

# CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS

Silverton First Christian Church

## *Note From Pastor Eric*

This Christmas my nephew and I got out our old Oregon Trail game. (They just made a remake of that old computer game as a card game.) You remember the game, where you create a party in your wagon and set out on the Oregon trail. Along the way you have to cross rivers, face disease and famine, and illness and cold and drought. You might be robbed by bandits. You might get a snake bite. Your wagon can break down. You can lose your oxen. Your supplies can go bad. You can get sick. You can run out of food or water. You can make friends or get help from others along the way. You can forage and find new supplies. And often, as those who have played the game know, not all your party makes it to Oregon.

That journey to Oregon, that many of our ancestors made, was not an easy one. They faced challenges along the way. But there were blessings, too. Together they found the courage to keep going as they sought better lives and new opportunities for their families.

The journey of life, the journey of faith is not always easy. We face challenges and struggles and loss. It is like those magi who left everything they knew to follow a star and a promise of the greatest of kings, a journey into the great unknown. Maybe there were days when their supplies got low or ran out, days when they got sick, days when they lost a camel or horse, days when the cart carrying the gold, frankincense, and myrrh broke an axle or wheel. And yet kept trusting in the light of that star, they kept relying on each other and the God who beckoned them on.

## **This Issue:**

- 1-2 **Note from Pastor Eric**
- 2 **Scriptures & Sermon Titles**
- 3 **Rev. Myrna Phillips/2<sup>nd</sup> Hour**
- 4 **Children's Sunday School**
- 5-7 **Special Article By Cindy Baker**
- 8 **Mission Projects**
- 9-14 **December In Review**
- 15 **Youth Group**
- 16-20 **January Happenings**
- 21 **Finding God At The Movies**
- 22 **Pastor Eric Vacation/MLK Jr Day**
- 23 **Volunteer Opportunities**
- 24 **Birthdays/Offering/Personnel**
- 25-26 **Splinters from the Board**
- 26 **5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Spaghetti Dinner**

## **Contact Information**

**Pastor**  
**Rev. Eric Eide**

**Email:**  
eeide98@gmail.com

**Cell:**  
541-954-2612

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

**Church Office**  
402 N. First Street  
Silverton, Oregon 97381  
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**

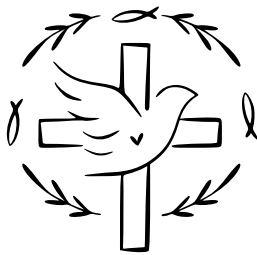
## *Note From Pastor Eric Continued:*

As 2025 comes to a close and as we enter into 2026, we prepare to celebrate our church's 175th year of existence. May we remember and reflect on those who have gone before us, may we remember our journey from the banks of the Pudding river to downtown Silverton where we are now. As we remember those who journeyed with us for a while, may we also continue to look to the journey we as a church still have before us, following our star, our Jesus, and his call to love.

May we be as our denomination reminds us, "A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, welcoming all as Christ welcomes us." May we be as our elders' proclaimed in our statement of identity, **"A family of faith, disciples at work!"** A church at the work of love!

God does not promise that the road ahead will be easy. It will have bumps and challenges, it will have loss and tears; but it will also have joy and laughter and hope- holy moments every day filled with glimpses of the kingdom of God. It will have new friends we meet, and God will provide what we need. So together, as this family of faith, loving and caring and encouraging each other with kindness and grace, let us keep on this path as we continue to follow our star- our Jesus- who dares us to truly be His disciples at work!

Love,  
Pastor Eric



## Scriptures for Worship January 2026:

January 4, 2026

Rev. Myrna Phillips preaching  
(Pastor Eric on Vacation)

January 11, 2026

"Star Gazers, Trail Blazers"  
Matthew 2:1-12

January 18, 2026

"Wade In The Water Again"  
Matthew 3:13-17

January 25, 2026

"Growing The Church"  
John 1:29-42  
Matthew 4:12-23





## Rev. Myrna Phillips Guest Preacher

January 4, 2026

### Looking Forward to Hearing Rev, Myrna Phillips

We are looking forward to having Rev. Myrna Phillips as our guest preacher on Sunday, **January 4, 2026** while Pastor Eric is still on vacation. Rev. Myrna currently serves as one of the chairs of our regional elders.

For her career she has worked as a professional counselor. Rev. Myrna and her husband Rev. Noel are members at Salem First Christian. Rev. Myrna brings a deep wisdom and compassion to all she does. We are thrilled to have her as our guest preacher on January 4, 2026.



