



Sunriver Christian FELLOWSHIP

Empowered by the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon and the Oregon Synod, Sunriver Christian Fellowship is an Ecumenical Congregation Sponsored by All Saints of the Cascades Episcopal and Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Churches.





MISSION AND VALUES



Led by the Holy Spirit, SCF is committed to being a visible presence of Christian love and unity, growing in faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and witnessing this faith through service to the needs of the community and the world.

The following thoughts represent a living statement of values that direct our lives as a church community, shape our relationships with one another and inspire our efforts to fulfill our mission in our community and our world as Sunriver Christian Fellowship.

- We value *spiritual growth and maturing* in our various faiths in an atmosphere of openness and acceptance.
- We value a *church family* that is welcoming to all and provides a sense of community.
- We value a *spirit of generosity* that enables us to reflect Christ's love to others.
- We value *spiritual guidance and leadership* provided by both clergy and lay people.
- We value our *interpersonal relationships* with our clergy and each other and our personal relationship with Christ.
- We value *active ministries* in the church, in the community and in the world around us.
- We value the *tradition and histories* of our various faiths, our church and our people.

Sunriver Christian Fellowship's statement of values is more than a printed document. It is a living statement of our church and our lives using these values. Join us in the following pages and we will show you how these values direct our lives in our church activities with each other, throughout our community and our world.



WELCOME TO SUNRIVER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

We are truly a unique church. Empowered by the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon and the Oregon Synod, we were formed 25 years ago by *All Saints of the Cascades Episcopal Church* and *Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church*. We not only reflect the ecumenical unity between these denominations but have grown and prospered by welcoming and including members of all denominations and backgrounds. What we have in common is a strong belief in Jesus Christ and that the word of God will guide us in all we do.

Three characteristics that are readily apparent when you visit SCF are:

- Inclusiveness** We strongly believe that everyone should be welcomed and try to demonstrate this belief in everything we say and do: **We embrace diversity without exception.**
- Outreach** Our primary focus is on outreach. We are known as a church whose members truly care about our neighbors not only locally, but nationally and internationally as well.
- Friendliness** Visitors and strangers alike consistently comment that they can't remember coming to a church that is as friendly and welcoming as ours.

As you read through our Profile, you will see that there will be several challenges facing you. First, you will be a new Senior Pastor replacing our Senior Pastor, Nancy McGrath Green. Not only is she the only Senior Pastor that we have had, but she is also revered and loved. Second, you will see that we have just purchased and remodeled a closed recreation facility which now serves as our church. This allows us to expand our membership and community outreach. We will need your help in figuring out how to best achieve this

We believe that after reading our Profile and doing whatever research you choose to do, you will find a very receptive and supportive congregation which will welcome you with open arms.

SCF BY THE NUMBERS 2022

- 246** Members
- 154** Households
- 91** Pledging Units
- 118** Average Sunday Attendance
- 1** Baptism
- 7** Funerals
- 1** Confirmation
- 2** Weddings



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✚ SUNRIVER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunriver Christian Fellowship has served the resort community of Sunriver, OR and its surrounding areas for the past 25 years. During that time SCF held services at three separate locations in Sunriver before acquiring its own facility, also in Sunriver, in 2023.

All Saints of the Cascades Episcopal Church is a member of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon under the leadership and guidance of our bishop, The Rt. Reverend Patrick W. Bell.

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a member of the Oregon Synod under the leadership and guidance of our Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar.



*We value
the traditions
and histories
of our faiths,
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our people*

BEFORE 1991 The Lutherans were a small congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Shepherd of the Mountains. The Episcopalians worshiped informally once a month in peoples' homes.

1992 The Reverend Nancy Sargent McGrath moved to Sunriver. She was asked to preach as a "supply clergy" at Trinity Bend. Several Sunriver Episcopalians who were at the service asked if she would be willing to preach in Sunriver on a regular basis, hoping to build a community of regular worshippers. The Sunriver Nature Center had just built a new building and was willing to rent it to the Episcopalians on Sunday mornings for \$20 per week. Nancy agreed to celebrate and preach two Sundays a month. The Lutherans moved to the same building and had worship services immediately following the Episcopal services.



1993 Nancy McGrath agreed to lead the Lutheran service for the same two Sundays she led Episcopal worship. The same lessons were read and the same sermon given.

1994-1995 Pastor Nancy led worship for the Episcopalians at 8:30 am, followed by a coffee hour with the Lutherans who arrived at 9:30, and then at 9:45, having exchanged the Book of Common Prayer for the Lutheran Book of Worship, she led the Lutheran worship.

Outreach seemed to come naturally from both denominations. The two congregations had joint ecumenical outdoor Christmas Eve and Easter sunrise services planned by the laity around a bonfire at the Nature Center.

In the summer, the Lutherans chose to disband for three months, and then joined the Episcopalians for worship at 8:30. By the end of the summer it became clear that joint worship made sense from a theological, social and economic point of view.

1996 On any given Sunday, the community was about 40-50 people. That is not large by any standard, but it functioned well as a worshipping, care-giving, outreach-motivated family.

Nancy McGrath said in a letter to a friend, "We are, without a doubt, a lot better off together than we would be apart."

1997 A monthly newsletter was started in June in order to facilitate better communication between all members. The first issue was sent to 47 households.

The Episcopalians voted to petition the Diocese for status as a separate parish and at the Convention in October, the Diocese recognized Sunriver as its first newly created parish in eighteen years. The parish was named All Saints of the Cascades.

1998 The members found that having two combined congregations made them stronger and even more amicable. It was decided to adopt the name of Sunriver Christian Fellowship ("SCF") to identify the combined congregations and to reflect the ecumenical unity the people felt toward one another.

The congregation held an all day retreat to help define and examine itself in October. The major conclusions were: (1) The congregation felt as if they were one body— united in their worship—and all felt this was a unique attribute of the congregation, (2) The members considered themselves a traditional, liturgically-based congregation sponsored by two mainstream denominations, (3) Everyone — not just the Episcopalians and the Lutherans — treasured the practice of following the traditional Episcopal and Lutheran liturgies in worship services, (4) The group took pride in their easy acceptance of their ecumenicity.

During the later part of the year SCF was approached by the Catholic Church in Sunriver and asked if it would be interested in helping them acquire a building — which they would convert to a church. Needless to say, the congregation was overjoyed at this opportunity and quickly agreed. SCF conducted a fund drive and received pledges for over \$60,000 over three years. This was another example of ecumenism at work in the Sunriver community.

1999 Members were given the opportunity to identify themselves as Episcopalians, Lutherans or members of the Sunriver Christian Fellowship. The Episcopalians and Lutherans were also told that their pledges would be counted in calculating the Diocesan/Synod assessments. Worship commenced at the new Catholic Church mid-year.

2000 TO 2020 Sunriver Christian Fellowship settled into the ecumenical life sharing services, ministries, budgets, pastors, and also sharing Holy Trinity Church with our Catholic brothers and sisters.

Our musical worship has vastly grown; our dedicated service to helping through our outreach programs has been vigorous; our numbers and variety of assisting pastors has increased; our membership has grown four-fold and includes Christians of many denominations. We are focused by an in-depth vision statement; we remain flexible to trying new organization arrangements; we look to the needs of today and the hopes of tomorrow; we seek guidance from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as we continue on our ecumenical journey.



2021 TO PRESENT In 2021 the Fellowship Managing Board and Congregation made the difficult decision to cease its partnership with Holy Trinity Catholic Church and move to a new worship location. The main building of the Sunriver Fitness and Aquatics Center became available as a potential new home. Following many meetings and a Capital Campaign, the Membership voted to purchase the building. The Capital Campaign was successful with pledges totaling \$1.7+ million being pledged. The deal was sealed on April 22, 2022 and Sunriver Christian Fellowship purchased our new church home at 18139 Cottonwood Road. The Fellowship retained David Wilkerson of ORW Architecture to complete the design and prepare for construction documents to create a worship space on the ground floor. Plans were submitted for County Building Permit review, and construction began in mid-July 2022.



Services were temporarily held at the SHARC until the first Sunday of June, 2022 when the Fellowship moved into its new home. The future of SCF is bright and full of possibilities now that it has its own home.



✚ OUR FOREVER CHURCH HOME

Late in 2021 Sunriver Christian Fellowship made the difficult decision to leave our rented home of 21 years to purchase an abandoned athletic club and turn it into our forever church home. In keeping with our commitment to local, national and international outreach, the congregation approved the acquisition and renovation of the property with the caveat that *funding for outreach programs would not be affected by the purchase*. The property subdivision process commenced in mid-2021 and was finally completed in late April 2022. This allowed the property purchase to be finalized immediately thereafter and construction permitting to begin. Construction permits

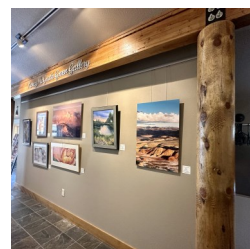
were received in late July and construction began. We spent 6 weeks establishing a temporary worship space upstairs while the basketball court/climbing wall area downstairs was being transformed into our new sanctuary. The first week of June we moved into our temporary sanctuary and 6 months later we celebrated the last Sunday of Advent in our new sanctuary. With the construction of Andi's Kitchen, the new fellowship hall and the new administration offices completed in the fall of 2023, we look forward to the opportunities in the coming years that our new church will bring as we increase our visibility throughout our community.

