

PRINEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN REFLECTIONS

REAL. FRIENDLY. PEOPLE.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Our Shared Journey

By Rev. Dr. Dawn Linder

The end of August and beginning of September always fills me with eager anticipation and excitement. I love walking through college bookstores and looking at the required reading texts. There's so much to look forward to: learning new things, reading new books, taking new classes. You can tell I loved school. I'm a bit disappointed now that I don't get to buy books for classes. I don't get to read the syllabi and plan for the new semester. I don't get to meet new people as we show up to share the experience of a particular class together. I loved school. But more accurately, I loved learning and still do.

Although I'm writing this a bit ahead of time, I'm currently reading five library books. That's a bit of a stretch from what I'm comfortable reading, but each is one I really want to read, so I'm pressing my limits. And I'm actively reading other books I own that I also really want to read. Anyone else addicted to books?

One of the non-library books I'm reading happens to be Tish Harrison Warren's most recent book *What Grows in Weary Lands*. Kindle tells me I've read 40% of it so far, and I really enjoy her writing. It draws me in and resonates with my heart and life. Which of us hasn't been weary? In our physical, emotional, and spiritual lives? That may seem like an

odd question to ask when thinking about optimistic beginnings. But let's fast forward past the optimistic excitement. I feel like Warren is talking to me when I'm about 3/4 of the way through the semester, when I'm exhausted and ready to be done. In the real world we don't get these scheduled breaks that we know are coming. We just experience the weariness as it shows up in the midst of laundry, dishes, cooking, calving, lambing, doctor appointments, medical tests, or the death of someone we love. Our hearts grow heavy with the burden of the unknown, the tedious, the disappointments and grief. Our hearts grow weary.

Warren points out that in the midst of all these things, we have hope. The Holy Spirit comforts us, reminding us that Jesus has overcome sin and death. Our hope is sure and certain, grounded in the love of God. She notes that GK Chesterton says, "Exactly at the instant when hope ceases to be reasonable it begins to be useful."

Hope is what allows lament. It is what allows us the emotional honesty to rage at the heavens and yet collapse into the hands of a loving God. God welcomes us where we're at, with our questions, disbelief, grief, anger, and



exhaustion. Wherever we are, God is there with us. And our feelings simply are what they are - neither good nor bad, right or wrong - God calls us to Himself as a hen gathers her chicks, to find comfort and refuge in His presence, a respite and rest for our weariness. I'm finding Warren's reminder of God's presence in the midst of the weariness of life an oasis of hope during challenging times.

If I had to sum up God's message to us in a single word, I'd be hard pressed to choose between love and hope. How funny that they are really a continuous circle: love leads to hope, which leads to love, which leads to hope, which leads to

What weariness weighs on you? In Matthew 11:29-30 Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, and you will find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." May we find rest in the love and hope God offers us.



Is this your tote bag? It was returned to me from the Redmond church after Warm Spring supplies were donated. The person who returned it thought it belonged to me, but it does not. Please let me know if it's yours!

Priscilla Smith, 541-788-8232, psmith66@mac.com

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Riley, Treasurer

For August 2026

Checking Accounts

Mid Oregon Credit Union.....	\$ 11,870.79
Warm Springs Water	365.00
Community Garden	358.90
Food Bank	100.00
Local Missions	2,845.52
CATT Grant	839.89

Savings Accounts

Building Fund	\$60,940.14
Maintenance Fund.....	\$14,130.99
Organ Fund	2,539.60
Choir Supplies	349.58
Deacons Fund	1,068.87

CD	\$ 30,064.65
Edward Jones	\$125,656.60

Total Income for August 2026 **\$ 6,245.90**

Total Expenses for July 2026 **\$ 3,725.38**

Income for Year-to-Date \$ 59,779.35

Expenses for Year-to-Date \$ 59,779.35

Net Income (Loss) **\$ -35.07**

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

We have a music committee!

