



PRINEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN REFLECTIONS

REAL. FRIENDLY. PEOPLE.

JULY 2026

Our Shared Journey

By Rev. Dr. Dawn Linder

This month we're considering "Drinking tea: sanctuary and savoring" in Tish Harrison Warren's book *Liturgy of the Ordinary*. Are you a person who enjoys a morning cup of coffee? Or tea? Most people do enjoy at least one or the other, although not everyone. I've been drinking coffee since I was a toddler, my mother tells me. I'd be with my parents out working on the farm and coffee was all there was to drink, so that's what they gave me. I've always enjoyed coffee, and I always look forward to that first sip of coffee each morning. Some people feel the same way about tea. I've tried to like it, as it was served at Sunday night Bible study in college at my professor's home. I drank it to be polite, and I do enjoy it occasionally, but when thinking of Warren's word "savoring" I think of coffee.

I enjoyed learning that coffee was first invented by Ethiopian monks, the term cappuccino referring to the shade of brown used for the habits of the Capuchin monks of Italy. Coffee is born of extravagance, an extravagant God who formed an extravagant people, who formed a craft out of the pleasures of roasted beans and frothed milk.

Have you ever just watched your dog, or lambs, or horses play, or graze, or just be themselves outside,

and savored that experience? There's something peaceful and beautiful about seeing animals being who they're created to be, living their lives, and we get to be a witness to that ordinary miracle. Even more so when watching children and grandchildren playing and interacting with each other, being children, watching them learn and grow and become the people God has created them to be.

When we enjoy God's creation, we reflect on God himself. God does not simply declare creation "good" in a detached way, like a manager checking off a quality list. He delights in what he has made: the perfect rhythm of ocean waves, the beauty of a robin's uniquely blue eggs. God rejoices as his creation lives, learns, and grows.

Enjoyment takes practice. Over time, we must relearn the freedom of delight and celebration. It takes strength to enjoy the world; like a muscle, our capacity for wonder needs to be exercised. If we neglect it—if we never savor a quiet afternoon, if we are always cleaning the fridge, volunteering at church, or working more hours—we may forget how to notice beauty and miss the goodness that pleasure teaches us to see. We are invited to practice the privilege and responsibility of noticing, savoring, and rejoicing.



To cultivate beauty, pleasure, and delight is part of our calling, because our mission is rooted in the truth that what is true is also beautiful.

These moments of loveliness - good tea or coffee, bare trees, and soft shadows - are church bells. They call us to attention and remind us that Christ is in our midst. His song of truth, sung by his people all over the world, echoes across the roads and fields, into our homes, calling us to see God at work in the ordinary, everyday live we are invited to savor. Sometime this week give yourself permission to sit down for at least five minutes with a beverage you savor, so you can savor the ordinary miracles of life God has put you in the midst of.

Reflection Questions

- What are some ways that you experience pleasure, delight, beauty, and artistry?

Continued on Page 2

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Riley, Treasurer

As of June 21, 2026

Checking Accounts

Mid Oregon Credit Union.....	\$ 9,349.22
Warm Springs Water	495.40
Community Garden	358.90
Food Bank	100.00
Local Missions	4,795.52
CATT Grant	2,340.00

Savings Accounts

Building Fund	\$60,765.56
Maintenance Fund.....	\$19,043.69
Organ Fund	2,539.60
Choir Supplies	349.58
Deacons Fund	1,068.87
CD	\$ 30,064.65
Edward Jones	\$126,893.01
Total Income for Mar. 15-Apr. 19, 2026	\$ 6,033.22
Total Expenses for Mar. 25-Arp. 19, 2026	\$ 9,364.89
Income for Year-to-Date	\$ 39,855.30
Expenses for Year-to-Date	\$ 45,033.06
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -5,177.76

Have you considered signing up to give your tithes and offerings electronically? It's quick, easy, and secure – check it out <https://secure.myoanaco.com/L-Z93P/home>



July Birthdays

Marcia Lesch, July 3 Brad Logan, July 7
Ileen Westling, July 9 Carol Benkosky, July 28
Rich Bumblis, July 31

July Anniversaries

Glenda & Hugh Janssen, July 8
Kathy & Steve Riley, July 16
Kathleen & Mike Wilson, July 26

If you have a July birthday or anniversary but you're not listed here, then perhaps we don't have that information. Please email psmith66@mac.com with the appropriate dates. Thank you!