### 2nd Hour Resumes

Our 2nd Hour Classes will be resuming Sunday, **January 11, 2026**. Each Sunday after worship and coffee time join us for 2nd Hour. We offer the following classes: Adult Education with the elder of the day in the Fireside room, Parent Group in the Multipurpose room, Hymn Singing with Gil in the Sanctuary (on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month), Youth Class (Middle School and High School Youth) with Jonathon and Brogan in the Youth Room, and Children's Sunday School (PreK to 5th Grade) with Pastor Eric and his amazing team of helpers. We are also looking forward to having a special class this month led by Cindy Baker as she shares about her mission trip to Costa Rica, stay tuned for time and date. We hope you can join us for 2nd Hour!

**Coffee  
Time**

10 to 10:15am  
Multipurpose  
Room

**Adult  
Education**

Fireside  
Room

**Parent  
Group**

Multipurpose  
Room

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour Classes

**10:15 to 11:00 am**

**Children's  
Sunday  
School**

Education  
Wing

**Youth  
Group  
Class**

Youth Room

**Hymn  
Sing**

Sanctuary

## Children's Sunday School

All PreK through 5th Grade children are invited to join us each week for Sunday School during 2nd Hour. Sunday School is led by Pastor Eric and his team of amazing helpers. They offer songs, games, crafts, mission projects, Bible stories, and more. We have been averaging 5 to 6 kids a week. Children are invited as they are able to also bring an offering as we recognize that every little gift helps the work of the church. This past month we followed the Israelite people as they finally entered the promised land with Joshua, we met a brave woman name Rahab who helped protect the Israelite spies, and marched around the walls of Jericho as they came tumbling down. We also made a journey with Magi, Shepherds, Angels, and Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to celebrate the birth of Jesus and had our Christmas party. We continue to work on songs during each month that we sing on 4th Sundays in worship. Huge thanks to our amazing team of helpers- CW, Jennifer, Gil, Gail, Kathy, Debra, Wynelle, Linda, Karen, Vanessa, Lola, and Serenitie! These guys are incredible! If you would like to be a helper with Sunday School check in with Pastor Eric. For this coming month Sunday School will resume on Sunday, **January 11, 2026**. We will be exploring the story of the magi's arrival, Jesus baptism, and the story of Jesus' Disciples. Hope you can join us for children's Sunday School!



**Children's  
Sunday School**

All PreK to 5th Grade kids  
are welcome to join us  
for songs, Bible Stories,  
crafts, mission projects,  
and more!

**During 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour  
after Worship**



## MISSION TRIP TO COSTA RICA - Cindy Baker

I saw the little flyer on the wall. “Come to Costa Rica!” My friend Jennifer was looking for others to go on a mission trip. I don’t think I was anywhere on her radar, being close to 30 years older than her. My initial thought about going was surprising. Maybe it would be my last chance to do something crazy! I never wanted to travel or serve in a mission field “out there!” This work would involve helping some mission partners who worked with women affected by extreme poverty, domestic abuse, and human trafficking.

Maybe Costa Rica wasn’t so far and maybe I could work hard and save enough to make it. I must have wanted to go or why would I look at my passport after so many years? Realizing it was 2 weeks short of expiring, I sent in the renewal fee. Thinking of poor Jennifer going on her own crossed my mind also. She had been very sick and I don’t think she was completely over it. I had heard of Beauty for Ashes. A couple of our young people had served with them before. I liked the name. I felt like I had come up out of my own ashes at one point in my life. Maybe I still am.

So, I made my decision. I would go to Costa Rica with a small group of women, twelve to be exact, and I would help where I could. Adventures in Missions had other opportunities too. Family trips and jobs for young people to help build schools and churches. I began making payments toward my trip on the Adventures in Missions website. Then I found out our church uses mission funds for this very purpose and they were going to pay half of my trip cost. So, when you give to Missions Funds, know that sometimes, you are helping people like me and others to learn and grow when it comes to sharing God’s word.

Before we arrived at the Mission House, which was built specifically for traveling missionaries, we realized we weren’t in Kansas anymore. Even the car dealerships were barred and barbed wired, but people on the street seemed friendly and the shops were busy. Traffic was wild and stop signs were mostly ignored. Motorcycles were the kings of the road and raced through traffic at high speeds. The sound pierced our ear drums for only a moment so there was no time to cry about it.

