



# PRINEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN REFLECTIONS

REAL. FRIENDLY. PEOPLE.

OCTOBER 2026

## Our Shared Journey

*By Rev. Dr. Dawn Linder*

As we enter the fall season, with changing leaves (if we are lucky enough to see them here!), and Thanksgiving approaching, I think of stewardship and budget preparation for the upcoming year, and the Congregational Meeting in January. That may seem like a long way off, but the elders and treasurer are doing their work now.

When we hear the word "stewardship", our first thought may be about budgets and offerings. And while finances are important, they are just one aspect of stewardship. Finances are important in sustaining the shared and life and ministry of the church. But stewardship is much more than finances. Stewardship is a way of living and using well the gifts God has entrusted to us. As I've said before, I'm so glad that this congregation sends out a time and talents survey as part of stewardship, endeavoring to be good stewards of the gifts, abilities and interests each person has within this congregation.

Scripture reminds us, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve

one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). What a gentle and beautiful invitation. God does not begin with a demand; God begins with grace. Before we give, serve, share, or respond, we have already been held in God's care and blessed in ways seen and unseen.

In the life of a congregation, stewardship often shows up in quiet, faithful ways. It is present when someone prepares coffee, sings in worship, shares a prayer request, visits a neighbor, folds bulletins, tends the building, prays for someone in need, or offers a kind word at just the right moment. It is present in generous giving, in patient service, and in the steady love that keeps a church family rooted and growing.

Stewardship is part of our life together. We create a community where people can encounter the welcoming love of Christ as we share our time, talents, prayers, presence, and resources. Each act of generosity, no matter how small it may seem, becomes part



of something larger than ourselves.

Perhaps the invitation is simply to pause and ask, "Lord, what have you placed in my hands, and how might I share it with love?" For one person, the answer may be a renewed commitment to giving. For another, it may be an hour of service, a note of encouragement, a prayer offered faithfully, or a gift of hospitality. God honors each sincere offering.

May we grow together as good stewards of God's grace, thankful for what we have received, generous in what we share, and trusting that God can bless even our simplest gifts. In that spirit, stewardship becomes not just something we do, but a joyful way of living as people deeply loved by God.

## Treasurer's Report

Kathy Riley, Treasurer

For September 1-20, 2026

### Checking Accounts

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Mid Oregon Credit Union..... | \$ 10,048.18 |
| Warm Springs Water           | 365.00       |
| Community Garden             | 358.90       |
| Food Bank                    | 40.00        |
| Local Missions               | 1,895.52     |
| CATT Grant                   | 839.89       |

### Savings Accounts

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Building Fund .....   | \$61,026.47 |
| Maintenance Fund..... | \$14,174.10 |
| Organ Fund            | 2,539.60    |
| Choir Supplies        | 349.58      |
| Deacons Fund          | 1,068.87    |

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| CD           | \$ 30,064.65 |
| Edward Jones | \$128,336.95 |

**Total Income for September 1-20, 2026** \$ 3,709.75

**Total Expenses for September 1-20, 2026** \$ 1,910.84

Income for Year-to-Date \$ 61,861.32

Expenses for Year-to-Date \$ 65,769.70

**Net Income (Loss)** \$ -3,909.18

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



## October Birthdays

Elaine Waterbury, October 10

Pete Wacker, October 16

Belva McCullough, October 23

## October Anniversaries

Sherry and Brad Logan, October 17

If you have an October birthday or anniversary but you're not listed here, then perhaps we don't have that information. Please email [psmith66@mac.com](mailto:psmith66@mac.com) with the appropriate dates. Thank you!



## Road Reapers... time to get with the program!

Time has arrived for us Road Reapers to help keep our roadside clean. We will meet at the church this Saturday, Oct 3rd at 9:00.

Fancy, flashy vests to wear, bags and picks are supplied. We will begin at the church, cross

Hwy. 26 to the east side and go to 9th street, cross the highway and clean the west side back to the church. Always a delightful time to visit and share in our church's community outreach.

Weather looks great, see you Saturday!

Emilou 541-980-6465

*What does the Lord require  
of you, but to do justice,*

*...to love kindness*

*and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

We will be receiving the

## WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

throughout the month of October.

Special offering envelopes will be included in the bulletin each Sunday.



# Superstitious?

*Elder Bill Waterbury*

Moving into October we get to experience once again the flurry of activity surrounding Halloween. It got me thinking about all the things associated with Halloween, and superstitions were brought to mind. My mother's parents were first-generation emigrants from Central Europe and she and her family were somewhat superstitious. Growing up I never thought much about it, after all didn't everyone toss spilled salt over their left shoulder, or make the sign of the cross before going into a scary dark room? Fortunately, there wasn't family history of vampire or werewolves' stories from the "old country", but come to think of it, we did eat a lot of garlic.

Probably needless to say, but superstitions are not considered good Christian practices. Scripture condemns superstitions as forms of idolatry and urges believers to trust solely in God rather than in objects, rituals, or omens. "Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord" (Deuteronomy 18:10-12). Just this morning I heard a radio advertisement to call for a "California Psychic" to advise me on my future. So, this is just as common today as in ancient times. Even engaging in superstitions is spiritually dangerous because it can open the mind to deception and the influence of the devil. 1 Peter 5:8 states, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." When I started looking into superstitions, I was surprised at how many there were and how often many of them are used commonly. I am guilty of at least one of them myself, being a Forester, I say "knock on wood" quite often. Oops! I was equally surprised at the amount of psychology surrounding superstition. Superstition is generally defined as irrational beliefs linking actions, objects, or events to luck or outcomes, even without scientific evidence. Psychologists go on to try and explain the how and why our brain works for us to accept such things. In a practical sense, superstitions have existed since ancient times, beliefs are passed down through generations,

becoming part of social norms and traditions. I believe that was true of my mother's family. In the end it all comes down to putting our faith in our human perception of having control to produce good outcomes rather than trusting in God. "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ" (Colossians 2:8). Many of these superstitions have become so embedded in our culture and language that we never even think of them being other than a cute saying or action. Black cats, walking under a ladder, stepping on a crack in the sidewalk, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, or saying "knock on wood" are all common to us. We often hear of sports figures that have certain rituals or articles of clothing they consider necessary for that added boost of good luck for their best performance. Harmless? Maybe, if a ritual is done to prepare the muscles and get the mind focused on the task to be performed. But, if it is done psychologically to help you feel more in control in situations of uncertainty, risk, or to reduce anxiety and stress, then prayer must be used.

From the ancient world of the Old Testament, to today's New Testament church, believers are called to forsake superstitious habits and place their confidence entirely in the Lord. In the Old Testament, God repeatedly forbade Israel from adopting pagan customs, emphasizing total devotion to Him alone. People throughout history have looked to unusual events or phenomena as omens. Yet Scripture teaches that the ultimate knowledge of events belongs to God alone. "This is what the Lord says: 'Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the heavens, though the nations are terrified by them. For the practices of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter'". (Jeremiah 10:2-4). Through prayer, reading Scripture, trusting God's character, and walking in harmony with fellow believers, you can confidently stand free from superstition and trust in the loving care of our God.

## On Sharing a Pastor: October Update

The Shared Pastor Development Team did not meet in September since there was not any new business concerning our level of involvement, but we are in communication with the search committees and will meet in person when necessary. Zoom calls with the Presbytery and the Lutheran Synod will restart in October. Most of the work now centers around the coordination of the search committees and then once a candidate is selected working with them to finalize documents of how the two churches will operate with one pastor.

We are again seeing joint interviews with candidates taking place by our PNC and the Call Committee for the Lutherans. It again is serious work for those committees, and confidentiality is most critical at this point on. 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.

Hopefully, we are going to come to a point in the future where they are going to wish to present a potential pastor to the congregations. Your Shared Pastor Development Team has worked with our Presbytery and the Lutheran Synod to develop a mutually acceptable process to do this. While it sounds simple, we have to allow both congregations to “meet and greet” a potential candidate in a manner that is practical and doesn’t

negatively impact the candidate, or the impression of the congregations. We are working on the details to make the process smooth as possible.

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.

### A Special Thank You!

Sending special thanks to the anonymous sender of flowers to several of our church shut-ins. The flowers were beautiful and much appreciated!



## Helping Those in Need

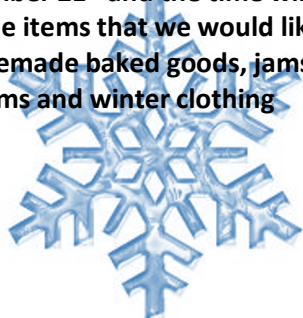
Several church members joined forces with local Rotarians to put together filtered fans for area residents. This event was during the height of fire season. Stu, Priscilla, Jeannie and Bill were among those who helped out.

### AutumnFest is now WinterFest!

As we all know, change is inevitable – as are transitions. With that in mind, we are transitioning from AutumnFest to WinterFest for our Fall/Winter/Christmas missions fundraiser.

Keeping in mind that change can also be FUN (positive attitude everyone!), the date for our new event is going to be November 21<sup>st</sup> and the time will be 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The items that we would like to have donated are; homemade baked goods, jams, jellies, handmade craft items and winter clothing (slightly used or new).

Thank you in advance,  
Marcia Lesch





## Contemplative Outreach

*of Central Oregon*

*Spiritual Seekers Welcome!*

This is a **FREE** event on **Saturday October 17th, 2026**



**“What are the benefits of contemplative meditation?”**



**“How can I incorporate spiritual readings, music and art into my practice?”**



**“How can I deepen my relationship with the “Divine?”**

Join us for a morning of various spiritual contemplative practices —a chance to slow down, reflect, and experience the peace that comes from intentional silence and presence. Whether you're new to contemplation and/or meditation, or have practiced for years, you are welcome.

❖ *Contemplative centering practice and the positive effects of body, mind & spirit*

❖ *Lectio utilizes meditation and spiritual readings*

❖ *Visio is a practice with art and imagery and meditation*

❖ *Musica incorporates “listening with the heart” into a meditation practice*

**Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at Holy Communion Church 1245 SE 3rd St., Suite C10, Bend, OR  
8:45AM – 12:00 PM (Doors open at 8:30AM)**



***Questions please contact Molly at (925) 989-6892 or Michele at (503) 267-6742***

***Or contact Kathi Bumblis, 408-406-9033. Carpooling available.***

## You're Invited to Crook County Young Life's 2026 Banquet!

Join us as we share stories of how God is moving in the lives of students, celebrate what's being built, and invite you to be part of what's ahead!

*Together, we're planting with purpose and looking forward with hope.*

**Monday, November 2, 2026 | 5-8pm**  
**The Grizzly Mountain Pavilion**

1280 Main street, Prineville, OR 97754



Crook County Young Life needs your help so that our teams can continue to reach out to disinterested adolescents and pursue them with love and care. Join us for a social hour, sharing dinner, and in raising funds for the 26/27 school year!

RSVP at the QR code  
below or send in the  
RSVP card!



And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 NLT



- ☐ YES! I want to attend the fundraising event.  
Number of adults attending \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Sorry, I will not be able to attend.
- ☐ I have enclosed a gift of \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ I visited your online giving site and gave at  
**giving.younglife.org/crookcounty**
- ☐ Please contact me.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



**PLEASE RETURN THIS CARD BY OCT 26, 2026**

Crook County Young Life  
PO Box 1983 • Prineville, OR 97754  
Or scan the QR code!  
Questions? Call or text Bella at 541-325-9862  
or email at bella.nanci.b@gmail.com

*Invitations and return envelopes are  
available at the church on the table  
in the foyer.*

## Things to know...

**October 3,** High Desert Heritage Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Pioneer Park

**October 4,** we collect food for St. Vincent dePaul food pantry. Here are items that are always needed:

Canned fruit, canned soup, canned corn, canned refried beans, nutritious cereals, kidney beans, pasta sauce (not tomato sauce), canned beans, canned vegetables, canned tomatoes, tomato paste, canned meat (tuna, Chef Boyardee, beef stew, salmon, etc.), dried beans, pasta, 16 oz. peanut butter, flour, cooking oil.

**October 14,** bingo fundraiser for Shop with a Cop, Wild Ride Brewing, 6-8 p.m.

**October 18,** Third Sunday Potluck following worship

GOOD BOOKS, GOOD COFFEE, GOOD COMPANY

Henri J. M. Nouwen



PRINEVILLE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

**Adam**  
God's Beloved

**BOOK  
STUDY**

Sunday Mornings @8:30am  
Starting 27th September

Location:  
Prineville Presbyterian Church  
1771 NW Madras HWY  
Prineville, Oregon

CONTACT JOSH WITH  
QUESTIONS: 541-233-7108

HOPE TO SEE  
YOU THERE!

# Stewardship Drive is Underway

Your invitation to participate in the stewardship of our congregation was put in the mail this week. If you have not received that envelope, please contact the church office, 541-447-1017.

Many view stewardship as only an annual invitation to pledge financial support for the church (very necessary to keep our doors open), but in reality, it is much, much more. This congregation has a long history of inviting our congregants to share their time and talents as well as whatever financial support can be given. So, tucked inside the letter you will find the time and talent survey.

When you receive your stewardship letter, please take a few minutes to read it and prayerfully decide what you will give in 2026. Will it be your talent? Will it be your time? Will it be a portion of your financial resources? All are needed to secure our future as a church. As we look to the coming year, I encourage you to search your hearts and listen to how God is calling you to be a good steward. Our mission and ministry require us to journey together. Let's lock arms and go boldly into the year of Our Lord 2027!

## PRINEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



1771 NW Madras Highway  
Prineville, OR 97754

**541-447-1017**  
*prinevillepc@gmail.com*

**Address Correction Requested:**