

February 2025



**CASCADES**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

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## FEBRUARY

### DEACON OF THE MONTH

Linda Beck

Jesus said, "To the church in Ephesus...I know your deeds, your hard work, and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate the wicked, and that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen. Repent and do the things you did at first." Revelation 2:2-5.

In our Sunday Adult Education Class, we are learning from John's Letter of Revelation. John wrote this letter to a particular people, in a particular place, for a particular time in the first century AD. While it is a letter written FOR us, it is not a letter written TO us. Revelation is not an encrypted key that helps us unlock the future or end of the world. As part of the Biblical Apocalyptic literature, it helps us to discern what the Lord is saying to us today.

Author and Pastor Matt Chandler in his video series *The Overcomers* states, "Revelation cannot mean for us what it did not mean for them" 2000 some years ago. Our job as modern day believers is to hear about what John saw and then take it to heart. So what then is the Spirit of Jesus trying to say to us through it?

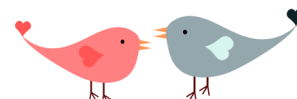
In the excerpt of Revelation noted above, Jesus addresses seven churches in Asia minor. While he has some good things to say about each, he also confronts their flaws. Take the Church in Ephesus for example. They were really being faithful during a time when great persecution had broken out against Christians by the Roman Empire. However, they were becoming weary and losing their passion for following Jesus that they had at the beginning. Their spark was starting to go out. So Jesus tells them... You need to repent. Turn back toward me and rekindle the love you once had.

It is interesting that this idea of forsaking a first love comes at this time of year when we remember Valentines Day and our special human relationships. Most couples that have been married for a length of time could admit that over many years, a relationship ebbs and flows. They can go from being madly and passionately in love, to simply becoming comfortable and complacent with one another. I don't think that Jesus expects us to always have the same youthful feelings when we were young. But He does expect us to kindle the flames that we once had for each other. To remember how deeply in love we once were.

We all could take some time to remember what it was like when we were first following Jesus. Remember how radical it seemed? Remember how risky it was? Remember how this new relationship made you feel so alive? That's what Jesus wants for each of us. To share in the life giving love that He has with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor




### SOLVE THE RIDDLE

Why do tennis players make the best spouses?

Did you hear about the bedbugs who fell in love?

Stumped?

See page 5 for the answers.

As you enjoy reading this month's Bell, try to find the hidden cross. 

## FLOWERS FOR REMEMBRANCE

We are launching a new initiative we call "Flowers for Remembrance". Anyone may bring a bouquet of flowers to Sunday Service to remember and thank God for a loved one, an anniversary, a birthday, or any special event that has occurred in their life. The bouquet will be placed on the small table in front of the pulpit. We will also list your name and the name of whom you are remembering in the Sunday bulletin for the day. In order for the remembrance information to appear in the bulletin, however, we need you to use the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. If more than one person would like to remember someone on a day, we will make arrangements to display the additional bouquet in the sanctuary. If you choose to participate we ask that you:

- Bring the flowers in some type of container with water. We would prefer to not have loose flowers laid on the table.
- Come to the service a few minutes early before the start of the prelude in order to place the bouquet on the table. The Ushers will be able to assist you in bouquet placement.
- Select flowers that have minimal scent.

For more information contact Laura Livingston, Worship Arts Elder

## NEW MEMBERS RETREAT

Whether you have been worshipping with us for a while or just arriving for the first time, it's never too late or too soon to consider officially joining Cascades as a member. Our New Member Retreats are a great way to learn more about the church, to better get to know our Church leadership, and to hear more about how you can become part of our Mission, Vision, and Strategy to further the Gospel of Jesus in our community and around the world. Our next New Members' Retreat will be held on a Saturday morning in March. The date will be announced soon. So if you are interested, please let either Pastor Chris or Elder Josh Krane know.

## HANDICAP PARKING REQUEST

Folks have been asking us whether or not it is possible to add more handicap parking spaces in our parking lot. Unfortunately, it is not. The required parking spaces were specified by the Clark County Permitting Office when we built our new sanctuary in 2014. It is based on the number of seats in our sanctuary. We were required to have a specified amount of handicap and non-handicap parking to accommodate our estimated Sunday number of attendees. In the future, our long range facilities masterplan does account for more handicap parking spaces to be added in a new parking area on the south side of the playground and sanctuary. In the meantime, if you are in need of handicap parking, please try to come early enough prior to worship to either get a designated handicap parking space or to park in a regular space closer to the handicap accessible areas. Thank you for understanding.

## daily Devotions



### *Trusting in God's Providence*

Feb 1 Psalm 71:1-6

### *Holy Strength in Mind, Body, Soul & Heart*

Feb 2 Isaiah 6:1-8  
Feb 3 Isaiah 6:9-13  
Feb 4 Psalm 138  
Feb 5 Psalm 138  
Feb 6 2 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Feb 7 2 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Feb 8 Luke 5:1-11

### *By the Water*

Feb 9 Psalm 1  
Feb 10 Psalm 1  
Feb 11 Psalm 1  
Feb 12 Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Feb 13 Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Feb 14 Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Feb 15 Luke 6:17-26

### *To Forgive is Human...and Hard*

Feb 16 Luke 6:27-38  
Feb 17 Luke 6:27-38  
Feb 18 Luke 6:27-38  
Feb 19 Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Feb 20 Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Feb 21 Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Feb 22 Luke 6:27-38

### *Beyond the Veil*

Feb 23 Luke 9:23-43a  
Feb 24 Exodus 34:29-35  
Feb 25 Exodus 34:29-35  
Feb 26 Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Feb 27 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Feb 28 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2



## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

On Christmas Eve, we take an offering to benefit a particular need approved by Session. This year we chose to raise money for our mission partners in Honduras, New Hope Opportunities School. The community in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, along the Rivera Hernandez had been devastated by recent flooding, washing out the bridges between the community and the school. We raised \$1,758, 100% of which was given to NHO for their ongoing support of the community in this challenging time. Thank you so much for your generosity.

## TOP OF THE HILL

Top of the Hill will welcome Sarah Ostrand to our senior potluck on Sunday, February 16, following our church service. A recent college graduate, Sarah has received two grants to help her create a new ministry to bring church to residents of senior facilities. She will explain her work and ask if we have any suggestions on how churches could better serve seniors. Bring a dish to share, but if you forget, we always have plenty of food for all.



## YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 and from 9-10 on Sunday mornings. We are excited to be back in the groove of routine. This winter we look forward to hosting our Bunco afternoon on March 1st and to volunteer with Friends of the Trees on a tree planting excursion. During our normal meeting times, we play games, pray together, and have fruitful discussions on matters of life and faith. We are looking forward to a unit on biblical literacy and a study of Ecclesiastes.  
Sarah Ostrand, Youth Director

## ETERNALLY BELOVED



Eternally Beloved is continuing its mission to reach residents in retirement communities. In February, we are hosting hymn-sing at the Quarry and at Bonaventure of Salmon Creek. I am also leading a GriefShare support group at the Quarry and at University Village. Every other Sunday, we have a Communion service at Bonaventure of Salmon Creek. I hope to host monthly activities at The Quarry, University Village, and Bonaventure as a way to build community and bring church to the people. I also have been collecting resources for those in need of more help or guidance in the aging process.

Sarah Ostrand, Director of Eternally Beloved Ministries

## JANUARY SESSION NOTES

Opened with devotions from John 9:25 and the importance of sharing our stories of faith with others. Financial audit was completed by Jim Scovil for 2023. 2024 will be completed as soon as year ends. All looks good. Reported that new office administrator/treasurer is fully on board after training. We are so grateful to Michelle Drexler for helping Lisa learn the ropes. Parking lot bumpers were properly repositioned to align with parking spaces. Contract set to repair church signage. Looking at having a new members class this spring 2025. Some people have mentioned that they would be interested in small groups or life groups. We'd love to do that if someone from the congregation would be willing to champion it for us. Contact Josh Krane or Christie Mistrot. Pastor Chris reported that he'd like to delay his summer sabbatical from 2025 to 2026. Heavy on our hearts is the wildfire destruction in Los Angeles. We spent some time praying for the families who lost their homes and the first responders in harm's way. Over all we are very hopeful for a good year while being uncertain about how deportations of undocumented peoples in our community might affect local students and their families. We felt that we are being called to be prayerful and patient to see how things play out.

## BUNCO

The Youth Group is pleased to invite you all to the 2nd Annual Bunco event. Last year, we had a wonderful time and raised funding for our youth campership fund. That fund provided resources for the youth retreat as well as for some of the youth to visit Honduras with New Hope Opportunities. Mark your calendars and be sure to join us this year! We will be meeting at the church on **March 1st at 2 pm**.

Bunco is a quick-moving, fun dice game for all ages. All rules and supplies will be provided for you. There will be a sign up in the Narthex, please make sure to save the date and sign up! We look forward to playing with you.



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS



They are the best huggers! At our 2016 harvest party, Bill and Kay Gibson arrived in costume as hug therapists. Kay is a lifelong hugger, but Bill learned a hug's therapeutic value through his counselling work. This couple introduced "the Hanging of the Greens" to Cascades, bringing it from their church in Norfolk, VA. Former elder Bill heads up our bowling ministry and also advocates for world peace at prayer time. Former deacon Kay helped lead our quilt ministry founded byCarolynn Zenk.

Chicago-born Bill grew up south of that city. When Bill was in the Navy in San Diego, his parents (mom Jean later attended Cascades) moved to Brookings, OR, halfway between Bill in San Diego and Bill's sister in

Kennewick, WA. Lorella Kay, whose first name is taken from a former Oregon town, was born in Baker (now Baker City), OR, and later lived in Troy, OR; Troy, ID; Portland; Lewiston, ID and Clarkston, WA.

At age 17, Bill, a day manager at a Chicago drive-in, visited a recruiting office along with a friend. They were offered a "buddy plan" so they could join together, with both to be released at age 21. However, Bill serving as a submarine engineman, a job vital to the Navy, was involuntarily extended and promised a promotion to E-5, Petty Officer 2nd class. That prompted him to enlist for longer to get A/C refrigeration training, increasing opportunity for employment in civilian life. Bill is proud of his service on a submarine, even getting a tattoo of "DBF" (diesel boats forever)! He retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9), with 26 years service.

Kay worked for Omark Industries, maker of .22 bullets, as an office assistant when... KABOOM!...the roof blew off! She then became a payroll clerk at the Clarkston mayor's office. She enjoyed that job partly because every day the mayor would teach a new word, including "omphaloskepsis," which means navel contemplation, but she soon began Naval contemplation. Kay, with two children, having ended an abusive marriage at age 28 joined the Navy to become an aviation electronics technician. The next day, realizing the tool box she carried far outweighed her tiny frame, transferred to a clerical job where she excelled. She retired as a Senior Chief Petty Officer (E-8) with 20 years.

While in the Navy in London, Bill and Kay met. Bill was in a drug abuse counselling school and a student (another Kay) told her friend, Kay, about Bill. Kay invited Bill to her boss's house for Thanksgiving dinner where she loaned Bill her car as she didn't drive in the city, and then she looked down, saw Bill's hands and realized "those are the hands I want to grow old with." In 1985, they married, and will be celebrating 40 blissful years this May. From London they moved to Norfolk, VA, where Kay, having learned how to take Navy tests, scored 100% on her occupational test (and no one scores that), was investigated, and finally officially accepted as honestly earned! There Bill went to work for the Veterans Administration and eventually made his way to the Northwest, where he had always wanted to live, to work for the Portland Veteran's Administration. Two 3,000 mile driving trips later, they found a home where Kay could keep her five cats. The yellow pages found them a church that "fit the Bill," and so we are privileged to have them at Cascades!



**CALENDAR**

Feb 2	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	10:15am	Worship Service
Feb 3	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Feb 4	7:00pm	Deacons Meeting
Feb 5	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Feb 6	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Feb 9	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Feb 10	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Feb 11	7:00pm	Session Meeting
Feb 12	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Feb 13	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Feb 15	8:00am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study Fellowship
Feb 16	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
	11:30am	Top of the Hill Potluck
Feb 17	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED—President's Day	
	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Feb 19	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Feb 20	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Feb 23	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Feb 24	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Feb 26	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Feb 27	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice

**BIRTHDAYS**

Nancy Bisbee	Devon Chandler
Noah Blinsman	Clara Hickok
Teresa Blinsman	Kara Kent
Steve Blinsman	Carolyn Young

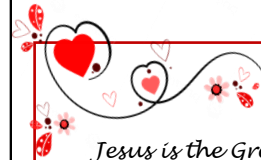
**ANNIVERSARIES**

*If you don't see your anniversary or birthdate listed here please contact the church office!*

**DECEMBER FINANCES**

Income	\$23,971.03
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$27,106.52</u>
Total	(\$ 3,135.49)

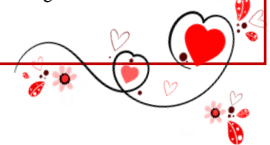
Year to Date 2024  
\$ 8,848.31



*Jesus is the Greatest Valentine  
His love will never cease to be  
His love is bigger than the world  
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me*

*Jesus is the Greatest Valentine  
His heart is bigger than the sea  
And He always fills my heart with joy  
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me*

*Yes He is the Greatest Valentine  
I will rejoice eternally  
I will life my voice with all my heart  
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me*



Answers:  
They know everything about love.  
They're getting married in the spring.





**CASCADES**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
February 2 @ 9:00am

Men's Breakfast  
Bible Study Fellowship  
February 15 @ 8:00am

TOP OF THE HILL POTLUCK  
February 16 @ 11:30am

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
February 17—President's Day

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
10:15am Worship Service