Our Shared Journey - Continued from page 1

- How have you seen God's character through pleasure, delight, beauty, and artistry?
- Is reveling in pleasure and beauty easy or difficult for you? Why?
- The author writes that embracing pleasure takes intentionality and practice. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- How does worshipping through your senses influence your relationship with pleasure and beauty?
- How do you think beauty is part of the mission of the church?

Suggested Practices

- Set aside intentional time this week or month to do something you find lovely, pleasurable, or delightful.
- Taste, smell, or look at something pleasing and beautiful. Journal about or discuss that experience of beauty and how it orients and shapes you.
- Notice your senses in church. What do you see, smell, taste, hear, and feel? How does that lead you into worship?

You Can Help Mountain Star

As summer kicks off MountainStar is collecting items that help keep children safe, healthy and comfortable during the warmer months: if you would like to help you can donate sunscreen, hats, water bottles, swim diapers or wipes. You can drop them off at the church or at MountainStar.

Celebrate the 250th Independence Day!

Come watch the parade on Fourth Street at 10 a.m., then find a spot to watch the fireworks being shot off the overlook at 10 p.m. However you celebrate, be safe!

Prayerful Rest

Elder Bill Waterbury

For most of May and June we have been traveling: to see family in Denver, fishing with friends, traveling through five states to see various National Parks and Monuments, and finally this last week just out with the trailer camping in the Ochocos. In between trips we were home a few days to prepare for the next trip, then off again. While I enjoyed our travels, I am now glad to be home for a while. When we were working, we would have called these “vacations”; now, for the most part, they are just “trips”, usually with a specific purpose. I have always believed that vacations, having time away from everyday work or home life, was important. A chance to relax, clear the mind of everyday issues, and often just enjoy God’s creations wherever we were. Jesus, being fully divine and fully human, took time to rest and pray, often alone. He often sought solitude to pray and energize, as in Mark 1:35, “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place.” It was not intended to demonstrate that we need to pray alone but to show the practical human need for rest for both spiritual and physical renewal.

Even in retirement I think it is healthy to take time “away” from our everyday cares and concerns by just relaxing for a period and allowing the Holy Spirit to enter into my thoughts. I have found that I do not have to travel from my home, back yard, or neighborhood to do this. I think of this different than prayer time in the sense of just relaxing and not asking for God’s help or direction on solving issues brought into my life. Maybe asking what are the opportunities that God is putting forth in my life that I am missing? Maybe, it’s a time of reflection, bringing thoughts of spiritual renewal and commitment in my life? Maybe, it is thoughts of spiritual growth, strength, and love that the Holy Spirit can bring into my life at this time? Maybe, I nap during this time, no matter, it is healthy rest. Jesus often napped, even during storms as in Mark 4:38 Jesus is described as sleeping on a cushion while a storm threatened the boat. Again, demonstrating the human need to rest no matter the apparent urgent human needs around you.

Working in emergency services, much like the military, I learned to eat, hydrate, and rest whenever the opportunity presented, even for brief periods. It helped to keep me focused, energized, and ready for the next

task. Jesus often took breaks, rested, and took meals in spite of things occurring around him that demanded his time and attention. He made intentional prayer pauses to recharge, reflect, and reconnect with God. Jesus’s rest and recharge example teaches that balance is essential. Constant activity without pause can lead to burnout, while intentional rest strengthens your ability to serve God faithfully. By following Jesus’s example, we can find the peace, strength, and clarity needed to live a life aligned with his purpose.

On Sharing a Pastor: July Update

The Shared Pastor Development Team continues with meetings in person and Zoom calls coordinating, planning, and the methods of sharing a pastor between churches. Most of the work now centers around the Question and Concern document and the development of documents of how the two churches will operate with one pastor.

We have had some joint interviews with candidates by our PNC, and the Call Committee for the Lutherans. While one of the candidates appeared a good fit, they were hired by another church. We continue our search. Bella is out of the area with Young Life until mid-July but that does not affect the search process as they figured out coverage until she returns. Confidentiality remains critical. The avoidance of undue influence by the congregations, Session, the Lutheran Council, or the Shared Pastor Development Team is mandatory. They have to do their work as they believe the Lord is leading them to find a pastor. Maintaining confidentiality within the PNC is an issue of integrity, trusting God in the process, and spiritual leadership.

