

**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

• Nov. 20	Eugene FCC, Worship	Cathy
• Nov. 20	Springfield, Worship and Meeting	Doug
• Nov. 19	Hillsboro, Peniel Worship	Doug
• Nov. 16	Lebanon Committee Meeting	Doug
• Nov. 16	Eugene Area Ministers' Lunch	Cathy/Doug
• Nov. 16	Albany Committee Meeting	Cathy
• Nov. 15	Mission Council Webinar	Cathy
• Nov. 13	Chuukese Fellowship Church of Christ Salem	Doug
• Nov. 13	Pacific Island Family Church Portland	Doug
• Nov. 13	Keizer, Committee Meeting	Cathy
• Nov. 13	Silverton, Leading Discussion on Cuba	Cathy
• Nov. 12-13	Chuukese Leaders w/ NAPAD Pastor Kim	Doug
• Nov. 10-12	National Benevolent Association Board	Cathy
• Nov. 10	Columbia Gorge District Clergy	Cathy
• Nov. 10	Bishops and Execs Lunch EMO	Doug
• Nov. 9	Comm. on Ministry, Trees of Righteousness	Doug
• Nov. 7	Medford, Committee Meeting	Cathy
• Nov. 7	Peniel Portland; Garcia service	Doug
• Nov. 6	Albany Committee Meeting	Cathy
• Nov. 6	Portland FCC, Principe de Paz	Doug
• Nov. 5	Regional Board Meeting	Cathy/Doug
• Oct. 30	Meridian, New Hope	Cathy/Doug



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www.oidisciples.org 0245 SW Bancroft Suite F, Portland 97239

Advent Blessings...

From
your
Regional
Church
Staff



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Audre Bratcher

Liz Cronin

Cathy Myers Wirt

Douglas A. Wirt

News from our Congregations

Springfield FCC: preparing for building expansion.
St. Johns: Three people on regional team for Anti Racism/ Pro Reconciliation.
Lebanon: Hosting local boy scout troop.
Red Rock: 50 Days of Prayer With members meeting five times in groups of three.
John Day: Community Thanksgiving service will be available via Internet.
Midway: Thank you for the hosting of ministers' training on Nov. 4.
Lynchwood: Thank you for hosting meeting with NAPAD Pastor Chung Seong Kim.

La Grande: annual bazaar 11/5
Northwood: Nativity Walk, Dec. 19-21, displaying Neil Allen's extensive Nativity set collections.
Ione: Monthly community lunch for seniors.
Junction City: annual holiday Bazaar.
Murray Hills: Ecumenical worship service, Election Eve.
Pendleton: Marionette show for Christmas Sunday.
The View: Study of 3 John.
Albany: Farewell send off for Interim Minister Eric Dale.
Corvallis: AA group installed new wood Pergo floor in FCC meeting room.

Save these dates!

- December 11 & 18, 2016**
Christmas Offering
- February 4, 2017**
Regional Board
- February 11, 2017**
Pray and Play for Women Allison Park, Eugene
- February 18-19, 2017**
Middle School Retreat Hosted by Albany First Christian



“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. “

Luke 2:8

Have you ever noticed how the Christmas story speaks to the “urban/rural divide?” An angel came to some shepherds in a remote field and told them about a child born in the city of David. Some estimates place the population of Bethlehem between 300-1,000 people at the time of Jesus’ birth. Today, that would be somewhere between the population of Ione, Oregon and say, Homedale, Idaho or John Day, Oregon. Cities grow much larger now, but if you’ve been out in the country with your sheep far from any people for days or weeks, a few hundred could seem like a huge throng.

At Jesus’ birth, part of the revelation came to people out in the fields, and part of it was in town, though not in a very fancy place. The shepherds sped into Bethlehem, found the baby Jesus, and told Mary and Joseph about the angel they’d seen and heard in the fields. Luke 2:15 says that the angel didn’t make the trip with them, but v. 17 –20 suggests that the angel wasn’t really needed because the shepherds became such glorious messengers themselves.

