

CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS

Silverton First Christian Church

Note From Pastor Eric

In "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" a small town is challenged to step outside their traditions and routines, their boat is rocked as they deal with six challenging kids who help them to experience the true meaning and power of Christmas. We will be showing the movie at our Christmas Craft Fair on December 14, 2025 and we hope you can attend.

So often we rush into Christmas, it becomes a well oiled machine, it comes and it goes with the blink of an eye, we get lost in snowmen, in Santa Claus and presents, we get the same old decorations out, we do the same pageants and sing the same songs, we go through the motions but without truly opening our hearts to hear and experience and feel the story anew. As we take this journey of Advent once again, let it not simply be out of repetition and habit, but let us open our hearts, minds, and souls once more to journey with Mary and Joseph, with Magi and Shepherds. To follow a star, to sing with all our hearts with the angels, to keep pressing on even when we are tired or uncertain, or afraid. To kneel in the cold damp hay in adoration and awe of our Savior born and laid in a manger.

In the face of hardship and struggles, poverty and pain, fears and doubts, may we like Mary, a teenage girl from Nazareth, and like Joseph, a poor carpenter from Bethlehem, dare to hope. May we refuse to let go of hope, choosing to trust our lives in the hands of our God even when the journey is hard and scary and uncertain, even when faced with empires and oppression and leaders like Herod, and Caiaphus, and Caesar, may we dare to hold onto hope.

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Contact Information

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Rev. Eric Eide

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*(Thursdays & Fridays
are Pastor Eric's Days Off,
contact on call elder
on those days)*

Church Office
402 N. First Street
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Phone: 503-873-6620
Monday- Thursday
(9am to 1pm)

Email:
fccsilverton@gmail.com

Website:
www.fccsilverton.com

Sunday Service- 9:10am
Coffee Time- 10:00am
2nd Hour Classes- 10:15 am

Note From Pastor Eric Continued:

In a world too often torn apart by violence and hatred, where an eye for eye seems to be the law of the land, may we be the peacemakers, the children of God. In the chaos and confusion, may we find our center in the one whose peace passes all understanding, the one who calms us in the storm, the gentle whisper that stills our restless souls.

In the busyness of life let us experience and bear witness to God's little moments of great joy placed all around us. May we be present and open to that warmth that fills our hearts and calls us to sing "Glory In Excelsis Deo" with all our souls. As stars shine, as the heavens sing, as a baby is born, let us see the holy all around us.

The glimpses of God's love and glory singing over us. For it is those little moments, those holy moments, that give us the courage and strength to press on even on the cold damp nights where it seems there is no room for us.

As we once more come into that stable, as we once more witness the power of God's birth, as we once more hold that tiny baby and are held in the grip of His grace, may our heart be touched anew, may we allow ourselves to feel our Lord's awesome love as it touches us and washes over us, and encourages us, and calls us back from that stable into all the world to bring and be our God's disciples, the children of love and light.

Let this year be the best Christmas ever! In fact let every Christmas be the best Christmas ever, as we never stop journeying with our Jesus, striving to bring His hope, peace, joy, and love into all the world.

Love,
Pastor Eric



Trunk or Treat

Want to say a huge thanks to all who helped with the Trunk or Treat Event on Halloween. It was an amazing evening and we had hundreds of kids and families come through.

Thanks to Marcus & Jennifer C, and the Circle of Friends After School Program staff for setting up the space and bringing fun games for the kids.

Thanks to Allan for blowing the leaves to the parking lot and church entrances for the event.

Thanks to Lynn, Jennifer H, Jonathon, and Brogan for all their hard work setting up the hot drinks stations and getting supplies.

Thanks to Steve and Vanessa for running the Photo Booth and for taking these great pictures of our group as well as of all the families that attended.

Thanks to CW and Elise for checking in on Olaf the snowman and offering to get him a warm drink.

Thanks to all of you church family who stepped up to run booths, donate candy, and all who stayed after to help clean things up.

I saw Christ's love made visible in every one of you!



2nd Hour

We only have one 2nd Hour this month on Sunday December 7, 2025. For that Sunday we will be offering- Hymn Singing with Gil in the Sanctuary, Adult Education with the Elders in the Fireside Room, Parent Group in the Multipurpose Room, Youth Class with Jonathon and Brogan in the Youth Room, and Children's Sunday School with Pastor Eric and the Sunday School Team in the Education Wing.

On December 14, 2025 in place of 2nd Hour we will be having the annual Christmas Pageant and then 2nd Hour will be off for December 21st, 28th, and January 4th for Christmas break. Thanks to all who continue to help make 2nd Hour a reality.

Coffee Time
10 to 10:15am
Multipurpose Room

Adult Education
Fireside Room

Parent Group
Multipurpose Room

2nd Hour Classes
10:15 to 11:00 am

Children's Sunday School
Education Wing

Youth Group Class
Youth Room

Hymn Sing
Sanctuary



Help Us Fill The Stable With Love

The children and youth are challenging the church family to join them in working to fill the stable with donations of non refrigerated food items for SACA.

Here are a list of items SACA is particularly asking for:

Food Items Needed:

Canned soups and chili, tuna and canned meats, peanut butter, canned beans, canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereal, rice, baking products, and pasta/mac and cheese

Personal Care Items:

Menstrual hygiene (pads and tampons), shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, toilet paper, dish soap, and laundry detergent
Bring your donations to Multipurpose Room and let's fill the Stable with LOVE!!!



**Help Us Fill
The Stable With Love**
Collecting Donations for SACA

Thank you

Thank You Johnny, Anthony, and Jonathon

We just want to take a moment to say thank you to Johnny for his hard work cleaning the carpet in the multipurpose room and hall outside the offices. We also want to Thank Anthony for coming once a week and blowing and bagging the leaves in the church parking lot and around the grounds. We also thank Jonathon (not pictured) for his hard work hauling off the bags of leaves. Thanks again to all those who step up each week to help in so many way around our church.



Wreath Making with Mary Wrolstadt

We had a wonderful time together making wreaths, swags and even a beautiful cross with all the lovely, great scented, fresh cut greenery Tom and Mary provided for all of us! God is good to share with us His wonderful creation!

Thank you, Tom and Mary, for sharing and teaching how to decorate our homes with God's abundant gifts.



November in Review

Shoebox Packing Party

We had an amazing Shoebox Packing Party this last month. We had 43 people attend and we filled all 150 shoeboxes and raised over \$400 for the shipping costs. We still need \$331 to cover the last bit of shipping costs.

Thanks to all who helped make amazing soups, salads, rolls, sides, and desserts for the dinner. Thanks to all who stayed after to help cleanup. It was a wonderful night of our community coming together to be God's love made visible!



More Shoebox Packing Party



Hanging of the Greens

We had a wonderful time this past month decorating the church for Advent. Thanks to all who helped. Thanks especially to Sandi and her crew for setting up the tree and their organization of everything. We enjoyed beautiful music on the organ by Gil and the kids even got to learn about the organ and play some notes too. Thanks to Linda, Joe, Barbara, Chuck, and Lynn for organizing the tasty treats and coffee time. Thanks to Mary for getting the beautiful poinsettias. It was a wonderful time together.



More Hanging of the Greens



5th Saturday Spaghetti Dinner

We want to thank Gail and all who helped with our 5th Saturday Spaghetti Dinner. Thanks to all who donated items, prepared, cooked, served, and helped clean up.

It was a delicious meal. There were both dairy free and gluten free options.

Thanks to Jonathon and Brogan who helped stay to end to help get everything picked up. Our next 5th Saturday Spaghetti Dinner, will be Saturday, January 31, 2025 from 5 to 7pm. Mark your calendars and help spread the work about it also if you can help check in with Gail.



Finding God at the Movies

We had a wonderful Finding God at the Movies this past month as we had 21 people attend and we watched the animated movie- "The King of Kings" which is based on the the writing of Charles Dickens for his children telling the story of Jesus.

Special thanks to Kara for staying after to help wash all the dishes and cleanup. There will not be a Finding God at the Movies in December and our next Finding God at the Movies will be Sunday, January 25, 2026 from 5 to 7pm. Please cast your vote to Pastor Eric for the movie.



Stone Soup Meal- Meal for the Shelter

Can you chop vegetables? Can you stir a soup pot? Can you help make a salad? Can you wash dishes? Can you spend an hour to help those in need? Join us on Wednesday evenings from 4 to 5:30 pm for our Stone Soup Meal as we make the weekly meal for the Sheltering Silverton shelter. Join our faithful crew and help make the meal then stick around and enjoy a simple meal and time of fellowship with those who helped make the meal. For more information or other ways you can help, check in with Sue, Kara, Marilyn, and Ami.





The youth have been hard at work the past month helping out around church. They decided as a group to donate 200\$ in candy as their October mission & had fun dressing up and handing out candy at our annual Trunk-or-Treat. The youth had fun working together to shop for our church mission for November, Operation Christmas Child. They donated 350\$ in items for these shoeboxes and learned how they can work together to give back to their church. We are now moving into the holiday season, and this was a great way to kick off the season of giving.

The youth are currently working on their Christmas pageant, and they are excited to share this with their fellow church members. This years script is called “A Christmas Surprise” and there will be plenty of surprises included in the play. We invite all of you to join us on December 14th during coffee hour, in retelling the story of Jesus’s birth through the scenes in the play. The story will be told from some unexpected characters, and the point of view of people who were there on that miraculous day, long ago.