We pulled into the Mission House and saw it had an old mission style about it. The gate opened, the van entered and the gate clicked shut. Our rooms were upstairs and had all the conveniences of a nice hotel. A couple of the younger women took the upper bunks. Karla, our coordinator, called us together and gave us the low-down. We would be holding small evening “retreats” for the 30 to 40 women who were involved with Transforma, (the large local charity that worked directly with the women after we were gone.)

Our testimonies during the retreats would show these ladies that their stories mattered too. That they were not alone in feeling unsure about trusting other women with their words. When I told the story of the abuse that I suffered during my preteen years, one woman named Cathy could not contain herself and cried inconsolably, like I had when I shared it with my group earlier that week. I looked for her afterwards but she had left. I hoped I would see her again. Along with the retreats, we would be helping to set up the Graduation ceremony for the ladies who had completed the program, which included training in handling money, sewing, running a shop, massage, and even cutting hair. We did it with love and joy and we were so happy for our new friends.

## MISSION TRIP TO COSTA RICA - Cindy Baker (Continued)

One of the highlights of our trip was being allowed to walk the streets of Barrio Sinai. A dangerous place where the drug lord who also seemed to own the land, allowed Vanessa, Transforma's leader, to bring our group through to visit some of the women's homes. It seemed he respected her and knew that she was helping his people learn to make more money. (More for him? I'm not sure) We would not be allowed to take pictures or talk to unrelated residents. People were watching.

Once there, we visited the new pre-school. A one room box with an exposed roof that included a bathroom and storage. We heard a large dog begin to bark and a man yelling just outside the door, as we began praying for the yet un-used school.

I think it was the first time I had heard the term, "Thunder praying." It felt amazing to plead our cause before the Lord. We prayed for the walls, the roof, the electrical outlets, the bathrooms, and anything else that could break down. We prayed for the children who would be attending and for their safety. All the while, not knowing what was happening just outside the thin walls of the building. I felt fearless. I knew God was with us and whatever was going to happen would be part of His plan.

When we left the school room, there was silence. And we were able to walk to several homes and visit some of the mothers and children there. Most were in tin shacks about 9 x 9 feet square. There was obviously an electrical system and bathroom facilities somewhere, but one of the buildings sat directly on mud with irregular damp and mossy steps that went from 8 inches tall to 18 inches tall. As we made our way down the uneven steps all we could do was use the rickety handrail and the ribbed metal siding as leverage. I'm certain we were all thinking about the difficulty of making our way back up. At the bottom, we saw a mom smiling with a mouthful of shiny metal crowns with her 3 boys standing protectively around her and a little girl's brown eyes peeping out of the darkness behind her from a tiny separate room. Taking this tour of 5 different homes in the barrio would later make sense. These were some of the graduates of the program.

This trip was not just about the women of Transforma or the support of Beauty for Ashes and the Mission House. It was about the travelers too. We learned to work together. Instead of running to others to gossip or seek back up, we learned to pray. To listen to what God wanted us to do. For instance, to apologize for being catty instead of hiding the issue. Each of us had our own stories. Some good, some dreadful and some, just beginning. In our debriefing sessions, I discovered one story that mirrored my own. A young woman from Montana, told of the rift between her and her mother.

The situations were somewhat different but I was able to share with her and tell her that what I truly wanted from my daughter was for her to let it go. My gambling addiction had caused me to neglect and abandon her. Did I need her to forgive me? Not necessarily. I just wanted her to say she was done being angry. We didn't have to talk or hug or cry. I just wanted her to be happy and to not think about the past. Hopefully, there will be healing in both our lives. Sharing our hopes and fears along with experiences was eye opening for many of us.



## MISSION TRIP TO COSTA RICA - Cindy Baker (Continued)

Graduation Day had arrived. I saw the lady with the silver teeth and her 4 kids. I saw the lady who sewed and the lady who ran the little shop out of her home. And I saw Cathy. Though we hadn't yet met, we hugged and shared some understanding looks and she told me to come back and visit. I spoke my little bits of Spanish, moved tables and chairs, made coffee, hugged people and helped cut the strings off the hot palm leaf tamales for the meal. I missed the awards ceremony, but I knew our friends were happy and I knew they had a future. I was proud of them and wanted to come and see them again someday. That day may never come but I will always have fond memories of each one of those women. And Cathy, I know you're gonna be alright.





