



The Chimes

KNOW, GROW AND GO TOGETHER IN CHRIST

MAY 2024

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To watch your WPC Sunday worship service online visit wpcmedford.com and click on Watch Our Online Service

“What lies beneath the surface—of the ocean or our lives—really matters... My awareness of it or lack of awareness doesn't make it any less real...”

Ruth Haley Barton

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Pastor Chris Ward



“The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”
Matthew 13:33

You might have noticed, as we've been reading through Jesus' parables, that he frequently talked about “things beneath the surface”- seeds, yeast, treasures, motivations and so forth. He talked about how the state of our hearts determines the fruit that our lives produce, and how our

hidden thinking is as morally significant as our actions.

Often, he was referring to the good and powerful work of the kingdom of God shaping our character, as seeds produce harvest, or yeast transforms the whole of the dough, or even how springs of living water can flow forth from within us. But sometimes he also warned of the darker things that lurk beneath the surface of our lives. Sometimes he warned of the ways our pride, anger or lust can corrupt our whole selves from within. He warned of the ways our desires can trip us up. He warned of the corrupting “leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees” and how self-righteousness or hypocrisy can take root within.

Jesus teaches that much of the most important work in our lives is done beneath the surface, whether for good or ill, in the patterns of our thinking, the power of our emotional state, the foundation of our self-identity, the space we give ourselves (or don't give ourselves) to just be and know who we are before God. Of course, that means that to do our best work we actually need to be aware of the things beneath the surface.

Ruth Haley Barton, who writes extensively about spiritual formation, tells of taking a personal retreat on the Florida coast. As she was swimming and floating alone in the surf (which she also admits is a bit of a sketchy idea already) suddenly a fisherman came running along the beach shouting, “Get out of the water! Get out of the water!” After swimming as hard as she could toward shore, then running through the shallows, she looked back to see a long, dark shadow gliding beneath the water exactly where she had just been a moment before. Breathlessly she asked the fisherman, “Was it a shark?” He said, “No! It's a salt-water crocodile!” before continuing up the beach yelling for people to get out of the water. She goes on to write:

What lies beneath the surface—of the ocean or our lives—really matters... My awareness of it or lack of awareness doesn't make it any less real... The point is that there are things lurking under the surface, and it could even be that others are seeing these things though I am not.

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She then goes on to commend the importance of a time of self-reflection in the presence of God, a time to examine ourselves and figure out, for ourselves, that “This part of me, if left as it is, will be no good for anyone,” and to invite God’s transforming presence into that place.

One of the ways that we grow as Christians, and come to better understand our purpose in Jesus, is by regularly taking the time to get a good honest look at what is within. Again, this was central to all of Jesus’ teaching. Remember what he said at the beginning of his ministry: “Repent! (Think again, challenge your own views and assumptions of the world and of yourself!) For the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

This might mean a deliberate time in your devotions to not just learn something new about God, but to look within yourself at the forces, good and bad, that are shaping the ways that you think or feel. What are the hopes that spur you on? What are the hurts that trip you up? Take time, in the quiet, to be aware of how those forces shape your actions, words, habits and rhythms. What is there to celebrate? How can we witness and name the ways God has been faithful in bringing

renewed life and growth in us? And where are there dark shadows swimming in our lives? What are the powers pushing on us? What are the ways our views of the world are working counter to the character and calling of God?

In our rushed and hurried modern way of living, taking the time and space to find quiet and look within ourselves is really hard to do. And in a culture where failure is often met with derision, or “canceling” by others, it can be scary to confess, or to give others permission to look behind our masks. But our spiritual health really matters. What is the state of your soul? And who do you feel is safe enough that you can have those kinds of conversations with them? Rather than drowning the sound of your soul in activities and general busyness, instead take the time to ask, “What do you really need?” And invite Jesus into that space.

