



The Tidings

FBC's monthly newsletter

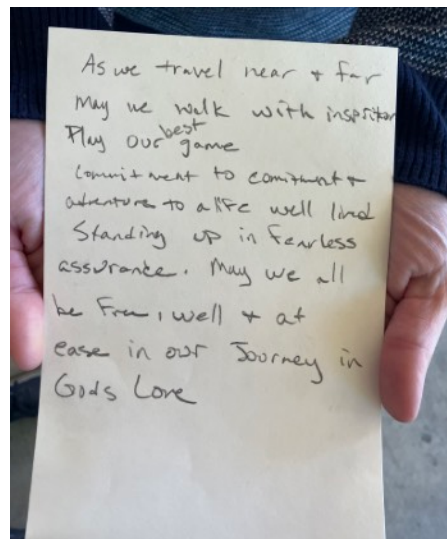
SEPTEMBER 2024

First Baptist Church, 125 SE Cowsl St., McMinnville, OR 97128
503-472-7941 • www.fbcmac.org • office@fbcmac.org

Our annual tradition of gathering at the end of the summer for **Worship in the Park** continued this year. We met at Discovery Meadows to sing, pray, feast, and play. We conjured memories of peace, wonder, awe, joy, and connection, and then we conjured blessings for one another and for our world in bold, dream-like, visionary language, taking our inspiration from the Psalms. Thanks to the Social Team for providing drinks and goodies, to Ron and Herb for getting the equipment to the park, and to all who came to participate - see you again there next year!



Here's the blessing one of our groups composed as part of our multi-voiced benediction! >>>>



Fall KICKOFF

In September, adult class return, youth group resumes, and music rehearsals start up once more! Come be a part of the life of FBC in these meaningful ways!

Join us on September 8, when...

- Chapel, Bereans, and Connections Classes resume (Faith and Java meets September 1).
- During worship, we'll celebrate the Blessing of the Backpacks, and then Children's Chapel returns.
- After worship, Dave King - so grateful for the care this congregation has shown him during his illness - will host our fellowship time, providing goodies as a way to say thanks!
- Also after worship, those interested in a newly-forming team to coordinate the church's responses to social concerns and engagement with social justice are invited to gather in the southeast corner of Walker Hall to indicate their interest.
- **ALL MUSICIANS** are invitation to J.L. Kiff Vineyard at 1pm for a welcome back potluck and celebration all the possibilities of the year ahead.
- Youth Group kicks off this night, too - 5pm for middle school youth group, 6-6:30pm dinner for everybody, 6:30pm high school youth group.

Everybody's welcome, always, as together we learn, love, serve, and seek justice and joy for all.



September GATHER COURAGE



The ninth invitation in Bonnie Smith Whitehouse's *Seasons of Wonder* is Gather Courage. There is something about this season - the changing temperatures, the back-to-school energy, that makes it feel like "it's time to rise up and get [our] house in order." There's a lot we can do internally to prepare for those external challenges that ask us to gather our courage, to summon our strength: We can clean our closets, considering what we really need. We can keep learning, even if we're not donning backpacks and headed into classrooms. We can put ourselves in positions to hear each other's stories. We can practice postures - kneeling, sun salutations - that help us embody readiness and courage. We can cultivate five traits, "store them up like the summer tomatoes we've canned, [so] they're at the ready when we encounter the inevitable": curiosity, persistence, flexibility, optimism, and risk-taking. The more of those traits we've been able to summon and strengthen in ourselves, the more we are "ready to step forward, whole-heartedly and with courage."

A few more ways the author suggests exploring the weekly themes of this month:

- ✦ Listen - to Curtis Mayfield's *People Get Ready*; Mumford and Sons' *Sigh No More*
- ✦ Watch - Disney's *Encanto*; Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*

September *Seasons of Wonder* Gatherings

Small Groups

Some groups took August off, to cherish the holy pause, and we'll all resume again in September. If you have questions about when your group is meeting, or haven't been part of a group but want to connect with one, please tell erika@fbcmac.org.

Sharing Feast & Makers Meeting, September 15, after worship

On September 15, we'll gather in the Social Hall for a Feast following our worship time. All the food will be provided by our grant funds, so you're invited to just come and enjoy! Everyone is welcome, even if this is your first engagement with the *Seasons of Wonder* work. We'll have lunch, and share in conversation around our tables, and then **we'll all participate in the creation of a church time capsule**, what Bonnie Smith Whitehouse calls "**a way of receiving a story in future days to come.**" Be thinking about what you love about FBC at this moment, and what prayer/hope you might have for those who will inherit this faith community from us - those loves and prayers and hopes will all become part of what we include, to be discovered at some later date! RSVPs are not necessary, but they are helpful - if you know you'll be there, please let Erika know. Thanks!

