



The Connection

June 2025

A Monthly Newsletter of Turner Christian Church

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Dear Church... from Pastor Matt

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. (Mt. 5:6)

This verse introduces us to one of the most challenging words in the New Testament: “righteousness.” For most of us, this word means *personal moral goodness*. So what Jesus is saying is that the people who desire above all to be morally perfect are blessed. Obviously personal moral goodness is a very important thing—Jesus certainly talks a lot about personal goodness in the sermon on the mount. However, that’s not exactly what Biblical righteousness means.

The word for righteousness can also be translated as “justice,” meaning *morally right social relationships*. In this case, Jesus is saying that people who long for social justice are blessed. Obviously Jesus cares about justice in the world, because he talks a lot about having morally right relationships (though his definition of justice is not the same as our Western culture—but that’s another story). But that’s not exactly what righteousness means either.

In reality, the word “righteousness” means *both* personal goodness and morally-right relationships. In the ancient world—and especially for Jesus—these were not separate ideas. In fact, one of the major themes of the Sermon on the Mount is that true justice can only come through a personal commitment to goodness. It’s not enough to follow the laws against murder, adultery, or the rules for getting divorced or taking oaths. To be the people God called us to

be, we have to deal with our anger, lust, unfaithfulness, and dishonesty. Without personal goodness, we cannot have true justice. We can only have order: rules that try to control how people behave but have no power to change their heart.

What I hear Jesus saying in this parable is, “Blessed are those who desire a good world so passionately that they are willing to become good themselves.” The alternatives are

- (1) people who want to be seen as personally good, but they don’t care about being good to others; or
- (2) people who want to make the world good through power and rules, but don’t want to do the work of being good themselves. The reason the first group is blessed is because “they will be satisfied.” If you hunger for a world where you can be good without being good *to others*, or if you thirst for a world that is good without requiring you to be good, then you will be disappointed. That is not the kingdom Jesus is bringing. His kingdom is good because the people in it are committed to being good—actually, they are committed to letting God *make them* good.

If you want a world that is good because the people are good, this world will leave you hungry—but if you hold onto that hunger, then one day you will be satisfied. That is why you are blessed.

Seniors Trip to Adelman Peony Gardens June 3rd at 9:30 am

Flowers are blooming! Join us for a walk in the peonies and enjoy a fun picnic. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:30 am and return about 3:30 pm. Come join people that love flowers and having a good time. You can register on the church app: <https://turnerchristianchurch.subspla.sh/fr5cy2q> or the event registration card .

Combined Worship Services at Northwest Christian Convention

We will be joining other Christians for worship at the Northwest Christian Convention **on Thursday evening, June 26th at 6:30 pm and on Sunday, June 29th at 10:00 am** in the Tabernacle. There will not be any meetings or services at the TCC building on those two days.

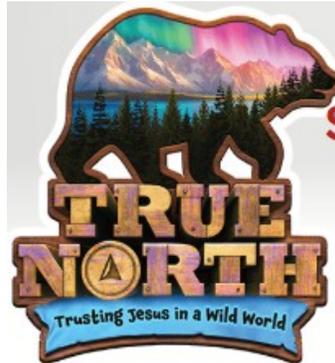
Melissa Braun to Serve Missionary Internship!



Melissa Braun applied with CMF (Christian Missionary Fellowship) for a Reach Internship and has been accepted. The plan is to serve in Kenya and the MOHI Team in Kenya this summer for eight weeks. She will spend time with CMF's Urban Poor Team in the slums of Nairobi, connecting with a diverse array of people groups. Melissa will also be partnering with MOHI (Keith & Kathy Ham) a Kenyan non-profit which works to combat poverty and share the hope of Jesus in disadvantaged communities.

Please pray for Melissa and consider supporting her financially in this endeavor: <https://give.cmfi.org/search?searchText=melissa&id=z70346>

Volunteer drivers are needed to take seniors to appointments with doctors, therapists, etc. If you would like to help serve others in this way, please contact Sharon Teixeira or the church office. Thank you!



**VBS
Summer 2025**

**JULY 21-24
9:00-11:30 AM**

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**

VBS takes a whole church to put on and we need **YOU!** All kinds of volunteer options are available. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Pasto Rachel or the church office. You and Pastor Rachel will work together to find the perfect VBS role that works for you.



News from Aaron and Diane Lincoln (Missionaries in England)

We're Grandparents! On March 31, we became grandparents! **Reece and Hope** welcomed their daughter, **Beatrice Zella Lincoln**—'Bea'—into the world, healthy and strong. Named after two of her great-great-grandmothers, she is a beautiful reminder of God's goodness. Reece and Hope are adjusting well to life as a family of three, and we're thankful for the excellent care they've received here.



"Only Jesus" with Matt & Melissa Stock: Tuesday-Saturday @6:30 PM; Sunday @10:30 AM

Over the course of six days, we'll journey together through the theme of "Only Jesus" and examine how to stay connected to Him in a distracted world.

We will explore different aspects of what it means to truly center our lives on Jesus amid the noise and pull of modern life. We will look at hearing Christ's personal call to follow Him and consider how to respond with faith and courage.

From there, we'll wrestle with what it means to surrender everything, letting go of lesser loves to embrace wholehearted devotion to the way of Jesus.

We'll look honestly at the distractions that threaten our intimacy with Him and discover practical ways to cultivate focus and love. We'll be reminded that Jesus alone is our unshakable truth, our sure foundation in an unstable world. We will also explore how Jesus holds all things together—even when life feels fragmented. Finally, we'll be challenged to live undivided as a body, clinging to Christ with boldness and clarity in a culture of confusion. This will be a time of renewal, refocus, and deep encouragement for all who long to stay connected to Jesus above all else.

Matt & Melissa Stock, Key note Speakers at the 2025 NW Christian Convention



An Invitation from the 2025 Northwest Christian Convention President



The world is not slowing down! And to be honest, I am not very good at being still either. With three children, two full time jobs, ministry, friendships, sports or dance recitals, and all the well-to-dos of our day to day lives, Chad and I barely have time to keep up with the laundry, let alone be still before Christ. We desire nothing other than Jesus as the center of our lives, but in the day to day routines there are countless things demanding that sacred position.

How do we slow down? How do re-center our lives fully on Jesus? What does Jesus actually ask of us?

Join us and let's start with intentional time set aside, together - June 24-29 - as we engage this eternally important conversation, "ONLY JESUS."

Rebecca DeKay, 2025 Convention President



NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN NETWORK

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A ministry of the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ

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THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: June 25-28, Wednesday-Saturday 9am
Our morning session will deep dive into the Sermon on the Mount and the importance of

what Jesus is calling us to - the restoration of people. These morning sessions will be a team teaching with Melisa Berry, Chad DeKay, and Aaron Dilla, sharing together differing perspectives on this important message.

The week of convention offers 19 workshops both morning and afternoon that will equip, challenge and inspire you. Get all the details on daily workshops at NwChristianNetwork.com/nwcc



THERE IS SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES AT THE WEEK OF CONVENTION. From great teaching to visiting over a cup of coffee to floating down mill creek to worshipping in the Tabernacle...come enjoy a unique time of growth and renewal at the 173rd Northwest Christian Convention!

Special Events:

Find out how God is working in these schools and ministries! Join for lunch, dinner and desserts.

June 25-Wednesday



5 PM-Jessup University

Dessert After



Evening Session with BBC

June 26-Thursday



Noon-Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan

5 PM-Bushnell University



Dessert After Evening Session with Turner Homes

June 27-Friday

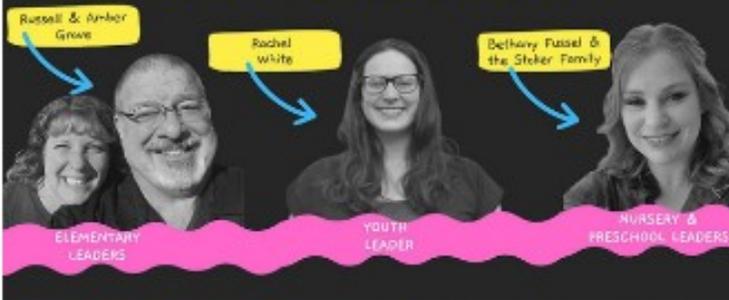
Noon—Gathering of Women in Ministry

Get more information on these special events online at nwChristianNetwork.com/special-events

All Ages Afternoon Activities: * Wednesday, June 25 @ 1 PM-Bingo in Jubilee Lodge

* Thursday, June 26 @ 1 PM-Water Games * Friday, June 27 @ 1 PM-3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

WEEK OF CONVENTION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



Go to the NWCN website for details on the youth and children's programs. Youth Group Rate Available!

Logistical Questions Answered:

FOOD is served in Jubilee Lodge & the back of the Tabernacle For your convenience a menu with a variety of options is available. Run a tab for the week and pay one time at the end of your stay.

RV/CAMPSITES are available with electric and water hook-ups.

OTHER HOUSING fills up fast so contact the office at heather@nwchristiannetwork.com or 503-743-2101 to find out about other housing options.

Find the REGISTRATION and WELCOME center at the Northend of the Tabernacle. Follow the signs.

Basio Daily Schedule

Tuesday, June 24 @ 6:30 in the Tabernacle—Kick of off the 173rd NW Christian Convention

Wednesday-Saturday

7:30 AM-Breakfast in Jubilee Lodge
Nursery/Preschool-Heritage House
K-5th-Big Tent Westside of Jubilee Lodge
Youth-Pioneer Hall

Adults-In the Tabernacle:

9 AM-Deep Dive into the Sermon on the Mount
10:15 AM-Intentionally Ministering to Overlooked People Groups
11:15 AM-A Conversation on Our Heritage, Past, Present & Future
Noon-Lunch

1 PM-All Ages Afternoon Activities
2 PM-Interactive Workshops in the Tabernacle
3 PM-Unique Perspectives on the Sermon on the Mount
5 PM-Dinner

6:30 PM-Evening Session in the Tabernacle with Matt & Melissa Stock
Dessert in Jubilee Lodge Immediately following evening session
8:30 PM-Bonfire

Sunday, June 29 @ 10:30 AM

ALL Church Worship in the Tabernacle
Picnic/Potluck immediately following church
Camp Clean-Up