

THE VISION

A NEWSLETTER OF WOOD VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

FROM THE PASTOR

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The end of 2022 is approaching. And as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ, we are reminded of His incarnation. God was willing to become like us and to live with us in order to serve us.

Our vision for 2023 is similar, to be incarnational with our church family and community. In other words, to go to them and serve them. In order to serve we have to engage with them and help them take steps towards a closer relationship with Jesus.

Over the next two months, during our church services, you will hear from our ministry leaders describing our various ministry plans for 2023. This is in preparation for our annual meeting in 2023, where we will all have an opportunity to vote on this plan and the resources needed to support it. This will include supporting the plan with our prayers, finances, and service.

This is an important time to consider your

own personal plans for 2023. As you listen to our plans to be incarnational, you are invited to participate.

*in order to serve
we have to
engage*

Please begin by praying that God directs us in 2023 and that He supplies the resources needed for the harvest ahead.

With Love,
Pastor Tom

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FIESTA FOR CHICAS by Connie Crandall

Our Hispanic friends know how to celebrate! About 50 ladies attended our “Fiesta for Chicas” event, which was planned by a group led by Maria Herrera. We enjoyed amazing food (and lots of it!), a wide spread of desserts, games and dancing! The dance instructor who was scheduled to come couldn’t make it, so Jennifer Miles filled in and led us in fun moves to *The Mexican Hat Dance*. It was a fun evening with valuable connections made across cultures and



ages.

Thank you to the wonderful group of ladies who planned it and worked so hard to make sure everyone had a blast!



WOMEN’S RETREAT by Connie Crandall

Women’s Ministries is very excited about our upcoming Women’s Retreat in February! We have reserved the Pacific View Lodge at Cannon Beach Conference Center for February 10-12, 2023.

Ladies, mark your calendars for this special weekend of connection with other women, as well as some time to relax, rejuvenate and be spiritually refreshed. The theme is SPA (Spiritually

Prepared Always), and will include some wonderful testimonies about how God is working in people’s lives.

We will also take time to reflect, worship and participate in fun activities aimed at getting to know each other better and sharing our journeys.

A spa-themed retreat would not be complete without some pampering! We know that most women are so busy taking care of other people that self-care

often gets neglected. Come breathe in some fresh ocean air and connect with God through His creation!

Sign-ups will begin in January. Thanks to our Silent Auctions, we are able to offer a discount to all women wanting to attend! Below are the registration costs (which reflect a \$100 discount!):

- \$150 Single Room
- \$135 Double Occupancy
- \$100 3-5 per room

EVERY WOMAN IS A GIFT by Jennifer Miles

“Amidst national unrest and personal tragedy, Ruth and Naomi developed a deep, lasting friendship that embodied God’s love. The Hebrew word *chesed* means lovingkindness and describes a relationship bound together by love, loyalty and commitment. Friendships that last are built on *chesed* - unconditional love, undying loyalty, and unending commitment. Christian women are called to build lasting friendships that will endure throughout life and extend into eternity. Ruth, whose name means “friendship,” became Naomi’s forever friend (Ruth1:16,17).” *Quoted from The Woman’s Bible Study.*

The Women’s Ministry Team is constantly trying to determine how to offer spaces for the women of our church and community to learn how to love and serve one another. Each woman is a precious gift to our church. One of our top priorities is to provide venues for women to meet and to fellowship on a regular basis where they will be known and loved by other women. We, like Naomi and Ruth, can all feel overcome and worried by national and worldly concerns. We can be embittered by

personal tragedies or distraught by our daily lives. It makes us feel alone and isolated. Christian friendships help us to keep our eyes focused on God’s promises and blessings in our lives. The right friendships help us to have an eternal view on life full of gratitude and purpose. In short, we women need each other.

I know that during times of personal seemingly unsurmountable tragedies, I survived due to the compassionate and loving care of a fellow sister. I can never repay them for their time, commitment, and care but nor will I ever forget their willingness to walk the hard path with me.