As we continue to work through Jesus’ stories through the summer, I urge you to spend some time sitting quietly before God, inviting the Spirit to speak to you in those times with loving correction, to name the shadows swimming beneath the surface. And, in those moments, to also see a loving God looking upon you with grace and acceptance, cheering you on to a more authentic, healthy and whole way of life.

Men's Breakfast

Fellowship & Community

SAT, May 18

8AM - 10AM
Gathering Place

- Light Breakfast
- Guest Speaker - Chris Ward
- \$10 tickets at the Info Table

Got ? - Call Jim Coli
at 541-779-0337

RESTORING LIVES AT THE GOSPEL MISSION

Lee Greene

For the past several years, we have had the privilege of partnering with the Medford Gospel Mission to bring the love and light of Christ to our community. The Gospel Mission's goal is to restore people's relationships with God, self, others, and their community. The Mission believes this happens best through meaningful relationships which empower people to take responsibility for their actions and lives. To effectively accomplish this goal requires more than just handing people some food! It also means making meaningful connections and really being the face of Christ for them by showing acceptance, respect, giving encouragement, etc.

To make a difference in people's lives we must see them and love them as Jesus does.

MORE THAN A FOOD SERVER

That's why our church family has not only provided financial support to the Gospel Mission. We've also consistently provided a team of volunteers who serve at their restaurant called The Main Ingredient. Recently, the Mission upgraded their dining room and kitchen, making dramatic changes to improve its appearance and the experience of those who are served. The whole atmosphere is much more welcoming! Our volunteer team serves at The Main Ingredient on the fourth Tuesday of every month, from 4:30—6:30PM.

From 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM, we gather in the restaurant with the residents and build connections with them. The interactions are made easy with pre-planned topics about life experiences to share with one another (Ex: "What kind of pet do you have?" "Did you have a childhood nickname?") - not hard, not embarrassing, or overly revealing. It's a chance to listen as well as speak and get to know a little about each other.

Then, from 5:30 to 6:30 PM, we serve dinner to the restaurant patrons. The emphasis is not to try to serve the food as quickly as possible. Instead, we work at a somewhat relaxed speed. Our volunteers are encouraged

to talk and interact with the guests, serving as the face of Christ to them, not just a deliverer of food.

SERVING THE MEAL

The meal/serving time is well organized. The restaurant tables are divided into sections with each pair of volunteers assigned to a specific section. FYI: When we have sufficient team members, we prefer to pair up our volunteers. That way you're not waiting on tables alone, but working together with a partner. If you physically cannot carry platters of food, no worries. We have other roles that need to be filled – someone to pour drinks, someone to plate and dress bowls of salad, someone to ladle soup, someone to arrange portions of bread and butter in baskets. One of my

personal favorite roles is to be one of the dessert servers. Dessert servers get to roam the restaurant with platters of delicious desserts which the diners can choose from when they have finished their main course.

BE PART OF OUR INTERGENERATIONAL TEAM

It's really a very fulfilling experience, for to do it right, you're being the face of Christ for the hungry people we are feeding. It's also a way to connect with a variety of folks from the

Westminster family. We are an intergenerational volunteer team! We are always looking for more volunteers and would be happy to hear from anyone who is interested. If you are looking to find your purpose in Christ and have a heart for this kind of ministry, please pray over it and contact me to connect with our team.

Lee Greene
Gospel Mission Team Coordinator
541-941-1950
leegreene@gmail.com



WPC's intergenerational volunteers serve at the Main Ingredient, a community restaurant run by the Medford Gospel Mission



FINDING YOUR PURPOSE IN JESUS

Pastor Lori Boehning

Our church's calling is to help people find their purpose in Jesus Christ through genuine relationships. When we are open to the Holy Spirit's transforming work in us, our prayer life deepens and our eyes open to all the simple ways God can use us to bless others. In fact, the things we are already passionate about often becomes the place where we find our purpose in Jesus.

The list below is a partial list of the various ministry teams and commissions which serve to accomplish the mission of Jesus Christ here at Westminster. Keep this list in a handy place (i.e. the refrigerator door!) so you know who to contact when you have questions about any of these ministries. In addition, we invite you to prayerfully consider how and where you might serve, finding your purpose in Jesus.

WPC COMMISSIONS AND MINISTRY TEAMS

COMMISSIONS:

Finance: Judy McQuone, Chair

Mission: Randy Wooton, Chair

Personnel: Andy Baker, Chair

CARE MINISTRIES:

Head Coach, Pam Wooton

Card Ministry – Bunny Grimes, Corry Louie

Caring Visitors – Naomi Seidman, Carol Wolf

Home Communion Ministry –

Karen Hartley, Debbie Marler

GriefShare – Brenda Sousa, Janie Stewart

Memorial Services Care Team – Becky Lee

Stephen Ministers – Corry Louie, John Rogers,
Pam Wooton

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS:

Spring Celebration (April) – Hannah Hogan

Harvest Party (October) – Julie Ward

Story in Lights (December) – Dereck Woodcock

CONNECTIONS MINISTRIES:

Head Coach, Lorraine Ferrell

Covenant Partners Small Group – Sherry Ettlich
Greeters:

9:00 am – Janie Stewart

10:45am – Peggy Ziessau/Rosa Romano

Sunday Morning Service Welcome Team

9:00am – Jean Shyrer

10:45am – Peggy Ziessau

DISCIPLE MINISTRIES:

Chair, Nick Daley

Preschool/Early Childhood Director – Julie Ward

Preschool Board Chair – Lisa Forst

WestKids (Elementary) Director – Hannah Woodcock

**NextGen Director (Middle & High School through
29-year-olds)** – Dereck Woodcock

Resource Center Coordinator – Corliss Mock

WestGroups Head Coaches – Jim & Karen Coli

Thursday Women's Bible Study: Jan Yost

Men's Bible Studies Leaders:

Mitch Seidman, Gene Stringer

Women of Faith Leadership Team

Judith Harris & Loretta Mapes

HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES:

Head Coaches, Bunny Grimes and Rosa Romano

All-Church Gatherings – Karen Hartley

Kelly Shelter Meals – Jane Connor

Memorial Services Reception Team – Karen Hartley

Sunday Morning Fellowship :

9:00am – Karen Hartley

10:45am – Cindy Duetenhoefer

Quarterly All-Church Fellowship Lunches –

Bunny Grimes/Corry Louie

PRAYER MINISTRIES TEAM LEADERS:

Email Prayer Chain – Renee Anderson

Mid-Week Prayer Team – Dave & Delie Mauer

WORSHIP DESIGN TEAM:

Chair, Amy Bell

Worship Director – Amy Bell

Choir Director – Terri Steinhorst

Sound and Tech – Chris George

INTRODUCING... ROSA ROMANO

Pastor Lori Boehning

Actually, many of you may know Rosa already! Rosa worked for six years as the Program and Volunteer Coordinator for the Rogue Valley Manor Foundation, so she is known by many in our church family who live at RVM. She is a familiar face at our 10:45 AM Worship Service as she warmly greets first-time visitors and long-time attendees. In addition, she is an ordained deacon who has served as a Head Coach with our Hospitality Team. If you don't know Rosa, please introduce yourself. She'd be happy to meet you!

While I am on sabbatical (May 6 – July 28), Rosa will be the point person for questions or concerns related to our ministries of Care, Connection, and Hospitality. She will be working closely with our Head Coaches for each area, supporting and encouraging them as she prays regularly for them and their ministries. *(See accompanying article on page 4.)* She will be reaching out to first-time visitors and regular attendees who connect through our website and/or Connection Cards. She will be available to support our office staff and Pastor Chris to make their jobs a little bit easier while I am away.