September's Creation Care Challenge: *Repair*

Identify something around the house that's broken, like an old picture frame that needs to be glued back together or a watch that's stopped ticking. Before you throw it away and buy another one, see if it can be fixed. Be of good courage! What's the worst that could happen if it's already broken? You'll find that YouTube is a great resource for repair tutorials. -*Seasons*, pg. 207

FBC received a grant from the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship to do work with *Seasons of Wonder* throughout 2024. The grant funding will pay for books; supplies for the "makers meeting" crafts/projects; field trips; food for sharing feasts; special worship elements; and this fall's All-Church Retreat at Camp Arrah Wanna. We are grateful to have been awarded this funding and hope it makes it possible for everyone to be able to participate in these activities by removing the barrier of expense.



Sunday Worship Highlights

SEPTEMBER 2024

*FBC is inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 25,
"Whatever you do unto the least of my sisters & brothers, you do unto me."*

Adult Sunday Classes: (details on page 11)

- ✦ **8:30 am** - CONNECTIONS, via Zoom - Barbara Burr
- ✦ **8:45 am** - 1st Sunday FAITH & JAVA, in person - Rob Schulman
- ✦ **8:45 am** - CHAPEL Class, in person - Gary Langenwalter
- ✦ **9:00 am** - BEREAN Class, in person - Doug Verigin

10:00 am - WORSHIP in person in the sanctuary, or streaming live: www.facebook.com/firstbaptistmac/

September 1, Communion Sunday

"Clean Your Closet," Sermon from Luke 12:13-21, Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Tegan Johnson & the Worship Team

If your class or small group wants to host After-Church Fellowship on this day, please let Erika know.

September 8

"Mend," Sermon from Matthew 4:18-24, Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Reflection from Sheila Lenker

Music led by Marilyn Dresser & Tegan Johnson

Our After-Church Fellowship Time will be hosted this day by Dave King, as a way of sharing his appreciation for the love, support, and help the congregation has offered him over the past months as he's experienced severe illness.

September 15

"Endure," Sermon from Luke 8:43-48, Rev. Mylinda Baits preaching

Reflection from Scott Sutherland

Music led by Tegan Johnson & the Worship Team

After worship, we'll feast together! Our Seasons of Wonder Sharing Feast will be held in the Social Hall, and after we're full, we'll move in our Makers Meeting - the creation of a church time capsule! See opposite page for details.

September 22

"Gather Courage," Story-sharing from Congregants

Music led by Tegan Johnson & the Worship Team

If your class or small group wants to host After-Church Fellowship on this day, please let Erika know.

September 29

"Receive a Story," Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Marilyn Dresser & the FBC Choir

The Climate Action Group hosts After-Church Fellowship this day. Enjoy tasty snacks and learn more about the Plastics Project coming to FBC October 5.



On September 15, we'll welcome Rev. Mylinda Baits to our pulpit. Mylinda is a pastoral artist and trainer serving with the American Baptist Church's International Ministries as a global consultant. She partners with colleagues, national church leadership, and social change orgs to seek justice, healing and transformation through restorative art and creative expression. Compelled by Jesus' prayer that the kingdom come on earth, Mylinda creates spaces where those who do the hard work of rescue, relief, and restoration can be cared for and renewed. She sees beauty in broken places, wonder in wounded people, and life in loving God and others. Read more on page 9.

YTD	Actual for Period	% of Amount Budgeted
Contributions Income:	204,940	100.3%
Total Income:	\$244,416	98.6%
Total Expenses:	\$236,032	95.3%
Net Income:	+ \$ 8,384	

You may check on your financial contributions to First Baptist Church through our secure church software database - Realm. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Treasurer, Don Watson (donjw@comcast.net) or Realm administrator, Barbara Burr (barbaracoleburr@gmail.com).

Financial Update - We are very appreciative of each donation. Although we are showing a net income after 7 months, without the budgeted \$9,000 transferred so far this year from memorial funds, we would show a \$600 deficit. The finance committee is watching the budget carefully and thinking about the coming budget year. We are still greatly in need of some creative folks to help with the stewardship effort.

Finance Committee: Don Watson, Barbara Burr, Judee Kunze, Roger Dell, Jane Apel

ARE YOU A NUMBERS PERSON? Comfortable with and like working with numbers?

We need volunteers to work with the numbers/dollars parts of our ministries (planning, recording, reporting). We can't survive without the numbers folk. We know you're out there, but don't know who you are. If interested - Let Erika or Don Watson know.

Church Board Notes, August 14th

In alignment with Seasons of Wonder's suggestion to practice "The Holy Pause" during August, the Church Board met informally on August 14. Don & Linda Watson hosted us in their home for a brief meeting followed by a light pot luck supper. It was nice to 'pause' from doing the business of FBC and enjoy one another's company.