One way to begin the journey of being heard or feeling useful in God’s Kingdom is to attend the events Women’s Ministries puts on. We are intentional in our planning of events. We pray for different ways to draw women together and to begin the journey of healing in each of our lives. One of our biggest events this year is coming up on Saturday, November 5. A half-day women’s conference filled with teaching from a guest speaker, introduction of our women’s ministry team, fellowship in eating breakfast together and during break out

sessions, outreach to all women with babysitting provided for young moms and live Spanish translation for our Hispanic sisters, and opportunities for serving one another will be given on this day. There is a lot packed into this half day! The conference, “A Place at the Table,” will talk about how we can unintentionally hurt our fellow sisters and how to avoid doing this. It will help us to understand and have compassion for some women who are silently suffering in this life and have no one walking through their rough season with them. It will be the beginning of a new ministry potential for women who want to grow in caring for others on an individual basis. It will be the beginning of women possibly bringing to light their personal struggles and coming out of hiding and darkness.

Please mark your calendars for this day! We would love to see you there. Every woman is invited to a place at the table. Who knows, it may be the first day of a new and wonderful friendship. A few lucky ladies will be leaving with a wonderful raffle prize. All of us will leave with full stomachs and caring hearts.

MEN'S RETREAT by Craig Crandall

A highly fruitful WVBC Men's Fall Retreat was held October 21-23 at Camp Arrah Wanna in Welches, OR. With the theme of "Celebrating Jesus," Pastor Patrick Vestal's teaching for the weekend focused on how the Holy Spirit has worked in creation, continues to work in the lives of Jesus Followers to transform us into willing and fruitful servants to edify the saints, and to empower us to attain to the full measure of Jesus. The Holy Spirit's presence in our lives also drives us to choose to respond joyfully, and in the midst of any circumstances, to the certainty of the future hope we have in Jesus. The four teaching sessions challenged us and were followed by small group discussions to relay our own personal

testimonies and learnings, as well as the future steps we were moved to take. A total of 32 men and teenagers attended, enabling new trust to be forged and friendships to be formed between the older and the younger.



OPPORTUNITIES! by Craig Crandall

Mens Ministries is offering two fun opportunities for men, women, youth and kids to close 2022!

All of you should please mark Saturday, November 19 on your calendar for our annual Fall Service Project. Many of our church family and neighbors need a helping hand in the fall season with gutter cleaning, raking and removing leaves, winterizing, and other tasks. We will need all of you with willing hearts and hands

to assist with this service to our family and neighbors! And those of you who would appreciate this help should bless us with the chance to serve! More details and sign-ups will follow.

Then, on Saturday, December 10, we will hold a Family Activity Night featuring an easy dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 4pm, followed by a Portland Winterhawks hockey game at the Coliseum at 6pm. Ken Davais will equip us with a

better understanding of the rules of hockey while we eat. Men, women and kids are welcome. We have a great price from the Winterhawks of \$15 per ticket. It is "Teddy Bear Toss" night so you are welcome to bring a clean unused Teddy Bear to the game to toss on the ice as a donation when the Winterhawks score. Sign up in the lobby or contact Craig Crandall or Ken Davais ASAP if interested.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT by Pastor Tom Miles

We place great value on personal growth and education to advance the Kingdom. So we asked Elvia Angel Silva, our Administrative Assistant and Neighborhood Liaison, to share a bit of her personal journey with you:

AN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY by Elvia Angel Silva

I would like to thank God for this amazing opportunity, for opening doors and making this happen. I took a course called *Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law*, last month in September. It was a four-week long course where I learned A LOT! I took two classes, which required about ten hours a week of studying an overview of immigration law.

After the first class was over, I thought to myself, "What did I get myself into?" All the abbreviations and big words made me feel as if I was learning a completely different language. By the end of the course, I had to pass a final exam in order to receive credit for it and a certificate of completion. The course ended on September 30 and the final exam needed to be done by October 21 (21 days after). I decided to study for 12 days before taking the final. On October 13, I took the final exam

and passed, receiving my certificate. I also was given the opportunity to practice what I learned by beginning an internship with Immigration Connection PDX. Immigration Connection PDX helps people at a very low cost with getting status, helping them understand and fill out immigration paperwork.

I did not plan to take a course on Immigration Law, nor did I plan to practice it; it was not in my plans at all. However, I know God has a plan for me and I am grateful to Him because I knew I wanted to help people and share His word through my work. I just did not know how to get there, and He definitely made a way.



EXCITING NEWS FOR KIDS

by Vera Hallman

Well it has officially been one year since I became the Children's Ministry Director here at Wood Village! I have seen so much growth from where the children's program was when I started to where it is going now. We have over doubled our kids attending on Sunday mornings on a regular basis in all three areas, nursery, preschool and elementary!