Rosa plans to be available at the church office on most Wednesday mornings during May, June, and July. Otherwise, she may be reached at 408-373-9942 or RROMANO9942@gmail.com. Thank you, Rosa, for stepping up to serve our church family in this way!



THANKS, MOMS!

Veronika Comerchero



If you attend WPC, you are blessed with *many* mothers - spiritual mothers, that is! These are women who love God and live out Biblical beliefs and values. They have spiritual depth, strength and insights that come from years of walking with the Lord, relying on Him in times of trial, seeing His faithful goodness over and

over again. Using their God-given experiences, wisdom and compassion, spiritual mothers come alongside the next generation on life's journey. Author Susan Hunt describes spiritual mothering this way: "When a woman possessing faith and spiritual maturity enters into a nurturing relationship with a younger woman in order to encourage and equip her to live for God's glory."

You'll find a beautiful example of this relationship in the Book of Ruth. As a Moabite, Ruth did not originally share her mother-in-law Naomi's faith, yet the latter demonstrated her love of Jehovah and reflected His character in such a way that Ruth would eventually declare, "...where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16) Over the years, Naomi had inspired and equipped Ruth to follow the Lord. In the New Testament, we see a spiritual mothering relationship between Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth. In the early stages of her miraculous pregnancy, Mary turned to her older relative; Elizabeth's Spirit-filled greeting upon seeing Mary preceded the magnificent song of praise offered up by the mother-to-be of Jesus. (Luke 1:46-55) With spiritual maturity, Elizabeth then nurtured her younger cousin for three months before Mary returned to her own home, strengthened for what lay ahead. And you'll find this very special kind of relationship here at Westminster, too.

Dear spiritual mothers among us, though you are not wearing special name tags or stoles, you are precious to your church family and we are so grateful for you! For the encouraging smiles, warm hugs, and comforting shoulders...for meals, cards, and calls...for the hands clasped in prayer and the spoken reminders of God's promises...for imparting strength and hope...for sharing your Spirit-filled lives...THANK YOU and HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

CLEARING OUT Benefit Sale



Save those gently used items and clothing to donate to our Yard & Clothing Sale

Proceeds help fund the 2025 Youth Mission Trip & Hope's Promise Orphan Care

The sale will be Thu. 7/25 – Sat. 7/27

THE YARD SALE IS BACK EVERYBODY!

Start saving up those items you would like to hand off. We are looking for items that you think others would want to use. You know... used... but not "torn-to-pieces" used. Whether that be furniture, chairs, functioning flatscreen TV's, working video game systems, card collections, coin collections, jewelry, sporting gear, fishing gear, tools, and more. Just keep it safe. **More details to come regarding drop-off, and other logistics.**

Now, why do we put in all these hours to make this happen? Well, the proceeds go to the Youth Mission Trip to Mexico in July 2025. During this trip, students will build a home for someone in need. Also, students will have a chance to learn from other Christians from another culture. It is spiritually formative and impactful time. We aim to make this a repeating event, as to build long-term relationships, God-willing. Which requires a regular stream of fundraising to cover the costs of the building being constructed in Mexico for those in need. Shirley Casperson is the volunteer director of this event. If you would like to help with drop-offs, returns, or more, email caspersonmd@gmail.com.

picnic 'n' pickleball

Sun. May
19th @ 1-4p

FOR CONGREGATION AND YOUTH:

Join us for soaking up the beautiful spring weather with some friendly rivalry on the pickleball courts! In addition to a recreational pickleball tournament, we will also have a laid back picnic, and the option of other lawn games (kickball?).



Invite a pickleball friend, and meet us at Holmes Park just up the road. Neighbors and friends are welcome. This is a time to build a Christ-centered community that connects with our neighborhood through relationships and a trending hobby. Find a buddy, and sign up here: https://bit.ly/5_19_2024



Young Adult Food Club



PICNIC AT LITHIA PARK
SAT. MAY 11TH @ 6-8P



There's something about food that brings people together. Be it laughter, deep conversation, or just a chill evening enjoying a meal. There's always an open chair. Swing by and invite a wingman. Looking forward to sharing life together. You're invited for a laid back evening of food, and lawn games in the great outdoors of Lithia Park.

Details and rsvp here: https://bit.ly/5_11_2024

WPC RESOURCE CENTER

Corliss Mock

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35.

How do we approach this election year in a way that honors the values and message of the Gospel? In his book **The Kingdom the Power and the Glory: Evangelicals in the Age of Extremism**, author Tim Alberta chronicles some of the unseemly history of Evangelicalism, with some pastors and Christian leaders even abandoning the preaching of the Gospel to prioritize a political agenda. Alberta concludes the church must focus on following Christ instead of grasping for the ever-elusive power of an earthly kingdom. **(270.82Alb)**

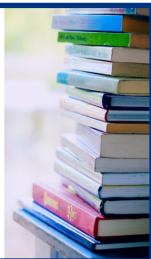
Charlie Peacock, well-known recording artist, and his wife, Andi Ashworth, have written a new book: **Why Everything that Doesn't Matter, Matters So Much: The Way of Love in a World of Hurt**. The authors tell their own story of how they discovered and creatively joined God's mission to love and care for others—in marriage, friendship, citizenship—even in the midst of fear, exhaustion and oppression. **(261Pea)**

Faithful Anti-Racism: Moving Past Talk to Systemic Change, by Christina Barland Edmondson and Chad Brennan, reminds Christian readers to confidently trust that Christ has overcome the world, including racism. The challenge here is to move beyond sympathetic feelings and best wishes. They equip readers with practical tools for actively working to promote racial justice in ourselves, our families, the church, the local community, and in our social and economic systems. **(277.3Edm)**

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13.

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday
9AM - Noon and
1PM - 4 PM and
before and after
Sunday services



Financial Update

2024 YTD BUDGET	2024 YTD ACTUAL	2024 YTD \$ UNDER	2024 YTD % UNDER
\$227,500	\$227,459	\$41	0%

CONTRIBUTIONS

January-March



Thank you for your generous giving!

Did you know one of the best and easiest ways to financially support the work of God though WPC is to set up a recurring weekly or monthly gift? This can be done though the **EasyTithe** app available on our website at wpcmedford.com or though your own personal bank. If you need assistance with this, just contact the church office and we will be happy to help you out.

Thanks to those who give.....

- in their estate planning
- in gratitude to God for an answered prayer
- to fund Missions
- as a praise offering to God
- in memory of a loved one
- to experience the joy of giving

Giving to God through the work of His church is an act of worship, good stewardship, obedience, and reflects a grateful heart.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY
FORGIVING YOURSELF**

Corry Louie

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. – 1John 19

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. – Hebrews 8:12

God tells us in the Bible that if we confess our sins (admit to God and ourselves that we have done something wrong), he will forgive us and will forget our sins. FORGET OUR SINS? Is that possible? Of course it is possible because he is God and nothing is impossible for him. As for us, as humans, it is very hard to forgive and forget the many times we have fallen short of God's will for our life. Many of us feel haunted and obsessed with our sins that weigh us down, cause us to feel shame and guilt, and prevent us from enjoying life as God would like us to. We relive our mistakes over and over instead of learning from them and moving on. Alexander Pope's much quoted words, "To err is human, to forgive is divine", tells us that people are acting in a godlike way when they forgive but this is easier said than done, and many times it is easier to forgive others than to forgive ourselves. God made the ultimate sacrifice by sending his son so we could be forgiven. We honor him by forgiving and being set free from past sin. Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Are you dealing with past sin with regret and depression? Maybe a Stephen Minister could help you get on the right path again. Do you have other problems that hinder your relationship with God and others? Call the office and ask to talk to someone about having a Stephen Minister. We can walk beside you during a difficult time and help you get in a good relationship with God.

If you or someone you know would like to have a Stephen Minister, please call the office and ask to talk to one of the Stephen Leaders, Pam Wooton, John Rogers or Corry Louie.



Janie Stewart

The Winter/Spring 2024 GriefShare Ministry continues each Monday at 1:00 p.m. in the Gathering Place. This month the video seminar will cover the final three topics:

- Session 11 May 6 Stuck in Grief
- Session 12 May 13 Hope & Resilience
- Session 13 May 20 What Do I Live for Now?

Each week we view a video presentation featuring insights and personal stories from Christian experts to help you through the grief process. Following the video we take time for group discussion about what you saw, how it applies to your life struggles, and a review of the workbook chapter. Even though this session of GriefShare is coming to an end, it's never too late to join us.

The Fall 2024 GriefShare Ministry will begin in late September. For more information, please call Janie Stewart at 541-326-1677 or the Westminster Presbyterian Church Office at 541-773-8274, or visit the GriefShare website at www.griefshare.org.

**WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE
PRESCHOOL**
2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR
Open Enrollment

For more information contact
Julie Ward, Preschool Director
julie@wpcmedford.com
541-414-8558

Important Dates

- May 4 TBRI Training
- May 10 Parent’s Night Out
- May 11 Young Adult Food Club
- May 12 Mother’s Day
- May 18 Men’s Breakfast
- May 18 Southern Oregon Makeover
- May 19 Mission Fair
- May 19 All-Church Pickleball & Picnic
- May 27 Memorial Day/Office Closed
- June 10 – 15 YG Rogue Retreat Renovations



phone: 541-773-8274
 website: wpcmedford.com
 email: office@wpcmedford.com

PASTORS/LEADERSHIP

- Lead PastorRev. Chris Ward, ext. 101
- Pastor of Congregational Life Rev. Lori Boehning, ext. 102
- Church AdministratorCraig Ellerbeck, ext. 105
- Next Generation Director Dereck Woodcock, 104
- WestKids Director.....Hannah Woodcock, 103
- Lead Office Coordinator Lisa Forst, ext. 108
- Admin. Assistant..... Marcie Dixon, ext. 100
- Early Childhood/Preschool Director Julie Ward, ext. 110
- Worship Director Amy Bell
- Choir Director Terri Steinhorst
- Organist/Pianist..... Dolores Bell
- Custodian/Maintenance.....Dave Dutenhoefer
- Custodian.....Nicole Plank

ELDERS:

Class of 2025

- Andy Baker
- Jim Coli
- Nick Daley
- Alan Jackson

Class of 2026

- McKenzie Conard
- Chris George
- Lisa Rono

Class of 2027

- Mary Curry
- Mark Hammitt
- Jim Wallan

Sherry Ettlich: Clerk of Session clerk@westminsterpres.com

DEACONS:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Jane Connor | Mary Curry | Hank Darlington |
| Bunny Grimes | Karen Hartley | Corry Louie |
| Barbara McLeod | Andrea Newman | John Rogers |
| Rosa Romano | Jean Shyrer | Stefan Wolf |
| Peggy Ziessau | | |

- Are you a Veteran? Please let us know. We like to honor our Veterans.
- New to the Westminster family? Let us know your birthday and/or wedding anniversary, and we would be happy to include them in the *Chimes*. Call our office at 541-773-8274 or email office@wpcmedford.com.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
9 AM to noon
and 1 PM to 4 PM

Wednesday 9 AM to 11:30 AM
and 1 PM to 4 PM

We are closed Fridays

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the **June** issue of the *Chimes* are due **May 8**.

Submissions may be emailed to the office at office@wpcmedford.com. If you have questions, feel free to contact Marcie or Lisa in the office.

MISSION FAIR

May 19 at 10 AM in
the Gathering Place

Come learn about the local
missions we support and
how you can serve