



The CONNECTION

Dear Church . . . from Pastor Matt



After three months on sabbatical, I am finally back! I am so grateful to everyone who helped make that happen. In late May I came to the elders and told them that I was really struggling, and beginning to worry about burnout. The elders were incredibly supportive, and very quickly arranged for me to take a sabbatical. Unfortunately, the timing meant that there was no chance to announce the sabbatical before Casey and I left for the anniversary trip we had planned. So if the announcement seemed rather sudden to you, that's because it came together suddenly!

Not only did the elders commit to making the sabbatical happen, but a lot of others stepped up to play new roles in the Sunday service and the operations of the church. I am so grateful, and so proud of all of you! I am still catching up on what happened here over the summer, but I already know that this church continued to worship and do ministry, and even put on good events that were planned after I had left. To me, that is a sign of a good church: that the whole body comes together to do the work. Well done!

But what about my side of the sabbatical? Why did I need it? What did I do with it? You'll hear more about that from me over the coming months. There's no secrets—it's just a long uninteresting story of how I developed unhelpful

patterns and mindsets in ministry that led to too much on my shoulders, and then a (hopefully) more interesting story about how God used the last three months as a "dry dock" to help me work on those patterns away from the responsibilities of ministry. If the elders didn't share many details, it's just because they didn't want to speak for me. For now, I just want you to know that this past summer has been deeply meaningful and helpful for me as your minister, and I am excited to be back among my church family.

There is one last thing I want to say about this sabbatical. From the beginning, the elders and I were determined that the goal of this summer would be sustainable ministry—meaning that we wanted to find a better way to do things so that I wouldn't need a sabbatical just to avoid burnout. That means that I cannot just go back to the ways I used to do things—and neither can the congregation. We have a chance here to continue growing into the church God has called us to be, where every member of the body has a part to play, and the whole church is better for sharing the work together. I'm really looking forward to what God is going to in this next stage. I hope you are too!

Monthly Newsletter From Turner Christian Church
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Pam Pacheco came forward on Sunday, August 16th to become a member of the Turner Christian Church congregation. We welcome Pam to the fellowship of TCC!



Chaos in the Bible



"Of Dragons and the Dragon Slayer"

September 14-17
Monday-Thursday

Guest Speakers

Matt Holmes & Dr. LeRoy Lawson

Matt will speak on how the Old Testament uses chaos (and dragon imagery) and LeRoy will speak on the New Testament and how Jesus delivers us from chaos

Winema Christian Camp
Cloverdale Oregon

For more information:

https://www.winema.org/uploads/1/1/2/3/112332687/septemberfest_program_final.pdf



Little Lamb Christian Preschool begins a new year on September 8th! Director Bethany Robinson and Teaching Assistant Maritza Rivera will be welcoming students to three separate class sessions. Keep Bethany, Maritza, students, parents and volunteers in your prayers as this new year begins.



MARION POLK
FOOD SHARE

Donation Impact Certificate
Jul 2025 - June 2026 | FY 2026

Thank you for providing 6,153 meals in FY 2026

THANK YOU! You and your volunteers have been an essential part of our success in FY 2026. You all collected over 7,300 pounds! Through your generosity, dedication, and countless hours of service, more food reached the tables of people who needed it most. At the same time, your efforts helped divert quality food from the waste stream, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting our environment. Together, we have nourished our community, reduced waste, and taken meaningful steps toward a more sustainable future.

Thank you for
all that you do!

Noe Jimenez
Retail Food Resource Supervisor

SENIORS TRIP TO

Lincoln City & Lunch at Mo's

SEAFOOD & CHOWDER
SINCE 1948

SEPTEMBER 21ST
10 AM - 4 PM



The Seniors are headed out again! This time to Lincoln City, where they will enjoy the beach and have lunch together at Mo's. If you would like to join, please register online, with Sharon Teixeira, or with the church office.