During the meeting, Nadya King and Don Watson reported that they attended the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's presentation on "Faith and Politics in a Divide World," Aug. 8.

Buildings & Grounds shared that the State of Oregon is replacing the curb at Washington & Baker Street, moving FBC's property line a bit. They will compensate FBC \$3,500 for the project. Steve Howard will get bids and report.

Following up from our nearly year-long work with Strategic Planning, the Facilities Team reported that Encompass Yamhill Valley is now renting space in the FBC building. The building has a lot of empty space. We are all encouraged to engage small non-profits in need of office space. You can direct them to Don Watson.

The Marketing Team met and came up with numerous ideas for promoting FBC to the wider community. For starters, we've reconstituted the "rack card" at the Welcome kiosk in Walker Hall. Newcomers should be directed there to peruse the various brochures. The team also requested a greater presence of Board members at Sunday service. Name tags will identify us by name. When the kiosk is fully up and running the Board will rotate hosting the kiosk before and after service.

Signs will soon be ordered directing people who don't feel comfortable in either of the main floor restrooms to a more

private restroom on the 2nd floor. Together Works reported to Rev. Erika their disappointment, yet they understand our dilemma. Someday the main floor restrooms will be completely remodeled and up-to-date with signage.

Stewardship Leadership is still in flux. There isn't a team, nor is there a designated leader. Stewardship is a vital part of FBC's wealth, health, and overall wellbeing. Please look into your heart and soul and ask: How can I help?

Erika and Matthew 25 members met with the spokesperson for Thursday's Farmers Market. There have been numerous complaints about the smell of urine in the parking lot. Now that the temporary encampments for our houseless friends have been moved away from 1st Street, the Matthew 25 team will look for ways to resolve this issue.

Nadya King & Mary Dressel offered to help organize Children's Chapel when Sean Williams is on sabbatical, January through March, 2025. They will be searching for volunteers for story time with the kiddos, plus Children's Chapel.

Tim Duerfeldt inquired about a training for hands-on CPR and Defibrillator devices around the building. We had this training last November with a (free) facilitator from Portland Police Bureau. I will investigate having another training in November, with a suggestion we consider this a yearly event.

Even though we are in the Dog Days of Summer and Seasons of Wonder invites us to Pause/Laze, know that your Church Board, staff, team leaders and volunteers are always working to make sure FBC lives up to its mission - *"the reason we exist as a faith community, the aim that calls us together and sends us out - is to learn, love, serve, and seek justice and joy for all."*

Submitted by Kathleen Verigin, Moderator

Light a Fire:
 FBC's 3rd Annual
All-Church Retreat
 Camp Arrah Wanna
 October 11-13
FREE



Plan to get away with FBC friends to Camp Arrah Wanna in beautiful Welches, Oregon!

We'll gather at dinnertime on Friday, October 11, and stay through lunchtime on Sunday, October 13.

We'll spend the weekend relaxing, reflecting, hiking, singing, creating, feasting, and connecting around the campfire. All ages are welcome to this experience.

Our *Seasons of Wonder* grant will pay for up to 40 people to attend at no cost, but we only have a couple of spots left! Send questions or RSVPs to erika@fbemac.org.



PLASTICS RECYCLE PROJECT
Saturday, October 5th at FBC
 10 am - 1 pm

Thank you for your efforts to reduce the use of plastics and to recycle the

Cost is \$4.00 per bag. To avoid this fee, Drop off directly at the Recology Transfer Station: 2000 NE Orchard Ave (8:30a-5:30p)

Here are some important changes for the October 5th event:

- 1) **Recology is now accepting plastic screw-on caps, utensils, straws and bread clips. (BUT not accepted curbside)** Save the expense you would incur, by taking them directly to Recology's transfer station on Orchard Ave.
- 2) **We can now again accept #6 plastics** because Denton Plastics in Portland is now processing these items. So save them and bring them on October 5th.
- 3) **Green Century Recycling will set up near the church and will accept all e-waste, from printers and batteries to large appliances at no charge.** Refer to Green Century Recycling for full information. They will also accept styrofoam blocks, packaging peanuts, and styrofoam containers bagged separately at \$10 per 45 gallon bag. This will be a drive-thru drop-off, similar to hazardous waste collections.

Future 2025 Dates include: Feb. 8 - June 7 - Oct. 4
 Please mark you calendars and support our efforts to better care for God's good earth!