Andi Northcote was the creative spirit who turned a small Christmas craft/bake sale into the amazing 'Visions of Sugar Plums,' which raises thousands of dollars each year for numerous community non-profit organizations.

To honor Andi, in September of 2023 the kitchen in the new church will be dedicated to her. 'Andi's Kitchen' will be a place for the church to prepare meals, prep for Visions of Sugar Plums, and gather to do God's work in our community. We hope, with this new kitchen facility, to do community outreach and ministry.



The Nancy McGrath Green Gallery was dedicated in the lobby of SCF February 10th in honor of our retiring Pastor. This gallery is our attempt to bring not only the beauty of the artwork into our spiritual space, but the community as well,



Our newly completed Fellowship Hall directly adjacent to Andi's Kitchen will hold 120 people and will be used for meetings, education, church dinners and events such as the Volunteer Fair shown here. It will also be available to local community organizations

Welcome to our house. May all who enter here feel the love and blessing of our Lord!

✚ WORSHIP AND MUSIC

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunriver Christian Fellowship is an ecumenical congregation comprised of members of the Lutheran Church, the Episcopal Church, and many other denominations including Baptist, Presbyterian, and Catholic. We currently have a single Sunday service at 10:00 am. With this in mind, the members of SCF see the Sunday and Holy day Church services as a testament to the collaboration and acceptance of all. Each month there have traditionally been services that are rooted in the Lutheran tradition, the Episcopal tradition, and an Iona service for the general membership. The remaining one or two services in each month are given by our retired pastors and as is customary, in the liturgy of their own denomination. The only stipulation at SCF is that the Eucharist be available to **ALL** in attendance each week. These services are live-streamed and recorded and are available on the church website.

In preparing our Ministry Site Profile through small group discussions, this variety of Sunday services emerged as one of our top priorities. As we continue on our journey together, our a new senior pastor must be willing to share the pulpit with brothers and sisters in Christ of other denominations.

HOLY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Throughout the Church year, Holy Days are recognized with worship and other traditions at SCF. The season of Advent is celebrated each of the four Sundays with the lighting of a different candle on a wreath and reflecting on the different themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. The Christmas Eve Childrens Service is a highlight of the Advent season and enjoyed by parishioners of all ages. Our traditional Christmas service is held at 9:00pm on Christmas Eve. After the Epiphany season we begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday service. Holy Week begins with our traditional distribution of palm fronds at the Palm Sunday service, followed by a bread and soup supper prior to the Maundy Thursday service, the Good Friday service, and culminating in an Easter celebration that is joyous and lively, followed by the annual Easter distribution of Pysanki eggs from Ukraine. Prior to the pandemic, Pentecost was celebrated with the reading of scripture in several different languages. Other notable services during the year include a Veterans' Day service recognizing our congregants that served our country. Additionally, All Saints Day is celebrated with remembering loved ones gone before us.



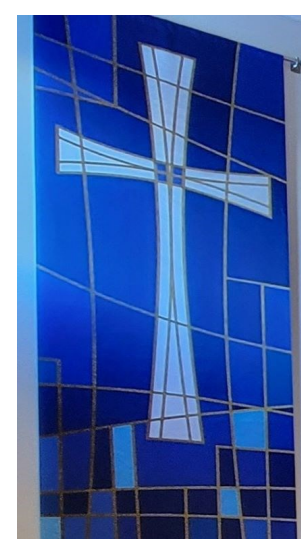
Sunriver Christian
FELLOWSHIP

*We value
spiritual guidance
and leadership
provided by
both clergy and
lay people*



PRIORITY:

Create more opportunities for Christian Education and Spiritual Formation.





LAY MINISTRY SUPPORT

Our services are supported by numerous congregants in various roles:

- Ushers and greeters welcome attendees
- Eucharistic Ministers serve during services
- Altar Guild members assist before and after services
- Eucharistic visitors spread the Word and bring communion to our home-bound parishioners
- The Prayer List is activated whenever the need arises
- Stephen Ministers travel journeys with those in need

MUSIC MINISTRY

At SCF, music is a vital part of our worship life and a highly valued ministry, featuring choral and instrumental offerings. We are blessed by the presence of Sunriver Music Festival's 9' Steinway Concert Grand piano as well as our own Yamaha Clavinova that accompany our weekly services.

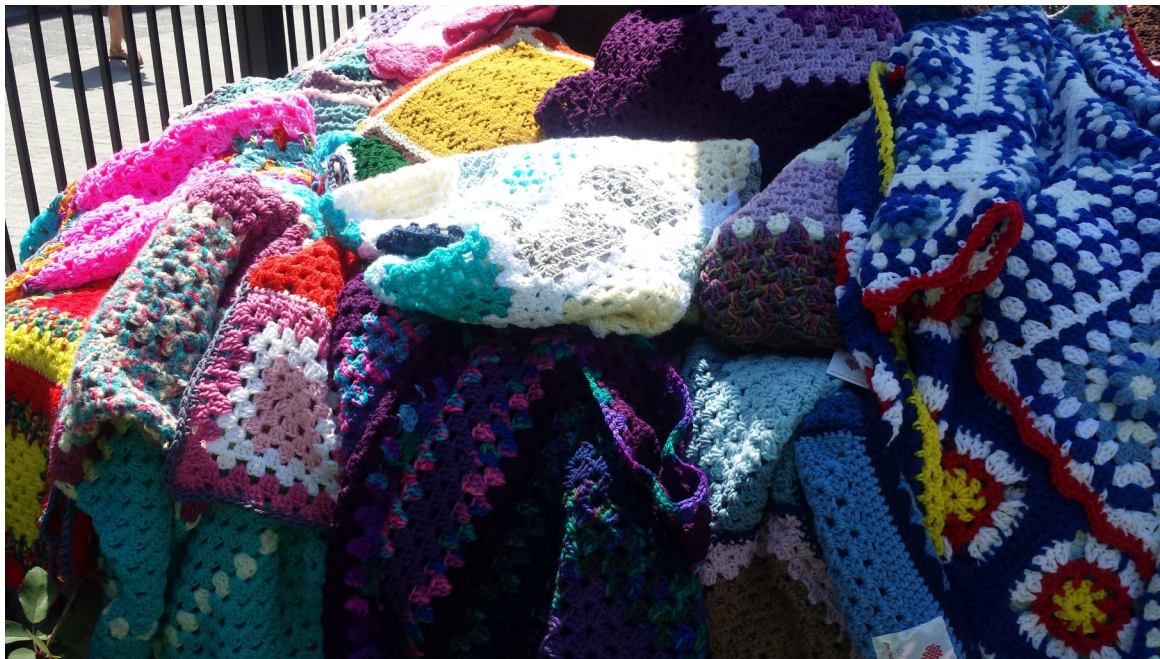
Throughout the majority of the year the *Sunriver Bells*, SCF's five octave bell choir, and the adult vocal choir alternate weekly service performances. Guest soloists and instrumentalists frequently join these choirs. Additionally, song leaders lead the hymns during services.

As part of the Music Ministry's outreach the Bells and vocal choir join together to provide a Christmas Concert for the community. Also, our new sanctuary is being offered as a concert venue to other musicians and musical groups with the hope of introducing SCF to a greater portion of our surrounding community.



PRIORITY:

Make necessary changes to increase community visibility and attract new members to our church.





We value

 our interpersonal relationships with our clergy and each other, and our personal Relationship with Christ



✚ INREACH

Inreach is Pastoral Care to ourselves. At SCF it is fundamentally about relationships — a ministry of compassionate presence. It is about loving your neighbor and God through healing, sustaining, reconciling, guiding and nurturing. We recognize that ministry to those in our congregation is very important to our identity as a community of faith. Our congregants faithfully participate in this ministry through various programs.

LAY PASTORIAL CARE ACTIVITIES

- Senior Visitation Ministry
- Meal Train
- Prayer List
- Funeral Receptions
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Eucharistic Visitors
- Stephen Ministry
- Personal Visits/Phone Calls to the homebound



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

PRIORITY:
Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.

Ministering to a primarily retirement-aged community, SCF is in the process of joining with its Stephen Ministry team to create a dementia-care ministry providing training and resources free of charge to those in our congregation and the surrounding areas who are suddenly finding themselves a caregiver for a loved one dealing with dementia. Funded by a grant from the Bisbee Foundation and a matching grant from SCF the initial trainings will begin late in 2023.



Sunriver Christian
FELLOWSHIP

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PRIORITY:

*Make necessary
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✚ EVANGELISM

NEWCOMERS/MEMBERSHIP

We are a welcoming community, enriched by those from many different walks of life. We maintain a friendly atmosphere and encourage all members of our church family to reach out to newcomers. Greeters welcome everyone who enters the church for worship, paying special attention to visitors. Ushers provide guidance, information and assistance as needed to ensure a comfortable worship experience for all.

FELLOWSHIP

Beyond worshipping together, the congregation at Sunriver Christian Fellowship strongly values fellowship activities. Gathering to share a meal or activity, to make new friends, and to deepen relationships is very important to us. SCF members have enjoyed each other’s company during the following traditional events.

- Sunday Morning Coffee Hour
- Sunday “Get to Know Me Potlucks”
- New Member Dinners
- Visions of Sugar Plums
- Summer Picnic at Mary McCallum Park
- Christmas Concert
- Maundy Thursday Worship Suppers
- Women’s Spirituality Group
- Sunday Supper Groups
- Tuesday Men’s Group



PRIORITY:

*Create more op-
portunities for
people to form
meaningful rela-
tionships.*



COMMUNICATION

SCF has a communications team that works to keep the local and church communities aware of what is happening at SCF through our local newspaper, the Sunriver Scene, and our church newsletter.

We live stream and record our services which are then made available on line for viewing at other times. We created a new website www.sunriverchristianfellowship.org which is an up-to-date source of information, as is an online newsletter that is published monthly. Mass emails, and Facebook assist in the sharing of information with our church community, as well as with those who might be interested in joining us. We are proud that our communication strategies have kept our members informed and participating in worship during the pandemic, and that we have found new members via our online presence. A group of amateur photographers help us to share SCF's story with our congregation, on Facebook and on our website.





✚ SERVICE - UPCAP (UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL)

There are two components to mission, the spiritual component of evangelism and the outreach component. UPCAP honors both aspects of our mission. The goal of UPCAP is to enable our congregation to actively minister in Christ's name to those in need, and to work for justice, freedom, and peace. SCF's congregants donate their time, talents and treasures to worthy causes in the community of Sunriver and its surrounding areas, as well as national and international programs. Our congregational work groups showed that our members are positive about all aspects of ministry: identifying their call, engaging in active ministry, feeling supported in their efforts, and having opportunities to serve. The major programs UPCAP partners with at SCF are agencies that help the most at need in our community:

*We value
Active ministries
in the church,
in the community
and in the world*



SCF SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING LOCAL AGENCIES

- Care and Share food Distribution
- Free Wood Distribution Program
- Habitat for Humanity
- Medical Equipment Program
- Bottles and Cans Recycling
- Highway 97 Cleanup
- Three Rivers School
- Court Appointed Special Advocates



AND THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

- Episcopal Relief and Development - World Wide
- Canvasback Missions - Micronesia
- Free Wheelchair Mission International - 93 Countries
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service - National
- Lutheran World Relief - World Wide
- Living Room Ministries International - Kenya
- A Promise of Health - Mexico





COMMUNITY PARTNERS

In addition to direct support of local organizations, Sunriver Christian Fellowship partners with other agencies to support our local communities.

- Sunriver Music Festival
- Family Access Network Advocates at Three Rivers School in Sunriver and all five schools in La Pine
- Neighbor Impact Utility Assistance
- Habitat for Humanity of La Pine Sunriver
- Central Oregon Mastersingers

USE OF THE CHURCH BUILDING

While our “Building Use Policy” is currently under development, SCF has every intention that our new facility become a gathering place for our local community. To that end, some of the uses being considered are:

- Concerts
- Live Theatre
- Red Cross Blood Drives
- Local Artists Exhibits
- Community Education
- Group Meeting Venue
- Workshops
- Alcoholics Anonymous

PRIORITY:

Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins in Southern Deschutes County.



✚ STEWARDSHIP - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our 154 member households are predominantly from the resort retirement communities of Sunriver, Caldera Springs and Crosswater with 39% of our members residing up to 15 miles south to the City of La Pine and 15 miles north to the City of Bend. These communities are largely composed of single-family homes; however, some members reside in various congregate facilities in Bend.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

SCF's average pledge has been relatively stable over the past five years, both in the number of pledging units and average pledge amounts. The average pledge amount is \$2,487 per giving household and the 2022 pledge program resulted in 91 pledge commitments from a total of 154 member households. This does not reflect the \$1,640,000 pledged to the Capital Campaign for the purchase and renovation of our new church in 2021 and 2022.

OUR BUDGET

Below is a summary of our budget. After 15 years of budget surpluses, we are showing deficits for 2021, 2022 and 2023. These are **budgeted deficits** and covered by the operating surplus from the prior 15 years. These budgeted deficits reflect the uncertainties in the purchase, renovation and maintenance of our new church home. It should be noted that the actual deficits shown here were less than the budgeted deficits. In addition to our operating surplus fund, our emergency reserve fund remains at 90% of one year's expenses.

Budget Summary	2020	2021	2022
	Actual	Actual	Actual
Sources of Funds	342,230	302,299	317,569
Pledge Income	275,720	235,504	226,314
Other Gifts and Plate	66,200	50,879	75,082
Other	310	15,915	16,170
Use of Funds			
Mission Ministries	55,200	68,962	105,914
Operation Ministries	278,359	248,565	282,430
Infrastructure (B&G Interest)			
Surplus/(Deficit)	8,671	(15,227)	(27,430)
Capital Campaign Income	0	254,323	1,050,655
Capital Expenditures	0	115,351	1,179,454

ENDOWMENT FUND

SCF's Endowment Fund was established in 2002 with the stated goal to "enhance and expand the ministries of SCF." The Fund enables the congregation to develop its ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating funds.

Most of the Fund's resources are invested with the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) as a true endowment fund. Distributions from the Fund are limited to investment income to maintain the corpus and its purchasing power.

Consistent with the goal of expanding SCF's ministries, the Trustees attempt to identify and support ministries which demonstrate a current need that has not been supported by SCF's operating funds recently. During the past fiscal year, the Fund has provided grants totaling \$14,500 to five ministries providing relief to Ukrainians impacted by war, relief to those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey, college scholarships to South Deschutes County residents, training for interns to provide high quality childcare on the Warm Springs Reservation, and design for expansion of a recovery home for women and children in Bend.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Sunriver Christian Fellowship is committed to financially assist young people and adults from the Three Rivers-South Deschutes County area who wish to pursue or are already pursuing higher education training as a means of obtaining better vocational opportunities. For this purpose, SCF developed the **Partnership in Education** scholarship program.

After much discussion, this outreach was formally approved by the SCF Management Board with one stipulation – *this program must be financially self-sustaining*. No monies would be allocated for it in the annual church budget. Since that time, various fundraising efforts have enabled it to provide financial assistance to local young people and adults in their higher educational pursuits. One component of this scholarship is the opportunity for a recipient to re-apply up to the completion of an undergraduate degree.

Having completed its 13th year of awarding scholarships in the spring of 2023, a total of 199 scholarships totaling \$326,500 has been awarded to 78 applicants. Forty-six of these awarded applicants have reappplied at least once, and 25 applicant-recipients applied all four years of college. At present, seven recipients have received an Associates degree and 21, a Bachelor's degree.



STRENGTHS OF SCF

The following attributes of our congregation have been derived from a series of several focused small group meetings with all congregants who wished to give input, conducted in the spring of 2023.

PASTORAL CARE

Though we assume pastoral care is a priority of all congregations, we are passionate about it at Sunriver Christian Fellowship. As we have mentioned previously in this profile, we are a congregation of primarily retired individuals and as such we often have members needing assistance with medical care, in home assistance, or merely the company of others. We have several ways at SCF through which we minister to each other, but we will be somewhat vocal in our search for a new pastor as to his/her commitment to pastoral care. Most of us have at one time or another felt the support of the entire congregation through just one visit from our retired pastor.

OUTREACH SUPPORT

Almost every Sunday, the members of the Sunriver Fellowship congregation are asked to reflect upon how they can best love God and serve him. As a congregation, it is our belief that our dedication to the service of others locally, nationally, and internationally is what defines us as a people. Though we come from a wide variety of religious backgrounds, it is our universal belief that our purpose on earth is to love God and to show that love by accepting all and taking care of those in need. It is imperative that our new pastor feels this sense of dedication and is willing to work with the members of SCF to ensure that this is done.

ECUMENISM

A large majority of our congregants affirm our ability to resolve conflict through mutual effort and display a healthy tolerance for differing opinions and beliefs. We manage conflict in ways that most of the congregation experiences as healthy. Our ability to hold and learn from these different perspectives is an important strength at SCF.

SPIRITUAL VITALITY

We strongly affirm our connections with God and the integration of faith in our lives.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Throughout the small group meetings, one of the most mentioned strengths of SCF is the Music Ministry. From the Sunriver Bells to the vocal choir, from the duets, quartets and soloists, to the individual instrumental soloists on guitar, flute, piano and bell trees, it is apparent that music is and must remain at the heart of worship at our church.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Because of SCF's focus on mission and outreach, the church has always enjoyed strong financial support from congregants. Nowhere was this more evident than in the purchase and renovation of our new church home. After stipulating that the total cost could not in-any-way affect outreach and mission funding, the congregants then pledged \$1,640,000 over a five-year capital campaign period to ensure that both goals would be achieved.

GOVERNANCE

The congregation positively perceives the leadership of the Managing Board of SCF as advised by the Episcopal Vestry and the Lutheran Council.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Hospitality is a strong characteristic of SCF. We are a welcoming community and enriched by those from many different walks of life. We feel that our congregation has brought meaning to our lives, that a friendly atmosphere prevails, and that we show genuine concern and care for one another.

✚ OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT AND GROWTH

Throughout the focused, small congregational workgroups, much of the time was spent discerning who we are, who we want to be, what are our strengths and weaknesses, and what opportunities are present for us to help achieve the vision of our future.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

It seems that nowadays, most church congregations, regardless of denomination, are anxious to grow their membership. Sunriver Christian Fellowship is no exception. As strong as we may feel today as a Christian congregation, we are still wanting to look to the future to ensure that all of our ministries may know the support and blessings that they have known as a part of our larger community. We are very hopeful that with the completion of our new home, we may be better able to share our gifts with those around us, while at the same time sharing the love and acceptance that exists within its walls. We are very anxious to have a new pastor who embraces these same thoughts.

UTILIZING OUR STRENGTHS

At SCF we perceive strengths in hospitality, governance, ministry and education. How might we use these strengths to help us grow?

REVIEWING OUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

The quality of our worship experience is a top driver of our satisfaction (and is key to our overall vitality), yet our worship experience received many comments during the small group sessions about the need to “modernize” our liturgical experience. Further discussion about worship experiences and where we might focus energy to improve the experiences is warranted.

UTILIZING STRONG LEADERSHIP

We identify that we possess and trust our lay leadership. We can use our leadership to move the congregation strategically and creatively, rethinking how we respond to the needs of members as well as the needs of those we are trying to reach in our community.

INVESTING IN OUR EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION

Christian formation is an important priority for SCF, yet the vision and level of participation in Christian education could be improved. Clarifying our vision of what constitutes effective Christian formation and exploring methods, topics, characteristics and skills needed in the 21st century church would be compelling for our programming.

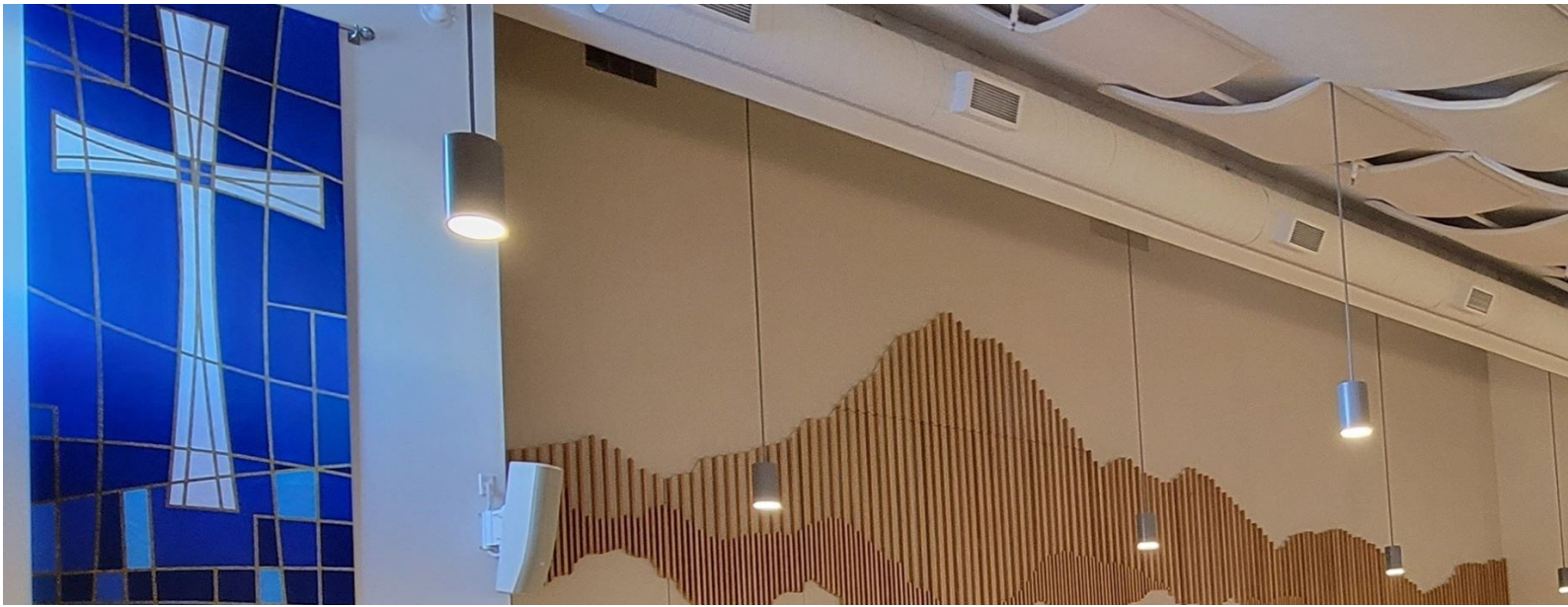
STRENGTHENING TIES TO AREA CHURCHES

In the past, SCF has enjoyed strong relationships with the other local area churches, most notably with Holy Trinity Catholic Church with whom we shared a church facility for 20 years, and the Community Bible Church. Over the past several years those relationships have drifted apart for many reasons, most notably the pandemic. As we reassess and discern our future, there is opportunity to find ways to restrengthen those relationships to better serve our joint community of Sunriver.

UTILIZE OUR NEW BUILDING TO ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY

We hope to creatively utilize our new church home to engage with members of the community who in the past may not have known of our existence. Ideas include holding community and family-oriented events such as Easter Egg hunts, Dementia Caregiver trainings, Blood Drives, etc. as a way of introducing SCF to our community.





THE LEADER WE SEEK

A history of traditions has made Sunriver Christian Fellowship a strong, resilient, and welcoming church. Our next pastor will be part of our new traditions as we prepare SCF to be the church of the future. Keeping in mind our congregation's experiences and culture, our new pastor will help guide us to live God's word with vision, creativity, and spirit toward our stated priorities.



Our congregation is seeking a leader with the following abilities and interests:

PASTORIAL CARE

Ministering to a "mature" congregation, our next pastor must demonstrate empathy, compassion and the ability to care for us in times of need. As we move into our future, that person will accept us with loving kindness, join us in warm fellowship and exemplify a joyful life in Christ.

A VISION OF GROWTH

Our next pastor will look with great excitement toward leading a congregation that is seeking growth and living our mission of "being a visible presence of Christian love and unity...." Our pastor will be a visionary and innovator that opens us to fresh resources and ideas, especially in the areas of congregational growth, liturgy, outreach, family life ministry,

faith formation, education and lay ministry.

ECUMENISM

Our next pastor will be ministering to an ecumenical congregation of diverse religious backgrounds. SCF's current membership is 18% Lutheran, 19% Episcopal and the remaining 63% are members of various other Christian denominations. Our pastor will need to embrace the ecumenical nature of SCF and be comfortable in all areas of ministry to the congregation.

TRANSFORMATIONAL TEACHER AND PREACHER

Our next pastor will honor the traditions of our various faiths and liturgies, but will also have the ability to challenge us with modern, topical sermons that connect us to God's word and inspire us to live our mission more fully. Our pastor will have the capacity to deepen our understanding of our faith and nurture us along our spiritual journeys.

STRATEGIC LEADER

Our next pastor will lead by discerning and cultivating the spiritual gifts in the laity and staff, empowering their work and appreciating the results of their efforts. Our pastor will work with us collaboratively to prioritize our opportunities for growth and have the capacity to assist the Managing Board with church operations.



✦ Our Community

Sunriver is a year-round resort community located on the edge of the High Desert of Central Oregon approximately 15 miles from the city of Bend. The community of Sunriver itself reflects the income of a higher socio-economic population with Sunriver Resort being the major employer. Once you move outside of Sunriver, you will find additional resort properties in addition to a population whose income is at a lower middle class level. At the local elementary school, over half of the students are on the free lunch program. It is this very dichotomy that allows the members of the Sunriver Christian Fellowship congregation to find joy in being able to help our immediate neighbors with various opportunities for giving.





VOICES OF THE CHURCH

“What I love about SCF is the warm welcome to everyone. As the song says, ‘All are welcome in this place.’”

“All are welcome - saint and sinner alike, because the Lord has taught us... all saints have a past, and all sinners have a future.”

“The strength of SCF is our diversity of faith and life experiences.”

“Sunriver Christian Fellowship is much more than a church congregation. We are a family fully committed to loving God, each other and our neighbors; serving our community with time, talent and treasure, and most importantly, sharing the love of Christ with all.”

“As a new member of SCF, I have been so happy to find such a welcoming, caring community so close to our new home. Both its spiritual approach and commitment to service tell me that I have found the place for this next long chapter of my life.”

“SCF may be full of gray-haired people but when there is a cause or need, we rally with abundant energy and enthusiasm. I love my church.”

“SCF is a wonderful blend of worshipping community and local outreach.”

“After some 40 years of wandering in my own proverbial wilderness, SCF brought me home to reconnect with my God. The uniqueness and diversity of our congregation make this a very special place.”

“We are one in Christ and we have learned not to be afraid of difference. Three things are the adhesive holding us together: Jesus is Lord, the Eucharistic table where Jesus meets us, and loving God and our neighbors.”