Gary Madison recently shared special music during worship. Priscilla Smith is chair of the committee and if you also wish to share special music on a specific Sunday, or have a suggestion of alternate possibilities, please let her know.

Lawrence tries to bring traditional sacred music and some contemporary offerings as well. If you wish to suggest something, please let him know.



Time for Road Reapers to get to work again

September is upon us and fall is heading our way. Time for us Road Reapers to think of cleaning our neighborhood road again.

We will gather at the church next month on Saturday October 3rd at 9:00. If joining us, please wear appropriate clothing with sturdy shoes. May we all enjoy some cooler weather and clean air.

Blessings, Emilou 541-980-6465



September Birthdays

Kevin Desjardins, Sept. 1	Lawrence Jones, Sept. 3
Karen Lingren, Sept. 3	Mary Albert, Sept. 4
PJ Gunderson, Sept. 4	Wayne Elmore, Sept. 16
Glenda Janssen, Sept. 20	Nancy Yancey, Sept. 20
Vonda Elmore, Sept. 30	

September Anniversaries

Crystal & Gary Madison, September 1
Donna & Jerry Bishop, September 13
Ellen & Ed Harksel, September 18

If you have a September 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!

Harvest Time

Elder Bill Waterbury

I love the Fall, I always have. When I was a child, I loved the cool mornings, the change of colors in the trees, and I admit, the ending of my garden chores of watering and weeding. Growing up we always had big gardens and apple and pear trees. My mother, with my aunts, would gather to harvest, can, and freeze the fruits and vegetables for use all winter. It was not until I was much older that I realized what a special time that was. Not just for the food produced and shared, but the coming together of family in love for a common purpose. Perhaps that is why I enjoy Sunday worship time so much, it reminds me of those times growing up when the family came together with love to share in a common purpose.

As I have stated in the past, I love church and religious history in general. Our Presbyterian form of worship is a product of the Reformation, and more specifically, John Knox and the Church of Scotland. John Knox studied under John Calvin who prescribed to the "Reformed tradition", emphasizing the "Triune God", Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the authority of Scripture. This led to what is known as the "regulative principle of worship", which states that only elements commanded by Scripture are permitted in worship, thus shaping the structure and content of services. This had the effect of throwing out much of the previous worship practices inherited from the Roman Catholic church. For example, one difference was there was only singing of Psalms, no hymns, and no musical instruments were to be used. Presbyterian worship at the time centered on glorifying God through Scripture, prayer, preaching, sacraments, and voice only music.

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit" (Colossians 3:16). Today, the *Book of Common Worship* provides guidance for planning services, offering prayers, liturgies, and music suggestions suitable for both traditional and contemporary worship. Our worship today remains an expression of faith, balancing historical Reformed principles with contemporary practices to glorify God and encourage developing the spiritual life of the congregation. As a rule, a typical service includes: a call to worship, prayer and confession, Scripture reading and preaching, music, sacraments, and offering and benediction. I emphasize this only to point out that there are specific reasons for each of these as presented. They are to encourage our thoughtful engagement in prayer, praise,

confession, thanksgiving and response to Scripture, as an individual and as a body of the faithful. The intent always is to deepen our relationship with God, strengthen our walk with Christ, and to show love, support, and connection with each other.

The structure of worship has been designed to offer you the most opportunity to be focused on God and open your heart to the Holy Spirit. It is not designed for you just to sit back, be entertained, sing a few hymns, and be lectured on Scripture. I am sorry to say true worship means that God gets more out of it than you do! The engagement must be deeper. You need to commit yourself to worshiping God during this time. Not as chore or a punishment but with reverence, and joy. For myself, I find I really have to concentrate during the call to worship to clear my mind of all the things that are not related to praising God. I have to concentrate to listen, read carefully the words presented, and really think about what I am saying in my responses so that they have depth of meaning. I often find using the "Notes" section of the bulletin helps me better focus on the sermon. Do I often lose focus? Of course, but I catch myself often as not and refocus on God's love for me and His many blessings. I will admit it can be a bit of a struggle at times to concentrate that way for even short periods time, but I believe God accepts the effort. I often find that being surrounded by my fellow Christians in prayer and praise of God that I feel the connection that binds us all as followers of Christ.