Over the past few months we’ve watched new friendships and memories being made in youth groups, family game nights, and Sunday school. We look forward to being able to witness more of these beautiful moments in the upcoming months.

Upcoming:

12/7 - Sunday School 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM
Youth Group/Pageant Practice (5 PM - 7 PM)

12/14 - Christmas Pageant (during coffee hour)

12/21 - Sunday School 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM
Youth Group/Holiday Movie & Celebration
(Time & Location TBD)

December Happenings



Grab Bag and Cookies by the Pound Sale

The grab bag & cookies by the pound sale will be Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 9am to 4pm in the multipurpose room. There will also be people selling their handmade craft items.

If you are baking cookies for the sale, please bring them to the church Friday evening (December 5th) between 5 and 6 pm or Saturday morning (December 6th) by 8 am.

We want to thank everyone who donated items for this! For months, Gracie, Margaret, Jolene and Kay S (Not Pictured) have been busy wrapping the grab bag gifts.

We hope everyone can stop by the church and support the CWF!





CWF Christmas Tea

All Women of the church are invited to Donna Laney's home on Saturday, December 13th at 11:00 am for the annual CWF Christmas Tea.

Donna's address is:
31215 S Dryland Rd
Canby, 97013

If you would like to carpool, please meet at the church at 10:30 am. You do not need to bring anything, just come and enjoy!!



Women's Discussion Group

The Women's Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room.

Women of all ages are welcome!

Women's Discussion Group

**Every Tuesday
At 10am in Fireside Rm**



Christmas Pageant

It is once again time for our annual Christmas Pageant. There are both speaking and non speaking parts in this year's pageant for those of all ages. Thanks to Gail for preparing a wonderful lunch for our rehearsal last Sunday.

The pageant will be performed on Sunday, December 21, 2025 immediately following the worship service that day in the Multipurpose room. During worship that Sunday Children and Youth will be practicing for the practice during the service so we ask them to be at church by 9am.

For more information contact Jonathon and Brogan.



Family Fun Night: Christmas Craft Fair

Come enjoy dinner and a wonderful time of fellowship together as we make wreaths, gingerbread houses, snow globes, and lots more ornaments at our Christmas Craft Fair on Sunday, December 14, 2025 from 5 to 7 pm in the Multipurpose room.

As we are crafting we will also have a movie playing- "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". Bring your friends and family and come enjoy this special night with us.

Prayer Shawl Group

December 15, 2025 at 3pm
Fireside Room

A close-up photograph of a person's hands knitting a thick, textured purple shawl. The person is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and has silver rings on their fingers. The shawl has a deep V-neck and a wide, ribbed border. The background is a solid red color.

Do you enjoy knitting and crocheting? Come join our Prayer Shawl ministry. They gather the 3rd Monday of each month at 3pm in the Fireside room. Come help us wrap those in need in our love and prayers.

A collage of 12 photographs showing various activities of the Men's Fellowship Group. The photos are arranged in a grid-like fashion around a central red banner. The banner contains the text "Men's Fellowship Group" in large, bold, yellow letters, and below it, "December 20, 2025 at 8am Water Mountain Restaurant" in smaller white letters. The photos depict: 1. Two men fishing in a lake. 2. A group of men sitting around a long table indoors, eating and talking. 3. A man in a green and yellow patterned apron standing next to a table. 4. Two men standing together, one in a blue plaid shirt and the other in a white plaid shirt. 5. A man in a blue shirt and hat riding a green tractor. 6. A man in a blue shirt and hat standing next to a green tractor. 7. A man in a white shirt and black apron holding a spoon. 8. A man in a blue shirt and hat riding a green tractor. 9. A man in a blue shirt and hat standing next to a green tractor. 10. A man in a blue shirt and hat standing next to a green tractor. 11. A man in a blue shirt and hat standing next to a green tractor. 12. A man in a blue shirt and hat standing next to a green tractor.

A group of men are seated at a long wooden table in a dining hall. The table is set with various items including coffee mugs, water glasses, a large pitcher, and condiments. The men are dressed in casual attire, including jackets and hats. Large windows in the background offer a view of a snowy outdoor area with parked vehicles. The interior walls are wood-paneled, and the atmosphere appears to be a formal or semi-formal social event.

Disciples Special Offering- Christmas Offering

It is once again time to take the Disciples Special Offering- Christmas Offering. One Hundred Percent of this offering goes to helping our region and all the ministries it does right here in Oregon and SW Idaho. We will be collecting this special offering on Sunday, December 21, 2025. This offering makes it possible for things like Youth and Children's Summer Camp and our Women's Ministry along with many other special activities and ministries that we do here in this region.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

All are invited to join us for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on December 24, 2025 at 9pm. Come enjoy a beautiful service with lots of wonderful music and communion as we celebrate our Savior's birth.



Staff Holidays and Pastor Eric Vacation Time

We want to remind everyone that December 25, 2025 and January 1, 2026 are holidays and the building will be closed and staff will be off on those days.

Pastor Eric will be taking vacation from December 25, 2025 to January 9, 2026.
Please contact elders for needs during that time.





Forming Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Forming Committee to Review Constitution and Bylaws

We are looking to form a committee to review and bring up to date our constitution and bylaws. If you would be interested in serving on this committee please contact Donna Laney, Steve Hensley, or Pastor Eric.



175th Birthday of Silverton FCC

In April of 1851 on the banks of the Pudding River our church formed. We are excited April 2026 will make our church's 175th birthday. On Sunday April 12, 2026 we will be having a special service celebrating our Church's 175th Birthday. Please mark your calendars and spread the word with church friends near and far. Also we are looking for a group of people to help work on a committee for that special service. If you would be interested in helping serve on this committee please contact Pastor Eric, Donna Laney, or Steve Hensley. Looking forward to celebrating our 175th birthday together!



Church Officers/Personnel

Elders:

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

Church Board Chairman:

Donna Laney

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 Cawfield,
Chris Dyer, Ami Barstad,
Aaron Barstad, John Meye,
Gil Wittman, Marilyn Woodward

2024-2025

Board of Directors

Slate of Officers

Board Chair - Donna Laney

Vice Chair - Steve Hensley

Treasurer - Erin Stone

Board Secretary - Betty Beard

Financial Secretary -
Verlene Beard

Trustee Chair - Allan Graves

Deacon Chair - Karen Brock

CWF Chairs-

Lynn Koenig/Karen Brock



Chase Annen 2
Char Strunk 3
Emorie Cote 5
Jan Bowen 6
Ronna Vaughan 7
Christy Knox 12
Faith Ulloa 14
Emma Bagley 15
Parker McCollum 15
Korinna Barcroft 19
Jennifer Clark 22
Allison Zitzelberger 22
Diane Hill 27
Lola Reid 27
Heather Brock 28



Budget Needed for November:
\$24,171.00

November 2025 Tithing Offering Totals

November 2	\$2,960.00
November 9	\$6,110.00
November 16	\$2,975.00
November 23	\$2,685.00
November 30	\$1,326.00

Total: **\$16,056.00**

Every gift helps!

Splinters from the Board

Church Board met on November 10, 2025 at 6:30pm

Present- Donna Laney – Board Chair, Steve Hensley – Board Vice Chair,
Erin Stone – Treasurer, Karen Brock – Chair of Deacons,
Verlene Beard – Financial Secretary, Betty Beard – Secretary,
Lynn Koenig – CWF Chair, and Rev. Eric Eide – Pastor

Absent- Allan Graves- Properties Chair

We reviewed treasurer and financial secretary reports.
Giving is still not where we need and encourage all to give as they are able.

We are grateful for our deacons who continue to
help with washing the communion cups.

Pastor Eric is providing Lynn, Gracie, and Karen with names and
details of families in need for Thanksgiving Baskets.

Women's Discussion Group continues on Tuesdays at 10am in the Fireside room.
Christmas Grab Bag and Cookie By the Pound Sale will be Saturday, December 6,
2025. There will also be local craft artists at the event.
Women's Christmas Tea will be Saturday December 13, 2025 at Donna Laney's home.

Elders working on Advent with Pastor Eric and are
still exploring adding two more elders.

Church kitchen hood and fires extinguishers were inspected
and numerous smoke detector batteries were replaced.

Gratitude for Johnny Desmarteau for cleaning carpets in MP room and Hall.
Gratitude for Anthony Pierce for continuing to blow and bag outside leaves.

We celebrated 800 coats being given to children and youth in need
in our community from the Coats for Kids Drive this year.
We celebrated 150 Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child being filled-
Shipping Costs have now been entirely covered.

Working to form committee to plan 175th Birthday
Celebration of the church on April 12, 2026.

Forming Committee to discuss bylaws and constitution.
Still need to review our one time rental fees and bring them up to date.

Next Board Meeting will be Monday, December 15, 2025 at 6:30pm.



HELLO
December

The graphic features the words "HELLO" and "December" in a playful, hand-drawn style. "HELLO" is in a bold, rounded, sans-serif font, while "December" is in a large, flowing, cursive script. The text is surrounded by several small, stylized snowflakes and solid black dots of varying sizes, creating a festive, wintry atmosphere.

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