

8th & Holly newsletter
First Presbyterian Church
85 South Holly Street
Medford, Oregon 97501

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Medford OR 97501
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8th & Holly

Our 136th year

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon November 2021

Playing through 50 states

An organist and composer who wants to do a recital of his original music in all 50 states has chosen our Schoenstein Organ for his Oregon venue.

John S. Dixon will play here Monday, November 8 at 7 p.m.

Dixon is Organist and Composer-in-Residence at Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, VA. He has composed over 500 pieces, both instrumental and choral. His works have been released by a number of publishers, including Zimbel Press, Lorenz Publishing, St. James Music Press and NoteNo-



John Dixon

va.
There is no charge for the concert, and all are welcome.

Dixon began his 50-state tour four years ago with concerts in Kentucky and West Virginia. The Medford concert is part of a series of West Coast recitals.

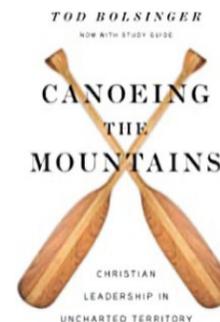


The George and Agnes Flanagan Organ

From the pastor's study

By Murray Richmond

I want to write about two things this month.



First, our *Canoeing the Mountains* meetings on Sunday afternoons are going very well. Last time we looked at our growth over the last few years, and our financial situation. We talked about how things are different in our church today, what our core values are, and what we may need to let go of as we move ahead.

At the next meeting we will dig deeper into these questions, and we will have more time for discussion than we had last month. I hope you will join us for the next meeting, Sunday, November 14 at 3 p.m.

The second thing is our November Fellowship activity. The theme, going along with the holiday of Thanksgiving, is gratitude. I challenge you, for the month of November, to write down one thing a day that you are grateful for. My daughter calls this the Gratitude Attitude.

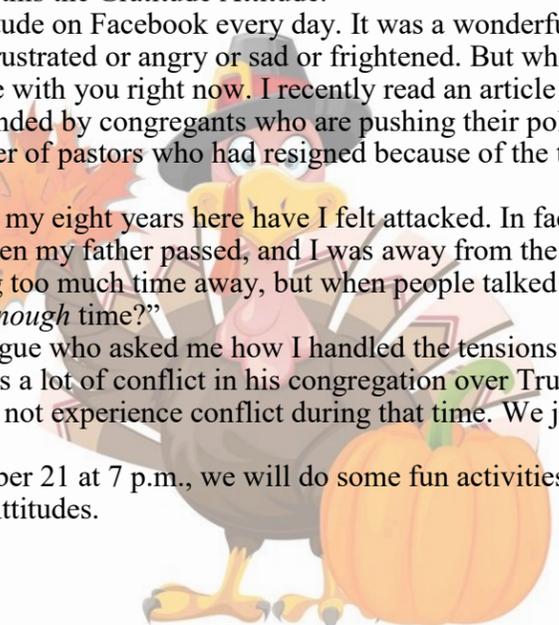
I did this a few years ago, posting my gratitude attitude on Facebook every day. It was a wonderful experience! Too often we see the things that make us frustrated or angry or sad or frightened. But what do we see that causes us to give thanks? I can share one with you right now. I recently read an article in the *Atlantic* magazine about how pastors are being hounded by congregants who are pushing their political views on them. They talked about and with a number of pastors who had resigned because of the tensions in their congregations.

As I read this, I was thankful for you. At no time in my eight years here have I felt attacked. In fact, I have felt nothing but support from you. I remember when my father passed, and I was away from the church to be with him. I was afraid I might be spending too much time away, but when people talked with me about it, their question was, "Are you taking *enough* time?"

After the 2016 election I got an email from a colleague who asked me how I handled the tensions in the church over the election. He indicated that there was a lot of conflict in his congregation over Trump vs. Clinton. I had nothing to say to him because we did not experience conflict during that time. We just kept on being the church.

At the Fellowship event by Zoom, Sunday November 21 at 7 p.m., we will do some fun activities, but we will also have a chance to share our Gratitude Attitudes.

So, see you there!



November at First

2 Tuesday
 10 a.m. **Staff** meeting, workroom
 1:30 p.m. **Food Bank**,
 950 Columbus Ave.
 3 p.m. **Shepherd's Bells** rehearsal

3 Wednesday
 10:30 a.m. **Stewardship**
 committee, Zoom
 5:45 p.m. **Choir** rehearsal,
 Sanctuary



AP

7 Sunday Standard Time returns
 9:45 a.m. **Romp through the hymnal** class, Fellowship Hall
 11 a.m. **Worship** Sanctuary
 Noon **Nominating** Committee,
 Fireplace Room

8 Monday
 9 a.m. **Church Growth**
 Committee, Zoom
 4 p.m. **Mission** Committee, Zoom
 7 p.m. **John Dixon organ recital**,
 Sanctuary

9 Tuesday
 10 a.m. **Staff** meeting, workroom
 1:30 p.m. **Food Bank**,
 950 Columbus Ave.
 3 p.m. **Shepherd's Bells** rehearsal

10 Wednesday
 10:30 a.m. **Stewardship**
 committee, Zoom
 5:45 p.m. **Choir** rehearsal, Sanctu-
 ary

11 Thursday
 4:30 p.m. **Christian Ed**
 committee, library

Work party

We're going to clean up the mostly-unused spaces in the Christian Education wing on Saturday morning, November 20. You are invited to join Jim Foucault and the Building and Grounds volunteers as they sort out stuff that's no longer needed for our ministries. The work party starts at 9 a.m.

14 Sunday
 9:45 a.m. **Romp through the hymnal** class, Fellowship Hall
 11 a.m. **Worship** Sanctuary
 Noon **Worship** Committee,
 Fellowship Hall
 3 p.m. **Discovering our Future**
 workshop #3 for leaders and interested members of the church's family, Fellowship Hall

16 Tuesday
 10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
 1:30 p.m. **Food Bank**,
 950 Columbus Ave.
 3 p.m. **Shepherd's Bells** rehearsal

17 Wednesday
 5:45 p.m. **Choir** rehearsal,
 Sanctuary

18 Thursday
 9 a.m. **Personnel** committee,
 Library
 10 a.m. **Finance** committee,
 workroom

20 Saturday
 9 a.m. **Church cleanup** work
 party

21 Sunday
 9:45 a.m. **Sunday School** 2022
 planning, Fellowship Hall
 11 a.m. **Worship** Sanctuary
 Noon **Nominating** Committee,
 Library
 Noon **Deacons**, Fireplace Room
 7 p.m. **Gratitude fellowship**
 event, Zoom



23 Tuesday
 10 a.m. **Staff** meeting, workroom
 1:30 p.m. **Food Bank**,
 950 Columbus Ave.
 3 p.m. **Shepherd's Bells** rehearsal
 7 p.m. **Session**, Fellowship Hall

24 Wednesday
 Noon **Fellowship Committee**, Zoom

25 Thursday Thanksgiving Day
 Office and Sarah Corson Center closed

26 Friday
 Office and Sarah Corson Center closed

28 Sunday
 9:45 a.m. **Advent** Sunday School class,
 Fellowship Hall
 11 a.m. **Worship** Sanctuary

November birthdays

- 2 Eric Smith
- 3 Abby Bursk
- 4 Tom McDermott
- 5 Darlene Heckenlaible
Jaime Snider
- 6 Jeannine Foucault
- 7 Ron Avery
- 9 Megan Marks
- 10 Murray Richmond
- 12 Buck Smith
- 13 Sally Densmore
Patti Sprinkle
- 14 Larry Ware
George Herkert
- 16 Bob Haddon
Reid Wilson
- 17 Bill Leever
- 19 Paulette Avery
- 20 Tisa Helms
- 21 Gloria Mooney
- 23 Hugh Anderson
- 24 Tam Moore
- 26 Lori Colburn
- 30 David Welt



Treasurer's quarterly report

For the period January through September, 2021 the church received total income of \$643,892.11. Included in this amount is \$50,405.37 from the Ohara bequest and a \$29,914.00 Oregon Early Learning Grant to Sarah Corson Child Care and Learning Center. The church expended \$607,213.85, leaving a surplus of \$36,678.26. Expenses from the Temporary Restricted Funds totaled \$12,636.84, leaving a current balance of \$332,309.69, of which \$202,006.65 is in the Capital Improvement Fund. The balance in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is \$5,688.77. Church reserves now total \$701,666.08.

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
CONGREGATION:	\$283,019.11	\$263,542.02	\$19,477.09
SARAH CORSON:	\$316,773.00	\$330,733.91	(\$13,960.91)
URBAN CENTER II:	\$44,100.00	\$12,937.92	\$31,162.08
TOTAL	\$643,892.11	\$607,213.85	\$36,678.26

Thank you

Thank you for the many prayers, cards and phone calls of support from our church family. Yes, it is a sad time for us. Your encouragement has helped tremendously. Again, thank you.

Dudley and Ginni Peterson

Are you a numbers person?

The Finance Committee is seeking a replacement caused by resignation of a member. The committee develops and administers the church budget, looks after our investments and advises Session on all financial matters involving the church. If you are interested in serving, please contact Cathy de Wolfe, the committee chair, at (541) 773-7350 for more information.

Jam and blankets

This month you can help our sack lunch ministry to the people of downtown Medford.

First, there's a need for a supply of extra blankets and sleeping bags which can be offered to assist the homeless who come to pick up a sack lunch. Your donations can go in the bin beneath the coat rack in the Narthex.

Second, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches have become a staple of the bag lunch menu. Sandi Frey, who coordinates the ministry, says ACCESS regularly supplies the peanut butter. What's needed is jam or jelly. Bring in a jar or two this month and help building up the jam inventory.

Nominees needed

The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the next class of elders and deacons. Chair Bob Frey reports that three elder positions on Session remain to be filled, and one more nominee is needed for the Board of Deacons.

If you are interested in serving, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Bob, any member of the Nominating Committee, or leave a message with the church office. The election will be held at our annual meeting in late January.

First Presbyterian Church

85 South Holly Street
 Medford, Oregon 97501
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Office hours Mon & Thurs 9 a.m. to noon
 and by appointment Mon. through Thurs.

Pastor ...Rev. Murray Richmond
 Congregational Care Associate
Mike Hubbard
 Associates for Visitation and Pastoral Care
Rev. Mary Wright Gillespie
Rev. Barbara Haddon
 Minister of Music and Media
Tony Chunn
 Administrative & Financial Assistant.....Elizbeth Mahan

Sarah Corson Childcare & Learning Center.....Jaime Snider

Session Committee chairs

Building & Grounds—Jim Foucault
 (541) 841-8345
 Christian Education—Tam Moore
 (541) 608-0171
 Church Growth — Bob Frey
 1-(503) 779-5558
 Fellowship— Kristy Denman
 (541) 772-3259
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 (541) 773-7350
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 Mission— Murray Richmond
 (541) 779-1711 x202
 Worship & Music—Andy Ullrich
 (541) 776-5308

www.firstpreschurchmedford.com

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Copy deadline: 4th Monday of the month
 prior to publication

email: newsletter.firstpresmedford@gmail.com