

KCC Chronicle

KEIZER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

“Proclaiming Christ’s Love, Building Community,
Meeting Human Need”

E-mail: 1963kcc@gmail.com
Website: www.keizerchristian.org

Phone: (503) 393-6843
Find us on Facebook!

DECEMBER 18TH, 2025

CONTENTS

Worship Services	1
Christmas Eve Service	1
Pastor’s Moment	2
Blessings and Concerns	3
Giving Totals	3
Unsung Hero	4
Bible Study	4
Recycling	4
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4
Keizer Community Dinner	5
Coffee Fellowship Time	4
Core Foods Needed	5
Food Bank	5
Men’s Group	5
January Servers	6
Regional News	6
Christmas Pageants	7
Upcoming Sermons	8

WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship Services are held in-person and live on YouTube at 10 am each Sunday. The YouTube link for each service will be sent out in the bulletin and also posted on Facebook and the KCC Website. You can always watch our services on our YouTube channel here:  **YouTube**



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



The annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Wednesday, **December 24th at 6 pm**. Please pick up your candle and individual communion cup in the Narthex as you arrive. This is a short service designed for the whole family to attend.

NEWSLETTER

Previous editions are available on the website at:

[<NEWSLETTER>](#)

Look for the next newsletter on **January 22nd**.





Pastor Erik Free

Email:

pastorfree1832@gmail.com

Cell Phone:

(503) 501-7682

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday

9 am to 1 pm

Afternoons by appointment

PASTOR'S MOMENT



The season of Advent, our time of preparation, is about to come to an end for another year. So, what next? Now that the anticipated celebration of the birth of our savior is nigh upon us, what should we do with all of this pent up expectation and preparation?

We have been following the original journey towards Christ's birth as of old, remembering the prophecies and events leading up to the birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph in the town of Bethlehem. Up until now the story is pretty relatable (except for maybe the appearance of Gabriel); pregnancy, potential controversy, travel, etc. But, now is when the really wild stuff begins. Mysterious stars appear, angelic choruses present themselves to lowly shepherds,

wise men from far off lands show up unannounced! Here is where our ability to really relate to the tale tends to fade. Things start to get more fantastic than our daily lives tend to be and we start to lose some connection to the narrative. It becomes more difficult to imagine ourselves as one of the shepherds or a wise man or Joseph or Mary and we end up placing ourselves outside the tale. We begin relegating it to the realm of a wholesome, feel-good story rather than perceiving it as the world-altering epic saga of God made manifest in a child and all of creation responding in magnificent fashion. Because the import of the narrative is so much bigger than we can really imagine, we make it smaller, more manageable, so that we can keep telling it in nice little ways and not have it demand the same sort of response in our own lives as it initially had in creation and the lives of the shepherds and wise men.

Just because we don't see mysterious stars in the sky or witness an angelic chorus singing out at night doesn't mean that we can't or shouldn't respond to this story as a call to action as those first witnesses did. We are so used to the telling of the birth narrative making us feel warm and cozy that we often forget that for those who first experienced these events, it was a call to get up and move! So, yes, continue to hear the story of Jesus' birth as comforting and as a message of God's hope, peace, joy, and love coming into the world. Also hear it as a call to action; to get out and be, yourself, and image of God's hope, peace, joy, and love any way you can.

Pastor Erik

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory . . ." ~ John 1:14*

BLESSINGS AND CONCERNS

To include Blessings and Concerns on the weekly email sent out on Tuesday, please send us an email at 1963kcc@gmail.com or call in your information to the office by Sunday evening. If you would like a printed copy of Blessings and Concerns, please contact the office.



- ♥ We celebrate the coming of the Jesus of Nazareth congregation to share worship space with us last month. They are a newly affiliating Chuukese (pacific islander) congregation with the Disciples of Christ denomination. We look forward to a future of ministry cooperation (and lots of good potlucks!)
- ♥ We celebrate the many ongoing ministries and outreach of our church:
 - ✝ Sending youth and counselors to summer camp
 - ✝ Men's fellowship breakfast
 - ✝ Women's ministry and regional events
 - ✝ Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk-or-Treat, and Fun-in-the-Field community events
 - ✝ Cooperative youth group support - creating Disciples!
 - ✝ Feeding ministries: Keizer Community Food Bank and Keizer Community Dinner
- ♥ We lift up prayers for members, friends, and family with ongoing health struggles; that God will surround them with healing presence. We ask God to show us how we can be a force for healing as well
- ♥ We lift up our congregation's budget, stewardship, and giving in prayer; asking God to guide our finances both personally and as a congregation.
- ♥ We lift up prayers of support for the Food Bank ministry in a time of transition as they work with Crossroads church to build and adapt new spaces for this ecumenical feeding ministry.
- ♥ We pray for our regional, Disciples of Christ, church, it's many leaders, staff, volunteers, and congregations as well as the ongoing regional minister search process. May the God of all wisdom continue to guide us into a future of increased fellowship and love for our neighbors.

GIVING TOTALS

The November total giving was \$12,984 of our \$12,115 budget. Just a reminder. Our monthly offering is covering our payroll and utility bills. With good financial stewardship over the past few years, KCC does have a savings account that we are using to make all of our obligations at this time. Without additional giving, the savings account will continue to dwindle.

December to date	
<u>General Fund Offering</u>	
1 st week	\$ 7,618.
2 nd week	\$ 3,882.
3 rd week	
4 th week	
Total for Month	\$ 7,618.
Mo Budget	\$ 12,115

If you are unable to attend service, you can give online through the secure giving portal [<HERE>](#) or mail a check to the office "Attention: Financial Secretary."

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

UNSUNG HERO

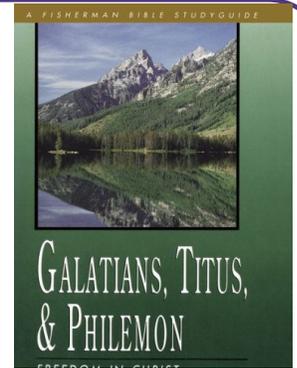


Thank you to Sue Day for her many years of service as an Elder and a Trustee. Your service is greatly appreciated.

If you want to give a shout out to someone you think is doing an amazing job for the church, email the office and let us know!

BIBLE STUDY

We are meeting on Thursdays at 11 am, in the church library for our weekly Bible study. Everyone is welcome! All curriculum is provided. Join us for a lively discussion as we dig deeper into God's word. We will be starting a new series on **January 8th**.



RECYCLING—BOTTLES, CANS, INK, TONER



Thank you to everyone for bringing in your bottles and cans. This is a year-round fundraiser and all funds go towards Children's Summer Camp scholarships. If you have any questions, please see Laurie Costales.

NOTE: Please make sure that all items have OR 10¢ on them and that they are rinsed out. We don't get credit for crushed items or those missing their bar codes.

We are still turning in used ink cartridges and toners. The funds for those are used to buy craft and office supplies for special children's events like Fun in the Field.



KEIZER COMMUNITY DINNER

The next Keizer Community Dinner will be held on **Wednesday, January 28th from 3:00 to 6:00 pm** at St. Edward's Catholic Church.



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



We are in need of Coffee Hour Treat Providers. Thank you to those who have signed up to bring treats for Coffee Fellowship Time. We have tried to make it easier for setup and have the Secretary prepare the coffee, drink table items, silverware, plates, and napkins.

The treat provider is responsible for bringing treats, setting them out on the tables, starting the coffee pot and hot water, and cleanup of the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen when done. Please sign up on the sheet on the Fellowship Hall door. If you have any questions, feel free to call the office.



Mark Dodge 1-3

Kena Dewey 1-7

Jim Roes 1-11

Paige Blair 1-17



happy anniversary

Roger/Pam Elliott 1-7

FOOD BANK—Core Foods Needed:

- ◆ Cold Cereal
- ◆ Mac & Cheese
- ◆ Canned fruits
- ◆ Peanut Butter—16-18 ounce
- ◆ Tomato Products—can/jar
- ◆ Soup
- ◆ Pasta
- ◆ Canned Meats

*Be sure to check expiration dates!
Fresh Produce is always welcome!*

Editor's Note: Monetary donations to KCC for support of the Food Bank allowed us to provide 144 jars of peanut butter and 144 cans of tuna this month. *Thank you for your generosity!*

We are also in need of cardboard boxes for the pantry food. The larger number of clients served has increased our need for these boxes.