Please continue to pray for God to show us His desires in our pastor search and blessing our involvement with the Lutheran church for His glory.

10 things ruling elders should know

Editor's Note: In June I shared the first of ten things ruling elders should know. Here are 2 through 7.

by [Alyson Janke](#)

2. We are presbyterian, not congregational or episcopal

Congregational types of churches make decisions in congregational meetings. Episcopal types of churches authorize their bishops to make decisions for the life of the church. Presbyterians come together in groups elected by the people they serve to make decisions. These elected people are called presbyters, ruling elders and teaching elders (also called [ministers of the Word and Sacrament](#)). Very few decisions are made by single individuals and very few decisions are made by vote of a congregation. Most decisions for the life of a congregation are made by the session. These range from providing for the worship, education and spiritual nurture of people in the congregation to managing the physical property of the church and adopting a budget.

3. Four governing levels

There are four councils, or governing levels, in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). [The session is the council of the congregation](#). The congregation elects the persons who serve on its session. There is a moderator or co-moderators and the ruling elders elected for specific terms. According to the PC(USA) *Book of Order*, the presbytery is all the congregations and teaching elders within a certain district (G-3.0301). The synod is a specific geographic area with at least three presbyteries (G-3.0401). The General Assembly is the council of the whole church (G-3.0501). When presbyteries, synods or the General Assembly meet as deliberative bodies they are composed of commissioners who are ruling elders and teaching elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible.

4. Presbyters are commissioners, not delegates

Whether we are serving on our congregation's session or as a commissioner to presbytery, synod, or General Assembly, we seek to "find and represent the will of Christ," (F-3.0204) not those who elected us. While their opinions and positions inform us, they do not bind us. When we gather together we pray for the guidance of

the Holy Spirit, listen to discussion and debate and vote as we are led by the Spirit.

5. Presbyters make decisions by voting

When presbyters are gathered as deliberative bodies, decisions are made by voting. After opportunity for discussion and discernment, "a majority shall govern" (F-3.0205). We use the most recent edition of [Rules of Order](#), Newly Revised as our parliamentary authority (G-3.0105). *Robert's Rules of Order* is a tool that helps us determine the will of the body. It should never be used as a means of exercising power at the exclusion of fairness. We can understand this by keeping in mind three [parliamentary principles](#) which are identified in Marianne Wolfe's booklet, [Parliamentary Procedures in the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#):

The rights and the unity of the body shall be preserved;

The will of the majority shall prevail;

The rights of the minority shall be protected.

We bear in mind that Christ is the head of the church (F-1.02) and all of the business we conduct should be done in a way that builds up the body of Christ.

6. "Ruling" means measuring

"Ruling" in the title of ruling elders is about measuring, not flexing power (G-2.0301). It is their role to measure the spiritual health of the congregation entrusted to their care and make decisions that equip and strengthen the congregation's discipleship. Ruling elders follow the example of Christ and lead by service while working with moderators of session and pastors.

7. Compassion is one of the characteristics of ruling elders

In many Presbyterian churches there are deacons who carry out ministries of compassion, witness and service (G-2.0201). In the Presbyterian churches that have chosen not to have deacons, "the function of this ordered ministry shall be the responsibility of the ruling elders and the session" (G-2.0202). In either case, part of the role of the session is to be a compassionate witness in the congregation and community.

Church Bulletin Bloopers

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water."

The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done. (we presume this means Bible Study)

Chuckles

6-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled and talked out loud. Finally, Angie had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "see those two men standing by the door? They're hustlers!"

By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. "Why are you so late?" Asked his friend. "I couldn't decide between going to church and going to the football game. So, I tossed a coin," said Bobby. "But that shouldn't have taken too long," said the friend. "Well, I had to toss it 35 times."

Cleaning the house while the children are home is like shoveling while it's still snowing.

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The startled grandmother tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said, "how do you make babies?"

"It's simple," replied the girl. You just change y of baby to an i and add es.



1771 NW Madras Highway
Prineville, OR 97754

541-447-1017

prinevillepc@gmail.com

Address Correction Requested: