

was, God how are we going to make this camp a success? Then Jesus took my hand and said, you of little faith, I have a plan. Those words let me see that I had been limiting God. He had called each child there to experience His love, and I was a part of that plan of love.

The very theme of the camp that week was love. Each day with two devotions, love was brought to life. Not one person in attendance had an excuse of not seeing, hearing and experiencing God's love. We too must reflect, take a moment and visualize the enormity of God. Understanding His character as brought to life in the stars of the sky and the warmth of the sun; the very essence of nature is to glorify the Creator. All of this allows us to just minutely understand the unlimited greatness of God.

The four students who had no church relationship came because of an invitation from a friend. Last year's ending camp message was for the campers to pray for this year's camp and those to come. They took it to heart when asked to invite a friend. This answered prayer encouraged each person to see the power each possessed through the Holy Spirit. **Faith in action revealed the harvester heart needed to bring the Kingdom of God here on earth.**

These youth have challenged us to pursue those God has called. We struggle to know what to say that might cause curiosity and desire to those we talk with. The following scripture instructs us to reveal God as a God of enormity, so beyond our understanding, and yet right in front of us.

Romans 1:20

²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Those who truly search for God will find Him. We are the chosen ones to reveal the path to a merciful and gracious God. Living our faith and speaking it brings the characteristics of our Heavenly Father to life, especially in the storms of life. Jesus calls us and others out of the boat directly into the surging sea so that we will grasp His life-giving hand. And then offer our hand to others.

By faith, the stormy waters do not have the power to pull us down into the depths. Our hope in eternity brings calmness to others as we come alongside and share the love of our Heavenly Father.

1 Corinthians 13:13

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

If we exercise nothing else in our Christian walk than these, God is revealed.

Your Brother in Christ,

Archie

Call to action: What does it mean in Romans 1:20 that people are without excuse? Read Psalm 19:1-6. What do these verses tell us about how God is revealed?

**Little Red Wagon Sunday will be [July 5](#).
Please bring [PASTA & RICE](#) for the food bank.
Thank you so much!**

BELL TOWER FUNDRAISER PARKING LOT SALE

WHEN: Saturday, July 18 from 9 am -12 noon

HOW: Display and manage your own space (There will be a few tables available or you can bring your own).

WHY: It will be in conjunction with Crazy Days and a Rummage Sale at the Methodist Church.

There will be one central cashier station and all proceeds will go to the Bell Tower Fund.

Since everyone will manage their own "stuff" there won't be need for prior set up....just bring it that morning.

**Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?
He who bring out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of His great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.
Isaiah 40:26**

African Missions Possibilities

We have two amazing opportunities to help missions in Africa. Please remember that any gifts to either of these missions should be “over and above” what we donate to our local church. We need everyone to contribute their tithes and offerings to the ongoing mission of our church.

On June 14th, we had a local couple, Jason and Mary Acquistapace, speak during the service. She gave her inspiring life’s story that led to their mission trips to Uganda. He talked about their Bible distributions. A lot of us have donated Bibles for this cause.

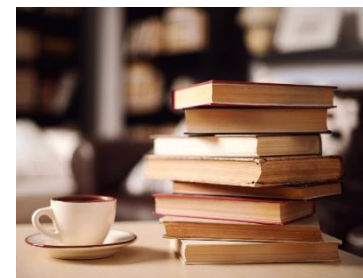
They have left two sign-up sheets in the Narthex. One is a sign-up to receive their newsletter. This one just requires your name and email address. The other sheets allow you to fill out a sheet about your information and send it with a check to their address on May Lane. It allows you to check which areas that you wish to support. These are: Spiritual, Clean Water, Health, Child Education, Agriculture, and General. Please find these on the table in the Narthex.

Also, there is a poster on a tripod in the Narthex about a fund for our missions in the Congo. This fund is named after my Great Aunt Goldie Ruth Wells. She was a missionary to the Belgian Congo from 1919-1948. She helped establish a seminary at Bolenge. It still is in existence, a hundred years later.

Last fall, I attended a Global Ministries webinar about Bolenge and was pleased to hear that there are plans to add two more schools besides the seminary. These will be a school of Science and a school of Business. This will make it easier for students to study other disciplines without traveling great distances from their home area. The plans include erecting two new buildings for the new schools and renovating the existing seminary. The cost of the renovations is projected to be less than \$34,000. That is the amount that we are trying to raise in Goldie Ruth Wells’ name.

Cheryl Hudson, World Outreach Chair

The beautiful flowers in the sanctuary last Sunday were from the Celebration of Life for Joan Bright.



The Education Committee has distributed information concerning the possibility of moving the current church library to the Searchers classroom, next to the church office. I have received inquiries concerning what this is about. This ballot style survey is designed to see how you, as a member of this congregation, feel about it.

Please take a minute to read this:

1. Did you know that we had a church library available for your use? There are many books and some videos available to be checked out. Those are the books behind the fellowship hour table. You simply put your name on the card enclosed in the cover and leave it in the wooden box on the counter. Debby Riggle is our current librarian. Question: "Have you ever checked out a book from our library?"
2. The proposal is to create a more lounge like library setting in the classroom described. The current classroom tables would be removed and comfortable chairs purchased and moved in there. You may visit during office hours or on Sundays to check out a book or sit and read if you'd like. Other ideas have been tossed out... like an ongoing puzzle table. The question that needs to be answered is, "Would you use this room, if it were made available?"

The vote form did not leave a place for your thoughts, but I would like to hear from you. No decision will be finalized until the General Board meeting in August. You may send me an email at cjvaug@charter.net or leave me a note at the church. I will compile your thoughts and distribute it to board members (without names on it). At that time the Education Committee also will share what they have learned. A yes or

no vote on this form is not an election type of vote, simply an indication that you would support such a move.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this move and sharing your feelings about this use of our resources.

Carolynn Vaughan, Moderator

Library Highlights Brought to You by Debby Riggle

Featured Authors of the Month

This month, our library is highlighting an inspiring selection of books by two renowned authors: Lori Wick and Karen Kingsbury.

About Lori Wick

Lori Wick is a beloved author celebrated for her uplifting and heartfelt Christian romance novels. Her writing style is gentle, yet impactful, making her books favorites among readers who seek encouragement and inspiration.

About Karen Kingsbury

Karen Kingsbury is often referred to as “America’s favorite inspirational author.” She is known for exploring complex themes such as redemption, forgiveness, and family. Kingsbury weaves narratives that deeply connect with readers.

Lasting Impact

Both Lori Wick and Karen Kingsbury continue to inspire readers around the world.

Find Your Next Great Read

Be sure to check out the book tree in the library in the narthex and discover wonderful new books to enjoy!

ATTENTION! IMPORTANT MAILING NEWS!
The price of renting a PO Box has gone way up, so we are no longer using one. Please use the church address for all mailing needs, 901 Penn Ave., La Grande, OR 97850. If you have your tithe mailed from the bank, please be sure you are using the correct address! (Alternatively, you can give online on our website, firstchristianlagrande.org)

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. 2 Timothy 1:9

SIGN UP FOR AED CLASS

Shirley brought to our attention that the hospital is giving free AED inspections and instructions to churches and businesses. They are sending a representative here on July 15 at 1:30 p.m. to look over our AED and give some basic instruction. This is not a class to become certified, but it would be very helpful if as many of us as possible knew how to use it, especially if you work with kids and/or are a regular attender to Sunday worship services. Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

SUMMARY OF COMING EVENTS!

- *June 27--Mattress Recycle at First Christian, 10 am to 1 pm**
- *July 7-11--Cove Christian Camp for grades 5 & 6**
- *July 12--POTLUCK after the worship service! 11:45 am**
- *July 15--AED class, 1:30 pm at the church**
- *July 16-18--Cove Christian Camp for grades K-2nd**
- *July 18--Bell Tower Fundraiser Parking Lot Sale, 9 am to noon**

*July 25--Auldin Prescott Celebration of Life, 2 pm at the Presbyterian Friendship Center

*July 26--Ecumenical Worship in the Park, 10 am (note: FCC will still have a service)

*August 1--Deadline to register for the Disciples Women Fall Retreat, August 28-30.



Jackie DeLong would like to thank everyone for the birthday cards! She misses everyone but hasn't been able to attend because of a couple of tumbles she's taken, leaving her with numb hands from an injured neck. She is not able to drive. She's had a back ablation and is waiting to see if it has helped her pain. She would like prayer that she doesn't need surgery.