Medium size boxes (8" up to about 24") are best. Please remove your name and address from the boxes and bring them to the office. **Thank you!**



MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group will be meeting at Route 99 for our next meeting on **December 21st**. Men's Group continues to meet every other Saturday for a no-host breakfast. All men are welcome!



KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK



It always feels good after hours of setup, to look over the room and see tables piled high with produce, sweets and bread and refrigerators and freezers filled with food. The 134 families we served this Monday went home well stocked with food.

I was worried that we would not have enough people to push the carts to the waiting cars, but two homeless men came in wanting to help and what a blessing they were! Please keep them in your prayers.

Our food needs are cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, tomato products, soup and chili, mac and cheese, and canned fruit. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated

Wishing your Christmas is blessed with God's love and grace.

Pam Elliot

THOSE SERVING NEXT MONTH

The following people will be serving next month. If you would like to serve, please let the office know, there are many possibilities!



	PRAYER PRESIDERS	USHER	DEACONS	DEACONS
1/4	Mike Ryan	Christa Ryan	Laurie C..	Kim F/Troy C
1/11	Nancy Dalrymples	Vicki Zielinski	Don K.	Christa R.
1/18	Troy Costales	Don Kaehler	Peggy Y..	Vicki Z.
1/25	Pam Elliott	Peggy Young	Daniel B.	Troy C.

REGIONAL NEWS

The Regional Board has approved the search process for a new Regional Minister on November 1st! This is excellent news you're not only welcome to share, but invited to participate.

Here's how the Search Committee will be selected:

- The Executive Committee, through Shari, will send an invitation to the entire Region for nominations to the Search Committee.
- These nominations can come from anyone associated with a Disciples church.
- The nominations must be accompanied by a 2-3 sentence explanation of why this individual would make a great Search Committee member.
- If you are nominating someone, you must get their permission first. The person nominating someone must also be disclosed. You may also self-nominate. All nominations must be in writing.
- Nominations must be received in the Regional Office no later than January 31st, 2026 (please see below as to where they are to be sent.)
- The nominations will then be given to the Executive Committee of The Region, and they will then determine a process by which a Chairperson will be chosen, in addition to members of the Search Committee. The Search Committee will then be approved by the Regional Board and announced to the Region.
- Please send your nominations to Shari at officeadmin@oidisciples.org

In other Regional news:

Please save the dates of May 15-16, 2026 for the Regional Assembly.

The Westside Women's Council announces its 2026 Fall Retreat. Please note the location change. We are grateful for the many years that this event has been hosted at Murray Hills Christian Church. This year, our sisters at Dallas First Christian Church have volunteered to host us, and we are excited to try something new. More details will be available after the first of the year.





CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT
AT KCC



CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT
AT
CHUKESE
CHURCH OF
CHRIST



KEIZER CHRISTIAN CHURCH
6945 Wheatland Road NE
Keizer OR 97303

SERMON SERIES

Epiphany Series: New Year; Same Promises

“New Year, new you”: this is the message we get from pop culture, year after year. We vow to make changes to our diet, exercise habits, or lifestyle, but in spite of those resolutions, most things stay the same. This may be cause for disappointment, but there is some consistency we can celebrate. God’s promises to us do not change with the calendar or the latest fitness trend. Rather than focusing out energy and attention on making (and in all likelihood breaking) promises to ourselves, lets spend the first part of the new year appreciating God’s unbreakable promise.

January 4—Sermon: "Christ’s Revealing"

Psalms 29, Matthew 3:13-17

Three wise men visit Jesus

January 11—Sermon: "God’s Promise of New Life"

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13

Through the waters of baptism, we are given new life.

January 18—Sermon: "God’s Promise of Faithfulness"

Psalms 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

God is faithful, even when we are not.