

Sunriver Christian Fellowship



An ecumenical and interdenominational fellowship
sponsored by the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches

March 2024

Sunriver Christian Fellowship
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Dear Family,

When asked what was particularly unique about Christianity, the Oxford scholar and Christian apologist C.S. Lewis responded succinctly, “*grace*.” In the New Testament, its meaning points to God’s expression of unmerited favor directed by Himself to anyone who would receive it. The apostle Paul, who personally experienced God’s grace big time, puts it this way in his letter to the Ephesian church:

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.”

In summary of Paul’s words, grace is. . .

- Self-initiated by the giver
- Not required of the giver to grant
- Not a reward or payment for something achieved by someone else

Paul further points out that an evidence of grace, truly understood and embraced by a recipient, is a desire to express it on behalf of others through “*good works*,” not as a means of earning grace but as an expression of thanksgiving for the grace one has received – *unconditionally*.

Grace is about as radical an idea that God ever came up with, a longing all people desire even if not consciously recognized or would admit that God is the only one who can adequately provide it.

Several years ago, I read how the words of the traditional hymn, *Amazing Grace*, made a surprising yet significant impact at a most unlikely event. In his book, What’s So Amazing About Grace?, Philip Yancey shares about an event he saw in a Bill Moyers documentary about the hymn *Amazing Grace*.

The setting of this event is Wembley Stadium in London. The occasion was a lengthy concert celebrating recent positive changes in South Africa. Most of the music performed was by an array of rock groups. After 12 hours and nearing the end of the concert, the crowd was getting rowdy. Interestingly, the person chosen to close the program was not another rock star, but the opera singer, Jessye Norman. A surprise to all, her closing song selection was her rendition of *Amazing Grace*. Yancey describes what occurred at this moment.

Finally, the time came for her to sing. A single circle of light follows Norman, a majestic African-American

woman wearing a flowing African dashki, as she strolls onstage. No backup band, no musical instruments, just Jessye. The crowd stirs, restless. Few recognize the opera diva. A voice yells for more Guns ‘n’ Roses. Others take up the cry. The scene is getting ugly.

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found –
Was blind, but now I see.*

A remarkable thing happens in Wembley Stadium that night. Seventy thousand raucous fans fall silent before her aria of grace. By the time Norman reaches the second verse, “*Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. . . .*” the soprano has the crowd in her hands.

By the time she reaches the third verse, “*Twas grace has brought me safe this far, and grace will lead me home,*” several thousand fans are singing along, digging far back in nearly lost memories for words they heard long ago.

*When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
than when we first begun.*

Jessye Norman later confessed she had no idea what power descended on Wembley Stadium that night. I think I know. The world thirsts for grace. When grace descends, the world falls silent before it.

This coming Easter season reminds us again of God’s gift of grace expressed through Jesus’ death and resurrection and freely offered to anyone who by faith wishes to experience it. As Christians, we are privileged to be both a receptacle and a conduit of grace. May we discover special ways during this holy season to be “*grace-responders!*”

Thanks for reading.

Rob

DAYLIGHT SAVING COMING

On Saturday evening, March 9th, be sure to “spring-ahead” into daylight saving by turning your clocks *forward* one hour in anticipation of longer days of light.

UPCOMING SERVICES: all in-person

- March 3:** 3rd Sunday in Lent, 10:00 AM
Pastor Rob Pearson, Celebrant
- March 10:** 4th Sunday in Lent, 10:00 AM
Pastor Mark Brocker, Celebrant
Pastor Frank Brocker, Assistant
- March 17:** 5th Sunday in Lent, 10:00 AM
The Rev. Roy Green, Celebrant

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- March 24:** Palm Sunday Service, 10:00 AM
Pastor Erika Spaet, Celebrant
- March 28:** Maundy Thursday Gathering
The Rev. Roy Green, Celebrant
Pastor Rob Pearson, M.C.
5:30 PM: Soup Supper,
Fellowship Hall
Reservation required
6:30 PM: Service, Sanctuary
- March 29:** Good Friday Service, 7:00 PM
The Rev. Roy Green, Officiant
- March 31:** Easter Service, 10:00 AM
The Rev. Roy Green, Celebrant
The Rev. Chuck Christopher, Preacher

Each Sunday service is live-streamed. See the SCF website for details. Also, each service is being taped during the worship service itself and then posted on

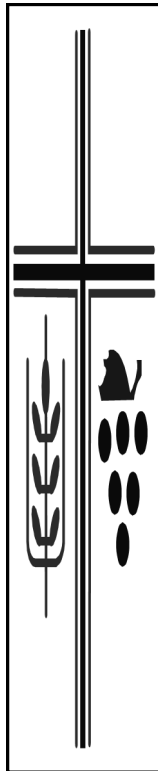
SEARCH/CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee continues with its efforts and is happy to report some great news! We are currently in the interview process! We have multiple applicants, both male and female, Episcopal and Lutheran, younger and more mature, with different strengths and backgrounds including law, accounting, and technology!

We are greatly encouraged. We did renew the ad for the next two months just to make sure we can continue to receive applications if we need to. Please keep our church in your prayers as we work to conclude the journey of finding a new Senior Pastor.

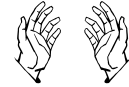
MAUNDY THURSDAY SOUP SUPPER — SIGN UP

we will again be having a soup supper prior to our Maundy Thursday Gathering on March 28th. **Due to limited seating, reservations are needed.** Contact Diana Gustavson with your reservation number - prg1us@yahoo.com or 612-770-7706. The dinner begins at 5:30 pm and the service at 6:30 pm. If you can't make it to the supper but want to attend the service, please come.



Prayer Needs

- Aedan
- William L.
- Olivia L.
- Rich D.
- Amber F.
- Betsy M.
- Lynne E.
- Erik E.
- Patty & Al K.
- Carol F.
- Jennie F.
- Ann W.
- Nancy V.
- Stan P.
- Andy S.
- Clyde B.
- Oralee H.
- Joyce H.
- Patty S.
- Nancy Fa
- Mike B.
- Vicki U.
- Jan B.
- Carol T.



CARE AND SHARE February

Boxes Distributed
Small: 42
Medium: 45
Large: 27
X-Large: 5
Total: 119
People Served
Adults: 295
Children: 108
Total: 403

SCF MANAGING BOARD

The SCF Managing Board meets monthly, on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at SCF, 1:30 p.m. The next meeting will be March 26. All are welcome to attend.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & BUILDING RENOVATION REPORT

The furnace serving the Fellowship Hall decided it could not wait for replacement until later in 2024 and ceased working in February. It has been replaced. You may recall that the 7 furnaces and 7 air conditioning units existing in our building, at the time of our purchase, were installed in 2005 and were nearing the end of their useful life. Since then, we have replaced 4 furnaces and 1 air conditioning unit and more replacements are planned for 2024 and 2025.

An agreement has been reached with a contractor to install acoustic panels in the Fellowship Hall and construct a roof gable above the Sanctuary emergency exit to divert snow avalanches away from the doors. Tentative schedules are to install the acoustic panels in late April and construct the roof gable in May (weather permitting). An agreement is also in place with a specialty contractor to install a hydronic heating system beneath the sidewalk approaching the main entrance, to avoid icy conditions next Winter.

Thank you to all who have already paid their 2024 Capital Campaign pledges. Additional payments, if possible during the next 2-3 months, will be appreciated, allow planned work to occur and facilitate early repayment of a portion of the Reserve Fund loan.

Wade Watson
Capital Campaign Manager

UPDATED DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Updated copies of the SCF 2024 printed church directory are available on the counter in the lobby as you enter.

Transformed to Love & Serve – the Goal of the Education Ministry of SCF
Ongoing Groups: These groups continue to meet throughout the year
Feminine Spirituality

This group meets every Monday; 10-11:30 a.m., in the SCF Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome. We have a meeting, read and discuss a book, share joys and concerns, and support a number of missions.

If any one is interested and would like more information on the group or the book we're reading, please contact Chris Hamilton: chrish39@gmail.com

Men of Faith

This group meets the third Tuesday of each month, 3-4 p.m. in the SCF Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Harry Hamilton: weatherlore@msn.com

SCF MANAGING BOARD FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING SUMMARY: GENE KRUEGER

The February Managing Board meeting was held on February 27, 2024, in the SCF fellowship hall.

- The 2024 revised SCF bylaws have been posted on the website.
- The Search/Call Committee has been provided with a slate of three pastors to interview. Two of the individuals have been interviewed. The third pastor will be interviewed on March 5, 2024.
- The Managing Board members are listed inside the front cover of the 2024 SCF Directory with appropriate emails for congregants' use. Please feel free to contact any one of us at any time.
- The SROA has now included SCF's representative, Linda Smith, in any new meetings concerning the proposed dog park east of the SCF church building.
- The MB is investigating the possibility of additional handicap parking spots in our parking lot.
- Rob has been asked to investigate the possibility of developing a process of better tracking and organizing membership transferring activities (joining and leaving) for SCF congregants.

The next Managing Board meeting will be on March 26, 2024 at 1:30pm. All are invited to attend.

SCF MANAGING BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

If you wish to contact a Managing Board member by email for church business, please use the following email addresses.

- Eugene Krueger ekrueger@sunriverchristianfellowship.org
- Barb Purcell bpurcell@sunriverchristianfellowship.org
- Doris Brannan dorisb0401@gmail.com
- Dave Drescher ddrescher@sunriverchristianfellowship.org
- Dave Long dlong@sunriverchristianfellowship.org
- Tom Ped tped@sunriverchristianfellowship.org

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NEW "DAILY BREADS"

Copies of the spring edition of the "Daily Bread" daily devotional are now available on the counter immediately to the left as you enter the church lobby. They are free.

April 2024 Newsletter Deadline: March 25

Please send articles to Joan Lewis:
officemanager@sunriverchristianfellowship.org

Ministry Team Leaders – 2024

- Congregational Care
Rob Pearson
- Stephen Ministry
Randy Heise
- Communications
Cindy & Mark McConnell
- Education
Rob Pearson
- Evangelism
Vacant
- Membership/Welcome
Jenny Long
- Outreach
Jane Boubel—UPCAP
Gina & Terry Tjaden—National & International Scholarship Program
- Stewardship
Rob Pearson
- Worship
Gene Bennington
Rob Pearson

SCF Managing Board – 2024

- Gene Krueger
President
- Barbara Purcell
Vice President
- Joan Lewis
Secretary-ex officio
- Joe Amos
Treasurer
- Doris Brannan
Dave Drescher
- Dave Long
Tom Ped

SCF Endowment Fund Trustees—2024

- Wade Watson
President
- Vicki Udlock
Secretary
- Susan Kenney
Treasurer
- Mike Gocke
Roy Green
- Liz Haberman
Gordon Werkema

SCF STAFF

- Vacant
Senior Pastor
Dr. Robert Pearson
- Associate Pastor
Worship & Education
Joan Lewis
- Office Manager

2024 FREE WHEELCHAIR MISSION SCF CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

SCF will participate in the 2024 Free Wheelchair Mission X2 campaign taking place in March of 2024. The price for a chair is \$96 and each donation for a chair from the SCF congregation will be matched by the FWM during the X2 campaign in March.

The chairs are distributed in 94 countries around the world and the \$96 actually gets the chairs made, ships the chairs and gets those chairs to individuals in those 94 countries. Volunteers donate their own money and time to go on those missions to those countries and help put the chairs together and deliver the chairs to the people in need. Ed and Carol Mosman who attend SCF have been volunteers on one of these missions to put the chairs together and deliver the chairs to individuals in need.

SCF's donations over the years, have purchased over 1,100 chairs that accounted for over 4,000 chairs with match from our SCF angel and the X2 matches from the FWM. Please make your check payable to SCF with Wheelchair Mission in the memo line.

I thank the SCF congregation for the support of this mission that allows people to receive the gift of mobility and a huge chance at changing their lives for the better.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Stan Porter, FWM Champion

slporter@crestviewcable.com (503) 910-6915

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

This spring will be SCF's 14th season to offer scholarship assistance to young people who attended our local Three Rivers School and either will be graduating from one of the Bend-La Pine High Schools this spring or is already attending a college or trade school. Applications can be obtained by either contacting Pastor Rob or downloading an application from SCF's website under the "Our Community" heading.

The Scholarship Committee needs an individual who would be interested in being a part of this committee and particularly has an interest and skills in fundraising. Though this program is part of SCF's outreach to the local community, the only support the program receives from the church is through an Endowment grant. No monies come from the general budget. When originally conceived, the program was to generate its funds from private or corporate sources and has done so over the years. At present the program has sufficient funds to underwrite two more years of scholarship awarding but to continue beyond that, it needs to develop a broader array of fundraising strategies which means having members on the committee with skills and experience with this kind of expertise. If you have an interest and background to assist the scholarship program in this way, please contact Pastor Rob for more details.

GOT TIME? GOT TALENT? VOLUNTEER!

Do you have extra time on your hands with a desire to help others and give back to our community? Are you new to Sunriver or South Deschutes County? Do you like the concept of free lunch? If your answer to one or all of these questions is **YES**, then read about this unique opportunity to find the perfect place for your talents and energy! Lunch will be provided to all.

A Volunteer Fair will be held on Saturday, April 6th from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Fair and lunch are hosted by SCF. This event fulfills our Mission Statement:

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.

Organizations that provide a service to the local community in various ways will be at the Volunteer Fair to share what they do and let you know how you can help. South Deschutes County is blessed with dozens of non-profit organizations that work to make our community better. Local organizations work to keep our environment healthy and clean, as well as promoting and encouraging responsible recreation, while others provide services to folks in need. The Fair is an opportunity to learn more about each organization and learn about how you can help.

Groups that participated in the 2023 Volunteer Fair include the CASA of Central Oregon, Healing Reins, Mountain Star La Pine, Habitat for Humanity of La Pine Sunriver, Council on Aging, Alzheimer's Association, Saving Grace, La Pine Kitchen, Central Oregon Trail Association, Cans and Bottles for Care and Share Foodbank, Sunriver Music Festival, SMART Readers at Three Rivers School, Care and Share Community Outreach, LT Rangers (Sunriver litter patrol), Second Tern Thrift Store, Sunriver Nature Center and Observatory, The Bells of Sunriver, Woodchuckers (Firewood Sales and Donations), and Deschutes Land Trust. Most of these organizations already benefit from the financial and volunteer support of our congregation, but they can always use more help!

For more information or to volunteer to help on the day of the event, please contact Mark or Cindy McConnell at mcconn@bendbroadband.com.