# Mission Projects

## Shoeboxes Arrive

This year we worked hard and filled 150 shoe boxes with gifts, toys, toiletries, soccer balls, and the lots of love. These shoeboxes traveled over 20,000 miles as they went to children in Ghana, Benin, and the Caribbean Islands. We hope as children opened these boxes they were given a tiny glimpse of the depth and breath with which our God loves each one of them. Thanks to all who helped with this project and especially to Karen Brock.



## All Church Mission Project: Collecting Donations for SACA

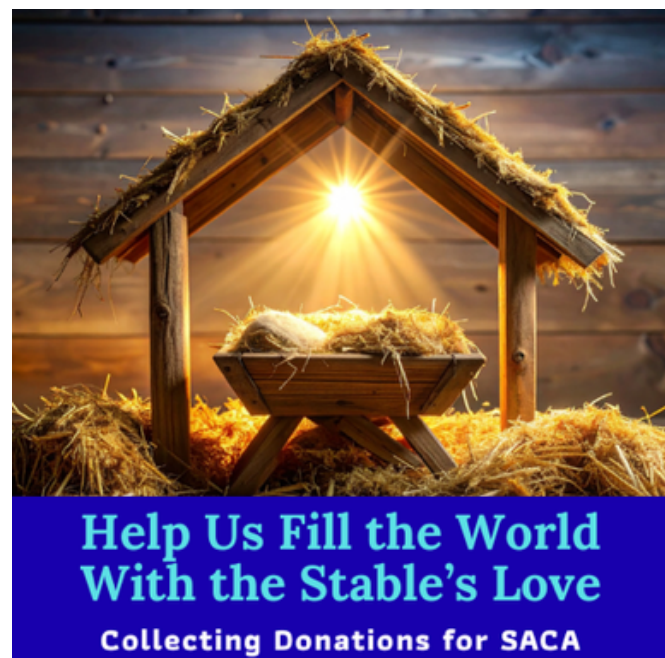
The magi and the shepherds may have found their way home but the work of Christmas the work of God's love, the call of the stable still calls us to fill the world with love. So help us to continue to collect donations for SACA this month. SACA provides food and clothing, housing assistance, and more support to members of our community in need. Even after Christmas let us continue the Christmas spirit, the spirit of love and giving the whole year round. Here are the list of items we are collecting for SACA:

### 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 Needed:

Menstrual hygiene (pads and tampons), shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, toilet paper, dish soap, and laundry detergent  
Bring your donations to the Multipurpose room and let's carry the love found in a stable into all the world!!!

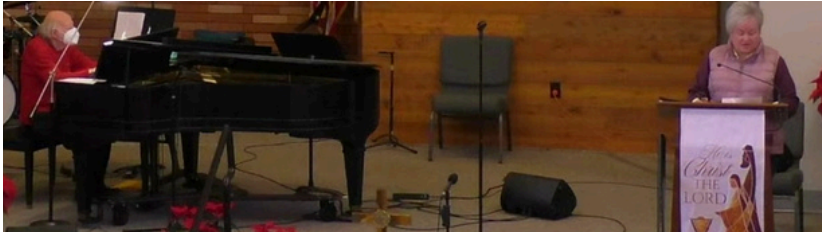




# December in Review

## Lessons and Carols Service

We had a wonderful Lessons and Carols Service this last Sunday. We wore our favorite Christmas sweaters and enjoyed singing lots of carols, hearing the Christmas Scriptures, and sharing communion together. Thanks to Gil, Marilyn, Megan, Cara, Beth, Donna, Debra, Jennifer, the Desmarteau Family, and all who helped with this special service.



---

## Baptisms of Anthony and Rachel Pierce

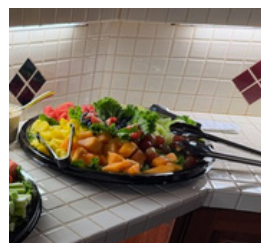
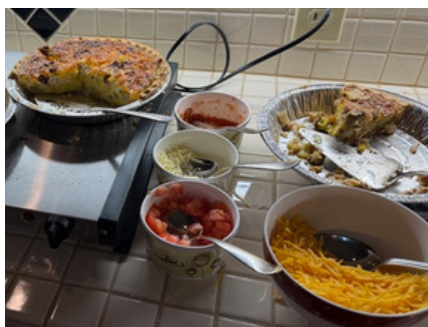
This last month we celebrated Anthony and Rachel Pierce's baptism. On a Sunday when the heat to the sanctuary and the heat to baptistry both broke down these two brave souls waded in the very cold water and got baptized. Their daughter Eden helped Pastor Eric baptize both of her parents. Anthony and Rachel and their children Eden and Raiden have been a blessing and delight to our church family since the first Sunday they walked in. Thanks to Ric, Cara, Karen, Allan, Libby, Sandi, and all who helped with the baptism. Anthony and Rachel know that you have a God and a community that loves you and your family. You are a beautiful part of this family of faith!





