

# The Lamplighter

A Newsletter of **Community Presbyterian Church**

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*Growing In Christ & Loving One Another*



**MAY 2021**

## On Resurrection and Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday will be May 23. The church celebrates Pentecost seven weeks after Easter but that is not an accident of the calendar. We, as Christians, can tend to overlook the Old Testament roots of the holiday that we now claim as the birth of the church in the sending of the Spirit. Originally, Pentecost is the ancient Jewish festival of receiving the law at Mount Sinai, fifty days after the first Passover and the Exodus from Egypt. It was this Jewish festival that brought together the people of God from all over the known world to hear the good news of Jesus proclaimed, each in their own language, on Pentecost as it is described in Acts 2.

As the 21<sup>st</sup> century church, how do we understand the correlation between the resurrection of Jesus on Easter to the birth of the church in Acts 2 as it parallels the correlation between Passover/Exodus and the giving of the law at Sinai? First, we need to understand that for the ancient Israelite people of God, the giving of the law at Sinai was more than just receiving a set of instructions for living. The giving of Torah in Exodus 19 is considered a constitutive event that would define Israel, shaping and forming them into who God is calling them to be as God's set apart and holy people. They had to be set free from bondage in Egypt to then be available for God's next step of making them into God's chosen people during the wilderness years through the instructions for living in Torah given at Sinai.

This is paralleled in the connection between these holidays fifty days apart in the New Testament scriptures. We as the people of God are set free from bondage to sin and death through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. Fifty days later, in the sending of the Spirit on the apostles, and in the first public proclamation of the good news of Jesus following the resurrection, the church is formed and shaped into being God's people. The Pentecost event of Acts 2 is constitutive for the church in a similar way to how the Sinai event of Exodus 19 is constitutive for ancient Israel as the people of God.

There is a theological pattern here that is uniquely emphasized in our Reformed Theology: grace precedes commandment. First, God sets us free in God's own initiative, then God leads us into right living. Grace comes first, freedom is given to us, and out of freedom we choose a life of obedience and righteousness according to God's word for us.

This Easter season we are in now is a time for claiming the grace of the cross and the empty grave as our own and letting that grace permeate all aspects of our life, leading us to freedom. At the same time, in 2021, we are feeling the freedom of emerging from our stay-at-home realities of this pandemic year. We are also waiting for and anticipating a transition into a new normal in our personal lives and in our shared life as a church.

This year, may we claim the gift and good news of grace we find at the cross and the resurrection. At the same time, may we be sensitive to how the Spirit is at work in our midst in power. May we listen and learn from Spirit guiding us into new ways of being church. Who is God calling us to be as a church now and who will God call us to be in years to come. First grace, then instruction and vocation from God. We are set free to live in freedom as the people of God. What will God teach us from Easter and Pentecost this year as a church?

*In Christ, Rev. Andrew Hoeksema*

### **Social Issues Group News**

Community Conversations is a group get together event that has been hosted quarterly through the Deschutes Public Library for a few years. The goal is to expand our sense of neighborhood across economic, political, cultural, and racial boundaries. Although the group began as supper meetings, they are currently hosted over Zoom.



Recent topics included: "Civility," "Speaking of Race," and "From Stressed Out to Resilience Building." The March gathering's topic was, "Know Each Other," where about 30 participants received an orientation and then divided into break-out sessions for more intimate discussions related to our experience of community. If you'd like to be part of the conversation, visit the website below to join the email list.

<https://www.communityconversationsbend.org/upcoming-suppers.html>

Additionally, the Social Issues group at CPC would like to make sure you know about an opportunity to see Redmond School Board candidates. Redmond Kiwanis has hosted two school board candidate forums, available at [www.redmondkiwanis.org](http://www.redmondkiwanis.org). On the website, click on "our club," then on "program videos." School superintendent, Dr. Charan Kline, shares his perspective at the close of the first forum.

*Cathy Edgerton,*

### **Kisauni Update**



"God is Good.... All the Time!" - a greeting or salutation that the Kenyans use frequently. In spite of the pandemic, in spite of the rainy season, the Kisauni parish is worshipping and has just restarted their in-person worship under protocols similar to ours. The schools are currently on a break for testing of the older grade children. It is anticipated the schools will reconvene within the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, vaccinations are progressing. Beatrice

mentions that she has had her first vaccination (or jab as they call it) and teachers are currently receiving their vaccinations.

In January we sent funds to Kisauni for the feeding and hygiene programs. Both programs have had disruptions this year with the pandemic, so the funds have been held for the restart of school. In addition, we provided some funds for use at their discretion. These discretionary funds have been used to help provide for a manse which has been a dream of the parish for some time.

The rainy season is causing flooding in much of Kenya. However, Beatrice reports that so far they have escaped the heavy rains.

As our Kisauni brothers and sisters say, 'God is Good, All the Time!'

*Rocky Johnson,  
Kisauni Team*

## Community Presbyterian Church Job Posting

March 15, 2021

**The church is seeking a volunteer for the position of Co-Financial Secretary. The applicant must be computer literate, dependable, detail oriented and a team player. This position requires a high degree of confidentiality and accuracy. This position interacts regularly with the Operations Manager and church Treasurer.**

**Position:** Financial Secretary  
Part time (averages 2- 4 hours per week)  
*Non- paid, volunteer*

**Primary Responsibilities:** Accounts for and provides reports for all income from pledges, donations and gifts to CPC

### **Summary of Duties:**

- Recording of all pledges, donations and gifts including tracking and accounting for electronic gifts through on-line giving.
- Deposits funds and assists in the verifications and reconciliations with the Bank.
- Collects and secures special offerings.
- Resolves any discrepancies with the donor.
- Oversees other volunteers who assist with the job tasks.
- Reports all deposits to the Church Operations Manager, Treasurer, Pastor and Finance Chairperson
- Provides Donation Summaries to donors in January (for prior year) and July
- Attends Finance Committee meetings

### **Training and Qualifications:**

- Good computer skills
- Use of database (specifically Church Windows)
- Maintains confidentiality (all donation information is confidential)
- Good communication skills
- Ability to work well with others
- Financial background preferable but not required

### **Interactions:**

- Reports to the Finance Committee
- Interaction with the Church Treasurer and Church Operations Manager
- Interaction with the Stewardship Committee
- Interaction with congregation members and non-members

Please provide a resume to: Operations Manager Ryan O'Sullivan  
[ryan@redmondcpcc.org](mailto:ryan@redmondcpcc.org)  
Community Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 1689  
Redmond, OR 97756

### Help make the office work!



We are looking for some people who have office experience to volunteer in the office to answer phones and respond to emails. We are asking for folks to sign up for two hour increments (10:00 am to 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday). As a person who interacts with both office staff and visitors, we will prioritize vaccinated folks (for your safety). We will provide orientation for volunteers. Thanks for serving CPC.

### New Church Tenant

CPC's leadership is pleased to announce a new lease arrangement beginning in August of 2021 with Oregon Family School. Information about the school can be found [here](#). They will rent the bottom floor and Mountain Room, Wednesdays, **during the school year from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm**. We are excited by this new partnership as we continue to develop new connections with our community. We continue to prioritize events for groups inside our church and other guest groups, but bigger group meetings will happen the other six days of the week. If you have any questions about this new partnership please contact the office.



### Quilters Quips



The quilters want to thank Tammy for all she has done in the past six years!

She is a gem and will be greatly missed by our group.

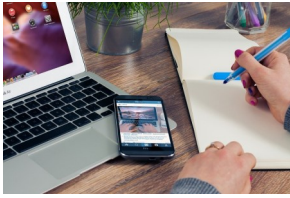
We will continue to meet once a month on the first Wednesday of the month until the church opens up more. Plans can change so stay tuned.

And in the meantime keep on quilting.

*Becky Dennis,  
Quilter*



### **Notes From Session**



Session has met regularly during the pandemic. Sometimes more than once a month. Despite not meeting in the building, the business of the congregation has continued. We have several things we can feel pleased about. We have continued to worship together, live streamed, and have even gained new attendees as a result. We have learned to have virtual communion meals together. Many of us have learned the technology of group meetings, which has allowed several groups to meet regularly and share and grow together. We have done well financially, as the generosity of our membership has not flagged, and our Finance Team has invested our savings wisely. CPC received some large bequests, that Session has invested, and has plans on using to the betterment of our community.

