

# The Connection

*We are called to share Jesus in creative and intentional ways, through:  
Connecting with God and His Church, Growing in Faith and Love,  
and Serving Our Community and World.*

A monthly newsletter of Turner Christian Church

February 2022

Volume 17; Issue 2

## Dear Church, From Pastor Matt

This month I want to spend some time telling you about two upcoming events that I'm really passionate about. The first is the **Unity Project**, which is put on the Northwest Christian

Network (formerly the Oregon Christian Convention). The Unity Project is an event that happens on the last Saturday in February each year and focuses on building unity in the body of Christ. **This year it's February 26th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.** Lunch is provided.

Often when we talk about Christian unity we think about denominations merging or churches watering down their theology so they can get along with others, but Christian unity isn't about denominations or agreeing on theology—it's about how Christians treat each other in their every day behavior. It's about how we love each other, whether we go to the same kind of church or not, whether we believe the same doctrines or not. Christian unity is really just Christian love in action.

I say all of this because that's what this year's Unity Project is all about: how do we as individual Christians act out unity in the way we live, behave and worship? Daniel Mallipudi, from Roseburg Christian Church, will be the keynote speaker, and there will be activities and discussions focused on learning to practice Christian unity.

I would love to have you attend the Unity Project this year! You can register online at [nwchristian.net/work.com/the-unity-project](https://nwchristian.net/work.com/the-unity-project) for \$25, or you can register in the church foyer and get the group rate of \$20 per person. Contact Matt, Jack or Rachel if you have any questions!

The other event I want to mention (which is technically in March) is **Ash Wednesday**. March 2nd is the first day of Lent, the season of repentance that leads up to Easter. While most people associate Lent with the Catholic Church, it's actually a much older practice that is observed by many types of churches. It's also not in the Bible, which means it's not essential to being a Christian—but it is an effective reminder of the importance of repentance as a part of the Christian life.

On Ash Wednesday, Christians around the world begin lent through a special church service focused on repentance. They will often use that day to commit to certain spiritual practices like scripture-reading, fasting, or giving for the rest of Lent. We will be offering two ways of observing Ash Wednesday:

1. From 7:00-10:00 am, the sanctuary will be open for anyone who wants to come in and spend time in prayer and receive ashes at the start of their day. We will have prayer stations set up and a minister available to sprinkle ashes as a sign of repentance.
2. We will hold a full Ash Wednesday service at 6:00pm in the sanctuary, including prayer, scripture reading, music and ashes.

If you have any questions about Ash Wednesday, please feel free to ask me anytime.

Stay healthy, stay hopeful and have a blessed February!



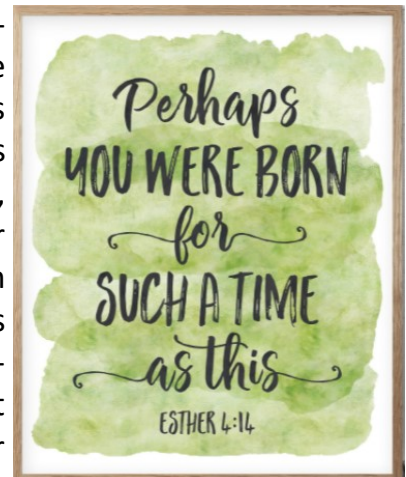


## What Does it Mean to be Prepared?

Preparedness is an important part of many aspects of life. Being prepared for a financial hardship can be immensely stress relieving. Being prepared on the basketball court or football field can often be the difference between winning and losing. To be prepared for a major life change is valuable whether that be entering the work force, being promoted, finding a new job, getting married, buying a house, and so much more in life. But what does it mean to be prepared in your faith? The Bible does speak to this subject, but preparedness spiritually can be a tricky subject.

You see, I'm leading a class through Esther right now and it is evident that God is at work behind the scenes in this story. The Jewish people are living under the rule of a foreign king and due to his negligence, they end up in a tragic situation. God's people are facing extinction. Esther, through some wild events ends up being the queen to the previously mentioned king. She is Jewish. Her cousin (and the person who raised her) seems to suggest that maybe, just maybe, God had prepared her for where she is at and to be someone who helps bring freedom, from this terrible decree of death to the Jews. But preparedness is tricky in this story.

Esther is a difficult story to make sense of. God isn't explicitly mentioned, and the main characters never make any explicit reference to Him. So, any understanding of God working behind the scenes is an inference and any dependence on God shown by the characters is the same. However, we do have what Mordecai said to Esther, "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" I believe that God's people begin to rely on Him when all else seems lost and this is the moment God is brought into the forefront of the story in a way. Feel free to disagree with me. However, even if the Jews were placing their trust elsewhere or didn't trust God, He still delivered them from their dire situation.



That's where I feel preparedness comes into play. What does it actually look like? It is pursuing after God and desiring to know Him more and learning how to love more. We won't be perfect in this pursuit, but preparedness is also trusting God when all seems lost and we feel unprepared. It means trusting Him in good situations as well. I don't know if there is one point that we reach that we feel fully prepared. Being prepared looks different for all of us and is a life-long journey. What is similar for all of us, though, is that we all should be pursuing after God and trusting in Him. Trusting that He is preparing us, behind the scenes, for whatever may come next.

## *I've been thinking... About Turner*

I took up running this summer-I'm laboriously slow, and varyingly committed, depending on the day. As someone who gets bored easily, the success of my running depends on varied scenery. Some day it's the lake, or the high school track, or down to Eden Circle, or up the Delaney hill. I mix and match blocks and directions to keep things interesting. I gasp and persevere and just really hope that no one is watching or judging.

As I run, I fall in love. I fall in love with the deer I startle, and the flowing river as it passes under the 5<sup>th</sup> street bridge. I fall in love with the houses on Denver Street, and the wind blowing across the lake and the constant buzz of activity at the post office. I fall in love with the whirr of machinery at the mills. I fall in love with the place that God has called me.

It's a choice, to fall in love with a place. It's not an emotion, it's the everyday decision-making to be *here*, to invest *here*, to live my life out *here*. In this time of covid, and constant hard news and heartbreak, it's easy to get dissociated from the now. It's easy to be caught up in the future, or the past, or the distraction of constant television or music. It's easy to build a life of distraction and discontentment. The struggle is real. But God's invitation to be present, engaged and living out a fulfilling life of light and love is even more real.

I could reach for some oft-quoted verses here (Matthew 6:25-26 & Philippians 4:12). They are wonderful verses, rich and worth contemplating. But I think I'd like you to discover your own inspiration. When you look at your life right now, if you're distracted and distanced from it, what would make you dive in? What words of Christ or other Biblical wisdom gives you strength for the day, curiosity about connecting, eagerness to partner with Jesus in whatever he is doing? There is richness for you in the here and now. There are things to discover, ways to fall in love (or re-fall in love) with what God has called you to.

So pray, and ask the Lord for wisdom. Then open up your Bible and see how the King of Heaven and Earth is directing and encouraging you. And if you need a friend to talk, well, we're here!

With love, and hope,

—*Pastor Rachel*



## Sunday Adult Bible Studies

Meet at 9:00 am



### ***Christians Living in a Non-Christian World***

Led by Gary Tiffin

This class will review how Christians from the first century to 2022 have responded to their secular environments in the light of The Plan that Matt is overviewing in his year long series of sermons. Selected events, persons, periods of time, major changes and difficult challenges will be discussed as a means of evaluating our current challenges and response to the world in which we now live.

### ***The Book of Esther***

Led by Jack Holvey

Life can be hard. Difficult times happen, and pain cannot be avoided. When life doesn't make sense, do you turn to God or away from Him? The book of Esther encourages us to trust that God is always present. Trust and obey, as Esther did. And watch God silently weave all events for His glory . . . and for our good.

## ***Wednesday Adult Small Groups***

Meet at 6:00 pm

### **Adult Sermon-Based Study Group**

Led by Jerry Carter

This group uses the small group questions Pastor Matt provides with his weekly sermons as a basis for discussion and further exploration of the Bible Story featured the previous Sunday. Sermon notes, with small group questions are available in weekly bulletins and on the TCC website.

### **Women's Group**

Led by Kris Jakubowski

This group is using the video series, *Take Courage*, by Jennifer Rothschild, a study on the Book of Haggai, learn to walk confidently in your calling, stay motivated despite opposition, and courageously invest your life in God's purposes, trusting Him for results you may never see in this lifetime.

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### **We Invite All Ladies to Join Us for Fun, Fellowship and Prayer!**

*First*  
FRIDAYS

**February 4, 2022**  
**Ladies Movie &**  
**Prayer Night!**  
**6:30 pm**

So, February is the month of love, right??? Well, love means a lot of things and for me, the greatest love is that of our Heavenly Father for his people. In the name of love, we will watch ***Lady and the Tramp***, and then the Father's children will share in a time of fellowship and prayer with Him. No greater love is there than the love that sent Jesus to the cross on our behalf. Let's celebrate that and be together in love for Him and each other.

We will meet at 6:30. Bring a friend and a snack to share (if you're not comfortable sharing, you can bring your own snack). I'm looking forward to our time together. See you then!



## Opportunity to Share God's Love!

In this month which holds a special day to celebrate love -Valentine's Day- we can choose to celebrate the Greatest Love of All by sharing that Love with those around the world who have never heard of or experienced the truth that God Is Love. We can choose to help show them God's love in a tangible way by giving them something to hold onto that will remind them daily of that Great Love.

There are unreached people groups around the world who have been identified as potential Shoebox recipients in years to come. We know that Shoeboxes can be used as the key to unlock Gospel opportunities to people who have never heard. The only thing preventing us from getting these keys into the hands of our ministry partners in some of these locations is the lack of Shoeboxes. Even with the millions of Shoeboxes given each year, there are many more millions of children who desperately need to hear and understand God's love story to mankind. With times as they are, these opportunities for Evangelism, Discipleship, and Multiplication are more important than ever. Every day gets us one step closer to eternity and we share God's desire that not one of His children misses the opportunity for eternity with Him.

As we gear up for our Community Packing Party, we have committed to provide the school supplies for over 1,200 Shoeboxes. That means a lot of pencils, sharpeners, erasers, crayons, paper, scissors, and all of those things that will allow these kids to attend school. That way, these Shoeboxes can also give the kids a better life here while preparing for their eternal life.

If you can, will you please pick up some of these listed school supplies and place them in our donation baskets in the lobby? Amazon has some great deals on bulk school supplies and most any store you may shop in would also have these available. We do realize that in a few months, many of these items will be available at back to school bargain prices, so if you want to wait until then, we're patient. We just want you to be aware of what our donation requests will look like this year.

The other items that we wish to focus on this year will be any personal hygiene items, especially hair accessories. We can send soap and washcloths, deodorant for older children, toothbrushes, and combs. For each girl, we also send a hair accessory packet with bobby pins, hair elastics, hair clips, scrunchies, bows, etc. If you see any of these items that you'd like to donate, we'll be happy to use whatever you give.

Thank you to all who have inquired regarding handmade items such as draw-string bags and doll blankets. We gladly accept these items!!

Lastly, as I spoke of giving the children something tangible to hold onto to remind them of God's love for them, Valentine's Day stuffed animals will be available all month with clearance sales to follow. Imagine the joy of each child as they lovingly hug those animals.

Thank you again for your support of this ministry. If anyone wants more information regarding Operation Christmas Child, or if you have any unanswered questions, please feel free to contact me and I'll do what I can to help.



—Ann Stoker

## New Members

**Sheila Jensik** transferred her membership to Turner Christian Church on January 2, 2022.

**Jay Pritchard** transferred his membership to Turner Christian Church on January 9, 2022.

**Keith Elsberry** rededicated his life to Christ and became a member of TCC on January 9, 2022.

*We welcome each one to the fellowship and family of Turner Christian Church!*

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*In the past we have listed  
birthdays and anniversaries*

*in the monthly newsletter.*

*Because this digital newsletter is  
available to the public, we will not  
be posting private information like  
birthdays and anniversaries in this  
version of the newsletter.*

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**Janie Anglen** is retiring as the Church Treasurer! We thank Janie for her dedication and excellent service to the Lord and His church in a very important and demanding position! Janie is training Alex Ray to serve as our next Treasurer. Alex and his wife, Pam, are residents of Turner Retirement Homes.



## ***New Groups for Kids!***

**4 years old – 2nd Grade**  
led by Vicky Remy

**3rd – 5th Grade**  
led by Kris Jakubowski

Each group meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday  
of the month from 6:00—7:30 pm.

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*Worship Team  
Opportunity to Serve!*

## **Calling All Singers and Musicians!**

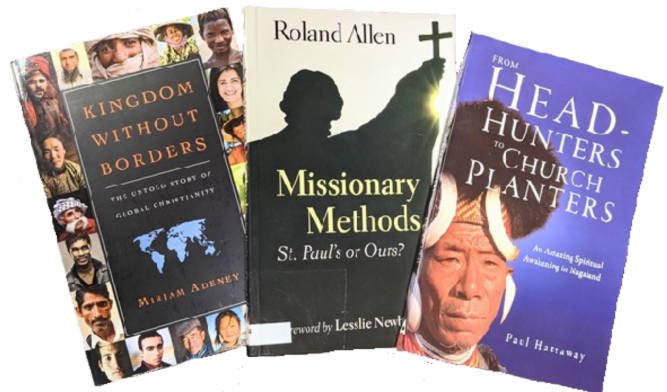


We have been so grateful to be able to sing in our Sunday worship service for the last several months. Now we are ready to include more singers and musicians on a rotating basis. Please contact Casey Holmes if you are interested in singing or playing an instrument during Sunday worship.

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## *The Church Library*

Remember that the Library is open whenever the church building is open! It's a great resource for education, inspiration or relaxation! Recommended reading for this month is from our Missions section:



## *Ash + Wednesday* **March 2, 2022**

7:00-10:00 am (Open to Individuals)

6:00 pm (Congregational Service)

*Please read Pastor Matt's article  
for more information and details*

# February 2022

Green—Online Meetings  
Black-Meeting in Building

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <i>Small Group</i> 10:00 am— Gary Tiffin  Elders' Mtg 6:00 pm	<b>2</b>  Ladies Bible Study—6pm  Adult Sermon- Based Study-6pm	<b>3</b> Music & AV Teams—9 am  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>4</b>  Ladies Movie & Prayer Night 6:30 pm	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00 Adult Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online  Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm  Kid's Club 6:00-7:30 pm	<b>7</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am  Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	<b>8</b> <i>Small Group</i> 10:00 am— Gary Tiffin	<b>9</b>  Ladies Bible Study—6pm  Adult Sermon- Based Study-6pm	<b>10</b> Music & AV Teams—9 am  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00 Adult Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online  Board Mtg 4:30 pm Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm	<b>14</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am  Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	<b>15</b> <i>Small Group</i> 10:00 am— Gary Tiffin	<b>16</b>  Ladies Bible Study—6pm  Adult Sermon- Based Study-6pm	<b>17</b> Music & AV Teams—9 am  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet 3:30 pm
<b>20</b> 9:00 Adult Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online  Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm  Kid's Club 6:00-7:30 pm	<b>21</b> Food Bank & Church Office Closed  Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am  Community Gar- den Mtg 3:00 pm Y.I.T. Mtg—3:30 pm	<b>22</b> <i>Small Group</i> 10:00 am— Gary Tiffin	<b>23</b>  Ladies Bible Study—6pm  Adult Sermon- Based Study-6pm	<b>24</b> Music & AV Teams—9 am  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 Adult Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online  Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm	<b>28</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am  Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am					

Happy New Year, Everyone!



Our 2022 Spring Planting will soon be here. Some gardeners are already getting starts ready to be be transplanted. Plans are being made to plant squash, cucumbers and pumpkins in the large field, along with corn maize. We now have three family plots and four single plots available to be assigned. Please contact us at:  
 Email: [turnercomgarden@gmail.com](mailto:turnercomgarden@gmail.com) | Facebook: [turnercommunitygarden/](https://www.facebook.com/turnercommunitygarden/)  
 You are always welcome to stop and look around the Garden! See you soon!

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING EVENT



## PACIFIC NORTHWEST SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

At Turner Christian Church  
Sunday, March 6, 2022 • 5:00 pm • \$ 8.00 (pay at door)

Virginia's "Famous" Potato & Salad Bar  
*(Please RSVP by calling the church office or  
signing the registration form in the foyer)*

  
EMMANUEL  
CHRISTIAN SEMINARY  
AT MILLIGAN

### Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday: 8:00am—2:00pm  
Friday: 8:00am—11:00 am

### Call us:

503-743-2119\_

### Look us up at:

[www.TurnerChristianChurch.com](http://www.TurnerChristianChurch.com)  
Facebook:/turnerchristian/OR  
[Faithlife.com/turnercc](http://Faithlife.com/turnercc)

### Staff

Matthew Holmes.....Senior Minister—[matt@turnerchristianchurch.com](mailto:matt@turnerchristianchurch.com)  
Jack Holvey.....Associate Minister—[jack@turnerchristianchurch.com](mailto:jack@turnerchristianchurch.com)  
Rachel White.....Associate Minister—[rachel@turnerchristianchurch.com](mailto:rachel@turnerchristianchurch.com)  
Jerry Sygney.....Office Administrator—[office@turnerchristianchurch.com](mailto:office@turnerchristianchurch.com)

### Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Classes at 9:00 am  
Worship Service at 10:30 am  
Online Worship at 10:30 am