

# Sunriver Christian Fellowship



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

April 2024

Sunriver Christian Fellowship  
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## Dear Family,

Several years ago, Carolyn and I listened to an audio recording of the book He Still Moves Stones by pastor and writer Max Lucado. One particular story in the book titled "It's All Right to Dream Again" where he describes a new insight he received from the familiar Easter morning encounter by the women who went to Jesus' tomb has stayed with me. Let me share some excerpts from this chapter because the author says it so much better than I can.

"It's a dark Sunday morning. It has been dark since Friday. The only ember of light (on Friday) is the small band of women standing at a distance from the cross - watching.

Among them are two Marys, one the mother of James and Joseph and other is Mary Magdalene. Why are they there? They are there to call his name. To be the final voices he hears before his death. To prepare his body for burial. They are there to clean the blood from his beard. To wipe the crimson from his legs. To close his eyes. To touch his face.

They are there. The last to leave Calvary and the first to arrive at the grave.

So early on that Sunday morning, they leave their pallets and walk out onto the tree-shadowed path. Theirs is a somber task. The morning promises only one encounter, an encounter with a corpse.

Remember, Mary and Mary don't know this is the first Easter. They are not hoping the tomb will be vacant. They aren't discussing what their response will be when they see Jesus. They have absolutely no idea that the grave has been vacated.

It isn't hope that leads the women up the mountain to the tomb. It is duty. Naked devotion. They expect nothing in return. What could Jesus give? What could a dead man offer? The two women are not climbing the mountain to receive, they are going to the tomb to give. Period.

Mary and Mary knew a task had to be done - Jesus' body had to be prepared for burial. Others didn't offer to do it, so the two Marys' decide to do it.

Whether or not they were tempted to bemoan or feel frustration for the lack of assistance by others, they didn't quit. That would have been tragic. You see, we know something they didn't. We know the Father was watching. Mary and Mary thought they were alone. They weren't. God knew. He watched them walk up the mountain. He was measuring their steps. He was smiling at their hearts and thrilled at their devotion. And he

had a surprise waiting for them.

*"At that time there was a strong earthquake.*

*An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, went to the tomb, and rolled the stone away from the entrance.*

*Then he sat on the stone."*(Matt. 28:2)

I noticed something I'd not paid attention to before. Why did the angel move the stone? For whom did he roll away the rock? For Jesus? Think about it. Did the stone have to be removed in order for Jesus to exit? Did God have to have help? Was the death conqueror so weak that he couldn't push away a rock? ("Hey, could somebody out there move this rock so I can get out?")

I don't think so. The text gives the impression that Jesus was already out when the stone was moved! For whom then, was the stone moved?

Listen to what the angel says: *"Come and see the place where his body was."* The stone was moved - not for Jesus - but for the women; not so Jesus could come out, but so the women could come in!

After being told by the angels to inform Jesus' followers about what has occurred, they don't have to be told twice. They turn and start running to Jerusalem. The darkness is gone. The sun is up and the Son is out. But one surprise still awaits them.

Suddenly, Jesus met them and said - *"Greetings! Don't be afraid. Go and tell my followers to go on to Galilee, and they will see me there."*

The God of surprises strikes again. It's as if he said, "I can't wait any longer. They came this far to see me; I'm going to drop in on them."

God does that for the faithful. Just when the road gets too dark, like it was for Mary and Mary, the angel responds and the Savior shows and the two women - and you - will never be the same.

The lesson? Three words. **Don't give up!** God is watching. For all you know right at this moment he may be telling an "angel" to *"move your stone."*

Don't quit. For if you do, you may miss the answer to your prayers.

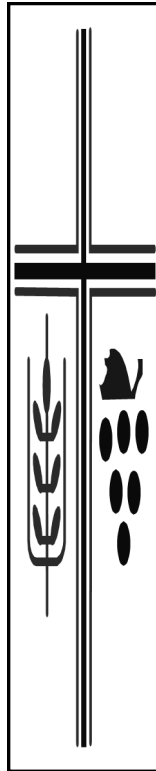
God still sends "angels." And... God *still moves stones!*"

Pastor Rob

**UPCOMING SERVICES: all in-person**

- April 7:** 2nd Sunday of Easter, 10:00 AM  
Pastor Rob Pearson, Celebrant
- April 14:** 3rd Sunday of Easter, 10:00 AM  
Pastor Rob Pearson, Celebrant  
Pastor Frank Brocker, Preacher
- April 21:** 4th Sunday of Easter, 10:00 AM  
The Rev. Chuck Christopher, Celebrant
- April 28:** 5th Sunday of Easter, 10:00 AM  
Pastor Erika Spaet, Celebrant
- May 5:** 6th Sunday of Easter, 10:00 AM  
Pastor Rob Pearson, Celebrant
- May 12:** 7th Sunday of Easter, 10:00 AM  
Bishop Patrick Bell, Celebrant

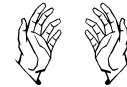
Each Sunday service is live-streamed. See the SCF website for details. Also, each service is being taped during the worship service itself and then posted on the SCF website by Sunday evening.



**Prayer Needs**

Current prayer needs are listed. Please continue praying for long term needs listed in bulletins and website.

- Amber F.
- Betsy M.
- Lynne E.
- Erik E.
- Patty & Al K.
- Carol F.
- Jennie F.
- Nancy V.
- Stan P.
- Andy S.
- Clyde B.
- Jonathan C.
- Lauren B.
- Mike B.
- Jan B.
- Carol T.
- Scott J.



**CARE AND SHARE**  
**March**

Boxes Distributed  
Small: 51  
Medium: 43  
Large: 35  
X-Large: 7  
**Total: 136**  
People Served  
Adults: 343  
Children: 130  
**Total: 473**

**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 April 23. All are welcome to attend.

**2024 SCF FREE WHEELCHAIR MISSION CAMPAIGN RESULTS**

The 2024 campaign netted \$4,992 from the donations of the AMAZING SCF CONGREGATION and \$1,500 from the SCF International Outreach Budget for a total of \$6,492. This support of the campaign enables the Free Wheelchair Mission with the X2 match to enrich the lives of 134 individuals with a life changing wheelchair.

I am so proud of the SCF support of this mission that gives people the ability to get up off the ground and enable them to have a better life. God bless you and thank you.

Stan Porter Free Wheelchair Mission Campaign Champion

**NANCY McGRATH GREEN GALLERY**

Get ready for a **new show** at the Nancy McGrath Green Gallery! The NMGG is hosting a group of very diverse artists from the Red Chair Gallery in Bend beginning April 2<sup>nd</sup> and continuing through the end of June. The show will include vibrant abstract impressionist landscapes by Ken Marunowski, wildlife photography by Sue Dougherty, water media paintings by Linda Swindle, Rebecca Baldwin's sometimes imaginary and other times recognizable paintings, Mike Putnam's Fine Art nature and landscape photographs and Plein Air paintings and pastels by Sue Lyon Manley. You'll want to see this exhibit of an incredible variety of subject matter and artistic styles! Please plan on attending the **artists reception** on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:00 p.m.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

The furnace serving the Fellowship Hall was replaced in February, and 2 air conditioning units serving the Sanctuary were replaced in late March. 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 3 air conditioning units. We will likely replace 2 more units in 2024 and the remainder in 2025.

Installation of acoustic panels in the Fellowship Hall is scheduled to occur during the week of April 15 and construction of a roof gable above the Sanctuary emergency exit, to divert snow avalanches away from the doors, will occur in May, depending upon the weather. 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.

The intent remains to repay \$100,000 of the Reserve Fund loan as soon as adequate funds are available in the Capital Campaign account. This will allow the Managing Board to consider a partial payment of the mortgage principal, thereby reducing ongoing interest payments.

Thank you to all who have already paid their 2024 Capital Campaign pledges.

Wade Watson  
Capital Campaign Manager

**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 MARCH 2024 MEETING SUMMARY: DAVE LONG**

The March Managing Board meeting was held on March 26, 2024, in the SCF Fellowship Hall. The Managing Board is excited to welcome Terry Tjaden as our newest member. Terry will be replacing Phil Northcote who had asked the Board to allow him to step down due to personal reasons.

The Board received an update from Linda Smith on development of Cottonwood Park, a planned dog park and future park/sports courts, directly east of SCF. The SROA Board has approved the recommendation to construct the dog park which should start construction as early as April 1, 2024 with an anticipated completion date in August 2024.

The Board discussed the need for additional “reserved parking” for handicapped parishioners. Although space is limited it appears as though more handicap parking spaces will become available. The logistics are being worked out.

Upcoming “activities” planned for 2024: Volunteer Fair – April 6, new member Spaghetti Dinner – May 19, SCF Summer Picnic – July, Blood Drive – fall, Social Security Seminar – fall.

The next Managing Board Meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2024, at 1:30 pm. 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](mailto:ekrueger@sunriverchristianfellowship.org)
- Barb Purcell [bpurcell@sunriverchristianfellowship.org](mailto:bpurcell@sunriverchristianfellowship.org)
- Doris Brannan [dorisb0401@gmail.com](mailto:dorisb0401@gmail.com)
- Dave Drescher [ddrescher@sunriverchristianfellowship.org](mailto:ddrescher@sunriverchristianfellowship.org)
- Dave Long [dlong@sunriverchristianfellowship.org](mailto:dlong@sunriverchristianfellowship.org)
- Tom Ped [tped@sunriverchristianfellowship.org](mailto:tped@sunriverchristianfellowship.org)
- Terry Tjaden [ttjaden@sunriverchristianfellowship.org](mailto:ttjaden@sunriverchristianfellowship.org)

**THANK YOU!!**

We think it's in order to say a huge “thank you” to all who have had a hand in “fixing up” our church building. Getting the building to start with was a super effort. Then a good many remodel projects were a great follow-up. The result of all those efforts is a splendid church facility. To all who “spearheaded” those efforts we give a well-deserved huge “THANK YOU!”

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutherans

**NEW “DAILY BREADS”**

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

**May 2024 Newsletter Deadline: April 25**

Please send articles to Joan Lewis:  
[officemanager@sunriverchristianfellowship.org](mailto: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*
- Rob Pearson*
- Stewardship  
*Bob Sessler*
- Worship  
*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
- Terry Tjaden

**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*

### **CENTRAL OREGON MASTERSINGERS PRESENTS**

#### **Sounds Italian!**

Saturday, April 20 at 7:00 PM at Nativity Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 21 at 3:00 PM at Sunriver Christian Fellowship

Concerts are FREE; tickets are not required.

To make a donation:

<https://www.centraloregonmastersingers.org/make-a-donation.html>

### **LA PINE HIGH SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL**

Please come support **one of our members, Rebecca Henderson,**

and the other Theatre students at La Pine High School.

La Pine High School Theatre Department Presents:

## **TARZAN**

April 25, 26 and 27.

musical starts at 6:00pm,

### **UPDATED DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE**

The 2024 SCF Church Directories are available in the church office. To get one, ask Joan Lewis. She is in the office Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **DIAPER DRIVE FOR MOUNTAIN STAR RELIEF NURSERY**

SCF is participating in this diaper drive to provide much needed supplies for the newly opened LaPine Mountain Star Relief Nursery. Please bring sized 3-5 diapers, size 3-6 pull-ups, and baby wipes and add your donation to the tower of diapers, pull-ups and wipes that is temporarily gathering in the Lobby and the East Room. If you prefer to give a donation, you may put it in the collection plate labeled "Diaper Drive/UPCAP" or directly to Susan Kenney, 206-276-7316. Let us help Mt. Star succeed in their efforts to support our most fragile infants and toddlers. Thank You for your support.

### **SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE**

If you know of a young person needing financial assistance for higher education who (1) attended Three Rivers School for at least one year, and (2) will either be graduating from a Bend-La Pine high school this spring or has already graduated, let them know about SCF's Scholarship Program.

To secure an application, a potential applicant can either (1) contact the church office (541-593-1183 or [sunrivercf@gmail.com](mailto:sunrivercf@gmail.com)) and one will be mailed to them, or (2) go to the SCF website ([www.sunriverchristianfellowship.org](http://www.sunriverchristianfellowship.org)). At the top of the front page is the "Our Community" link. Listed under that heading is the "Partnership in Education & Scholarship" link. That link will provide information regarding the scholarship program along with pertinent application forms and instructions that can be downloaded for both a first-time applicant and a reapplying applicant.

The deadline to submit an SCF Scholarship Application is Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> by the end of the workday.

### **ANNUAL VOLUNTEER FAIR AT SCF**

On Saturday, April 6, from 11:00 am-1:00 pm, SCF will host a Volunteer Fair. The purpose is to give both new and long-time residents an opportunity to see the many ways they can help make a difference in our community. Our church has a rich history of volunteerism, and we hope to share that passion with others.

Spread the word: If you belong to a club or an organization where you can spread the word, please do so. If your club or organization has a newsletter, perhaps you can put the information in there. You can tell people you know are looking for the right volunteer spot, so that they can learn about the opportunities in our area at the Volunteer Fair.

Help at the event: You can reach out to Mark and Cindy McConnell ([mconn@bendbroadband.com](mailto:mconn@bendbroadband.com)) to get on the helper list. Help is needed with: greeting people, food service, set up/takedown, monitoring, etc., so please let us know if you are available. We will need about 10 people to help us make it all happen.