It’s not easy to get people moving from their comfortable turf to receive insights from strangers. So much of what we love in the Christmas story can stretch us more than we want in real life. Disciples in the Oregon-SW Idaho region know about Mexico and Micronesia, about Missouri and Montana, McMinnville and Meridian, Mountain Home and Medford. And those are just some of the “M’s!” The point is that God’s messengers of hope appear in many places and that like those who met at the manger, our understanding and witness grows as we join from diverse places and perspectives. May we in the Oregon-SW Idaho, among our own flocks, also display and declare the good news of great joy for all the people, glorifying God while seeking peace on Earth.

The deacons will now receive the Christmas offering on December 11 and 18.

Doug

Anti Racism Pro Reconciliation Update

About 60 Oregon-SW Idaho Disciples joined together on November 4 at Midway Christian Church in Portland. They came for the first in a series of Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation training events for ministers and other church leaders.

Before the November 4 session, a group of nine lay leaders and ministers in the region met on six different days to learn about leading Anti Racism Pro Reconciliation events. Sandhya Jha of Oakland, CA and Nathan Hill of Maryland trained our new trainers, with both in person and video conference sessions. The point is to learn more about the destructive and dangerous effects of racism in society and the church, and to see the creative and faithful ways that Christian people can help to shape a better world.

Two more similar events will be available in 2017 for ministers and other church leaders. One will be in Idaho and one in Oregon. These trainings are made possible in part by the annual Reconciliation offerings given by Disciples in the fall. Our thanks go to our guest trainers and to those who gave so generously of their time to be trainers for our local events in the future. Congregations may arrange for local trainings in the new year.

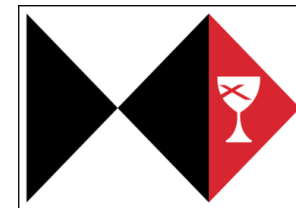


NAPAD Pastor Visits Oregon-SW Idaho Region

Co-Regional Minister Doug Wirt is a new member of the NAPAD Board of Directors. NAPAD is the North American Pacific Asian Disciples. NAPAD Interim Pastor Chung Seong Kim came to the Oregon-SW Idaho region on November 12-13. Pastor Kim visited with a group of Chuukese Disciples leaders from Portland, Salem and Lacey, WA. He spoke about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the ministries of NAPAD. He also visited worship and brought greetings to Chuukese congregations in Salem and Portland.

The Chuukese Fellowship Church of Christ has become the newest affiliating ministry of the Oregon-SW Idaho region. The church began meeting at First Christian Church in Salem this fall. The Portland ministry, Pacific Islands Family Church, began the affiliation process in 2015, and meets at Midway Christian Church.

Chuuk is a Pacific island and part of the Federated States of Micronesia. A number of Chuukese congregations in several regions have affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) across the U.S.



Fedice Romerillos Project UPDATE

In 2015, the Regional Board set a goal of \$17,500 for our latest microloan project with our mission partner FEDICE in Ecuador. In 2016, Oregon-SW Idaho Disciples gave and raised just over half of those funds. Between now and the end of 2017, we hope to raise another \$8,500 to complete the project. This project provides start up funds for families who want to raise their own animals or raise onions for a source of income in the small community of Romerillos. This new project emerged from a crisis, when volcanic ash covered Romerillos after a recent eruption. While the ash could have ended the project, the community actually came together with FEDICE, saved their animals and crops, and then they found 29 more families to start a new microloan project! Your gifts for this FEDICE project in Ecuador may go to the regional church office marked “Romerillos.”

Women’s Pray and Play Days 2017

In 2016 over 190 women came to one of the six Pray and Play events around our regional church.

In 2017 you have an opportunity to come to one of four events. The materials for registration are on line in the women’s area of our website www.oidisciples.org.

In the early part of next year, you will also be able to register for the events online.

This year’s theme: “Use What Ya Got” will help us to examine how we use what we have already to make a witness for faith in our own places where we live and with partners around the globe.

Thank you to Allison Park in Eugene, Keizer, Parkview in Meridian and Pendleton for making a place for these events. Stay tuned for more details!