We have just entered our Season of Eastertide, and Session and Deacons have plans to continue in their work to seek God's will and fulfill our mission. The Mission team plans a clean up of the dry canyon on May 22, 2021. Last year's clean up went very well. The deacons plan on hosting a Neighborhood Carnival (COVID permitting) the Saturday prior to Vacation Bible School, probably the last week of July. We hope to invite all of our church family, as well as folks from the community.

Our congregation also faces a few challenges in the months to come, and we all need to consider how we can use our collective talents in helping out. Tammy Whitehead has taken a full time position closer to her home. This leaves a large gap in our office, and the Staff would welcome those who have the abilities to volunteer and fill in as we search for a replacement. Session is entering into ongoing conversations about the present and future of ministries to youth, children, and families, with a focus on outreach to our Redmond community. Kelsey recommends that regular, faithful volunteers will go a long way in building the youth program. Diane is faithfully leading ministries to children and planning a summer outreach program, and ongoing volunteer support will be needed

The Nominating Team will soon begin on their 2021 process, including possibly a mid-year nomination for a new elder to lead in the area of finance. The Property Team has helped place a lighted sign at our entrance, as well as maintained the property and kept our building looking nice. They also oversaw the improvement in the heating and cooling of our lower level. We will all appreciate that.

Pastor Andrew looks forward to baptizing Andrew and Maddox Barr on May 16, 2021. As a congregation we all have a responsibility in helping these youngsters in their spiritual growth.

Session plans on using Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021 as a venue to discuss a Vision for our congregation as we continue to seek how best to meet God's Mission for us in ministering not only to our congregants, but to our neighbors, our community, our nation and the world.

Steve Cross, Clerk of Session





## MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/01 Danny Duff  
Nabiel Saleem  
5/03 Alyce Jantzen  
5/06 Ron Terry  
5/07 Diana Barker  
5/09 Linda Hill  
Karen Rooney  
5/10 Jean Hoffman  
5/12 Bob Weeber  
5/14 Gary Patterson  
5/17 Luann Johnson  
5/18 Becky Lundgren  
5/22 Joan Sheets  
5/24 Monica Graham  
Ryan O'Sullivan  
5/25 Jo Anne Sutherland  
Marcia Majors  
5/28 Joe Griffin  
5/29 Ken Kerfoot  
5/30 Kathryn Outwater  
Stan Carpenter  
5/31 Emma Barr

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES



5/06 Joe & June Griffin  
5/08 Rick & Jean Hoffman  
5/09 Steve & Becky Lundgren  
5/11 Eric & Amy Ziegler  
5/12 Walter & Norrie Taylor  
5/19 Roland & Gail White  
5/28 Bob & Lois Ahern  
5/29 Paul & Barbara Whitaker  
5/30 Dick & Linda Hill

## MAY Deacon of the Month

Daniel Stealey

The Deacon of the Month is on call to handle requests of those who need assistance with special needs.

## 2021 Graduates



If you have someone in your family graduating this year from high school, college or trade school the info can be published in the June Lamplighter. Please email the info: name, relationship, school & degree to [info@redmondcp.org](mailto:info@redmondcp.org)

\*\*\*Please send your submission **before Thursday, May 20.**\*\*\*

Thank you for all of the contributions of cans and bottles in February and March which brought in a total of \$361.00!

Thank you to everyone dropping off returnable cans at our home on SW Canyon Drive, it is working out beautifully.

There are three ways to give cans and bottles to the Mission team at CPC.

- 1) Drop them off at the north end of the church near the basement door.
- 2) Drop off at Walt and Norrie Taylor's home at 1849 SW Canyon Drive (leave on the north side of the house on the sidewalk)
- 3) Call 541-548-4472 and they will come and pick them up at your location.

Thank you for your continued support of the CPC mission team and our activities, Walt and Norrie Taylor



## June Newsletter Due Date

The next *Lamplighter* news deadline is Thursday, **May 20**. Articles turned in after the deadline may not be published and all articles are subject to editing.

Announcements and articles for publication should be sent via email to

[info@redmondcp.org](mailto:info@redmondcp.org)