In previous church's worship services, I admit to being either bored or lacked the understanding to truly worship God other than by my attendance. Now, I look forward to Sunday, to be renewed by worship and to share that experience with other believers. Perhaps my church family reminds me greatly of my family gatherings of my youth that I fondly remember. In any case, sharing love and care, accepting God's grace and peace together in His worship is a powerful tonic of renewal of faith for me weekly. "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:15-16).

On Sharing a Pastor: September Update

The Shared Pastor Development Team did not meet in July because of vacations and fires but has restarted in August with meetings in person, Zoom calls with the Presbytery and the Lutheran Synod will restart in September. 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 potential 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.

Editor’s note: This is reprinted from the August 26 edition of the Bend Bulletin and submitted to this newsletter by Kathi Bumblis

Warm Springs grant was not canceled

Regarding The Bulletin story titled, “Despite threat of canceled \$250 million grant, Warm Springs energy project moves ahead” (Aug. 19): In October 2023, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs was awarded \$250 million for the Warm Springs Power Pathway Project.

Despite inaccurate media reports through the last year in various outlets about targeted termination efforts, no communications were ever received by the Tribes to signal termination of the grant. This is a testament to the Tribes’ longstanding, mutually respectful sovereign-to-sovereign relations over the last 35 administrations, and alignment with national priorities and the Department of Energy’s goals.

Messaging in media that perpetuates the threat of termination of this critical grant undermines The Tribes’ energy sovereignty, the relationships we have built to make this work possible, and the expertise and experience of our staff who have continued to advance the Project while navigating the ever-evolving energy landscape.

Since October 2023, Tribal-owned Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises, has diligently moved forward, working collaboratively with our partner PGE to advance what represents not just an expansion of vital transmission capacity throughout the western US but a means to exercise the Tribes’ sovereignty and sustain its people through jobs, educational and generational wealth for the community.

The Warm Springs Power Pathway continues with broad regional and national support. We completed our annual standard and technical review successfully in March, and are currently scoping permits, conducting required studies and getting ready to launch community engagement efforts.

Cathy Ehli, General Manager, Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises

2026 AUTUMN FEST ALERT

For over 20 years “Autumn Fest” has been a successful and reliable source of income for our Mission funds. However, so many of our “old reliable” crafters and sewers have moved or died that we now can only offer very few items for sale. Last year, we managed to make up the difference with baked goods and canned goods, but our number of workers has diminished. We now have maybe 10 or 12 members who could or would help and that may not be enough.

We ask you to consider an alternative to be staged in November, possibly November 21st, and renaming it as “Winter Fest”. We would feature the gathering of winter coats, hats, boots, gloves, and blankets to be offered, as well as baked goods and canned goods. Also, any homemade craft projects.

If anyone has any suggestions, please give Marcia Lesch (541-322-9546) or Glenda Janssen (541-233-7638) a call.

**Thank you in advance,
Marcia Lesch**

Crook County Health Department
& Rimrock Trails Presents

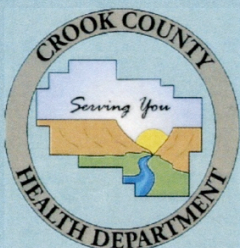
Stronger Together:

CELEBRATING CONNECTION, HOPE, & RECOVERY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

5-7:30pm @ Grizzly Mt. Pavillion
Crook County Fairgrounds

*Join us for a family-friendly evening of **FREE** music, food, & community resources as we honor **Recovery & Suicide Prevention Awareness Month** this September*





*A Sampling of
Members'
Handiwork
Exhibited at the
Crook County
Fair*



Lawrence has been working hard on the church landscaping!



PRINEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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Address Correction Requested: