

Tyler's off to Kansas

Tyler Johnson, a member of our congregation since 2013, starts work July 15 with the Kansas State University Extension Service as a regional nutrition education agent. He will be based in Pittsburg, Kan. and serve a six-county area.

Session accepted Tyler's resignation with regret this week and celebrated his four years of service as an elder. He's been chair of our Mission Committee and was until his resignation chair of the Congregational Nominating Committee.

Tyler has a master's degree in international public health. He's been part of the food department at ACCESS, our regional community action organization, and facilitator of a mobile food pantry truck which distributes food and medicine at several locations in the region.

Tyler plans to head east July 5 to get ready for his new job.



Tyler Johnson

Presbytery grant helps Medford mentally ill with meds co-pay

Mission Committee has set up an assistance account with Jackson County Health and Human Services to provide the initial co-pay for medication prescribed for mentally ill persons.

Funding for the new program comes from the Presbytery of the Cascades Katherine Bisbee community ministry grant program. The 2019 grant program is aimed at assisting the mentally ill. Our congregation initially applied for a grant to fund a part-time mental health case worker when the Wednesday Grace Works ministry reopens in the fall.

Mission Chair Evonne Hubbard said presbytery didn't have enough funds to support the Grace Works request but instead offered \$1,600 if we could come up with an alternate mental health ministry.

"This is for anyone in the community who cannot afford a co-pay," said Evonne. County mental health case workers will screen applicants. Four members of our congregation are designated to make decisions in cases which are outside established parameters.

Wednesday Night Live closes

A tradition at First, Medford, quietly ended in late May when the Wednesday Night Live program wrapped up for the school year. Youngsters both from the church family and the community have met Wednesdays for games, crafts, Bible study and a meal.

Attendance was down to eight children for most of this year with three volunteer leaders plus rotating kitchen crews supporting them. In a meeting last month with Pastor Murray, Christian Education Committee decided that the combination of low attendance and difficulty in sustaining volunteer support made it impractical to continue.

It's noodle month

Time to go shopping for ramen noodles. That's our food-of-the-month in support of the Food Bank. Ramen are Japanese-style wheat noodles, traditionally served in a fish-based broth.

Marg Funch, our Food Bank promoter, says kids like ramen, and part of the reason is that they can easily fix a meal and it is filling.

Force behind the lunches

By PAULETTE AVERY

Sandi Frey is the force which makes our bag lunch ministry happen. The program began years ago, giving out perhaps 30 lunches a month. Since Sandi moved here in the winter of 2013, what's popularly called the "Brown Bag Café" has grown to providing 300 to 400 lunches a week to those in need.

Each Sunday a crew from the 8:30 a.m. service assembles the hundreds of lunches in just 15 to 20 minutes thanks to the efficiency of their assembly line, and the set-up of supplies by Sandi and her husband Bob on Fridays. Each bag costs about \$1.32.

Sandi was born and raised in Nebraska. Sandi was a registered nurse working in many different areas including occupational health, surgery, and obstetrics. Bob worked for the Oregon Department of Revenue.

In addition to the bag lunch program, Sandi was a deacon for three years, serves on the fellowship, church growth, and mission committees, and fills in for Elizabeth in the office when needed. She's a former moderator of Presbyteries of the Cascades.



Sandi Frey

Cow Creek grant boosts lunch ministry

The Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation has granted \$7,500 to buy food and supplies for our three-year-old sack lunch ministry. Foundation officials presented the grant June 26.

Mission Chair Evonne Hubbard, Pastor Murray and Sandi Frey, coordinator of the sack lunch ministry, accepted the grant during a ceremony at tribal headquarters in Canyonville.

Evonne said the Cow Creek grant frees up budgeted hunger funds to meet increased costs of our weekly Food Bank.



Sarah Corson Child Care & Learning Center

July 2019 Newsletter

CLOSED July 4 AND 5

We will be *closed both Thursday, July 4 AND Friday, July 5* in observance of Independence Day. Please have a safe and happy Holiday weekend with your family. Happy Fourth!



Please Save the Date

Our annual **Pre-K Graduation will be Friday, August 2 at 9:30 a.m.** We will be graduating several AMAZING kiddos, who will be headed off to Kindergarten this fall. All are welcome, please join us.

Welcome Hannah

We have a new Aide in our Infant Room, Hannah, who is replacing Corey (he moved on to pursue his Nursing career). Hannah comes to us with experience working in her church nursery. She is doing a great job with our babies! Please stop in and say hi and help us welcome Hannah to the Sarah Corson Center.



Staff In-Service Closure Dates

The Center will be *closed both Thursday, August 15 and Friday, August 16* for our annual Staff In-Service.

Geri Retiring July 12

After over eight years of service to our Center, and our babies, Geri Gibson will be retiring this month. Geri began work with us in March 2011, shortly after she moved to the Rogue Valley from Redding, Calif. Geri worked at Mercy Hospital in Redding for over 20 years, prior to moving here. Geri has made our Center and downtown Medford her home.

In retirement, she plans to pursue her life-long dream of traveling to Alaska and New York City. Geri will also have more time to enjoy her two favorite hobbies – cooking and reading.

We wish Geri well and thank her for a job well done. There are plans for a special retirement gift. Please see Jaime if you wish to contribute.

Please join us in saying goodbye and farewell to Geri.



Preschool and Pre-K girls enjoy creating art on our chalk wall

Kathy Hoevet photo

— Jaimie Snider, director