

KCC Chronicle

KEIZER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

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JANUARY 29TH, 2026

CONTENTS

Worship Services	1
Ash Wednesday/ Lent	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
February Servers	6
Regional News	6
Compassion Week	7
Upcoming Sermons	8

NEWSLETTER

Previous editions are available on the website at:

[<NEWSLETTER>](#)

Look for the next newsletter on **February 26th.**

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:

<https://youtube.com/live/psSqW4d8DHk>



ASH WEDNESDAY

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT — Lent is early this year! The short Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes will be on Wednesday, February 18^h at 6 pm.

Lenten devotionals are ready for you to pick up in the Narthex. There are two different studies for you to choose from.

Please see him if you are able to help.



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 Bible is full of many types of literature and storytelling; everything from exalting declarations of triumph and joy, praising God's glory, to heartfelt letters offering encouragement and instruction and everything in between. In our desire to deepen our faith we pour over the many offerings of wisdom contained in scripture. One element within the Bible we sometimes find ourselves avoiding or only seeking out when it serves us best is the passages of lament. We don't want to read them and ponder their meaning or value when we, ourselves, are not lamenting. We tend to approach these troubling texts that express frustration with God and humanity as well as deep faith in God only when we are feeling the same.



Right now, in our country, there are events occurring that are great cause for lament. I have been hearing colleagues and trusted voices these last few days crying out in their frustration at what is happening to the people of this country in places like Minneapolis and Washington state, Texas, and right here in Oregon; to people of this country born here, immigrated here, come as refugee, and asylum seeker. The voices are afraid, angry and deeply sad. They are voices of lament. Now is a time for lament.

Regardless of where you find yourself on the spectrum of support or justification, whether you choose to justify the actions of our federal forces and administration or you choose to justify the actions of those who protest what they see as wrongdoing, we must agree that this is a time for lament. Of ultimate concern are the souls of individuals and the collective soul of this country. They are hurting and we are in danger of losing that collective soul.

When we read the laments of scripture we hear a people crying out against events and situations that are killing them, killing them body and soul. They are crying out to God in frustration and faith, seeking reprieve, a way forward into reconciliation and peace. They seek justice and healing. Like Psalm 13, they end in lifting their heads, declaring the goodness and faithfulness of God. Whatever your political or theological position, recent events in our country should be cause for lament. Things are broken. Only with the help of God and a willingness towards reconciliation can we begin the work of repair.

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Pastor Erik

"How long, O Lord?"

~ Psalm 13a

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.

- ♥ Margy McCurry: Has asked us to join her in pray for her health as she wait for the Dr to give some results.
- ♥ Please hold the family of Don Zielinski in prayer as they grieve his loss; especially his wife Robin. Don passed away last Saturday.

✠ May the Lord keep them in His loving arms. –Vicki Zielinski

- ♥ Please hold the family of Joyce Johnson in prayer as they grieve her loss; especially her husband, Jerry. Joyce passed away last Friday. –Pam Elliot
- ♥ Please join us in praying for Karen Ball, mother of Troy Costales. She suffered a stroke Monday night and is currently at Salem Hospital and respond to treatment. Please keep her husband Richard, son Troy, and the rest of the family at this time. –Laurie Costales-
- ♥ 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.

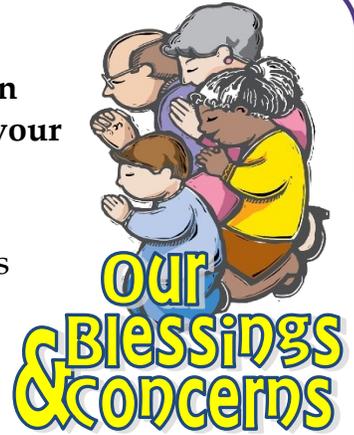
GIVING TOTALS

The December total giving was \$14,824.20 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.