This event is co-sponsored by The Plastics Project, First Baptist Church and The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Sean P. Williams - Sabbatical Update

It's hard to believe that I started working at First Baptist over 8 years ago! I continue to love what we do, and who we are, as a church. AND I'm so thankful to FBC for granting me a sabbatical in 2025, in recognition of my years of service here and in local church ministry for over 20 years now. I hope this time away will not only provide important space for rest and renewal, but also equip me, upon my return, to continue helping our church do what we do, and be who we are, in our community & world for years to come. Specifically, I will be gone from January 6 through April 6, 2025, and will spend the "work" time of my sabbatical focusing on the collective model of youth ministry that we have been a part of, through the McMinnville Youth Collective (MYC), for the last 5+ years. I know that this is a really good model of ministry that can work, in a time when youth programs and churches need to be adapting in order to thrive - and maybe just survive - for years to come. The benefits of collaborative ministry are practical, as you combine/share youth, finances, resources, and volunteers. But, on a deeper level, it also feels like a healthy, authentic, inclusive, communal way to try to teach/show young people how to do/be church. We are doing this really well, and we've learned a lot to get here over the years. But I've discovered that churches in general are experiencing immense and numerous challenges as they consider/implement/run this type of ministry. And, I believe we can help! So my plan during these three months in 2025 is to develop concrete resources and practices/methods to help other churches organize, launch, and maintain youth collectives in their communities in healthy and sustainable ways. I don't know what the end "product" (for lack of a better word) is yet, but I've already begun having conversations with wise and experienced friends and ministry colleagues to help me simply start imagining what might be possible. I'm a grateful to this church for this opportunity, and the impact it will have on me, FBC, the MYC, our McMinnville community, and other churches!

Mary Dressel, Nadya King, and Erika Marksbury will be coordinating my responsibilities in my absence, so please reach out to them if you have questions or want to help. Thanks!

Getting To Know the Classes & Small Groups at FBC

Sunday morning Adult CHAPEL Class by Virginia Holmstrom

We hope you'll stop by Chapel Class at 8:45 AM on a Sunday morning. Join the circle of chairs, and experience the "radiant spirit" yourself!

Chapel Class is one of the adult classes offered prior to the 10:00 AM church worship service on Sunday mornings during the school year. Chapel Class has been around for years and years, always stepping to the front edge of relevance with contemporary books the classmates read and discuss together. **The class rotates between a book specifically about the Bible and a book addressing faith and/or a current societal issue.**

In this article, class member Lara O'Brady talks about her experiences in Chapel Class. She remembers being personally invited to the class by Gary Langenwaller. *"I like Gary, and thought it might be fun. Why do I keep coming? I learn a lot from the books I've read with the class, many of which I wouldn't have read otherwise. We have great discussion which helps me refine my beliefs and understanding. When someone says, 'I think x, y, z,' I might think, 'Hmmm. I believe x and y, but not z. Why? Why is x and y important to me and z isn't?"*

"Our readings and discussions have deepened my understanding of the Bible, our relationship to the Bible, Jesus, and what it means to be a deeply caring, thoughtful Christian. I'm drawn to Chapel Class because of the people there," explains Lara. "These people are some of the most intelligent folks I have ever met. I feel privileged to hear what they think about things. They are respectful when someone has a different opinion. They articulate their opinion and understand that others see things differently. Over time, we have read so many books, and generally I give them away afterwards. I love learning in this supportive environment. Some of our books have been hard. With support, I have been able to understand them much more than I ever would have understood them reading them on my own. Where else can you get so many theologically trained people within one small room?!"

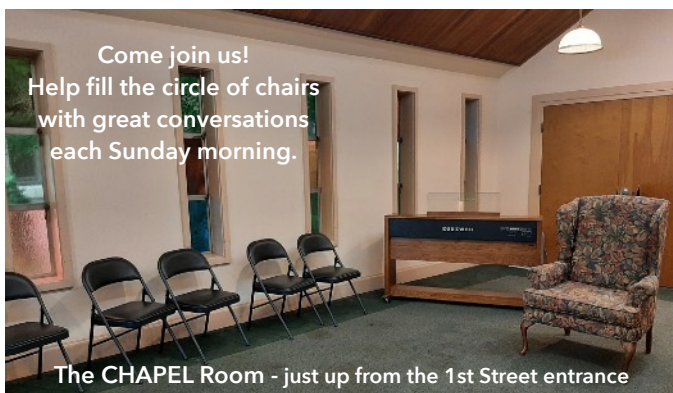
During the past year the class selected, read, and discussed "Who Wrote the Bible?, by Richard Elliot Freedman; "Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark," by Tracy S. Daub; and "How to Know a Person: the art of seeing others deeply and being deeply seen, by David Brooks. Lara appreciated reading the David Brooks book. She explains, *"We know a person by listening to that person. By hearing about people's lives and then praying with and for people, we learn about them. Our discussions help us know all of our class members more deeply. What a gift it is for me to have deep, meaningful conversations with people who really care and have thought about how to deeply care for each other."*

Support for one another during times of hardship is a key component of Chapel Class. Each class begins with an invitation to comment about challenges and celebrations and to request prayers for one's self or family or friends. Often, those prayer requests lead to follow-up support during the following days and weeks.