I have loved watching kids be excited and asking questions. We have had some great seasonal activities as well. Since I feel like we have got a good routine and rhythm for Sunday mornings, it is time for the next adventure in Children's Ministry. Many people have asked about bringing the Awana Program back on Wednesday evenings, and my answer was always that we need to build our Sundays and find/create a program that can

meet the needs of reaching our community as well as the children in our church.

So, as I have reflected and prayed, I am going to start a mid-week program for elementary-age kids starting January 11 from 6:30 to 8:15pm. I am calling it "The R.O.C.K." (Righteous, Outrageous, Children for the Kingdom). This program will be a time for kids to come and have fun and learn more about God. We will be correlating lessons with what we are teaching on Sundays, along with memorizing Scripture, playing games, crafts and snacks. This time

will be a free no-cost event for kids to attend.

As always, to meet the needs of the children coming, I need volunteers. If you can commit to even just once or twice a month on Wednesday evenings, I would love your help! Please reach out to me to let me know how you might want to serve. I am praying we have kids come to learn and hear about Jesus, and come to start building a relationship on Jesus our Rock and foundation, through this time that we begin to build and grow!

NURSERY FACELIFT



Stop by the nursery and check out the new sun mural and wall activities! Just need to install new cove base and it will be complete. Thanks to Todd & Terri Clement, Connie Crandall, Vera Hallman, Todd Jones and Yiu-Tak Chiu for their hard work to give our kids a fresh, new place to play!

UPCOMING YOUTH RETREATS

by Pastor Patrick Vestal

At the end of January, we have a retreat where we'll be camping - staying in yurts - at Tumalo State Park over near Bend. I love camping retreats! It forces us out of our comfort zones a bit. Mainly, though, camping retreats don't have all of the built-in "attractions" that retreat centers have. So, students have more downtime where they get to know each other and make new friends. They create a lot of their own entertainment apart from their phones or needing to be led in an activity. It'll be cold! We're hoping to get up on Mt. Bachelor and do some inner-tubing and play in the snow.

In March, I'll be taking a group of students and young adults on our first "Discipleship Travel Camp." We'll be taking five days to travel to different churches and ministries around Oregon and Washington,

sleeping on their floors. We'll have time to read through a book together and then we'll interview each ministry leader about their experience in following Jesus. I'm excited to build a deeper understanding of the wider area and help the students to see and hear the work of the Kingdom being done all around us.

Then in April, we're going

on a joint service trip with the Men's Ministry to Camp Jonah. We'll be servicing their vehicles, raking the field and getting them prepared for the upcoming summer of ministry. We're excited to keep the connection with Camp Jonah - and to do more intergenerational outreach to build up those relationships and connections, too.

MEN'S FUNDRAISER



Thirty WVBC car owners had their automobiles detailed or washed at the August 13 Auto Detailing Fundraiser. Fourteen men served in the event, which raised nearly \$1600 to reduce costs for the 2022 Men's Fall Retreat.

SUMMER YOUTH TRIPS

by Pastor Patrick Vestal

Over the summer, we took several day trips with the youth group. We went down to Newport, played on the beach, and did some crabbing. We also went to Wild Waves theme park. We had 15-20 go on each of our day trips and have a great time together.

I'm regularly challenging the students to put themselves out of their comfort zone and spend time getting to know someone they don't know that well. These trips are really important for us

to grow in deeper relationships. It's valuable for the connection between the volunteers and the students and the students with each other.



ADULT CLASS

by Pastor Patrick Vestal

Our first class on How to Read Biblical Narratives (How to Read the Bible: Narratives? I forget how we said it) is just over halfway through. We've been diving into understanding the scriptures and developing a set of skills for deepening our study of God's word. For many, this class is a bit intellectually stretching and regularly presents new ideas. The class is

really fun for me to teach in the church setting. I've always taught it at Multnomah, but it's a different experience in our classroom here - and it's great!

Pushing myself and others toward more in-depth study has been one of my greatest joys as a follower of Jesus. My hope is that we'll be able to offer a number of classes geared toward better equipping all of us to live out our calling

well. I hope to have a late winter/early spring class on Apologetics. We'll offer the class on biblical narrative a couple more times and then another class on reading biblical discourse - like Paul's writing. I look forward to having a bunch more of you in class and developing our understanding of the Bible and deepening our relationships with each other.