## Women's Christmas Party

The CWF had a wonderful Women's Christmas Party this past month at Donna Laney's home. We had women from the ages of 6 to 87 attend. It was a special time of fellowship, faith, and fun together. Lynn brought a moving message for the event and Donna and her crew provided a beautiful location and decorations and prepared an incredible feast. Thanks to Karen for these great photos. If you would like to learn more about the CWF and Women's Ministries in our church and region check in with Lynn Koenig and Karen Brock.





## ChristmasPageant

We had a wonderful Christmas Pageant this past month. Thanks to everyone who helped and especially to all our children and youth who were wonderful! This year's pageant told the story through the eyes of the star and the donkey. Thanks to Gil for his help with sound equipment, to Ami, Aaron, and Wayne for bringing music, to Vanessa for so many incredible pictures, and to Jonathon and Brogan for doing an outstanding job directing.





## More Christmas Pageant





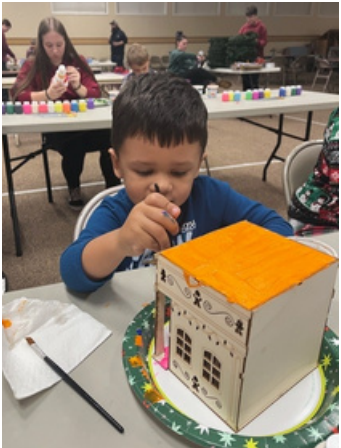
## Christmas Craft Fair

We had a wonderful Christmas Craft Fair this last month. We had 39 people attend. We made gingerbread houses, wreath, snow globes, candy, and all sorts of ornaments. We watched the movie- "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" as we crafted. Thanks to all who helped make dinner, helped run the craft stations, and stayed after to clean up. It was a wonderful time together!





# More Christmas Craft Fair







The youth group ended the year on an extremely eventful month. They worked hard on their Christmas pageant with rehearsals and song practices. The youth added their own fun twists and edits during rehearsals and it was great to see them brainstorm new ideas to make this special for our congregation. Thank you to everyone who came to watch the youth perform, it was beautiful to see every table filled. You could feel the support and love that filled the room as people took their seats and popped out their cameras. It was beautiful to witness these moments.

The youth also had their annual Christmas party at the youth leaders house. They ate pizza and watched the movie, the Grinch. We chose this movie because of the overall theme of the main character and how his spite for Christmas turns to love after the townspeople show him grace and kindness in times of sorrow. The youth leaders set up a three round white elephant game for the kids as well, which included a candy round, for the movie of course. A cross round where each cross had a special inscription of the bible written on it. And a stocking stuffer round filled with toys, fuzzy socks, and other fun items. They had a great time and we are all looking forward to resuming the youth group after the new year begins.

### Upcoming:

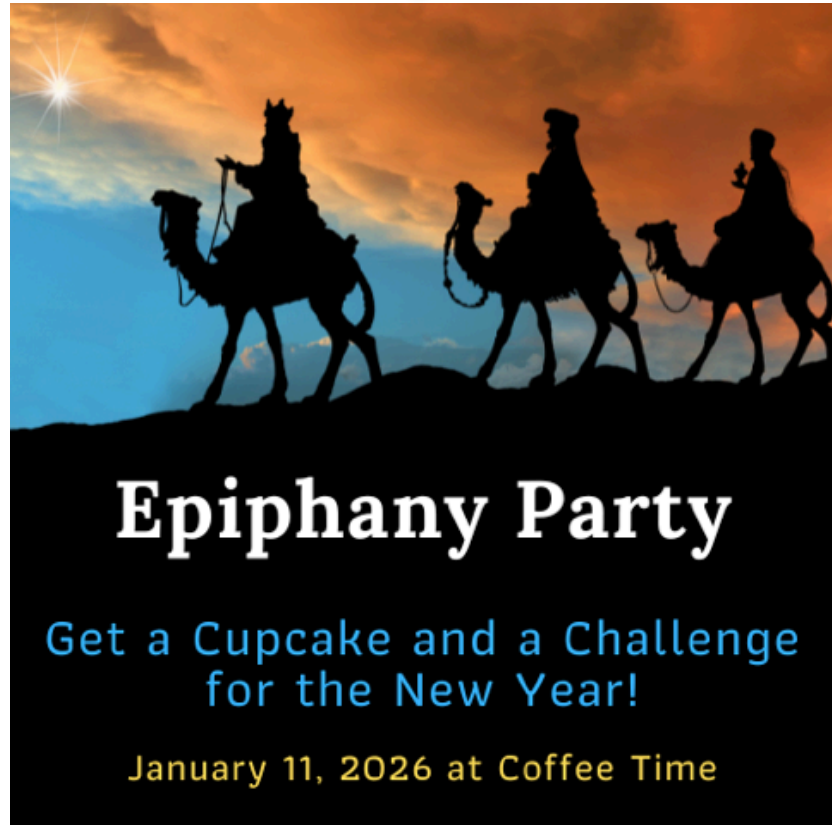
- 1/4:** No Sunday School/No Youth Group (Christmas Vacation)
- 1/11:** Sunday School (10:25 AM)
- 1/18:** Sunday School (10:25 AM),  
Youth Group: New Year Organizing, Planning, and Lesson
- 1/25:** Sunday School (10:25 AM)



# January Happenings

## Epiphany Party

Join us on Sunday, **January 11, 2026** as we celebrate Epiphany. Epiphany marks the arrival of the Magi and the word means a revelation or an opportunity for discovery or growth. Join us right after service for coffee time there will be special cupcakes and each cupcake has a challenge- an opportunity for epiphany- for the new year. Hope you can join us for this special Sunday.



## Family Fun Night: All Church Birthday Party

On the second Sunday of each month from 5 to 7pm join us for our Family Fun Nights. For January we are having our All Church Birthday Party on Sunday, **January 11, 2026** from 5 to 7pm. Come enjoy dinner and all sorts of fun as we celebrate everyone's birthday. Each table will be set for a different month, so come hang out with your birthday mates and enjoy some great games, and fellowship together. Friends are always welcome!



## Women's Discussion Group

Every Tuesday  
At 10am in Fireside Rm

### Women's Discussion Group

The Women's Discussion Group will be resuming its weekly meetings on Tuesday, **January 6, 2026** at 10am in the Fireside room. Women of all ages are invited to join this study and time of reflection together each Tuesday morning at 10am.

Hope you can come.

For more questions check in with Lynn.



### Prayer Group

Many of you have approached me and asked about a weekly prayer group. Starting **January 13, 2026** on Tuesday evenings at 7pm I will be offering a Prayer Group on Zoom. The point of this group will simply be to gather and share the joys and challenges of the week and then to pray together for each other, our church, our community, our world, and those in need and on our hearts. There are no reading assignments or homework with this group, nothing you need to do to prepare, just come as you are for a time to support one another and pray together. Watch each week for the email with the zoom link and hope you can join us for Prayer Group.



## Prayer Group

Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom  
with Pastor Eric



## Silverton FCC's 175th Birthday Planning Committee

Our church formed on Easter Sunday in April of 1851 on the banks of the Puddling River. We are excited this year marks our church's 175th Birthday.

On Sunday April 12, 2026 we will be having a special service and luncheon to celebrate our church's birthday.

Please mark your calendars and help spread the word to friends and family and those who have been a part of our church over the years.

The Celebration Planning Committee will be meeting on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026** at 1pm in the Fireside room.

Anyone interested in helping with this special service please check in with Pastor Eric or Steve Hensley, vice chair of the board.

Looking forward to celebrating our church's birthday with all of you.



A poster for the church's 175th birthday. At the top, the text "Church's 175th Birthday" is written in a large, red, curved font. In the center is a black and white illustration of a small, single-story church with a steeple. Below the illustration, the date "April 12, 2026" is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath the date, the words "FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH" are written in a smaller, black, serif font. Below that, two lines of red text read "We Are A Family Of Faith" and "We Are Disciples At Work". Underneath these lines, the text "Silverton, Oregon" is written in a black, serif font, flanked by two horizontal lines. Below this, the text "Established- Easter Sunday April 1851 on the banks of the Pudding River" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the poster, a blue rectangular box contains the text "Planning Committee Meeting" in a large, white, serif font, and "January 14, 2026 at 1pm" in a smaller, red, sans-serif font.

