



## Consumer or Contributor?

*Pastor Chris*

We live in a culture in which consumption shapes our habits, our attention, our desires, and even our relationships. We consume products and content, entertainment and experiences. Everywhere we turn, we are being asked: What do you want? What works for you? What meets your needs?

And without realizing it, that same mindset can begin to shape the way we approach our faith. Consumer Christianity asks, “Did I like the music? Did the sermon inspire me today? Were my desires met? What am I getting out of this?”

Those questions aren’t entirely wrong. I mean, we all need encouragement, truth, healing, friendship and nourishment. And these are gifts God often gives us through the church. But if our faith never moves beyond personal consumption, something in our souls begins to shrink.

We were created for genuine relationship, and genuine relationship is mutual, both receiving and giving.

A healthy church is one where people see one another, love, serve, pray, encourage, mentor, welcome, teach, give, listen, and carry one another’s burdens. Yes, that list can sound intimidating, until you realize it’s really just people learning to do life together in Christ, loving one another the way he has loved us, just as he commanded.

Jesus calls His people beyond consumption and into self-giving love, every single day. “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

This is not the language of comfort and convenience. It is the language of surrender, participation, and transformation. This is who we are.

*(continued on page 2)*

### Summer Focus

*Missions & Transitions*

#### EQUIP

Growing To Be More Like Jesus

#### CONNECT

Ways to Engage with Others

#### MOBILIZE

Partnering With God to Change Our World

#### CELEBRATE

God’s Work in and Through Us

## Consumer or Contributor?

*(continued from page 1)*

God wants to do through you the very things He has done for you. This is one of His primary ways of changing the world:

- If you have been comforted, then comfort someone else. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
- If you have been forgiven, become a person of grace. (Colossians 3:13)
- If you have learned, share what you've learned. (2 Timothy 2:2)
- If you have been welcomed, help welcome others. (Romans 15:7)
- If you have been loved, love deeply. (John 15:12)

*As Jesus says, "Freely you have received; freely give."  
(Matthew 10:8)*

The consumer mindset turns us inward upon ourselves and our own desires. Jesus continually sends us outward toward God and toward others.

And honestly, I believe that so much of what is wrong with our world can be traced to the difference between those two ways of living. One leaves people isolated, empty and endlessly dissatisfied. The other forms people of joy, purpose, courage and genuine relationship.



Genuine relationships require mutuality. They ask us to make habits of presence, sacrifice, vulnerability and contribution. They expect that we will not just receive from God, but will pass on what we have received in hopes that it will continue to bless. So this summer, I want to encourage you to prayerfully consider:

- Where might God be inviting you to move from spectator to participant?
- Where could your gifts, your enthusiasm, encouragement, time, presence, or compassion become part of someone else's redemption story?

Maybe you don't feel qualified or equipped, but a quick look at scripture can remind you that God does not call the qualified or equipped, He equips and qualifies the called. May God bless you as you seek to be a blessing in Him!

*Pastor Chris*

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# EQUIP



## From Weariness to Wonder

*Pastor Chris*

I enjoy hiking and backpacking... and I also sometimes question my own sanity while doing it.

It usually happens somewhere in the middle of the day. The pack grows heavier, and no matter how I shift it, my shoulders can't stop complaining. My legs feel like noodles, my breathing shortens, and instead of noticing the trees, the sky, or the beauty around me, my eyes become fixed on my feet and the few steps ahead. Hiking becomes trudging.

Of course, sometimes what I need is a quick physical intervention: a short rest, a snack to refuel. or some water to refresh. The body needs care.

But I've also noticed that there are moments when the fatigue just seems to evaporate. A good conversation brings fresh energy. Or I simply lift my eyes, take a deep breath, and look around again, taking in the trees, the sky, the mountains. I remember where I am and why I'm there, and wonder at the beauty that surrounds me. The only thing that has changed is my attention, but somehow that perspective affects my endurance. I find new strength.

Research increasingly points to the powerful connection between attention, mindset, and our physical, emotional and mental well-being. Studies on mindfulness, prayer and gratitude show that intentionally directing our attention can reduce stress, calm the nervous system, improve resilience, and even increase physical stamina.

Our minds and bodies are deeply connected. What we focus on shapes how we experience our journey. We often think of attention and willpower as fixed resources that drain over time. And there's some truth to that. We lose patience. We run out of energy. We reach the end of our emotional bandwidth. But attention and will are also a lot like muscles: they can be strengthened, trained and renewed.

I think that's why scripture places such emphasis on regular rhythms of rest, gratitude, worship, remembrance and community. God repeatedly calls His people to gather to "remember," to "give thanks," to "set your minds" on what is true and good. These are not empty religious rituals. They are practices that fuel joy and restore meaning. They redirect our minds away from fear, anxiety, distraction and exhaustion, and back toward the reality and presence of God. They renew our strength.

And sometimes our weariness (physical, emotional and mental) comes not only from today's burdens, but because we are also carrying tomorrow's fears and yesterday's regrets.

In all these cases, one of the most practical spiritual One of my "go-to" passages when I am feeling weary is Psalm 121: "I lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."

How are you feeling on your journey today? If you're feeling weary, I invite you to look up from your feet, lift your eyes, take a breath, call a friend, and remember who walks the trail with you.

# Growing to be more like Jesus



## Discipling Kids & Teens over the Summer

*Pastor Dereck*

The summer presents many unique opportunities and challenges. Namely, balancing work with the kids being home. That said, flexibility allows for unique ways to disciple and bond with your kids and teens in a way that makes a lasting impact. You don't have to do all of these... You can even take these ingredients to create your own twist! Just find what meets the interest of your kid.

- Have a Bible Project and Dessert Night – Pick a night of the week to make a dessert together and enjoy it while watching and discussing a Bible Project video. They are free on YouTube and offer sound teaching and helpful visuals through engaging videos. Ask some follow up and application questions during or after.
- Collaborate a Summer Project - Some kids and teens are interested in certain subjects that overlap with Scripture. You can incentivize them with a reward for completing a project that piques their interest, and you all can collaborate together to come up with the project and resources. Check out the Resource Library or contact a leader for questions on good resources.
- Learn a New Life Skill Together - It was often doing daily life that Jesus disciplined his apprentices. Learning a new life skill is a two-for-one special that gives you an opportunity to bond, for your kid to see how you also deal with learning curves and frustration and develop a life skill that helps them grow in confidence, efficacy, and safety.

- Making Memories and Making Meaning - Quality time is more than a good time and bonding (as if that weren't enough). It's a way of making memories that make meaning of our lives, what we are about, and what our families value.
- Collaborate Free Time Together - Maybe summer isn't exactly slow, but it can be slower. Craft together with your kid a protected window in which you don't schedule anything, but you get creative together. This is great space for bonding and conversations starters.
- Find a Summer Mentor or Service Project - Maybe there is another adult that you admire how they follow Christ. Consider if there is a skill or a service project you could connect your kid with that person over the summer.
- Decide as a Family on a New Family Habit or Rhythm - Habits and rhythms can be powerful. When they become part of the family DNA, they can have a lasting impact.

It doesn't have to be a Bible study to have deep, real, and spiritual conversations while you spend time together face-to-face or shoulder-to-shoulder. These also don't have to be expensive or complicated. The simple time together goes a long way toward having an open line of ongoing communication with our kids and teens about life, Jesus, and our daily formation.

## Begin Your Journey Today with the Safar App

Safar Discipleship is a free, one-on-one Christian mentoring tool created to help people walk with Jesus.



Get on iPhone

Get on Android



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# CONNECT - with God and Others



## Community and the Spirit's Shaping

*Pastor Chris*

There's a simple but powerful theme that runs through the earliest centuries of the Christian church. Long before church buildings, programs, or institutional structures, there was a simple Spirit-shaped way of life.

In Acts 2, immediately after Pentecost, we are given a picture of the first Christian community: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers..." And then Luke shows what that devotion looked like in practice. Believers gathered regularly. They shared meals. They did life together. They prayed constantly and gave generously. They opened their homes and cared for one another (and for their neighbors) with joy and sincerity. They loved.

Acts paints a picture of a community transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit, a community that didn't just believe certain things, but lived together in a certain way. It is a picture that continues to resurface with consistency and power.

A few decades later, an early Christian handbook called the Didache describes patterns of practice in many emerging churches. The same themes appear again: teaching, prayer, shared meals, generosity, hospitality, caring for one another as family.

Roman officials begin trying to understand this strange and growing movement. Pliny the Younger

interrogates Christians, even torturing two women ministers within the Christian movement. What does he discover? Christians are gathering regularly to worship, commit themselves to moral lives, and share ordinary meals in fellowship. The same picture.

A few decades go by, and Justin (Martyr) writes an intellectual defense of Christianity, protesting the unjust executions by Rome. He explains Christian worship, again painting the same picture: scripture, prayer, generosity, teaching, care for the needy, and a community that looks like a family. Another few decades later Tertullian writes to describe Christian gatherings in North Africa. They look the same, and the community around them can clearly see it: "They say of us, 'See how they love one another.'"

Across the ancient world, in different cities and different cultures, across different generations, the same picture continues to surface. The heart of the early church was built on active participation in a close community. It was built around people, sitting around tables together, gathered in homes, learning to live life together under the transforming presence of Jesus.

I wonder if that could perhaps shape our own summer. What would it look like if our homes, tables and relationships were to reflect those same Spirit-shaped patterns? *(continued on page 6)*

## Community and the Spirit's Shaping

(continued from page 5)

What if church was not just something we attended once a week, but a way of life that we practice together daily?

This summer, perhaps it could be simpler than we think:

- Open your table.
- Share a meal.
- Pray with someone.
- Study scripture together.
- Check on a neighbor.
- Practice generosity.
- Welcome someone who is different from you.
- Reach out to the lonely.
- Let your home become a place of peace and presence.
- The earliest Christians changed the ancient world... not through power or influence, but through ordinary Spirit-filled lives, as they lived in extraordinary love, together.

I'm pretty sure the Spirit is still able to shape our world the same way today.



Summer presents great opportunities to build community and grow through experiential learning. You can check out the details and sign up for these events on our **YOUTH** webpage on [wpcmedford.com](http://wpcmedford.com)



**June** -Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 12:15-1:45 Milestone Celebration  
-Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> @ 12:15-9pm - Redding Water Slides

**July** -Mon. June 29<sup>th</sup> - Wed. July 1<sup>st</sup> @ 9a-12p - Sports Camp Volunteers  
-Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 5-7:30 - A Day at the Park @ Don Jones Park  
-Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30-3 - YG Pool Party @ Geilenfeldt's

**Aug** -Thurs. July 30<sup>th</sup> @ 4-8p... Fri. July 31<sup>st</sup> @ 9-2... Sat. Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 9-2  
Clothing Sale Volunteers  
-6-9<sup>th</sup> HS Summer Camp  
-15-19<sup>th</sup> MS Summer Camp  
-Tues. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30-6:30 - Serving @ Medford Gospel Mission

**Sept** -Fri. 4<sup>th</sup> - Mon. 7<sup>th</sup> - Jed Family Camping @ Jedediah Smith Park  
-Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6-8p Rogue Valley Youth Night of Worship at WPC  
-Wed. 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:39-8:30 - Fall Kickoff & Parent Open House

Contact Derek at 972-213-6932 to be added to the event communication list to receive text updates with invitation details on these events



# Ways to Engage with Others



## Use Your Summer for Mission

*Pastor Lori*

Ah...summer!

For some of us, summer means a lighter schedule, more discretionary time, or more time with family. For others, summer simply means a change of wardrobe as our daily schedule isn't very different. For all of us, summer can be a time to reignite our sense of mission in the places where we live, work, and recreate.

I love what Alex & Hannah Absalom of Dandelion Resources say about summer and mission: "Summer mission is less about organized events and more about the spiritual discipline of lingering long enough to see where the Holy Spirit is already moving." As the Absalom's say, "It's easy to think mission requires a complex plan or a formal invitation. The truth is that

Jesus is already at work in our streets. We just aren't looking up to see where He is leading. Creating new rhythms that value presence over productivity will help us go from looking at our feet to looking our neighbors in the eye. Our neighborhood and our workplace are the primary fields where the Spirit wants to engage." The words "lingering" and "presence over productivity" resonate with me. What if we built time into our schedule to walk prayerfully through our neighborhood, to linger at the local park, or to practice "presence over productivity!" Where might the Holy Spirit lead us? With whom does the Holy Spirit want us to engage? I invite you to learn more about a kingdom-focused summer from Hannah & Alex Absalom by cutting and pasting the following link in your browser:

<https://www.dandelionresourcing.com/newsletter/if-it-be-z7l34-xk6lb>

Personally, I am challenged by the Absalom's invitation: Identify three people in your neighborhood who do not know Jesus and pray for them by name every single day. I am committed to doing so in the coming months, trusting that my prayers will be like a "steady rain on a hard heart."

I invite you to join me on mission this summer. Make your summer count for God's Kingdom!



## OUTDOOR FAMILY SERVICE

Every Sunday  
at 10:45am

FAMILY - FUN - TOGETHER

Our 10:45 service moved to our outdoor amphitheater on Sunday, May 24 and will continue **meeting outside** through the summer months. It is a wonderful opportunity to worship Jesus in the beauty of His creation, and it's also a great time to invite someone who may not want to enter a church building. Please bring your own camp chair. Look for the red stained glass cross!

**Note: In the event of inclement weather, predicted temperatures over 90 degrees at 11:00AM, or poor air quality (AQI at 100 or above), we will move worship inside to the Sanctuary.**

# MOBILIZE



## Milestone Celebration

*Pastor Dereck*

One way to connect as a community is to show up for each other to celebrate them. This can be parties over the summer. Graduations. Retirement parties. And more. Specifically for students, showing up to see and celebrate their skills, and perseverance in the face of challenges is a major way to connect.

This summer kicks off with just that opportunity. We are calling on the entire Church family to show up for our Middle School and High School students. To show them that God sees their struggles over the last year. But this celebration is

more than just a celebration. It is a milestone marker. A recognition of all that God has accomplished through them this last year. And the recognition of the “coming of age”. While we celebrate each student’s completion of another year, we are particularly marking the passage of 5th graders entering into the teenage years. The capstone celebration is recognizing seniors who step into adulthood.

We also want to show them that we will support them in this next season of life. Be it the new phase of the teenage years, or the new season of adulthood and all the excitement, new relationships, blossoming purpose, and changes they may bring. We will be available to walk with them – to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. As they take up the baton to take ownership of their next phase of life with God, we also take up ownership to be their teammates, coach, support team, and loudest fans in their corner. So, yes, Milestone Celebration will include things like a free taco truck, a short ceremony, and some festivities. But the real magic, is seeing the body of Christ show up for these students in life’s big moments.

**Save the date for**

**Sunday, June 7th at 12:15-1:45pm.**

Check out this link for details and tangible ways you can bless these

**students: [https://bit.ly/milestone\\_2026](https://bit.ly/milestone_2026)**



*Scan me*

## Sports Camp

*Hannah Woodcock*



The weather is warming, summer is near, and Sports Camp is almost here! **Join us June 29–July 1 from 9:00 am–12:00 pm.**

You don’t have to be athletic to help—there are many ways to serve and share the love of Jesus! Opportunities include registration, hospitality, snacks, prayer, small group leadership, donations, loaning equipment, or hosting young adult Base Ministry coaches.

We are especially in need of small group leaders and host homes for coaches. Please prayerfully consider how God might use your gifts to bless local kids this summer.

**Questions or interested in helping? Contact Hannah at [hannahw@wpcmedford.com](mailto:hannahw@wpcmedford.com) or 828-406-3509. Thank you!**

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# Partnering with God to Change Our World

## You Matter!

*Lynn Leissler*

In 1998, my east coast family visited for Christmas. My then-church sang contemporary music, which would not suit my traditional-church relatives. After a yellow-pages search, I landed on Westminster Presbyterian Church. Our Christmas Eve visit did not disappoint—a meaningful time of worship, incredible music, and the woman seated in front of us offering a warm welcome.

Fast forward to 2007. Wounded and broken and in need of a new church home, I turned to Westminster once more, and was embraced with love. I joined the choir by just showing up on Wednesday night (it still works that way), and upon request received a Stephen Minister to walk alongside me in my journey through pain to healing.

When my granddaughter Renee came to live with me, you all wrapped her in nurturing love. You encouraged me when, in my retirement years, I felt overwhelmed at parenting once more. You supported us financially and with prayer when we visited Kenya through Hope's Promise. She and I still grow misty-eyed at the memories. Renee calls this her church home, although she now lives too far away to attend.

Over the years I made friends and grew in my faith through being a deacon and a Stephen Minister, through choir, through our summer clothing sale and various one-and-done activities. It's been such fun getting acquainted with our youngest family members as a nursery helper. I've welcomed newcomers as I was welcomed, knowing the difference that hospitality makes.



And now I am leaving, relocating to the Willamette Valley to be near family and a seven-year-old grandson whose parents say needs a close-by grandparent. It will be an exciting new adventure—and a painful farewell. The deep friendships, the people I've served with, Westminster's missions emphasis, the preaching, the music—I'll miss it all.

Our lives impact the lives of others (remember the Christmas movie *It's a Wonderful Life*?). You, my friends, have had a huge impact on me! You have had a huge impact on Renee! Please know that who you are and what you do matters!

So I would urge you—continue doing what you do so well. Be warm and welcoming, serve others, reach out to newcomers and long-timers, form deep bonds across the generations, grow deeper in your faith. This is what defines Westminster, it's who we are! Knowing that others will be enriched and treasured as you have enriched and treasured me will be my "farewell gift."

Again, thank you, thank you for sharing this incredible season in my life. I will miss you fiercely, my Westminster family. (I'm already reaching for the Kleenex.)



## Stephen Ministers: A Friend for the Journey

Corry Louie

In our current Bible study, we've been exploring how adversity builds resilience. While we all want to be resilient, the "hard times" required to get there can often be overwhelming.

What if you didn't have to walk that path alone? Imagine having someone there just to listen—truly listen—and pray with you. That is the heart of Stephen Ministry. Our trained Stephen Ministers walk beside you through life's struggles. While we can't make the problems disappear, we can support you as you navigate them with God's strength. We like to say, "God is the cure-giver; we are the care-givers."

If you are facing a challenging season, we offer confidential, non-judgmental, one-on-one support. To learn more, please contact Pastor Chris or Pastor Lori. Let us help you rediscover hope and God's purpose for your life.

## Prayer Initiative 2026

120 people to gather weekly in homes, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and more to humbly pray for God's Holy Spirit to move in us, in our families, and in our community.

If you would like to be part of a weekly prayer group, please contact Pastor Lori at 541-326-1870 or [Lori@wpcmedford.com](mailto:Lori@wpcmedford.com)

*"They all joined together constantly in prayer... (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)..." Acts 1:14-15.*

## Next Generation Strawberries - A Sweet Story of Growing Together in God's Love

Julie Ward



Recently, Patti Pendergast and her granddaughter, Abigail, helped us celebrate our Preschool's rich history. Thirty-three years ago, Patti's and Ken's daughter Sarah brought home a strawberry plant from preschool—likely a gift from Anne and Tam Moore. The Pendergast family planted it and has lovingly cared for its growing patch ever since.

This spring, Patti and Abigail together dug up and replanted a batch of strawberry starts, and Abigail brought them to school and shared them with her classmates. Everyone was just delighted to hear that their little plant was part of the original plant Abigail's mommy was given when she attended preschool here as a little girl!

This sweet gift reminds us of the generations of families who have shaped Westminster Cooperative Preschool and the deep sense of community that makes it so special. We praise God for His faithfulness over the past 54 years.

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# CELEBRATE



## Celebrations

*Pastor Lori*

We are delighted with all the new people God has been adding to our WPC family! Many have come because they've been personally invited by you. (Well done, church family!) Others first "met" us through Story in Lights, the Harvest Party, or Sports Camp. At least three families discovered us through ChatGPT! They described what they were looking for in a church home and were directed either to our website or the ECO website which linked them to us. Yes, God does work through technology!

Here are a few comments shared by newcomers at our recent Welcome Lunches or on our Connection Cards. We share them with you, so that you, too, can celebrate all that God is doing in and through this family of faith!

"Real world messages including messages about mental health. Prayers about world issues."

"Such a blessing to be here with fellow believers in the house of the Lord. God bless you."

"We were introduced to your church through the summer Outdoor Service."

"I appreciate that you pray for all people... the sermons are relatable; women are empowered here, not just made to work with children or in the kitchen."

"This is a welcoming church family."

"...the messages, the general thoughtfulness for our community and the rest of the world."

"Sermons are relevant and meaningful."

"Prayed for a good church to call home. After riding bikes in the area, we found this church that made us feel welcome."

"Keep being the light and spreading the word."

"Came to WPC after reading about the church online and appreciated the presence of women in leadership."

"We are so thankful to be here every Sunday. Our first church experience for all of us!!!"

***To God be the glory for the great things He is doing in us, among us, and through us!***



# God's Work In & Through Us

## Meet Our New Administrative Assistant



*Stop by on a Wednesday or Thursday to meet Heather and welcome her to our Westminster family!*

When I'm not behind the camera as a professional photographer, I find joy in the quiet rhythm of gardening or the challenge of a jigsaw puzzle. I have been fortunate to visit nine countries and eight states, with London being my favorite city in the world.



Originally from California, I have spent the majority of my life in the Rogue Valley. My husband and I have been married for 28 years, and we have two children—a daughter and a son—who are both now married. My faith is a foundational part of who I am; I grew up in the church and have been a member of Trail Christian Fellowship for 23 years.



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### OFFICE HOURS

#### **Mon, Tue, Thu**

9am - noon  
and 1pm - 4pm

#### **Wed**

9am - 11:30am  
and 1pm - 4pm



In Person Worship Services  
9am & 10:45am



To view our weekly  
message go online to  
wpcmedford.com

### Westminster Cooperative Prechool



8:30AM – 11:30AM  
Tue. & Thu. for 3yr olds  
Tue, Wed, Thu. for 4yr olds  
541-773-8274

FIND, FOLLOW, AND LIKE US ON THESE PLATFORMS



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