourselves to transform this world. So let us keep living out the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ, and together let us go beyond!

Love, Pastor Eric

## General Assembly































### From Brogan & Jonathon: General Assembly

This past week us youth leaders had the opportunity to venture out of our small town to the big city of Memphis. A city known for many wonders; Memphis is the "Home of the Blues" and the "Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll" music. The location has a rich history in civil rights, offers museums dedicated to many different historic events and is home to some really good BBQ too. The city of Memphis is also home to some of the churches within the Disciples of Christ, churches that some of our community call home.

We walked into this trip, not knowing what to expect on our first day at General Assembly. We didn't know the extent of how big this event was, and there's no way for me to even begin to try and explain just how large this community truly was. But what I can tell you and express to you is the amount of love that filled the room when we worshiped together, sang together, worked together and prayed together. It was unlike anything we'd ever experienced before; moments that are so beautiful, they give you goosebumps or bring tears to your eyes.

We had the opportunity to meet many new faces throughout our visit to General Assembly. There were plenty of chances to make new connections, which we are excited to use in the coming years. We found these moments captivating, to witness all the different ideas and testimonies of what others have learned through their experiences with their own churches. We were able to discuss and brainstorm together in our classes and were able to bring lots of new ideas home with us.

This experience enlightened us on many of the questions we find ourselves asking as youth ministers. We were able to learn many things throughout this journey and are so immensely grateful to be given this opportunity. Upon returning, we've been able to discuss what we took away from this experience; our reflection has been one of the most beautiful parts of the entire journey. We've discussed and debated what we are taking from this and applying to our own program, and are looking forward to using this information to benefit our church, youth group, and family programs. A huge thank you to our church for their support through this journey, and to our Pastor for encouraging us to go and try something new. We returned with a fresh outlook, new ideas and more knowledge and we have our church to thank for that.

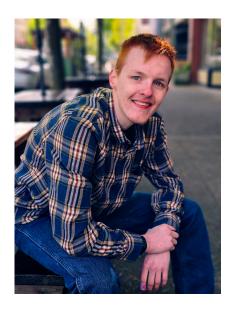
Love, Brogan and Jonathon

#### **Summer Worship**

We want to remind everyone we are trying out one service at 9:10am for the summer. Please let Pastor Eric and the elders know your thoughts about this one service format. For August we also will be doing The Ecumenical Blessing of the Backpacks Service on Sunday, August 31, 2025 at 10am. That Sunday will only have one service at 10am that will be a joint service with our neighbors from Immanuel Lutheran and Silverton United Methodist Church as we we bless our students, staff, and teachers as they head back for a new school year. The prayer shawl teams from both Immanuel and FCC are working hard knitting prayer in your hand shawls. We will also allow any of the families who attend that Sunday who need school supplies to pick from the supplies we have been collecting for summer. Hope you can join us for this service and a time of fellowship together afterwards.







FCC Family-

Thank you for the Bible and Prayer Shawl.

Your ongoing support means the world to me.

Thank you again!

CW McCollom

### Thank You from the Lee-Herzig Family

Hello Church family,

As many of you know, our family recently went through an ordeal with our housing becoming unlivable. Since January, Megan and I have worked tirelessly, trying to find a safe place for our kids. We kept getting denied for places and didn't know why. We reached out to every organization we could think of. We took every class offered, and it still wasn't good enough.

I asked **Pastor Eric** for prayer. Not only did he pray for us, he helped get an amazing team of people to help us move when the time came that our 45-day notice was up. He fought for us, gave us recommendations, and sent us to many people he knew who might be able to help. Thank you for making this difficult situation easier!

Jonathon and Brogan, Thank you from the very bottoms of our hearts for your hospitality for the month of June. For housing us, hanging with the kids when we were looking for our home, endless dump runs, and just showing God's love through your actions.

We greatly appreciate and thank you for everything!

Clint, Cindy, Chuck, Lynn, Linda, and Joe for coming and helping move and clean, and for getting lunch and for driving to West Salem to our storage units, thank you. Thank you to all who donated to put us in a hotel for the final few night before we were able to move into our new home. It means so much to us. To everyone who prayed for months, who listened and didn't judge, for being our forever family. We cannot thank you enough.

It is a joy to be a part of this amazing church. We found an amazing home in Silverton off Pioneer Dr and look forward to being a part of the amazing community for years to come. Once again, thank you.

With so much love and gratefulness,

The Lee-Herzig family:

Stephanie, Megan, Tristin, Annie, Serenitie, Allie, Xianna, Tony, and Gracie



# July in Review

#### Pool Party at Donna's

We had a wonderful All Church Pool Party this past month at Donna Laney's. Huge thanks to Donna and her crew for all their hard work hosting, preparing, cooking, and cleaning for the event. Thanks to everyone who brought delicious side dishes to share. We had 27 people attend and enjoyed a wonderful time together. Al (Donna's dog) even served as our honorary life guard patrolling the pool.

















#### More From the Pool Party at Donna's



















The youth have been hard at work collecting items through the summer for their upcoming yard sale— August 8th & 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 4 pm. They are looking forward to the event and sharing the items they've collected with their church and community. The last day for donations is August 3rd. If you haven't had a chance to donate your items, there is still time. Thank you to everyone for their contributions to the yard sale, this could not be a success without you. The youth want to personally invite their fellow church members to stop by and say hello during yard sale hours, and feel free to take a look around! We hope to see everyone there.





Grab your swimsuits & a friend- The Annual Lock-In is right around the corner! We are heading to Wings & Waves Waterpark on **Saturday, August 16th at 9AM.** The group is set to return to the church around 3 PM to continue with the rest of our fun filled day. We will be providing breakfast, lunch, & dinner for the kids this day. Please make sure you pick-up new forms for this upcoming year, we will be collecting them at the beginning of the lock-in. Drop-Off for Lock-In: August 16th at 8:30 AM. **Pick-up: August 17th at 11AM** 

#### General Rules of Lock-In:

- ~Stay together No leaving or wandering off without permission Respect personal space - No inappropriate physical contact or behavior ~Keep it clean- No inappropriate language or actions, and no music or
- content that is related to drugs or sexual interactions.
- ~Follow instructions- Participants should cooperate with leaders & chaperones.
- ~Respect the space- Treat the lock-in space with respect and avoid damaging property.
- `No Electronics- (Cell Phones, Laptops, Computers, Headphones, etc.) Youth leaders and chaperones will have phones on at all times if parents need to be contacted.
- ~No Weapons, Drugs, or Alcohol
- ~Participation is expected- Participants should be involved in group activities, No bad attitudes.

#### Recommended Items to Pack for Lock-In:

- ~Sleeping Bag, Blanket, Pillow
- ~Swimsuit
- ~PJ's
- ~Toothbrush, Hairbrush
- ~Active Wear/Extra change of clothes
- ~Towel
- ~Church clothes for following day
- ~Running Shoes, Sandals, Slippers
- ~Any medications your child requires
- ~Signed paperwork for this upcoming year



### Women's Discussion Group

The women's Discussion Group met at the beautiful home of Andrea and Scott Walker on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Andrea calls their home a retreat, which it certainly is.

Andrea's artistic abilities are shown through her lovely quilts and drawings.

7 women attended and enjoyed a lunch of salad, quiche and homemade cookies.

Judy Kassell provided a heartfelt prayer and Kara Pilcher was so generous sharing gifts from her garden of gorgeous roses and fresh vegetables with everyone.

We enjoyed our special time together. It is a gift of time to spend with other Christian women.

During the summer, we decided to get together at someone's home and share time and a light lunch to stay in touch. In the Fall, we will get back to having Women's Discussion Group every week in the Fireside Room at the Church.

The next get together will be **Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am** at Karen Brock's home. Her address is: 220 Cowing St in Silverton. All women are invited to come and enjoy this special time.