**Church's 175th Birthday**

**April 12, 2026**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**We Are A Family Of Faith**  
**We Are Disciples At Work**

**Silverton, Oregon**

Established- Easter Sunday April 1851 on the banks of the Pudding River

**Planning Committee Meeting**  
**January 14, 2026 at 1pm**





## Men's Fellowship Group

Join us on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 8am at Water Mountain Restaurant for our Men's Fellowship Group. Come enjoy a delicious breakfast, some wonderful company, and a great devotion as we gather to explore how God is calling us to serve in this community. Our next Men's Fellowship Group will be Saturday, **January 17, 2026**. Contact Ric or Clint for more information.



## Baptism Renewal Service

We did it last year and you all asked if we could make it an annual tradition so here it is. On Sunday, **January 18, 2026** we will be having our annual Baptism Renewal Service during worship. This is a special service that celebrates our baptisms. It is a time we remember the vows we made as we waded in the water. There will have a special time when people can come forward and renew their baptismal vows and receive a blessing from Pastor Eric and the worship team of elders and deacons helping with this service. You don't want to miss this special Sunday!



**Baptism Renewal Service**  
**January 18, 2026**



## Prayer Shawl Group

Do you love to knit or crotchet? Are you looking for a way to care for others? Join our prayer shawl group. Each month this group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month in the Fireside room at 3pm to knit, crotchet, talk, and pray together for those in need. This past year they have wrapped more than 30 people in prayer shawls that they knitted. These shawls have been given to families after a death, to members facing difficult times or surgeries, to those who graduate, to those who are baptized, and extra special prayer in your hand shawls about 50 of them were made for kids and youth and staff in our schools as we started a new school year. These shawls are tangible reminders to members of this community of the fierce love and prayers that surround them, the reminder that they have a God and community that walk with them always! This month Prayer Shawls will be meeting on **January 19, 2026** in the fireside room at 3pm. For more information contact Lynn, Wynelle, Beth, Erin, Mary, Vida, or any of our prayer shawl team.

## Prayer Shawl Group

**January 19, 2026 at 3pm  
Fireside Room**



## Finding God at the Movies

All are invited to join us for Finding God at the Movies on Sunday, **January 25, 2026** from 5 to 7pm. Come enjoy dinner, the movie, and a brief discussion of the themes of faith we encountered in the movie. The church will provide pizza, popcorn, and drinks. Please consider bringing something to add to the dinner. There is also still time to cast your votes for the movie for this month between our four possibilities:

**Dumbo**- Live action retelling of the Disney classic of the Elephant who can fly and zoo keeper and his kids who never stop believing in their big eared friend.

**A Dog's Way Home**- The story of a pitbull rescued dog named Bella who gets lost from her person Lucas and make a 400 mile journey which takes over 2 years to find her way home and all her adventures and friends along the way.

**My All American**- The true story of Freddie Steinmark a young man who even though smaller than most players is determined inspite of his challenges to play football for the University of Texas and to cheer for his team.

**Dolphin Tale 2**- The next chapter in the true story of Winter the Dolphin with a prosthetic tale. After loosing the dolphin who was like her mother, she finds comfort and strength in her friendship with another wounded dolphin named "Hope". Bethany Hamilton makes a guest appearance in the movie.

Please cast your vote by January 11th. So far we have 11 votes for My All American, 10 votes for A Dog's Way Home, 7 votes for Dumbo, and 6 votes for Dolphin's Tale 2.





## Pastor Eric On Vacation

We want to remind everyone that Pastor Eric is on Vacation until **January 9, 2026**. We also want to let people know that Jonathon and Brogan are also on vacation during that time as well. If people have needs during this time please contact one of our church elders:

Marcus Clark 503-939-3593  
Ric Dettwyler 503-519-3543  
Lynn Koenig 503-931-0410  
Donna Laney 503-703-0716  
Beth Negrey 503-989-3940  
Cara Zitzelberger 503-932-8568

## Pastor Eric on Vacation

December 25, 2025  
to  
January 9, 2026



## Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 19, 2026

Darkness  
cannot drive  
out darkness:  
only light can  
do that. Hate  
cannot drive  
out hate: only  
love can do  
that."

MLK Jr.

