

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.

January 2023

The Monthly Newsletter of Turner Christian Church

Volume 18; Issue 1



Dear Church... from Pastor Matt

Welcome to 2023! I don't know about you, but 2023 looks like it's going to be a big year for me! Casey and I are presidents of this year's Northwest Christian Convention, which is exciting but also a lot of work! To be honest, however, the convention is not the most exciting thing about 2023 for me. The thing I'm most excited about this year is my new year's resolution—or, should I say, *our* new year's resolution. For the past 18 months I've been doing a lot of reading about evangelism, and I've reached a conclusion: evangelism is only *part* of the picture. As important as evangelism is, it's only one part of the ultimate mission God has given His people:

"The most important [command]," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31, NIV)

Evangelism is part of the great command we have been given by Jesus: to love God, and to love our neighbors. This leads me to our new year's resolution. I was struck by the fact that Turner Oregon labels itself "the good neighbor town." If that's who Turner is, then who should be the best neighbors in this "good neighbor town?" Shouldn't it be the people who have been commanded to love their neighbors? So that's my new year's resolution for our church: we will become a congregation of people who are dedicated to loving our neighbors.

Now, notice how I phrased that. We are not going to be a congregation that loves its neighbors. We are not going to create a bunch of new programs so the whole church can love its neighbors as a group. We are going to be a congregation of people who love *their own* neighbors. Each one of us is commanded to love the people we live and work with. This is not about a church program—it's about your everyday life.

We are going to pursue this resolution in several ways:

- **Sermon Series:** this year our sermons will be dedicated to uncovering everything the Bible teaches us about why and how to love our neighbors. We'll start in January with a series called "The Blessing" that will follow the first generations of God's family (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Jacob's sons) in their struggle to love their neighbors.
- **All Church January Class:** during the month of January, we will spend the Sunday school hour gathering as a church to cast a vision for this new mission. On January 15th, 22nd and 29th we will gather together to talk about what it could look like for the members of Turner Christian Church to have a real impact on their own neighborhoods.
- **Sunday School Classes:** our new Sunday School classes will launch on February 5th. We will be reading and discussing two books: The Art of Neighboring by Jay Pathak and David Runyon, and Placed for a Purpose by Chris & Elizabeth McKinney. We will divide into two smaller classes, but both will cover the same material. (If you're wondering why we aren't offering another class, it's because this topic is so important that I want our full focus on it this winter. In the future we'll go back to offering multiple options).
- **All Church Gatherings:** during the winter semester we'll take several breaks in our Sunday school classes in order to gather as a church and discuss our mission to love our neighbors. We hope to bring in speakers from our community who can talk to us about real, practical solutions to challenges in our town.

There's more coming down the pike, but that's enough to get us started into our new resolution. I hope you will embrace this new focus with me—I truly believe that this is the direction our church has been moving in since before I ever got here, and I am so excited to see what our congregation can do as we go out and love our neighbors!

Happy New Year!

I've been thinking... About Beauty!

"Late have I loved you, beauty so ancient and so new, Late have I loved you!" -Augustine, Confessions

Beauty often evokes a sense of longing. In a perfect sunset, when everyone we love most is seated around the same table, or when a sleeping child snuggles close, we feel the perfection, and we notice the dissonance. The moment will end. The child will wake. The sunset fades into night. The singer might hit a wrong note, the dancer might stumble or fall—eventually even the best performers will leave the stage. Beauty reflects a beautiful, creative, passionate God. Beauty's imperfections reflect the reality of the brokenness of our world, and the sin nature. Beauty brings us to longing for the days when perfection will never end, where everything will truly be beautiful (Romans 8:19-23).

As the Christmas season fades, and family members head home, the coming winter months can cast a feeling of bleakness. We don't often experience the gray of January and February the same way we do the lights of Christmas and parties, and the flowers and growing days of early spring. In beauty's absence we might also long more desperately for Jesus, but sometimes our desperation can lead us down dark paths, rather than growing in things like patience, hope, and love.

What would it look like to invite beauty intentionally into your experience this winter? What would it look like to rejoice with family and friends all that God has made beautiful, all that God has inspired in humans, on the darkest days? As I am writing this I am listening to BWV 199, IV. Tief gebuckt und voller Reue by J.S. Bach and performed by one of my high school classmates, Anna Schubert. Her soaring Soprano praises God in this beautiful confessional piece. My world is a little bit brighter right now, as I appreciate the beauty of her voice, and as I look out the window at winter trees and think about the world that God has made.

Some suggestions on encountering God in beauty:

1. Intentionally draw your mind back to the Lord as you experience beauty. Thank Him for what he has created! Share your thoughts with Him. If a verse comes to mind, linger on it. What might God be offering you?
2. What might you learn about other humans through their art? Can you grow in love, patience, gentleness or peace as you encounter their work? Discussing that which you find beautiful with others can also help create shared experiences for growth.
3. Intentionally share the experience. Watch the musical with friends. Grab your spouse for the morning walk. Read the poem aloud, listen to the favorite song together. Delight in and with community.
4. Be open to new experiences. God often grows us through the uncomfortable. Listen to the ways others experience beauty. Be open to music, art, and nature that's not your preference.

Some beautiful suggestions:

- Take a walk in a familiar place, and ask God to help you notice new and beautiful things about His creation.
- Take time thinking about the physical beauty and beauty of character that God has given your spouse. Thank God for it. Consider sharing with your spouse what you appreciate.
- Listen to Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald perform *What a Wonderful World*.
- Visit an art museum. Take a friend.
- Read the poem *Sunday Morning with the Sensational Nightingales* by Billy Collins.
- Read *Aggressively Happy: A Realist's Guide to Believing in the Goodness of Life* by Joy Clarkson (available in the church library).
- Read Psalm 148, and then respond to it. Maybe write your own song or poem of praise to God, or draw/paint a picture showing all creation praising their Creator.

For those that would like to share, I would love to hear about your experiences with beauty and how it has/or is deepening your relationship with God. Please don't hesitate to email me, call the office, or chat with me at church.

—Rachel

Little Lamb Christian Preschool



Hello Church! As we head into the new year, I am happy to have this opportunity to begin sharing with you all about our preschool adventures and endeavors. January serves as a halfway point in our school year, a month where we revisit routines and curriculum which struggle to compete against the excitement of the holiday season — and rightfully so! We so deeply enjoyed our December weeks filled with Advent wonder and Christmas cheer. ***We pray that these last two weeks our students spent at home with their families were touched by that special peace the birth of Christ invites.***

In my experience as an educator, the January school days often feel the longest. The world beyond our classroom is still enveloped in winter and waiting. We, too, are enveloped in that tiredness which comes along with the cold and dark; and we, too, are waiting for the weather to change and beckon us to our outdoor classroom. ***We pray that these next four weeks are marked by a revival of that patience and grace which so often grows tired as our winter days grow short.***

Our theme this month is “Transportation.” Our students, in both the Preschool and Pre-K classes, will be learning about all kinds of vehicles — from planes and trains, to dump trucks and excavators! There is something so wonderfully innate about the relationship between a small child and those special things which move with great volume, power, and speed. Should you spend a few minutes in a Preschool classroom, you might recognize the shared attributes between a three-year-old child and something like a forceful steam engine or wailing fire truck. ***We pray that these next four weeks of curriculum will delight our young learners as they engage in playful discovery.***

As always, our hopes for this month of Preschool and Pre-K will be that our students encounter the joy of our Savior in their interactions with us, each other, and all those they encounter here at Turner Christian Church. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. ***We pray that your outpouring of love and generosity will serve these students and their families in lasting, meaningful ways which glorify our Savior and further His kingdom.***



All Church Classes—January 15, 22, 29
An introduction to “The Art of Neighboring”

The Art of Neighboring Class—Starts February 5th
We will be divided into two smaller classes,
covering the same material.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

With *Sympathy*

Marvin Bartel passed away and went home to the Lord on November 30, 2022. Angie and the family invite everyone to a Celebration of Life for Marvin to be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at Walery's Pizza (1555 Edgewater St, West Salem). At 2:30 pm, Ward Hill will lead in sharing remembrances.

Margorie Van Den Haak passed away and went home to the Lord on December 5, 2022. Please keep Joe, Lauretta and the family in your prayers. A Memorial Service will be held at Turner Christian Church on January 21st at 3:00pm.

"But the Lord is the one who is marching before you! He is the one who will be with you! He won't let you down. He won't abandon you. So don't be afraid or scared!"

DEUTERONOMY 31:8

woman's day



All church leaders and the church budget for 2023 were approved by the congregation by ballot on December 11, 2022.

Chair of the Congregation: Frank Musgrave
Secretary of the Congregation: Julie Leppert
Financial Secretary: Hailiane Sorensen
Assistant Financial Secretary: Kris Jakubowski

Trustees

Don Campbell (2023)
Bill Penhollow (2024)
Larry George (2025)

Elders

Frank Loyd (2023)
Dave Stoker (2023)
Mike O'Dell (2024)
Jon Remy (2024)
Frank Musgrave (2025)
Bill Penhollow (2025)

Deacons

Rhonda Hunter (*Library Service Team*)
Kris Jakubowski (*Hospitality Service Team*)
Frank Loyd (*Missions Service Team*)
Shane Miller (*Facilities Service Team*)
Virginia Musgrave (*Senior Service Team*)
Gary Tiffin (*Finance Service Team*)

*Elders and Trustees serve 3-year terms.
All others serve a 1-year term.*



Volunteers Meeting!
Sunday, January 8th at 9:00 am

January 2023

Green—Online Meetings
Black—Meeting in Building

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online 	2 Church Office And Food Bank Closed	3 Elders Mtg—6pm	4 Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon- Based Study-6pm	5 Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	6 Ladies Movie & Prayer Night 6:30 pm	7 Missions Team Meeting—9 am
8 9:00 am Nursery Vol Mtg 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Board Mtg 4:30 pm Youth Group, & Parents Group	9 Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	10 Zoom Small Group 9:00 am— Gary Tiffin CCHOA—6pm	11 Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon- Based Study-6pm	12 Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	13	14 Marvin Bartel Celebration of Life 2-4 pm at Walery Pizza
15 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Youth Group, Kid's Club & Parents Group 6:00 pm	16 Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	17 Zoom Small Group 9:00 am— Gary Tiffin Camelides 4-H 6:30 pm	18 Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon- Based Study-6pm	19 Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	20	21 CHAT Program with Jon Remy 1:00 pm Margorie Van Den Haak Memorial Service 3:00 pm
22 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Youth Group, & Parents Group 6:00 pm	23 Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am Y.I.T. Mtg—3:30 pm	24 Zoom Small Group 9:00 am— Gary Tiffin	25 Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon- Based Study-6pm	26 Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	27	28
29 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Youth Group, & Parents Group 6:00 pm	30 Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	31 Zoom Small Group 9:00 am— Gary Tiffin	28 Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon- Based Study-6pm	29 Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	30	31

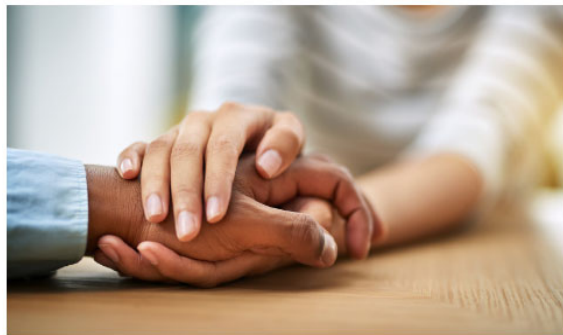


**January 6, 2022
Ladies Movie &
Prayer Night!**

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

We will watch the movie *"Ticket to Paradise."* George Clooney and Julia Roberts star in this romantic comedy set in tropical Bali.

After the movie we will share in a time of prayer for our church and community. Invite a friend to come with you and bring a snack to share!



FREE IN-HOME HEALTH VISITS

About Us

Turner Fire District's Community Health Assessment Team is composed of licensed EMS providers that are available for non-emergency medical evaluation & assistance. Local residents and family members are invited to call CHAT and set up flexible appointments. Recurring wellness checks are available based on individual needs.

VISITS ARE ABSOLUTELY FREE.

Remember, if you are having an emergency, dial 911!

What We Provide

Flexible & Recurring Appointment Scheduling

Vital Sign Assessments

Medication Inventory & Adherence

Basic Health & Wellness Assessment

Chronic Illness Management Assistance

Discharge Instructions & Follow-up



New Turner Fire Department CHAT PROGRAM!

The **CHAT** (Community Health Assessment Team) is an organized group of TFD paid and volunteer medical professionals who are prepared to make scheduled home visits to community members experiencing non-emergency medical challenges. Residents needing CHAT support are referred by hospital staff, local doctors, concerned family members or by themselves.

Jon Remy will be leading a meeting to explain the CHAT PROGRAM on Saturday, January 21, 2023 • 1:00 pm at Turner Christian Church

This meeting is open to the Turner Community and supported by TCC Seniors Ministry.

Church Treasurer Position Open!



TCC needs to employ a new part-time treasurer early in 2023 to replace Janie Anglen who will be moving out of the area.

The position requires 6 hours/week from a person with accounting experience with QuickBooks, managing accounts payable, bank statements, and payroll software, as well as working with the Finance team in annual church budget preparation.

If interested, please contact Gary Tiffin or the church office.

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
Facebook:/turnerchristian/OR
Faithlife.com/turnercc

Staff

Matthew Holmes.....Senior Minister—matt@turnerchristianchurch.com
Rachel White.....Associate Minister—rachel@turnerchristianchurch.com
Jules Roberto.....Preschool Director—jules@turnerchristianchurch.com
Jerry Sygney.....Office Administrator—office@turnerchristianchurch.com

Sunday Morning Schedule

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