Potluck & Bingo FAMILY NIGHT

**Sunday, September 27th
at 5:00 pm**

Please join us for Family Night this month, where we will play Bingo and have a Potluck. There are no dish assignments, so bring whatever you'd like to share! Everyone is welcome. Please register online or with the church office.



Sunday

Gary Tiffin, Frank Musgrave or Frank Loyd lead a class each Sunday morning at 9:00 am using the Standard Sunday School Curriculum.

JD Remy also leads a class each Sunday morning at 9:00 am. The group is studying the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Monday

Frank Loyd leads the Men's Study and Discussion Group on Monday mornings at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. They are studying the Book of 1 Corinthians.

Tuesday

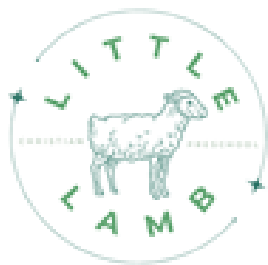
Gary Tiffin leads an Online Zoom Sermon-Based Small Group on Tuesdays at 9:00 am. (Call Gary or the church office for information on how to join this group)

Wednesday

The Women's Bible Study, led by Kris Jakubowski will resume meeting each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm beginning September 9th, studying "A Jesus Shaped Life" by Lisa Harper. Please register online or through church office so we can order books.

⚡ News Flash from the Food Bank ⚡

Due to increased client numbers and decreased amounts of food being received from Marion Polk Foodshare, our Food Bank has been subsidizing with the money raised during last fall's Food Drive. Those funds are also running low at this time, and we find the need to ask for help in providing food for our clients each Monday morning. We have receptacles in the foyer in which to receive food items, and you may also contribute by giving funds to our Food Bank account at TCC. Thank you for contributing as you are able.



Little Lamb Christian Preschool

A Note from Our Director, Bethany Robinson



As we look forward to the start of a new school year, our team has been reflecting on how we can deepen the connection between our preschool students and our wonderful church congregation. We believe that our children have so much to learn from your wisdom, experiences, and kindness.

To help us grow closer together, we are introducing a new project for the school year! You will find a white mailbox located near our preschool mailboxes at the end of the hallway. We would love to receive mail from you throughout the year. Whether it is a short note, a postcard, or even some fun stickers, your messages will be a joy for the children to receive.

Attached to this letter, you will find our school year schedule, which outlines our monthly themes, Bible stories, and verses. We would love for your mail to connect with those topics—

for example, we are currently exploring all things "School," and next month we will be diving into everything "Farm." Beyond our monthly curriculum, we would also love to hear from you regarding things like the current season or any upcoming holidays! Whether you want to share a little nugget of knowledge, an interesting fact, a favorite tradition, or a cool photo, please feel free to drop a note in our mailbox. When you leave something for us, simply lift the red flag on the side of the box to let us know that mail has arrived.

We encourage you to print the attached calendar and keep it somewhere visible in your home as a reminder to send us a note throughout the year. We are so excited for the months ahead and cannot wait to learn from all of you.

Thank you for being such an important part of our preschool family.

Little Lamb
Preschool



MAIL SCHEDULE

	Monthly theme	Bible Story/Verse memorization
September	School	In the beginning 'God the Creator' Psalm 100:3/Psalm 118:24
October	On the Farm	Ruth 'God the Caretaker' Psalm 23:1-3/John 10:14
November	Community Safety	Joseph 'Give thanks to God' Psalm 136:1
December	Baking	Advent 'God the Promise Keeper' Isaiah 9:6
January	Library	The good Samaritan 'God is Love' Luke 10:27
February	Construction	The wise and foolish builder 'God is wisdom' Psalm 119:105
March	Hiking	Feeding the 5000 'God the Miracle Worker' Psalm 123:1-2
April	Life Cycles	Easter 'God is good' Ecclesiastes 3:1-2
May	Gardening	Fruit of the Spirit 'God is with you' Galatians 5:22
June	Water	

Thank you