## Upcoming Staff Holiday

We want to remind everyone that the church will be closed and office staff will be off on **January 19, 2026** for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

# Volunteer Opportunities



## Helping With Coffee Time

Every Sunday after worship we enjoy coffee time. This is only made possible by the generosity and kindness of the members of this community. Please look at the upcoming dates and sign up either in the MP room or contacting the church office to let Jana know you can do one of the dates. Thanks to everyone who continues to step up and do such wonderful coffee times. And a special thanks to Chuck and Lynn Koenig who fix the coffee each week. Looking forward to coffee time with all of you!

## Stone Soup Meal

Are you looking for a simple way to help those in need each week? Join our stone soup crew and help make the weekly meal for the Sheltering Silverton shelter. Each Wednesday afternoon this crew of workers show up to chop veggies, and do whatever else needs to be done to prepare an amazing meal for our neighbors in need. If you would like to help check in with Kara, Marilyn, Sue, or Ami





## 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 Cawlfeld,  
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



Sheila Graves 2  
Kole Michael Pedigo 3  
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



**Budget Needed for December:**  
**\$19,337.00**

### December 2025 Tithing Offering Totals

December 7	\$4,100.00
December 14	\$1,285.00
December 21	\$4,620.00
December 28	\$2,050.00

**Total: \$12,055.00**

***Every gift helps!***

# *Splinters from the Board*

## **First Christian Church Board Meeting December 8, 2025**

Attendance- Donna Laney – President, Steve Hensley – Vice President, Erin Stone – Treasurer, Verlene Beard – Financial Secretary, Betty Beard – Secretary, and Rev. Eric Eide – Pastor

Absent – Allan Graves- Properties, Karen Brock – Deacons, and Lynn Koenig – CWF

Erin Stone presented budget report – reviewed and advised financial status of church budget for the year for November 2025.

Verlene Beard presented treasurer's report - reviewed and advised treasurer report for November 2025.

Usage of communion cups was discussed and several want to stop washing plastic cups and go back to doing it by intinction and use glass cups or just throw everything away each week.

CWF Grab Bag and Cookies by the Pound Sale went okay. Did not get a lot of traffic in the afternoon and many of the craft booths talked about not coming back next year. Will need to make changes for next year.

Women's Discussion Group is taking a break for Christmas and will resume in January.

Women's Christmas Party at Donna Laney's is coming up and asking people to RSVP to Donna or the church office by the coming Wednesday.

Elders are still working to possibly recruit new members.

Pastor Eric shared 2nd Hour and other events for November and December have gone well. Busy with events for Christmas season. Mission Project is collecting food for SACA. We are helping families in need through our own tree of giving. We are helping 9 children and 8 adults. Pastor Eric is working with CWF to get Grocery and Gas cards for families as well to lighten CWF load of gathering supplies. Pastor Eric baptized Anthony and Rachel Pierce. Allan is working to replace heating filament for baptistry which broke prior to baptism. Pastor Eric got Bibles for the kids for Sunday School and appreciation gifts for all the Sunday School helpers.

Allan texted that he did the following: Upgraded light fixtures, Fixed church heat, Needs to spray weeds, Working on Baptism heating filament, Blew leaves, and Batteries replaced in all smoke alarms

Concern raised over being again under the budget and talked about possible cuts as well ideas to try to increase giving.



# *Splinters from the Board Continued*

Church By Laws and Constitution need to be updated, along with Rental Agreements and Event Agreements, need to form a committee.

Working on Church 175th Birthday – Pastor Eric is working to get a committee. We are trying to figure out as to where on the pudding river we formed? As we would like to try to do part of service that day on banks of pudding. So far the committee includes- Steve H, Jennifer H, Pastor Eric, and Verlene, working to recruit several more members. Pastor Eric is putting together a meeting in January after he gets back from vacation.

It was reminded for coffee time that sugar needs to be in sealed containers, will be switching to packets to avoid ants. Jennifer H will pick up packets.

Next Board Mtg- January 12, 2026 at 6:30pm

Pastor Eric closed meeting with a prayer and meeting was adjourned.



## **5th Saturday Spaghetti Dinner**

It is once again time for another 5th Saturday Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, **January 31, 2026** from 5 to 7pm. Please help spread the word and check in with Gail to see how you can help. We need people to help prepare things, serve, and cleanup. Our 5th Saturday Spaghetti dinners are open to all the community. Hope you can join us!





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