THE VALUE OF LIFEGROUPS

by Connie Crandall

WVBC began training LifeGroup leaders in March of this year. This resulted in 9 groups with over 80 people attending! What a wonderful indication of the heart and desire to grow closer in a small group setting, supporting and encouraging each other. We currently have 8 groups meeting either weekly or bi-weekly. The group that meets at our house has consistently loved and prayed for each other. We have shared our lives through both laughter and tears. It is a beautiful thing to be part of. Below are some thoughts on what LifeGroups have meant to some of the attendees.

TIA COLLINS: Our LifeGroup began meeting in the Spring. We have stayed mostly intact, while having the pleasure of adding a new couple this Fall. The group put together our focal points for the group: "Community, Christ, Connection." What does this look like? Food and laughter, prayer time in group and beyond group, encouraging relationships, honest discussions of how to apply Biblical truths in a confidential environment, discussions and prayer about how we might best obey what God is speaking through His Word during the weekly sermons. We have been delighted to gain new perspectives, new friends, and new depth in our walks with Christ.

JIM BLEGEN: LifeGroups give us a chance to really get involved with learning the Gospel, and making friends with people you do not get a chance to when just going to church on Sundays. The small group setting make it much easier for people like myself to open up in conversation, ask or offer help, and make us accountable for our weekly Bible homework. LifeGroup has been a blessing and I am very thankful for it.

ABBY LAPE: When people talk about finding your "village," I think this is what they mean. Our LifeGroup has been such a blessing to me in developing relationships in the church. We are all busy raising kids and trying to do so in a way that's pleasing to God and now we can help each other and navigate that together.

JULIE UGARTE: LifeGroup has done just that -- brought fellowship into my life in a smaller more intimate way than attending church every Sunday. Fellowship first kind of set the stage to feel trust and be able to share openly about what we are reading in the Bible.

ANGEL NEILL: LifeGroup -the joy of sharing/hearing God's love and faithfulness, and channeling the talents and personalities God gave us towards growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus. 2 Peter 3:18

LISA CERVANTES: A LifeGroup is a great way to be connected to a small group hosted in the comfort of someone's home. Come make friends and be part of a community that will lift each other up, exchange laughs, and grow closer to Christ.

TIM & BREE WATT: We have been surprised by unexpected friendships, our hearts continue to be encouraged by sharing life together.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

REMOVED FOR PRIVACY



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

REMOVED FOR PRIVACY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

REMOVED FOR PRIVACY

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

REMOVED FOR PRIVACY

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

REMOVED FOR PRIVACY

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

REMOVED FOR PRIVACY

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM "THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS"

We are planning a variety Christmas program, which will include music, drama, ensembles and other surprises! We are looking for people interested in participating. We need choir singers (all ages), actors, musicians, soloists, etc. The program will be held Saturday, December 17 at 5:00pm. We will repeat the kids' skit on Sunday morning, December 18, during the service.

For children and their parents, there will be an informational luncheon on Sunday, November 6, after the service. Bring your kids and find out how they can be part of this special event! If you are unable to attend but would like your kids to participate, contact Vera Hallman or Connie Crandall.

Interested adult and teen singers and actors should contact Zeke Goodrick.

SILENT AUCTION

The annual Silent Auction is fast approaching! Women's Ministries is excited to bring the event back into full swing, including the pancake breakfast!

The event will be held Saturday, December 3, at 10am. Pancakes will be served from 9:30-10:30am.

We already have many incredible items and fabulous raffles! But we need more donations! Bring your items to the church office anytime during office hours. We especially need items for men and boys. If you have items to be included in baskets, we need those as soon as possible, as we are assembling baskets now. Other ideas are gift cards, new purchased items, event tickets and handcrafted items.

The proceeds of the Silent Auction help offset the cost of the Women's Retreat so that it is affordable for our ladies. The next retreat is scheduled for February 10-12, 2023 at Cannon Beach Conference Center (see enclosed article for more retreat information)..

Thank you in advance for your generous donations and for attending the auction on December 3!

NEW BABIES



ROSALIE ANN FLATT

Born August 5, 2022
8lbs 15oz 21"

Parents: Jessie & Jessica



JAMES DAVID BOSSEN

Born September 4, 2022
10lbs 12oz 22"

Parents: Rick & Kristal
Grandparents:
David & Laura Bossen

NEW MEMBER



**EVELIA MEDRANO
MONDRAGON**
Sept 18, 2022

BAPTISM



SHERRI BALLUFF
October 23 2022

HOME TO HEAVEN



ARLENE KEMPLIN
November 29, 1938-
October 21, 2022