On any given Sunday between September and June, eight to fourteen people gather at 8:45 AM in a large circle of chairs in the Chapel room down the hallway from Walker Hall, across from the church nursery room. If one or more can't make it to the church that day, they may join the conversation on Zoom. **Newcomers are always warmly welcomed and are drawn into the conversation.** Chapel Class has no single teacher, per se, because

each participant comes with a wealth of life experiences, knowledge, and wisdom that deepens the conversation during the class hour. Any class member may volunteer to lead the discussion of an upcoming chapter in the current book being read, typically circulating a few discussion questions and insights from the chapter in advance.

"I have role models in Chapel Class," notes Lara. "That's a gift. I see radiant spirit flowing forth from Chapel Class members. Of course I love it. I get to be showered with this spirit every time I come to class." **Join Us! All are Welcome!**



Getting to Know Your First Baptist Church Family

Marilyn Dresser Marilyn Dresser grew up in Pullman, Washington where her father, Miles, was a Physics professor at Washington State University and her mother, Muriel, worked at the WSU library and was also the choir director at the American Baptist Church there. Marilyn has an older brother, John, and a younger sister, Laura. Their next door neighbor in Pullman was the organist and was also the Junior Choir Director at the same church her family attended. Marilyn started taking piano lessons from her at an early age and sang in the Junior Choir. She fondly remembers the Church family and the music community as her extended family as she was growing up.

Both of Marilyn's parents graduated from Linfield, so she wasn't sure it should be her top choice for college. She looked at several schools in Washington, and to her surprise, the Linfield faculty, especially Doug Cruikshank and Larry Marsh, were the most welcoming on her visit and led to her decision to attend Linfield. She was accepted and had a double major in Elementary Education and Music because she couldn't choose between the two disciplines. Marion Van Dyk was one of her Music professors. She fondly remembers participating in a Pre-Orientation trip where she met several friends she is still in touch with today, along with President Charlie Walker. During college she attended several McMinnville churches, including FBC.

During finals week of her Senior year at Linfield, she interviewed for an Elementary Music Position in the McMinnville School District and was hired the week after graduation. That's when she started attending First Baptist Church regularly, mainly because of her relationship with Marion Van Dyke and the tradition of great music she enjoyed at FBC. She married her now ex-husband, Steve Cooper, in 1991 and they had two children, Kurtis and Craig who were raised at FBC, attending Sunday School and eventually participating in the youth programs. Marilyn remembers the many contacts and friends during the kids' younger years, particularly Mary Martin. Mary was her children's Sunday School teacher, but followed them and supported them and sent messages to each throughout the years. To this day, Kurtis and Craig bring up in conversation what an impact Mary had on their lives. Marilyn says that Mary Martin made a big impact on our church, including her family and was a great reminder of the deep connections that can be made through service in a church community.

During Marilyn's 38 years with McMinnville School District, she worked mostly as a K-5 Music Teacher, with only one year teaching 4th grade when the District's music program was suspended. It was then that she was thankful that she had the double major in Elementary Education to be able to teach in a classroom! She also spent a year teaching 3rd grade and Music. Marilyn retired from McMinnville School District this spring and will begin her 39th year of teaching in Woodburn School District starting the last week of August 2024.

Marilyn has stayed connected with FBC for all these years because she loves the core of how inclusive we are and the fact that we live out a Matthew 25 ministry, even with its challenges. Marilyn accepted the positions of Choir and Hand Bell Director in 2022 because she is passionate about leading our music programs and continuing the rich tradition of excellence in music developed by past directors, including Marion Van Dyk. She believes music is a very important part of the church service and her goal is to provide a quality of music that reaches folks personally and enhances their worship experience. In her position of director, Marilyn does focus on the programmatic aspects of music, but acknowledges that ministering and outreach to the individuals involved in the music program is just as essential.

It was Marilyn's dream to travel to Japan to visit son, Craig, while he was stationed there with the Navy. Kurtis was also able to join them for one of the three weeks she was there. The above photo was taken on their trip.



You're invited to the
**Annual Gathering of the
 American Baptist
 Churches of the
 Central Pacific Coast**

October 25-27 at the
 First Baptist Church of Gresham

Be part of FBC McMinnville's voice at our region's annual gathering, reconnect with old friends and make new ones, and participate in conversations about leading the church through times of uncertainty and change! In addition to times of worship, learning, feasting, and informal conversation, you'll get to hear from special guest Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* and *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change*. He will offer three keynote addresses:

Friday Evening:
Leading in Uncharted Territory

Saturday Morning:
The Key to the Future

Saturday Evening:
The Most Important Aspect of Leadership

If you're interested in attending the annual gathering (both days or just one), or learning more about it, please tell Erika (erika@fbcmac.org). FBC can arrange carpools and offset registration and meal costs for attendees.



Edie & Walter



Peyton & Isaac



**Gratitude for our
 younger STARS Breakfast Volunteers:**

During the summer months, the STARS (Serving Those Around Us) program has been gifted by the presence of additional volunteers. As they head back to school now, FBC shares gratitude for their participation and hears these words about their experience:

Edith "Edie" Wilkins, age 13, said, "Even though I don't go to STARS every week, when I do, I feel great. It's a really nice way to start your morning. Helping people is something I love doing, and going to STARS is a great way to!"

Walter Wilkins, age 15, said, "I like working at STARS because it helps me know that I can make a big difference in a person's life just by taking an hour out of my day."

Peyton Chase said, " I like knowing I'm making a difference, helping other people, and having an impact in their lives."

Isaac Chase said, " I like all the conversations I get to have, and meeting new people. I'm excited to go back and see the people I met."

You're invited to a celebration of



Safe Families for Children

September 15, 2-5pm
Dayton City Park
Food & Games & Music & Sharing



Tending the Tenders

by Global Servant Mylinda Baits

"The Great Spirit walks with us through times of trouble, giving us courage and well-being so that we can give to others the same comfort God has given to us. When our suffering overflows because we represent the Chosen One, the Great Spirit gives us overflowing strength and well-being. Our sufferings and the comfort we receive help us to bring you comfort when you suffer in the same way we have.

This gives us great hope, for we know that when you share in our troubles, you will also share in our comfort."

-2 Corinthians 1:4-7, First Nations Version

This summer, I was invited to accompany key leadership of AMOS Health and Hope in Managua, Nicaragua. AMOS has been providing community-based primary health care for the community, and by the community, in the most vulnerable communities throughout Nicaragua. Due to many factors, including persistent uncertainty and increased immigration away from Nicaragua, the staff configuration at AMOS has shifted tremendously. I have been a friend and fan of the AMOS family for over 20 years now. I have visited and trained numerous community health promoters and staff in arts-based healing processes for emotional and physical regulation, relational connection and spiritual health and well-being. Most of the current staff are new and haven't received the restorative arts training that I offered in years past. Dr. Woo, the executive director and Christine Lafferty, my IM colleague working at AMOS, invited me to come back to support, encourage and train their current team leaders. In other words, to tend the tenders. To care for those who care for others. Those who attend to what is hurting in others often don't give themselves permission or time to tend to what is hurting in themselves. They need time to tend to what is tender within. Organizations like AMOS, busy meeting the needs of multiple vulnerable communities, can't always carve out time to be present to their own needs. Due to heavy workloads, limited resources, and time constraints, what would normally take an entire week, would be condensed into two days.

These two days were a break from their normal work routine, meant to ease the stress of constant change and uncertainty. This pause was a time to be still, a time to pay attention. To stop, to ask questions, to be present to the present, to quiet the noise long enough to hear the voice of God. A time to tend to, mend, repair and restore their bodies, minds, spirits. Integral health and hope require bodies, minds, spirits and relationships all working together for life. In this short period, we nurtured life in and through our bodies, incarnating as Jesus did, the Good News of eternal life. The arts have healing qualities that are well-suited to restore a sense of normalcy in the lives of staff who have themselves been through or are still going through traumatic experiences and also to empower them with resources and skills to deal with daily stressors.

Through play, movement, rhythm, imagination, breath, and meaning-making we created safety, community, and connections. We paused long enough to ask what keeps us from being present to ourselves, each other, and God.

After the intensive two day leadership training, we planned an all AMOS staff retreat for the following day designed to nurture team building, support, encouragement, and spiritual renewal. In teams of two, each of the 18 team leaders co-facilitated imaginative experiences that they had appreciated from our two previous days together. My role was to care for the group process and support the AMOS team leaders while they facilitated the activities. They led creative body-based exercises that encouraged reflection, connection and growth. It was fascinating to watch them nurture group safety, cohesion and spiritual reflection. As they led their co-workers in pencil dancing, parachute play, imaginative landscapes, animal sounds and other "outside of the box" group play; serious issues, ranging from fatigue, family and co-worker conflict, grief and loss were addressed in safe and supportive ways. By interrupting their normal patterns, they could see in a different way. By pausing to pay attention, they began to hear their own and each other's stories. By tending to what was tender within, they could better attend to what is happening around them from a more compassionate place.

I was honored to accompany my friends and I owe that privilege to you. Thank you for making it possible to share in the sufferings and give to others the comfort and well-being I have received from God so that they too may share that comfort with others. YOU make a difference!



Youth Group
Sundays, September 8 & 15
 at First Presbyterian Church
 Middle School from 5-6 pm
 Dinner for ALL from 6-6:30 pm
 High School from 6:30-7:30 pm

NO Youth Group
 September 22 - High School
 Fall Beach Retreat
 September 29 - Middle School
 Fall Beach Retreat

Youth Dinner
Tuesday, September 17 at 6 pm
 at Gordo Tacos
 Drop off & pick up there,
 bring money for dinner, and friends!

Children, Youth, and Families!
 Join us on Sunday, September 8
 as we celebrate the beginning of the
 new school year.

Blessing of the Backpacks
 during the children's time
 at the 10am worship service

Children's Chapel (returns!)
 following the children's time
 during the 10am worship service

Youth Group (returns!)
 at First Presbyterian Church
 Middle School from 5-6 pm
 Dinner for ALL from 6-6:30 pm
 High School from 6:30-7:30 pm

**The McMinnville Youth Collective
 Fall Beach Retreat is back!**

HIGH SCHOOL
 9th-12th grade youth
 Friday, September 20
 through Sunday, September 22

MIDDLE SCHOOL
 6th-8th grade youth
 Friday, September 27
 through Sunday, September 29

Learn more and register at:
fbcmac.org/myc-fall-beach-retreats-2024
 We hope you will join us!

Service Learning Trip 2024

We had an awesome time on the Yakama Reservation for our Service Learning Trip 2024!
 And it would not have been possible without all of the encouragement, prayers, and financial support
 from our church and community - thank you!



A Month Full of Opportunities!

Gather with a small group or class of FBC friends to make the ordinary sacred.

FBC Adult Classes

Bible Study - Tuesdays, 12 noon

This group meets with Pastor Erika. All are welcome!

In-person in the Fireplace Room OR via Zoom.

A discussion-based Bible study with opportunity to delve deeper into highlighted scripture for the week. It's a great forum for asking difficult faith-based questions and/or sharing life's ups and downs, and requesting prayer, too.

Sunday Classes ~ Come Grow With US!

Connections - 8:30 am, via Zoom

Each week we watch a short video - We start Sept. 8th with a provocative video titled "*Top Reasons Beer is Better Than Religion*," followed by inspiring dialogue and insightful sharing. This format provides the ability to connect with one another and with others beyond our local area. Join us! All are welcome!

Contact: Barbara Burr, barbaracoleburr@gmail.com

Faith & Java Class - 8:45 am, in person

1st Sundays - Class resume Sept. 1st

This class is dedicated to exploring questions, issues, and experiences in finding spirituality and bliss in everyday living. Led by Rob Schulman who presents a new topic each first Sunday, followed by interesting discussion.

Contact; Rob Schulman, schulmanrob@yahoo.com

- Sunday Classes resume Sept. 8th -

Chapel Class - 8:45 am, in person

Contact: Gary Langenwalter, (971) 221-8155

Bereans Class - 9:00 am, in person

This class explores the evolving church in modern times, using contemporary videos and theological texts and articles.

Contact: Doug Verigin, (503) 913-3401

Rainbow Class -

For adults with special needs. We gather for Sunday Worship and other activities.

Contact: Cynthia Parker, cynp007@gmail.com

Climate Action Group - meeting times/locations vary

Contact: Lara O'Brady, lara_obrady@yahoo.com

Senior Breakfast - Wednesday, September 4 at 8 am

1st Wednesday each month at American Legion Post 21
126 NE Atlantic, McMinnville (near Highway 18)

RSVP: Gina Foster, 971-237-2789

Together Works - September 9 & 23, at 7 pm, in-person

Fireplace Room at FBC - 2nd & 4th Mondays

Contact: Dee Moore, 971-241-8256, togetherworksinfo@gmail.com

Dad's Group - September 9 at 8 pm, in-person (please RSVP)

2nd Mondays each month, location varies

Contact: John Linder, john.linder93@gmail.com

Sew & So's - in-person

Weekly opportunities for individuals and/or small groups to sew together at FBC (2nd floor sewing room). Currently making multiple quilts each month (and will be selling some in November), and sewing bags for board members of local mission organizations! Kits available for anyone wanting to make bags at home!

Contact: Susan Chambers, susanlanchambers@gmail.com

Knit Wits - Knitting scarves, hats, and everything else!

PM Group - 7 pm, in-person (meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays)

ONLY September 17th this month, at Gina's

Contact: Gina Foster, 971-237-2789

AM Group - 9:45 am, in-person (meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays)

ONLY September 12th this month, at Linda's

Contact: Linda Watson, 971-237-2793

FBC Singles - This group is taking a break.

Contact: FBC office, office@fbcmac.org

Sister Circle - Every Friday at 11 am, Fireplace Room

Interested in joining? Contact: Sherill Roberts,

shrobert@linfield.edu or 971-237-3630

Hiking Group - Saturday, September 21

Hiking Oswald West State Park, 10 miles south of Cannon Beach
Miles of trails with Scenic Views!

Meet at the FBC parking lot to carpool at 8:30 AM.

Bring your adventurous spirit and your lunch and water!

Contact: Gloria LaFata, glowml1@gmail.com

American Red Cross Blood Drive at FBC

Wednesday, September 24th

Sign-up online - redcrossblood.org/give

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45a - Faith & Java Class 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream	2 9:a - STARS Breakfast  FBC Office Closed	3 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom	4 8a - Senior Breakfast at the VFW on Atlantic Av	5 11:30a-5:30p McMinnville Farmer's Market	6 FBC Office Closed & Pastor's Day Off 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	7
8 Adult Classes, see page 11 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 1p - Music Ministry Retreat at J.L.Kiff winery 5-7:30p - Youth Group at 1st Presbyterian	9 9:a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Matt25 Team 12N - Personnel Team 4p - Mission Team 7p - Worship Planning 7p - Together Works 8p - Dad's Group	10 9a - Building & Grounds 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom	11 6:30p - Church Board	12 9:45a - KnitWits at Linda's 11:30a-5:30p McMinnville Farmer's Market Music Rehearsals: 5:20p - Bells 6:30p - Choir 8p - Worship Team	13 FBC Office Closed & Pastor's Day Off 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	14
15 Adult Classes, see page 11 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 5-7:30p - Youth Group at 1st Presbyterian	16 9:a - STARS Breakfast	17 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom 7p - KnitWits at Gina's 6p - Youth Dinner	18 1p - Congregational Engagement 2p - Faith Formation	19 11:30a-5:30p McMinnville Farmer's Market Music Rehearsals: 5:20p - Bells 6:30p - Choir 8p - Worship Team	20 FBC Office Closed & Pastor's Day Off 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	21 8:30a - Hiking Group
22 Adult Classes, see page 11 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream Youth return from Beach	23 9:a - STARS Breakfast 7p - Together Works	24 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom 10a-3p - Red Cross Blood Drive at FBC	25	26 11:30a-5:30p McMinnville Farmer's Market Music Rehearsals: 5:20p - Bells 6:30p - Choir 8p - Worship Team	27 FBC Office Closed & Pastor's Day Off 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter Sept. 27-29 - Middle School Youth BEACH RETREAT	28
29 Adult Classes, see page 11 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream Youth return from Beach	30 9:a - STARS Breakfast	<p style="text-align: center;">"Ah, September! You are the doorway to the season that awakens my soul. . . but I must confess that I love you only because you are a prelude to my beloved October." — Peggy Toney Horton</p>				

SEPTEMBER Birthday

LeeAnn Parry 1
 Nadya King 2
 Tim Craig 2
 Vicki Cartwright 4
 Millie Boggie 6
 Cliff Watts 7
 Kerry Ballati 10
 Tom Kilinsky 10
 Peggi Lilly 14
 Donna Weed 14
 Michael Burr 15
 Gregg Hendricks 17



Michael Saylor 19
 Jeanette House 20
 Carl Aplin 21
 Momo Scarboro Ford 22
 Jen Linder 23
 Brian Anderson 23
 Dianne Belgard 24
 Kim Kushner 24
 Marilyn Switzer 24
 Sue Brandt 24
 Tim Lynn 25
 Rob Porter 25
 Pat Crissey 27

Judee Kunze 27
 Sidney Winfield 27
 Suzanne Scarboro Ford 28

 Mylinda Baits 28
 Abram Williams 29
 Global Servants
 Steve Howard 29
 Cynthia Parker 30



David & Debbie Ferry 2
 Tim Craig & Johathan Davis 3
 Marvin & Donna King 4
 Jace Early & Jan Whipp 5
 Eric & Virginia Holmstrom 9
 Don & Laura Christensen 10
 Walt & LeeAnn Parry 11
 Scott & Susan Chambers 15
 Darrell & Molly Eacret 25
 Jordan Robinson &
 Megan McCrossin 27
 Russell Mark & Michael Bone 30

SEPTEMBER Anniversary

Kyle & Katrina Williams 1
 Global Servant Anniversary