There is nothing more powerful than a woman who loves God!



# Men's Fellowship group

#### Men's Fellowship Group

About 2.5 years ago Jeff Marcoe organized a breakfast meeting for the Silverton FCC men. The format was to have a brief devotional led by one of the three co-hosts with time for breakfast and visiting. Currently we have 7-12 attending and Ric Dettwyler and Clint Sanford are currently the hosts.

The new format is after ordering breakfast either Ric or Clint will offer a brief prayer and share a thought/insight for group reflection.

This leaves time for relaxed exchange getting to meet new attendees and stay current with each other

Men of all ages are welcome to join us on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 8am at the Water Mountain Restaurant as we continue to explore how God is calling us to serve in this community. We are deeply grateful for Clint and Ric's leadership. Our next Men's Fellowship Group will be

August 16, 2025 at 8am. Hope you can join us!





# Prayer Shawl Group



### Prayer Shawl Group

All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us on the 3rd Monday of each month at 3pm in the Fireside room for our monthly Prayer Shawl Group.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry knits shawls with love and prayer for members of our community going through difficult and challenging times as reminders to them that they are not alone but help in the love and care of this community. Currently the Prayer Shawl Group is working on prayer in your hand shawls for our blessing of the backpacks service on August 31, 2025. These shawls will be given out to all our teachers, school staff, and students heading back to school for the new year.

The next Prayer Shawl Group meeting will be **August 18, 2025 at 3pm** in the Fireside room. Hope you can come!

# August Special Events



#### All Church Fishing Trip

We will be doing an all church Fishing Trip on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 from 4 to 7pm at the Saint Louis Fish Ponds. Bring a sack dinner, your fishing gear, and make sure you have a copy of your fishing license and come meet up at the Saint Louis Fish Ponds for an evening of fishing and fun. No boats are allowed at the ponds and please follow the ponds guidelines and regulations with regards to fishing there. The Saint Louis Fish Ponds are located at 6483 Keene Rd NE. Gervais, OR. For those wanting to carpool be at the church by 3:30pm. Hope you can join us for a wonderful evening of fishing and fellowship!

#### **Sunday School Team Meeting**

We will be having a meeting for all those interested in helping with our Children's Sunday School program on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 6:30pm in the Fireside room. All Sunday School helpers are required to fill out a background check with the church. We hope you can join us as we explore, plan, and envision of our 2025-26 Sunday School program. Hope to see you at the Team Meeting.



**Sunday School Team Meeting** 

August 20, 2025 6:30pm

PAGE 15 CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS

# August Special Events



#### All Church- Beach Trip

All are invited to join us on Sunday, August 24, 2025 as we take an All Church Beach Trip. We will be heading to Lincoln City for the day to enjoy lunch at Mo's and time on the beach. We will be meeting at Mo's for lunch at 1pm and then enjoying the afternoon on the beach or shops there at Lincoln City. If there are those who want to carpool we ask people to be at the church ready to go around 11am. People are responsible for covering their own lunch and any other costs for the trip. We hope you can join us and look forward to a wonderful time a the beach.

#### 5th Saturday Spaghetti Dinner

Spread the word, it's time for another 5th Saturday Spaghetti Dinner. Invite your friends and family and the Silverton community.

Come enjoy some delicious spaghetti and a great time of fellowship on Saturday, August 30, 2025 from 5 to 7pm. If you can help getting food items for the meal or help in preparing, serving, and cleaning up check in with Gail or the church office. Looking forward to another wonderful 5th Saturday Spaghetti Dinner.



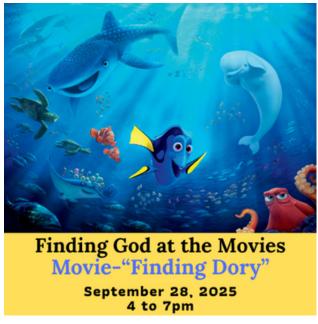
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# September Special Events

#### **Upcoming Events For September**

We will be having two all church events in September. On Sunday, September 14, 2025 from 5 to 7pm our monthly Family Fun Nights will resume with a special event of crafts and activities to honor our grandparents. Dinner will be provided. On Sunday, September 28, 2025 from 4 to 7pm our monthly Finding God at the Movies will resume and we will be watching "Finding Dory". Come enjoy dinner and the movie. We hope you can join us for these all church events. Friends and family are always welcome!





## MISSION PROJECTS



#### Stone Soup: Meal for the Shelter

Every Wednesday we give thanks for the faithful volunteers who show up, often bringing things from their own gardens, to help us make a wonderful meal for the Sheltering Silverton Shelter. The group is always glad to have others join them in preparing a Stone Soup meal with whatever we have. Come down to the church from 4 to 5:30pm to help make the meal and then stick around as we bless the meal for the shelter and enjoy a time of fellowship and a simple meal together. If you have things from your garden you'd like to share check in with Kara, Sue, Marilyn, and Ami. Hope you can join us for Stone Soup.

### Summer Mission Project: School Supply Drive

Our all church mission project for this summer is our School Supply Drive. Join us as we work to help collect school supplies for our local Silverton Schools. Please bring all donations to the tables in the Multipurpose room. Let us step up to surround our children, youth, teachers, and schools in our love and care. On the Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday we will be allowing children and youth who attend who need supplies to pick from what we have collected. All other donations will be given to the Silverton Schools.



# SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

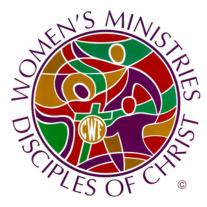
TICONDEROGA #2 Pencils 24 Count Boxes of CRAYOLA Crayons Washable Markers (10 count size) Sets of CRAYOLA colored pencils (12 pack size) PINK PEARL Erasers Three Ring Binders (At least 2inch size) Packs of 8 to 12 Thin Markers Packs of Wide Rule Notebook Paper Packs of College Rule Notebook Paper Hand Held Pencil Sharpeners Folders- Red, Blue, Yellow, and Purple Packs of Highlighters Bottle of ELMERS White Glue Large Bottles of Hand Sanitizer Snacks (Enough for 30 people) - Goldfish, pretzels, trail mix, graham crackers, granola bars, etc Black Thin Point SHARPIE Markers 3 X 5 Lined Notecards Graph Paper 12 inch Rulers (Must also have Metric Measurements on it) Compasses 6 inch Protractors Flash Drives Calculators (TI-30XII preferred) Pencil Boxes Containers of Antibacterial Wipes Water Color Paint Sets (8 Color set) Packs of Colored Pencils Spiral Notebooks (red, yellow, green, and blue) 5 or 6 inch (pointed tip) pairs of FISKARS scissors ELMERS Glue sticks Black Fine Tip Dry Eraser Markers Small Dry Erasers 2-Pocket Plastic Folders Black Composition Notebooks Sets of Headphones (Not earbuds) Containers of CLOROX wipes Boxes of KLEENEX Gallon ZIPLOCK Bags

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Backpacks

Refillable Water Bottles

# C.O.J. NEWS



#### CWF Grab Bag Donations

The CWF is collecting items for their grab sale.

Please bring new or gently used items to the donation bin in the Fireside room or to the office.

(Office hours are Monday through Thursday, from 9-1).

Please make sure all items are clean.





### August Women's Retreat in Idaho

The Fall women's retreat this year is being sponsored by

The Snake River District

Disciples Women.

It will be from August 22-24.
If you are interested in going to this, please let Jana in the office know as soon as possible as we need to plan this out in advance.

There may be scholarships available to pay for part of the trip.



Budget Needed for July: \$21,733.00

July 2025 Offering Totals

July 6 \$4,835.00 July 13 \$1,325.00 July 20 \$3,575.00 July 27 \$1,095.00

**Total:** \$ 10,830.00





#### **Labor Day Holiday**

We want to remind everyone that the church office will be closed and staff will be off for the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 1, 2025. Staff will be back in the office on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Wishing everyone a wonderful Labor Day Weekend.

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#### 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

**Youth Leaders:** Brogan Allen-Olsen

Jonathon Thompson

#### Worship Music Team:

Gail Frassenei, Wayne Cawlfield,
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 Verlene Beard
Assistant Financial Secretary Erin Stone
Trustee Chairperson Allan Graves

**Board Members** 

Elder Chair Cara Zitzelberger
Deacon Chair Karen Brock
CWF ChairLynn Koenig/Karen Brock



Betty Beard 2 Sarah Elder 3 Elijah Ulloa 7 Drew Miller 9 Steve Ryberg 10 Elia Annen 13 CW McCollom 14 Kathy Lamoreaux 17 Staci Tanksley 18 Amelia Porter 18 Kay Strobel 19 Alexis Kuenzi 20 Jack Long 22 Barb Poitras 24 Seth Frassenei 24 Mary Maciejewski 24 Sue Price 24 Aaron Barstad 25 John Meve 25 Tori McCollom 27 Sandy Sanford 29 Michael Elder 31



# Splinters from the Board

The July 14, 2025, board meeting began with a prayer led by Board President, Steve Reid

**Previous Minutes - Jolene Smoot:** A motion was made and approved for the June 2025 minutes. **Treasures Report - Erin Stone:** presented the report.

- A General Assembly category has been added.
- A member in need fund cost analysis report was distributed showing activity beginning October 2022 through July 2025.

**Giving/Income Report - Verlene Beard:** The Board discussed the report as presented by Verlene Beard. **Facilities Report - Allan Graves:** 

• Working on minimizing expenses.

#### **Elder's Report - Ric Dettwyler:**

• Discussion took place on how the combined service is working and if we will continue with just one service. It will be a topic at the Elder's meeting and decided on in August.

#### Pastor's Report, Presented by Vice Chair - Danika Beard

- General Assembly Pastor Eric, Brogan and Johnathan are currently attending.
- Received application from a women's AA group from Silverton. Board will discuss further
- The "History of Favorite Places" tour group asked if they could tour the church on October 11, from 12:00 to 1:00. They are interested in knowing the architectural history of the church.
- Wedding Shower for Ron Thomas and his finance Sadiqua, directly following the August 10, 2025, church service in the Fireside Room. Brunch will be provided.

#### Extras:

#### Members in Need Fund

 An idea was proposed regarding assembling a four-member committee for the purpose of overseeing the "Member's in Need Fund." The committee members would consist of; one elder, (TBD) a board member (Karen Brock), a member at large (Jennifer Clark) and Pastor Eric. They would be responsible for making decisions on how the money is spent from the fund. A motion was made and approved.

#### • Office administrator, Jana O'Connor:

- The board discussed Jana's possible departure
   Cara discussed with the group her daughter Allison's interest in working in the office until we find a replacement. She is available Monday Wednesday, Jana will train Allison.
- Update as of July 23, 2025. Jana will continue to work in the office Monday Thursday, 8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Allison will work in the office Monday Wednesday 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. being trained by Jana. This schedule will remain until the end of 2025.

**Thank you:** Steve thanked Cara for helping construct the letter from the board to the congregation that was sent out in the July newsletter sharing how much per month it costs to run the church, and the amount the church receives in donations. Many were not aware of what it takes to keep the church running. It was decided to include that information in the newsletter, the first week of each month.

Action: Add topic for discussion "160-year birthday, First Christian Church (2026)"

Closing Prayer – Danika Beard led the group in a closing prayer. Next Board Meeting – August 11, 2025

Respectfully submitted by Board Secretary Jolene Smoot



Silverton First Chrisitan Church Christian Connections Newsletter 402 N. First Street Silverton, Oregon 97381