

**Mission Statement
of the Regional Church**

Our mission is

- To nurture members and congregations
- To establish and receive new congregations

While working together with the whole Church to do Christ's ministry in the world.

Doug and Cathy Myers Wirt
Regional Ministers

Audre Bratcher,
Administrative Assistant

On the Way with Doug and Cathy

- August 15-16 Cascade, ID, Women's Retreat Cathy
- August 9-14 Suttle Lake Grade School Camp Doug/Cathy
- August 9 Salem, Dedication of XPlor Interns Cathy/Doug
- August 5 Women's Prayer Group Cathy
- August 4 Junction City, Meeting Doug
- August 2 Albany, Worship Cathy
- August 2 Lebanon, Worship/Preaching Doug
- July 25-31 Suttle Lake Middle/High School Camps Doug/Cathy
- July 17-22 Columbus OH General Assembly Cathy/Doug
- July 15 Junction City Doug
- July 13 Lebanon, Committee Meeting Doug
- July 12 Eugene, Allison Park, Preaching Doug
- July 12 Hood River, Worship Cathy
- July 8 Women's Prayer Circle Cathy
- July 8 Boise, Red Rock Transition Committee Doug
- July 7 National Benevolent Assn. Board Training Cathy
- July 5 Portland, St. Johns Covenant, Worship Doug
- July 5 Portland, Christ Church, Meeting Doug
- July 5 Keizer, Worship Cathy
- June 30 Lebanon, Santiam River Area Ministers Doug/Cathy
- June 30 Northwood, Regional Assembly Planning Cathy

News from our Congregations

Lebanon: installed economical new heating and cooling units for comfort of members and Soup Kitchen participants.

Midway: now hosting worship services each weekend in four different languages!

North Bend: local church women's retreat in August

Parkview: led a Vacation Bible School with 50 children.

Mountain Home: the western gospel band performed at God Rocks! Festival to raise funds for camp.

Junction City: annual potluck luncheon and water fight, 8/16!

Grants Pass: church held campout in July.

Allison Park: marked fifth anniversary of their ministry with Pastor Jim Osborne

La Grande: collecting dimes to make a quarter mile of dimes to raise \$2,244 for Week of Compassion.

Dallas: FCC Pastor Darren Anderson will be doing bike tune ups for neighbors as part of a Block Party, 8/16.

Corvallis: FCC has welcomed Irami Osei-Frimpong as their new Director of Community Development and Bonnie Osei-Frimpong who directs the XPLOR program for National Benevolent Association. We welcome both to the region!

Save these dates!

- September 12 Hood River**
Installation, Rev. Alicia Speidel
- September 25 Keizer**
Boundary Training
- September 26 Nampa**
Boundary Training
- October 16-17 Beaverton**
*Fall Women's Retreat
Hosted by Murray Hills*
- October 18 Portland**
*Book Signing with Sandhya Jha
Hosted by Portland First*
- October 19 Portland**
Meet Sandhya Jha, Lynchwood
- November 7 Portland**
Regional Board Meeting
- November 15 Portland**
District Music Festival



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Reconciliation Ministry

The Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witnesses for understanding, justice and hope. In the midst of racial tensions and prejudice that continue to afflict communities and individuals, Reconciliation Ministry provides anti-racism training and support for ministries that seek to bring people together for positive dialogue and change.

In the past year, Reconciliation Ministry has supported Disciples of Christ leaders in their response to divisive tensions in the St. Louis, Missouri metro area. A Disciples church planter and juvenile detention chaplain recently spoke at the General Assembly about her involvement with protesters, clergy and youth in the community, challenging all of the church to get involved.

Each year, Disciples receive a special offering in the fall for Reconciliation Ministries. Gifts are shared equally between general church and regional church ministries. Gifts given in the Oregon & SW Idaho region are shared with several ministries, including Yakama Christian Mission in White Swan, WA, ministries of the Portland Peniel congregation in Nogales, Mexico, and the Gomer's House recovery ministry operated by Trees of Righteousness. In November 2015, our Reconciliation offerings will also support the Collins Lectures of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, focusing on the historical relationships of Native Americans and the church in the U.S.



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**Regional Assembly
May 20-21, 2016**

*Hosted by
Northwood Christian
in
Springfield, Oregon*

My Turn

On the last weekend of September, the regional church will hold two identical boundary training workshops in Keizer and Nampa. Those who have gone to these events before may know what that means, but it may be a mystery to others.

