



# Trust

*You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. (Psalm 51:16-17)*

The lessons we are learning from the former prophets seem to be about the failure of God's people, especially his chosen leaders. Judges, prophets, and kings are poor examples for us to follow. They cannot seem to follow YHWH's covenant and if we are honest, most are horrible people. This is true, but the lesson these stories teach us is that YHWH is trustworthy. He is faithful to keep his promises even through faithless people.

David is the example. He failed, time and again, to be righteous. But, in the end he continued to trust YHWH, and in doing so, he bowed down in repentance.

This is why faith is so powerful. God gives grace to us when we trust. And it is grace that frees us to live the life he designed us for. A life where we are set free to love, serve, and rejoice.

Grace to you,

*Tom*

## ANNUAL MEETING

Approximately 100 WVBC members and regular attenders participated in our 2026 Annual Family Meeting on Sunday afternoon, January 25. This year's annual meeting was an opportunity to celebrate and anticipate all that God has done during the past year, and will do in this coming year, to further His kingdom in this community through this blessed body of Christ.

We heard heartfelt gratitude from Tom and from Patrick, to God and to this church family, for your joyful participation in ministries to children, to youth, to adults, and to our community, as well as for God's amazing provision for so many fruitful ministries that were established or reinforced throughout the year. We recognized many areas of fruitful and purposeful discipleship in 2025, along with a strong close to the year financially that reduced deficits to manageable levels. The ministry plan and budget, Officers, and Ministry teams were voted upon and passed!

We pray our love will remain strong, rooted in our confidence in Christ's love for us, His Kingship, His presence, and the transforming power of His Truthful Word - and as a desired result, that our love will give contrast and light to the many whose love scripture warns is growing cold in these last days.

*~ Craig Crandall*



# YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Members of our young adult group took a retreat to Beverly Beach State Campground December 19-21. At the retreat, we focused on responding to the things revealed to us in the Scriptures this past year. We focused on worship through singing, group prayer, and meditation on the attributes of God — the coast being an

excellent place to feel the weight of God's glory. The passing of Dr. Ray Lubeck over the same weekend, a mentor and teacher to most on the retreat, impacted the mood and trajectory of the trip. Joy and sadness mixed, which pushed us towards deeper reflection.

We, of course, had fun as well, sharing

our favorite rock music with each other on the drive down, going to see Yaquina Head Lighthouse as well as the Cobble Beach next to it, playing board games, and eating an inordinate amount of food.

I am grateful to have been able to enjoy this weekend with the Church.

*~ Amelia Burkes*



## HOME TO HEAVEN



Sandee Norman

June 1950 to  
January 2026



Irmgard Blevins

February 1953 to  
January 2026

## DIXONS VISIT

Our church was blessed to have the Dixon family with us on their short furlough. They made a presentation on January 11 where they shared some stories and details about their life and ministry in Guam. It was exciting to hear about the progress made in the translation of the Bible into Pingelapese, and how they have launched a phone app with the New Testament in



Pingelapese. We were also honored to have Ken & Ruth dedicate their newly adopted 3 year-old at the December 28 service. It is truly a joy to see someone who grew up at WVBC making such an impact across the world.



FEBRUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

**BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY**