

Woodburn First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Summer 2023

Sundays at 11:30 AM

July 2 Cynthia's sermon: "Justice, Freedom and Peace."
Salad lunch -- Bring a salad!

July 9 Rev. Michael O'Brien: Michael has been an ordained minister since 1992, serving churches in San Diego, Vancouver, and Portland. He teaches advanced mathematics at Gresham High School. He is a graduate of Stanford University, Fuller Seminary, and Warner Pacific. In his free time he studies philosophy and plays bass drum in a Scottish bagpipe band.

July 16 Rev. Dr. Kathy Erion: Kathy is a retired minister who holds an M.Div from Pacific School of Religion and a Ph.D. in Spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union and University of California, Berkeley. She and her partner, Sam, are regular attenders and volunteer at our church. Kathy is an expert at building and remodeling; her most recent church project was helping remodel the community room and the pastor's study.

July 23 GB Burgin: GB is the Music Director at Aurora Presbyterian Church. Before he retired, he was the choral director at Woodburn High School. You can find GB still practicing his other career as a floral arranger on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Hulbert's Flowers in Canby. He and his husband, Jim, are expert spinners and weavers, and they love to meet people through driving Uber.

July 30 GB Burgin

SPRING TEA HONORING OUR FAMILY BUILDING BLOCKS AND HEAD START STAFF

Our first Spring Tea honoring our Family Building Blocks and Head Start staff was a success! Johanna and her team set up five tables and provided all the delicious finger sandwiches, scones, cookies, and tea for the staff of Building Blocks and Head Start. Both groups are connected with Woodburn First Presbyterian Church(FPC) by renting our facilities during the week. Each table had a host/hostess from FPC to welcome and serve the two groups. It

was great hearing about the work they are doing for the Community of Woodburn along with their needs for future programs.



CELEBRATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF REV. CYNTHIA'S ORDINATION

BY ROGER GONZALES

On May 28, 2023, we were invited to share in the 30th anniversary of Cynthia's ordination. I say "we" because, the church was filled with many of us from Woodburn and a bevy of folks from Aurora. After a wonderful Pentecost service, we adjourned to the fellowship hall for lunch and memories of Cynthia's ministry over the past 30 years.

Representatives from both churches spoke of the appreciation we all share for her ministry with us. There was a brief review of her personal history with music, teaching it to youth, and of course performing music. We

also considered the education and experience she had serving other churches in preparation for taking us on. Our friend from Aurora, GB Bergen, led us in Cynthia's favorite hymn, "Be Thou my Vision".

Then, once the goodies were all gone, we got to

Quote of the day, from Mike Hachquet: "We know we have only half of Cynthia's time, but we have all of her heart."

give her a hug and wish her blessings for another 30 years of ministry. Actually, it was so much fun, several of us think we should start planning a 31st anniversary party.



NEW PIANO!



We have a beautiful new baby grand piano in the Fellowship Hall, donated by the former Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church in SE Portland, which closed its doors in December. The \$500 to move it and the purchase of the professional piano cover were both covered by generous gifts from individual donors. Thank you!

Colonial Heights also gave us: extra copies of the Sing the Faith songbook, several Glory to God (newest Presbyterian) hymnals, new blue upholstered folding chairs and a cafe table for the community room, the green chairs for the pastor's office, and some sound equipment. Two boxes of children's books went to the Aurora church for the community library book sale.

DO YOU HAVE BOOKS TO GIVE AWAY?

The North Marion Community Library, in the basement of the Aurora Presbyterian Church, holds regular book sales. They take all kinds of books, especially fiction. If you're not going up that way, bring your box of books to church and Cynthia can take it for you.

COMMUNITY TREASURE: RAY OF HOPE THRIFT STORE

The Ray of Hope Thrift Store on Highway 99 is a nonprofit ministry that provides low-cost clothing and household goods. Store manager Charlie is a friend of our pastor's and a member of the Woodburn Area Ministerial Association. Donations are received in the alley behind the store. Stop by to donate items and to find bargains!



KNIT AND CROCHET AT AURORA

The yarn ministry is usually held at 1 PM on the second Wednesday of every month at the Aurora church. Come and knit or crochet prayer shawls to give comfort to people. You can also bring your own project, or ask for help if you are learning. Call Nancy Robinson at 503-678-1617 to confirm days and times.

PASTOR'S VACATION AND STUDY LEAVE

Cynthia will be away for most of July, starting July 4, attending the Braver Angels National Convention in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. She will return Sunday, August 6.



At the Braver Angels convention (www.braverangels.org), she will be the chair of three debates:

1. "Is America the greatest nation in the world?"
2. "Does women's equality depend on access to abortion?" and
3. "Should we re-elect President Biden?"

She will also participate in the closing concert. Some sessions will be available to watch via livestream.

Remember PROJECT KINDNESS. We are still receiving your gifts of personal care products for Family Building Blocks families. Bring your bag to church and give it to Marcy or leave it in the church office.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

The Presbytery of the Cascades met online on June 23 to conduct business and to celebrate new ministries. These included:

Barbie's Village—A ministry to repurpose the Presbyterian Church of Laurelhurst building by providing affordable housing (tiny homes) and a child care community center for Native American women and children. Named in memory of Barbie, the Native American woman who launched the project but died suddenly.

Roseway Recovery Cafe—Calvary Presbyterian Church on NE Sandy Boulevard remodeled their fellowship hall into a cafe for people who are in recovery, experiencing addiction or mental health challenges or homelessness.

Makers PDX—This is a new church startup, an inclusive worshipping community in SE Portland. They have dinner together once a week and run a coffee shop near Reed College called Heretic Coffee. They are creating a "Makerspace" where artists and creative people work for justice and peace.

YOU'RE INVITED!

We have weekly gatherings for all.

Sundays—Coffee is on early; feel free to come early or stay after Worship. We have salad lunch once a month.

Wednesdays—12:30 pm - **ROMEOS**: Real old men eating out.

Thursdays—9:30 am - **JULIETS**: Just us ladies interested in eating and talking.

JULIETS meet each week at the Country Cottage in Woodburn Estates and Golf. Contact Vickie at 702-513-0623 if you would like to come.

ROMEOS meet at Country Cottage also, but just in case, contact Walt at 503-951-2059.



First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Cynthia O'Brien, Pastor
revcynthiaobrien@gmail.com
503-962-9186 cell
Debra Huddleston, Music Director

Elders

Mike Hachquet, Clerk of Session
Walt Mangerich
Kathy Erion
Mark Sterling
Marcy Sterling
Paula Walcott
Johanna Samson
Julie Moore
Vickie Gonzales

DIGITAL PHOTO CLASSES WITH VICKIE

Vickie Gonzales started taking digital photos in 2001. While she would like to be more organized, she has learned a few tips and tricks since that time. She has also created over 100 photo books for gifts and family heirlooms. Join her for two classes (see schedule below). If you plan to attend or have any questions about



the classes, please contact her at 702.513.0623 or email vickielovesfamily@gmail.com.

August 20, 1 PM Community Room

How to organize and store your digital photos

September 10, 1 PM Community Room

How to make a photo album using Shutterfly or other photo services

Do you have a skill, craft, or hobby you'd like to share with the congregation? Is there something you'd like to learn? Contact Cynthia or anyone from the session to share your ideas.