The September events will have three parts. We will give the most attention to healthy personal boundaries for ministers and other church leaders. All church leaders share a responsibility for establishing proper distance between themselves and others in the church and community. This includes respect for each person's personal space, comfort and safety regarding physical, sexual and emotional intimacy. In an interpersonal sense, the boundary trainings teach that "good fences make good neighbors," and that proactive practices and strategies can increase the chances of a positive environment for all. Dr. Ruth Fletcher, Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Montana will lead this section.

A second component of the training will refer to the Ministerial Code of Ethics of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the not as well known Congregational Code of Ethics for use in the Disciples of Christ. Both of these resources can be found on our regional website at <http://www.oidisciples.org/#!ministries-and-resources/cl6u>.

Matt Rosine of the Pension Fund will lead the third part of the training. He will share about the resources of the Pension Fund and how they can support our ministries by making employment in the church more of a financially sustainable venture. Compensation in the church is also a "boundary issue," for pastors and church employees may at times have to speak when they are asked to bear too great a share of the financial load to sustain a ministry. Matt is a creative thinker

with a great heart for ministry, so I am pleased that he can join us. The Boundary Trainings are required for active ordained and commissioned ministers. Other church leaders are also welcome to attend. I will look forward to our time together.

Doug



Boundary Training Events, Dr. Ruth Fletcher, September 25-26

Friday, Sept. 25, Keizer Christian Church, 6945 Wheatland Rd N., Keizer, OR 10:00 am--4:00 pm

Saturday, Sept. 26, First Christian Church, 619 12th Ave. S., Nampa, ID, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Register by September 18 with the regional office. Cost of \$10 includes lunch.

Installation of Alicia Speidel in Hood River

Hood River Valley Christian Church invites you to the installation of their new Pastor, Alicia Speidel, on **Saturday, September 12 at 3:00 p.m.** Rev. Speidel is a graduate of Pacific University and Pacific School of Religion. She serves on the Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and takes an active role in leadership for regional summer youth camps. She comes to Hood River from her previous ministry as pastor of First Christian Church in Medford, Oregon for over a dozen years.



Women's Fall Retreat in Beaverton with Sandhya Jha

October 16-17, Sandhya Jha, Director of the Oakland Peace Center and author of *Pre-Post-Racial America*, will lead one of our regional women's retreats hosted by Murray Hills Christian Church in Beaverton. The retreat includes times of worship, play, workshops, and hanging out with Disciples women from around our regional church and their friends.

A book group will meet to discuss the book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou during the Saturday workshop time. We will build a labyrinth prayer walk made up of food/grooming items to be donated to the Murray Hills pantry. A market of free trade items will pop up for shopping, and an espresso/Italian Soda cart will offer by donation treats with money going for a good cause. An offering will be received during Saturday worship.

All women and girls from middle school to 90 years plus are encouraged to come and bring friends. **Cost** for the 24 hour retreat is \$45, \$35 if you are a first time attender, or \$25 if you are a teenager or a youth sponsor bringing teens. Housing is in area hotels, your own homes, or in homes of area Disciples women. If you would like to come for Saturday only, the cost is \$25 for the day, \$15 for first time attenders and \$10 for youth/youth sponsors. Childcare is provided as requested free if charge, so let us know at least a week ahead if you need care to allow us to be ready for your kids.

The theme is **Lift Every Voice**, and we will explore how to raise our voices alone and together in hope to change our own lives and build just communities.

Registration materials, schedule and hotel suggestions can be found on our web site at: <http://www.oidisciples.org/#!womens-fall-retreat-2014/c16t0>.

Watch the website for workshop offerings and other news as details develop.



Camp Thank You!!

Thank you to the volunteer staff who made church camp such a great success this year. Thank you to the congregations that helped to enroll campers and raised money to send kids to camp.

We held seven events with the theme: **Say What?** based on I Corinthians 13:1-13. **WHAT** stood for **W**ords Matter, **H**old onto the right stuff, **A**ct in love and **T**ake love out into the world: **Say WHAT?!**

Camps were held at Ontario First Christian, Camp Cascade in Idaho, and Suttle Lake Camp in Oregon. Campers enjoyed times to explore the theme, hiking, canoes, crafts, archery, games, field trips to farms, lakes, rafting or a city park for Frisbees and ice cream.

Each camp had an unique experiences, yet we were all held together by the "love chapter" of the New Testament.

This fall the regional church will convene a set of conversations to look into the future of our shared camping program. Watch this newsletter, our website (www.oidisciples.org) and our Facebook page for details. This conversation will be a part of our regional visioning process.

Camp changes lives — the campers and the staff will all tell you this. **Thank you!!**