Sundays: Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.
WORSHIP: 10:30 a.m.

November

Song Leader: Hank Hudson
Filling Communion: Peter Rankin
Flowers: Peter Rankin
Sanctuary pick-up: Peter Rankin
Fellowship Hour: Finance Committee

Those who serve November 1:
Elder – Hank Hudson
Greeters – Angie Bard & Judy Lucius
Diaconate – Peter Rankin, Capt.
Communion Meditation – Debby Riggle

Those who serve November 8:
Elder – Sharon Hohstadt
Greeters – Phyllis Arnst & Leslie Hasse
Diaconate – Larry Knape, Capt.
Communion Meditation – Jeanette Tsiatsos

Those who serve November 15:
Elder – Stacy Webster
Greeters – Gail Hescock & Ginger Webster
Diaconate – Pete Price, Capt.
Communion Meditation – Stephanie Bare

Those who serve November 22:
Elder – Larry Glaze
Greeters – Dennis & Lori Van Leuven
Diaconate – Peter Rankin, Capt.
Communion Meditation – Shirley Cook

Those who serve November 29:
1st Sunday of Advent
Elder – Shirley Cook
Greeters – Delores Fisher & Carol Haddock
Diaconate – Larry Knape, Capt.
Communion Meditation – Lori Van Leuven

Office Hours & Phone: (541) 963-2623
Monday - Wednesday 8:00-12:00; 1- 3:00
Thursday - 8:00 - Noon Closed in p.m.
church email: lgdisciples@gmail.com
website: firstchristianlagrande.org

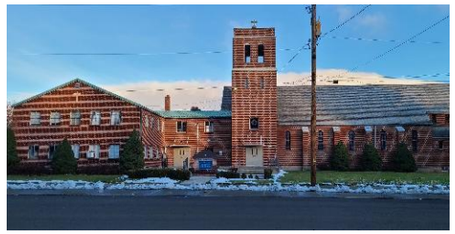
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
901 Penn Ave.
La Grande, OR 97850

First Christian Church

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901 Penn Ave.
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Facebook:
Friends of First Christian – DOC, La Grande

October 27, 2026



Dear Church Family,

The month of November brings an attitude of thankfulness as we remember what we have been so blessed with. Our Heavenly Father has blessed, and desires to continue to bless, His children with all of His goodness. As we reflect over the years, what has been, what is now and what is yet to come, we begin to recognize more and more of God being in constant motion.

When Vicqui and I came back to this church a few years ago, your interim minister Sharri Eggleson gave me a cup with one of my favorite verses inscribed as follows:

Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Reflecting on that gift of hope now makes me aware of how our paths have become one. You and I know each other more than just as people who go to church together. We come to worship God, praise His Son and live by the instruction of the Spirit. We meet together with attitudes of gratitude, thankfulness and thanksgiving. We are all different, yet have the same priority in coming to serve our Heavenly Father.

What a great feeling it is when our paths meet and line up, and when a direction and plan are created, but we must remember to seek God first.

Proverbs 16:2-3

All a person's ways seem pure to them,
but motives are weighed by the Lord.

[3] Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans.

This month, let's look together at the plans God has set out before us. They are not hidden. Each of us, sons and daughters of Heaven, are in His great plan. Our attitude tends to weigh greatly on our success or failure as individuals and as a church. Everything we do to further the Kingdom is relational. First with the Father, the Son and the Spirit, and then with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jesus gives us the key to succeed, and this is found in Matthew 22:37-40 and in Mark 12:29-31. These verses contain instruction of how to worship and serve within His plan.

Matthew 22:37-40

[37] Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

God commands us to completely love Him with our heart and soul and mind. This is followed with the revelation that loving God and loving each other pretty much sums up all of Scripture!

Mark 12:29-31

[29] "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. [30] Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [31] The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

This verse much like the one in Matthew adds a couple of more revelations. *Heart and soul and mind* look the same until we see the last course of action. Our *strength* is to be used as well. In our human efforts, we become exhausted and yet try to continue on our own, and this becomes burn-out. This reminds us that resting in the Word of God is essential. Constant prayer is so important. The Spirit of God sustains, nurtures and heals us back into loving service.

If we do not rest in the Lord, we easily stray from the truth and might not even realize it. He encourages us lovingly to continue in His grace. Like the Israelites, we too can expect discipline for our actions of rebellion and disobedience. Discipline of the love of our Father, not hate or unquenchable anger. It is a discipline we can bear and grow in. It has purpose for our good.

In the Jeremiah 29 we see God has a plan and a purpose for each follower and searcher of the truth. In Matthew and Mark, we find the requirements for this plan to come into realization are to seek Him and love well.

It's all relational—love God, love yourself and love others.

Enjoy the fall season.

Archie

Call to Action: Look up Philippians 2:3-4, Romans 12:10 and 1 Corinthians 10:24 to see how we are to live with others. Look up John 14:15, 1 John 5:2-3, and James 1:22 to see how to love God. We all struggle with selfishness. Ask God for a heart that desires to please Him more than yourself.

Little Red Wagon Sunday will be November 1. Please bring SOUP for the food bank. Thank you so much!

NOODLE MAKING IS COMPLETED FOR 2026!!! Thank you to all the women and to Pastor Archie for all of your hours of work. We made 97 lbs. 13 oz. of delicious noodles. 7 lbs were donated to the fundraising efforts! I am thankful for all the ministries we can touch with the funds raised from our noodle making efforts...it covers another year of the CWF donation to Shop with a Cop!
Carolynn



CWF will gather Wednesday, November 4th, for a short meeting & potluck, followed by setting up and arranging tables for the FALL BAZAAR.

Set-up for the bazaar will continue on Friday, November 6th, at 9 a.m. Please have your craft donations here by this time. Antiques, collectibles, and other precious items may be donated to Granny's Attic.

Baked goods need to be at the church, thawed and ready to go, by 8:15 a.m. on Saturday.



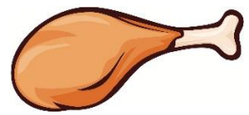
Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you with my whole heart for the love and support you have blessed me and Archie with these last months. Without your thoughtful prayers of healing and for strength I would not be where I am today. Life has its trials; without them we would not appreciate the blessings nearly as much. You are one of my greatest blessings! Our desire as followers of Jesus is to build eternal relationships. Thank you for your gentle hearts.

Gifts of books and cards have been greatly appreciated as well as your calls and visits. I look forward and more than that—crave—to get back to fellowship and worship with you soon.

Your Sister in Jesus,

Vicqui



K House News

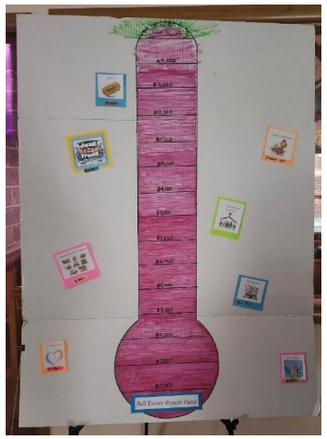
The K House board met the second Tuesday of October, with five of the six churches represented. It was announced that there would be reduced funding this year, due to reduction in grants from member denominations. Therefore, the board decided to reduce the number of breakfasts served to EOU students from three to two mornings per week.

Also, plans were made for the EOU Welcome Fair for the start of classes, to make students aware of the K House program.

The Thursday dinner (first week of October) was reported to have 51 students attending. The November dinner will be served by the Presbyterian Men's group. First Christian is assigned the dinner in February.

Hank Hudson

Thank You!



The Bell Tower Fundraising effort is completed! It was a great success. The bill to repair the bell tower was $15,000, with the General Board agreeing last spring to borrow from our permanent fund and budgeted capital improvement fund, so we wouldn't need to pay interest on a bank loan. Fundraising started with the summer parking lot sale, private donations and contacting families whose loved ones had been remembered with memorials to the church and asking their permission to use those funds for this work. It finalized with the online auction and the turkey noodle dinner, pie auction and raffle. Thanks to MANY, MANY generous donations from local business, community members and OUR church family members, those efforts put us over the top! ***A HUGE THANK YOU*** to our administrative assistant, Brenda, who gave so much of her time and energy learning how to set up an online auction, keeping track of things, and advertising. We couldn't have done the big week without her help. AND....we couldn't have reached our goal without the generosity of so many of you. ***Thank You!*** We will put the $8000 back into our Permanent Fund, to help with future needs and any extra funds we raised will be put into our Capital Improvement Fund for other projects needed (at this time I believe there is approx. $80 extra).

May God bless you,

Carolynn Vaughan, Moderator

Did you know....?

since 1993, 244 million shoebox gifts have been delivered
which equals 244 million gospel opportunities!
12.2 million shoebox gifts were collected in 2025
and we had a part in that total!
The gospel message included in each shoebox gift is
available in 118 languages, with more translations in progress!
Boys and girls in more than 100 countries receive shoebox gifts!

Our congregation is now collecting items for this year's shoebox ministry. There is a display in the narthex, with some of the types of items we have for our boxes. We need your help to include at least 2 toys for each child and 1 small stuffed animal.
We have enough school supplies to complete more than 100 shoeboxes!
We also need hair clips & combs (large tooth), wash clothes (no soap), socks, gloves, small puzzles, coloring books (thin), and more!
Thank you to Gail....she has knit bags full of stocking caps.

Please bring all items to the church before November 10th. On that morning we will be filling shoeboxes in the classroom at the end of the hall.
If you would like to get in on that fun, we will meet at 9:30.
Boxes will be taken to the collection center on November 17th....
so if you are filling a complete box on your own,
have them to the church by the 16th and we can include them in our church's count.
Thank you to all who continue to support this ministry!

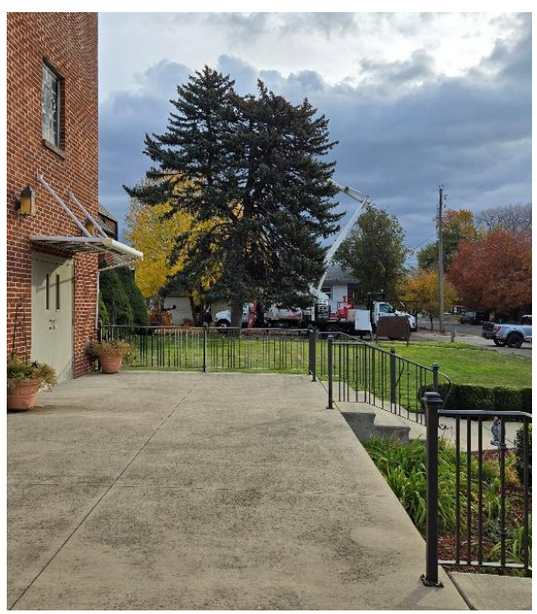
LOCAL OUTREACH

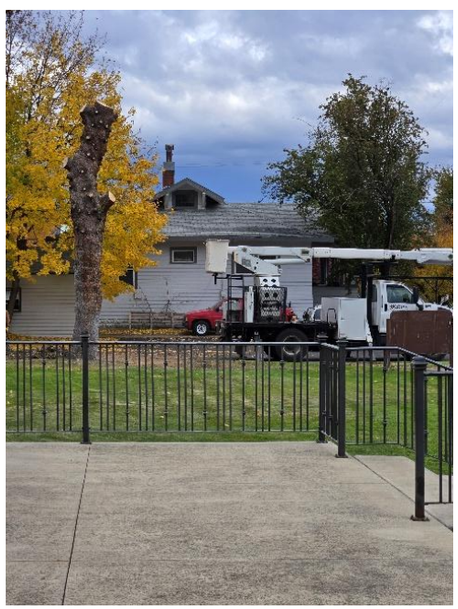
We will no longer be accepting cans and bottles for deposit refunds. Please do not bring them to the church. If you have a lot of returnable cans and bottles, why not consider turning them in yourself and donating the money to a specific ministry or the general fund here at First Christian?

WORLD OUTREACH

The Thanksgiving Offering will be taken November 15 and 22. This special offering supports the colleges, universities, seminaries, and divinity house affiliated with the Christian Church Disciples of Christ, helping to educate and prepare future leaders for church and society. Thank you for your generosity in giving above your regular tithe.

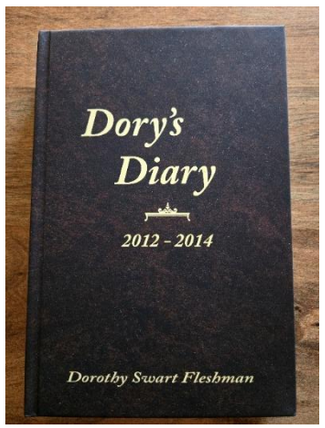
NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT?



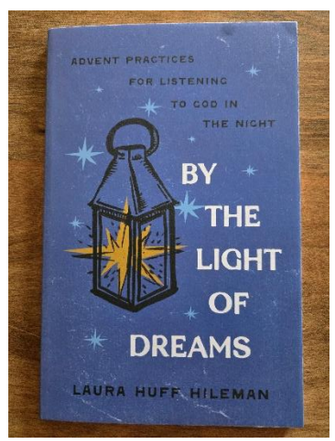


NEW BOOKS!

The church has a copy of Dorothy Fleshman's latest book, Dory's Diary 2012-2014, for you to check out! It is a collection of articles from her column in The Observer. You will want to put on a pot of tea and kick back with Dory this fall! If you would like to purchase a copy for yourself, please contact Annette Byrd at 541-437-8001. They are just $49.95.



Also new to our collection is By the Light of Dreams, by Laura Huff Hileman. This is a new Advent book brought to you by The Upper Room, who many of you use for your daily devotionals. We have two copies of this book for the Christmas season. Come borrow one!



Please get with our librarian from the Education Committee,
Debby Riggle (541-786-2380),
to find out more about borrowing these two amazing titles

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me,
and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me
when you seek Me will all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:12-13

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We're looking for volunteers in Eastern Oregon to help sew fabric pockets for our pocket babies like the ones pictured.



ORTL gives out thousands of pocket babies every fair season and we need help replenishing our supply.

This is a great project for church sewing circles, homeschool families, youth groups, or students learning to sew. **If you're interested, please email me at shannon@ortl.org.** I'll share the project details and how to get started. Please also pass this along to anyone who might enjoy helping.

For life,
Shannon Garlitz
Community Outreach Coordinator

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
1 John 4:7

ATTENTION!!!
ALL COMMITTEES MUST HAVE THEIR 2027 CALENDAR DATES TURNED IN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY NOVEMBER 16TH to prepare for the Annual Church Planning Meeting on November 21 (9 a.m.)

