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

October:

Song Leader: Mandy Treanor
Filling Communion: Ladella Wood
Flowers: Ladella
Sanctuary pick-up: Larry Knape & Ladella
Fellowship Hour: Local Outreach

Those who serve October 4:

Elder – Carolynn Vaughan
Greeters – Liz Cooper & Judy Sherman
Diaconate – Pete Price, Capt.
Communion Meditation – Archie Hook

Those who serve October 11:

Elder – Jan Matson
Greeters – Pete Price & Peter Rankin
Diaconate – Peter Rankin, Capt.
Communion Meditation – Liz Cooper

Those who serve October 18:

Elder – Cheryl Hudson
Greeters – Stephanie Bare & Kari Baybado
Diaconate – Larry Knape, Capt.
Communion Meditation – Cheryl Hudson

Those who serve October 25:

Elder – Mandy Treanor
Greeters – Barb Malone & Barb Minge
Diaconate – Pete Price, Capt.
Communion Meditation – Larry Glaze

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



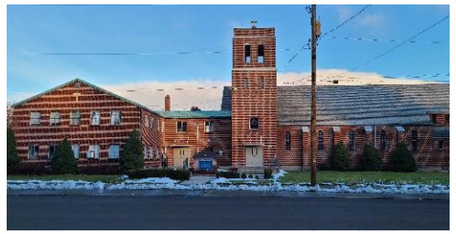
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
901 Penn Ave.
La Grande, OR 97850

First Christian Church

NEWSETTE

(Disciples of Christ)
901 Penn Ave.
La Grande, OR 97850
Facebook:
Friends of First Christian – DOC, La Grande

September 22, 2026



Dear Church Family

Here we are starting a new season, one of excitement and anticipation. With the fall kick-off celebration last Sunday comes the time of awareness of what has happened and how that will affect what is yet to come for the coming year.

The harvesting of crops is happening all around us, the result of hard work and dedication by many. Planning the crop, purchasing the seed, preparing the soil and planting seem so simple. The first seed catalogue showing up in late winter brings excitement. Frozen winter ground gives way to the sun as it warms the soil, readying it for the rototiller and spade. Spring weather brings new life bursting out of the dirt and hungry for the sunshine. What smiles we have on our faces as each green leaf of hope reveals itself to the sower!

Today we observe the work of our hands as we gather the fruit of our labors. Each garden has soil, some good, some that is questionable and some that is not good for much. This leads us into the message for the month. We find in three of the gospels the parable of the four soils. We are all responsible for how we hear God's Word as individuals, but we are also the ones called to sow!

Luke 8:4-15

4 While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after
town, He told this parable: 5 "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering
the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. 6 Some
fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no
moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the
plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred
times more than was sown."

When He said this, He called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

9 His disciples asked Him what this parable meant. 10 He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

'though seeing, they may not see;
though hearing, they may not understand.'

11 This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the Word of God. 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the Word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the Word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. 15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

We are the farmers sowing seeds. Where did we purchase these seeds from? God or the world? Those are our only options. We gauge this by the crop that has been raised. What is the fruit? Love or hate? Compassion or anger? Peace or strife? Clarity or confusion? Grace or judgement? Saving faith or doubt? Where did we plant? In soil prepared by the Heavenly Father, or the soil prepared by the world? Amazingly, some seed fell in unexpected places and flourished.

We as a congregation are responsible for planting the love of God without hesitation or prejudice. He will nurture the good seed and let the bad die. Like any good gardener, we are to know where to plant. God has prepared the soil and revealed it to us by His Spirit. Spending time in the Word and prayer reveals His desire to meet each person where they are at and is essential to showing us the path we are to take to be effective for Him. Remember, *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet* (Psalms 119:105).

As we build relationships outside the church, those relationships sanctioned by God, we begin sowing seeds of the Spirit and will see the fruit of that at the harvest. Let's together look for the fruit this fall, proof beyond all doubt that God's seed is never wasted. It always produces what it was meant to be. And then let's look to the future, learn from the past years, and be prayerful and intentional about what seeds we plant and where we plant them in the year ahead so that we don't just maintain, but produce more!

Your brother in Christ,

Archie

Call to Action: What does the fruit look like that we as a church have produced? Read Colossians 1:10. From this verse, we learn that bearing good fruit in good works pleases God. And we see that growing in the knowledge of God is tied to bearing that good fruit. What are practical ways we can grow in our knowledge of Him?

Little Red Wagon Sunday will be October 4. Please bring CHILI & CRACKERS for the food bank. Thank you so much!

The next CWF meeting will be Wednesday, October 7, at 11 a.m. A potluck will follow.

Noodle-making continues on Thursdays through October 22 from 9:30 a.m. to approximately noon. All hands (including male hands!) are welcome! You aren't required to stay the whole time; come for as long as you can!

GIANT FUNDRAISER DINNER....

As we work to pay for the repairs which were done to the Bell Tower, through our Fundraiser in October, we will be having a turkey noodle dinner, with our CWF homemade noodles. We will also have desserts with the dinner....and I will be asking for some desserts to be made for that evening. We would like to have wonderfully rich brownies, cheesecakes or cobbers/crisps. Please pray about how you can help with this and see me to sign up! Thank you, in advance – Carolynn



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD collections will be taking place from October 18 thru November 8. Let's fill 100 Shoe Boxes!

The boxes really need the 'WOW" items....toys, small dolls & stuffed animals, balls that will fit in a shoe box, picture coloring books (without a lot of English words - we don't know what country our boxes will be going to), personal items (like large tooth combs, hair brushes, tooth brushes, hair bows & clips), and for older kids (13-16) small sewing kits, scarves, jewelry, flashlights & batteries, solar calculators, small tools, 'real' harmonicas, dominoes, t-shirts...be creative!

We can still use children's scissors and more color crayons. We have enough writing tablets.

Please remember....no scary or war type toys or items with glass or liquids. No toothpaste, soap, candy or food items. Items need to be new. *"In all the work you are given, do the best you can."* Colossians 3:23 We are the hands of Christ when we send our shoe box gifts of love to these children. It may be their first encounter with the Gospel message and the love of Christ for them.

Thank you for your continued support for this important mission.
Carolynn

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.
John 15:8

Tammy Croghan stopped by the church office. She grew up in the Elgin Christian Church and spent time in our church through youth group activities. She had fun going down with Archie to see how the basement has/hasn't changed since she was a teenager.

Tammy is looking for some work as a live-in house sitter or caretaker. She also takes on lawncare jobs. If you have any leads for her, we would love to help her out. Please let Archie or I know, or you can contact her directly at 541-786-4977.

Please pray for Tammy as she is in a transitional phase of life, and we would also love to see her plug into this church or another Bible-believing congregation.

WORLD OUTREACH

Reconciliation Week begins September 27. Because World Wide Communion is October 4, we will be addressing reconciliation with a skit on the 27th, but gifts will be accepted on both Sundays.

Property Committee October 2026: Batten Down the Hatches!

October is here, which means the Property Committee is turning its attention from **summer projects to winter preparation!** After a busy summer of mowing, trimming, fixing, hauling, and keeping the church property in shape, it's time to get ready for colder weather.

The **Indows will be going back in**, the **boiler** is getting the attention it needs, and we're continuing work on the **windows and brick** to help protect our historic building from the elements.

The damaged **west porch awning and rain gutter** have been repaired and ready before winter decides to make an early appearance! A new sign has been place in the front to try and discourage truck traffic through our west side parking.

The **Red Room flooring** is ready for installation, and work continues on keeping the parking areas, signage, landscaping, and the rest of the property in good shape.

In other words, we're **battening down the hatches, keeping the heat in, keeping the water out, and hoping the building behaves itself for the winter!**

It may not be glamorous work, but all those little repairs and improvements are part of taking care of the place God has entrusted to us.
And, as always, if the church property suddenly acquires another **mattress, abandoned vehicle, or mystery donation**, please let the Property Committee know!

One project at a time, we'll get ready for winter!

ATTENTION!!!
ALL COMMITTEES MUST HAVE THEIR 2027 BUDGET REQUESTS TURNED IN AT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 28 so that the Finance Committee can come up with a proposed church budget for the year.

For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth. Ephesians 5:9

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good,
or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad,
for a tree is recognized by its fruit.
Matthew 12:33

Dear First Christian Friends,
Thank you for your recent gift and for a long, wonderful partnership in this work. You are a gift. All of you!

Keith Potter
Bushnell University
Vice President for University Advancement

YOU ARE INVITED…
and invite EVERYONE you know!
Bell Tower Restoration Fundraisers

1. Online Auction
October 8 at 8 a.m. –
October 10 at midnight
Anyone can go online at our website
firstchristianlagrande.org
and bid on a large variety of items!

2. Soup Dinner
October 13
5 to 7 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Tickets at the door
$10/adult
$5/kids age 10 and under
Includes one raffle ticket
Dinner: homemade turkey noodle soup (noodles handmade by CWF), roll, drink and dessert.
Pies will be auctioned off every 15 minutes
Variety of items for raffle at $2 each or 3 for $5

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was established in La Grande during a period of significant municipal growth after the arrival of the railroad in the Grande Ronde Valley. The inclusion of a bell tower was a standard ecclesiastical feature as a community landmark for the purpose of starting the services. As part of the bell tower restoration, what do you think of using some of the funds for the installation of an audio chime system? Let your opinion be known at the next General Board meeting, September 27, after the service.

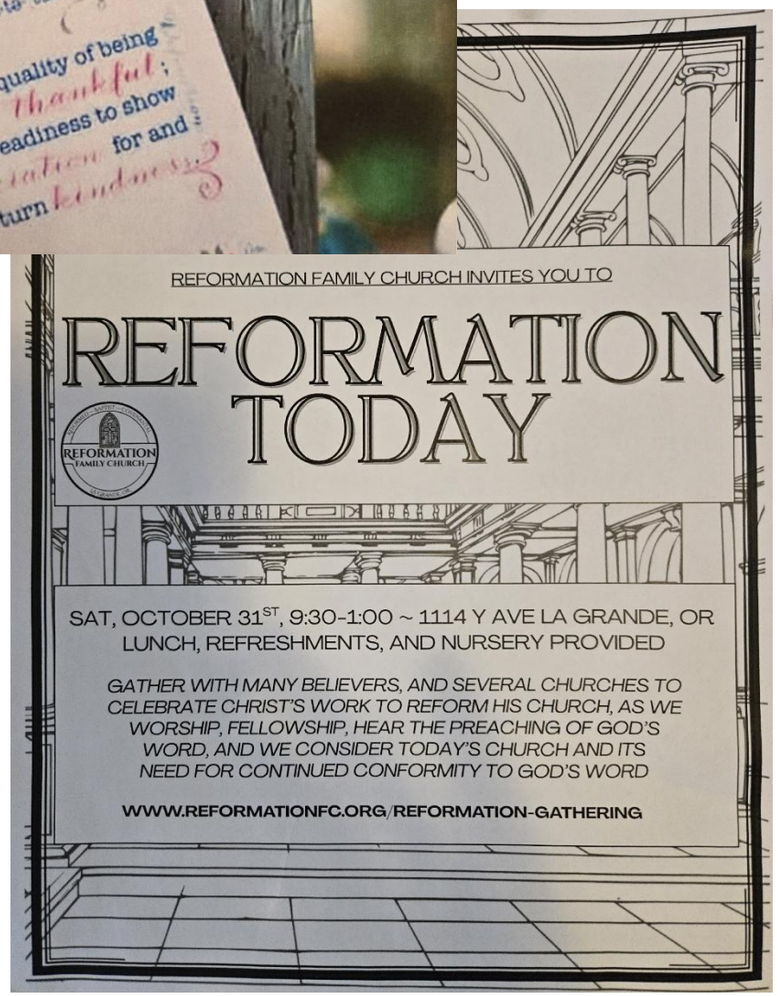
Our annual Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 26th from 9am - 3pm. We will be spending the day focusing on GRATITUDE and enjoying some delicious food 😊

The cost is $18 per person an you can RSVP on our website at covechristiancamp.org

If you are able, please bring a salad to share. Soup, bread and dessert will be provided.

Please come and join us for a relaxing day of fellowship and fun.





The Church Fall Kick-off on September 20 was a great success! Committees are planning amazing things for the year and First Christian will be busy with fellowship and reaching the community. Here are a few pictures highlighting the fun (Brenda will be posting more on Facebook, so go check them out!)

















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Dear Church and Community Members,

This letter is an **invitation to sing in the Messiah choir for 2026**. Mr. Kevin Durfee will take the reins of conducting The Messiah for 2026. Practice for the choir will begin on Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 5:00pm at 1802 Gekeler Lane at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and will continue each Sunday in October. On Sundays in November, the choir will relocate to Loso Hall's Choir room on the EOU campus at 1 University Blvd and be joined by the orchestra at 5:00pm.

Dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 12 and **The Messiah Performance will be on Sunday, December 13, 2026, at 6:00pm in McKenzie Theater.**

Questions? Please call Marie at 541-805-8902 or email: mjbrampton@gmail.com

Thanks,

Wes & Marie Rampton

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Dear Community Friends,

The Right Track Resource Center (Warming Station) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing shelter and housing resources to people in Union County. Right Track collaborates with community partners to provide critical support and improve safety for the entire community. Our motto is: safe for you, safe for me, safe for the whole community.

As members of the Right Track Resource Center Staff and Board of Directors, we wish to inform the community of an upcoming change for Right Track. We've recently learned that Eastern Oregon Health and Wellness (EOHW) has received grant funding to establish a rehabilitation and detox facility in our local area. This incredible news comes with some logistical challenges.

Given the funding timing and stipulations for this opportunity, EOHW will need to hold operations in the building which currently houses Right Track Resource Center beginning in March, 2027, after our winter operations have concluded.

This leaves us 8 months to find a new location for the resource center and warming station services.

We are very, very excited for the opportunities that EOHW's facility will provide. Having local options for rehabilitation and detox will reduce many barriers and make care options much more accessible for people seeking services. We are working closely with EOHW and other community partners to plan for the upcoming transition and ensure that services continue with as little disruption as possible. This transition will be a massive undertaking during a time in which current funding and future operations are uncertain. Continued volunteer efforts,
resources, and funding will be critical for the success of this upcoming winter season and beyond.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the support of the Right Track mission. Together, we have accomplished so much already. With the help of valued community partnerships and the dedicated efforts of Right Track volunteers and staff, many individuals were able to secure long-term and stable housing this year. These results showcase the great work that RTRC is doing, as well as the unfortunate need for these services in our community.

Our current needs are the regular donation items, monetary donations, of course a building, and lots of volunteers. We need cleaners. We need people to either come in and make and serve food or just drop it off. We are willing to come pick up donations.

We thank you for your support in this important work.
All the best,
Olivia Kuljian, Right Track Resource Center (RTRC) Board Chair
Maggie Mayhem, Right Track Resource Center (RTRC) Manager
Liberty Avila, Northeast Oregon Network (NEON) Executive Director
Joel Rice, MD