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



January to date	
<u>General Fund Offering</u>	
1 st week	\$ 903
2 nd week	\$ 3,013.95
3 rd week	\$ 13,566.80
4 th week	
Total for Month	\$ 3,916.95
Mo Budget	\$ 12,929

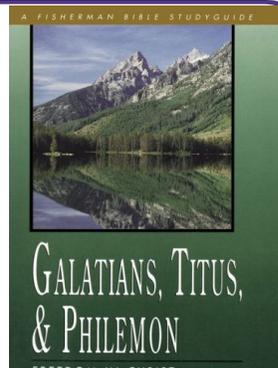
UNSUNG HERO



Thanks to those who helped put away the Advent and Christmas decorations at church on Monday, January 12th. A special shout out to Dena Query who came early and had most of the decorations organized to easily be stored away for another year

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, February 25th from 3:00 to 6:00 pm** at St. Edward's Catholic Church.



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

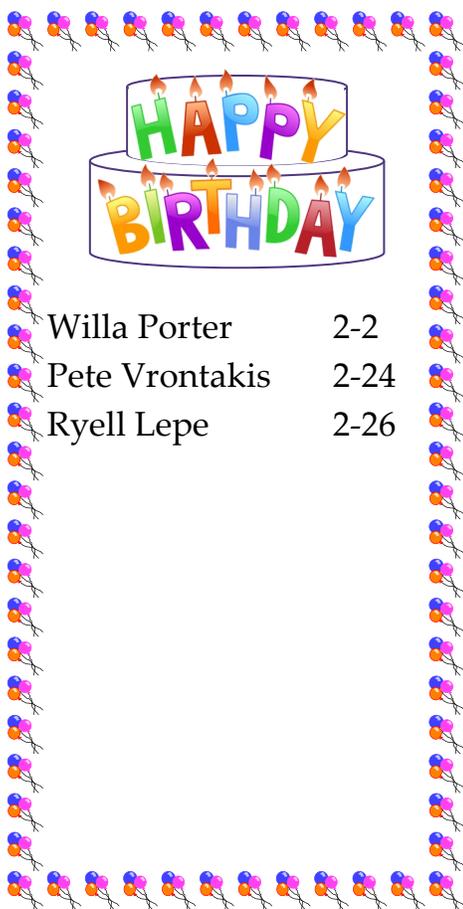


Join us!

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.



Willa Porter	2-2
Pete Vrontakis	2-24
Ryell Lepe	2-26

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 **February 14th** Men's Group continues to meet every other Saturday for a no-host breakfast. All men are welcome!



KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK



We did not serve this month due to the fact that our day fell on MLK holiday. It was a happy break for our crew. Here are some year-end stats I would like to share with you: Clients 64,710, Volunteer hours 5,819, Distributed lbs. 1,257,660, and total Monetary donations \$45,369. KCFB continues to feed the community because of many dedicated volunteers. A BIG thankyou to volunteers and supporters! We serve again on March 16th. Our food needs are cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, tomato produces, soup and chili, mac and cheese, and canned fruit. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

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 PRESIDER	USHER	DEACONS	DEACONS
2/1	Mike Ryan	Christa Ryan	Laurie C..	Kim F/Troy C
2/8	Nancy Dalrymples	Vicki Zielinski	Don K.	Christa R.
2/15	Troy Costales	Don Kaehler	Peggy Y..	Vicki Z.
2/22	Pam Elliott	Peggy Young	Daniel B.	Laurie C.

REGIONAL NEWS

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

Westside Disciples Women's Retreat
September 18-19, 2026

Something Beautiful

DALLAS FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 1079 SE Jefferson St, Dallas, OR 97338

Join us Friday night for soup dinner and a short devotional time.
Saturday activities include Worship, Round-robin Workshops, Lunch, and Pray and Play Time (Childcare available on Saturday)

- ♥ \$40 for full retreat
- ♥ \$30 for Saturday only
- ♥ \$10 discount for early bird registration by July 31
- ♥ Registration will be available after Regional Assembly in May

For more information, please contact the Oregon and Southwest Idaho Regional Office at (503) 226-7648 or officeadmin@oidisciples.org

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

WEEK OF COMPASSION BOXES— Over and above our monthly giving, we will be collecting money for the Week of Compassion for the entire month of February. We have coin collection boxes available as well as informational inserts.



Feel free to take one of the boxes home and fill it with your spare change and return it at the end of the month. You will be amazed at the amount you might collect. You are also able to give us a check/cash in an offering envelope designated to Week of Compassion or pay online through the link [<HERE>](#).

A NEW WAY GIVING CALENDAR							
	SUNDAY THEME - MARK 2:1-5	MONDAY DOMESTIC DISASTER	TUESDAY REFUGEES	WEDNESDAY INTERNATIONAL	THURSDAY HOME & LIVELIHOOD	FRIDAY FOOD, WATER, HEALTH	SATURDAY LOCAL CHURCHES
WEEK 1	<p>Find a Special Offering Coinbox (or jar or can). Give 1 unit to start your offering!</p>	<p>Week of Compassion partners help families build homes after disasters. Give 1 unit for each home you've lived in.</p>	<p><u>Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries</u> celebrated 40 years of ministry in 2025. Give 2 units to honor these Disciples caring for refugees.</p>	<p>Climate change impacts farming, health, food and water worldwide. Give 1 unit to help local farmers learn the best way to work.</p>	<p>1 in 10 people in the world cannot afford a healthy diet.⁵ Give 1 unit for every meal or snack you eat today.</p>	<p>Week of Compassion global partners take special care of mothers and infants. Give 2 units for a mother and new baby you know.</p>	<p>One Disciples church hosts a Compassion Carnival to highlight this offering. Give 1 unit to celebrate our Disciples family.</p>
WEEK 2	<p><i>The companions were eager for their friend to see Jesus.</i> Give 1 unit for someone you're excited to see.</p>	<p>In the first half of 2025, the U.S. recorded 15 'billion dollar disasters.'⁷ Give 1 unit to encourage disaster preparedness.</p>	<p>Prior to the 2025 U.S. halt on resettlement, most refugees spent 18-36mo waiting.⁸ Give 1 unit to support those who continue to wait.</p>	<p>Use the 2026 Mission Moment to learn about repurposed schools in Pakistan. Give 2 units for those in your family going to school.</p>	<p>More than 2 billion people worldwide lack access to basic sanitation. Give 1 unit for each bathroom in your home.</p>	<p>Almost everyone in the world (99%) breathes air with high levels of pollutants.⁶ Give 1 unit to help provide clean air technology.</p>	<p>435 volunteers served with Week of Compassion in 2025. Give 2 units to honor their hard work!</p>
WEEK 3	<p><i>The friends took bold action to get to where Jesus was.</i> Give 2 units for someone you know who is courageous.</p>	<p><u>Children's Disaster Services</u> volunteers care for kids after disasters, shootings, and other trauma. Give 1 unit for each child (or grandchild) in your family.</p>	<p>In 2024, almost 123 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide.⁹ That's 1 in 67 people. Give 1 unit to provide refugee support and response.</p>	<p>Through ACT Alliance, Disciples serve with churches worldwide to care for communities in need. Give 2 units in honor of ecumenical partnership.</p>	<p>No state in the U.S. has an adequate supply of housing for low income families.⁴ Give 1 unit for each bedroom in your family's home.</p>	<p>Hunger in the U.S. affects 1 in 7 people.⁴ Give 1 unit for each meal you ate today.</p>	<p>How does YOUR church help local neighbors in need? Give 1 unit for every ministry you can name!</p>
WEEK 4	<p><i>Jesus was moved by their faithfulness, and healed their friend.</i> Say a prayer for a friend. Give 1 unit as another act of prayer.</p>	<p>More than 1500 U.S. tornadoes were reported in 2025.⁸ Give 2 units for disaster readiness and response.</p>	<p>A 2026 Mission Moment shares a new study resource, Operation Cacti. Give 1 unit to support immigrant and refugee response.</p>	<p>Listening to local leaders is part of every disaster and refugee response. Give 1 unit in honor of a local leader you appreciate.</p>	<p>Clean water is critical for healthy communities, and often hard to find. Give 1 unit for each water faucet in your home.</p>	<p>Almost 75% of U.S. farmworkers are immigrants. Give 2 units in thanks for those who bring food to our tables.</p>	<p><u>Week of Compassion</u> is about abundance and generosity. Give whatever you choose to close out this offering!</p>



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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.

February 1— Sermon: “God’s Promise of Blessing”

Psalm 15 Matthew 5:1-12

The promise of the Beatitudes is for something good to emerge from the dust of something not good.

February 8— Sermon: “God’s Promise of Guidance”

Psalm 112:1-10, Matthew 5:13-20

How do we live in response to the gift of grace?

February 15— Sermon: “God’s Promise of Freedom”

Matthew 17:1-9

The choice is ours: life or death?