



FIRST CHURCH OF GOD
712 S. W. 27th ST.
PENDLETON, OR 97801

December 2011

Mission Statement

Our mission here at First Church of God is to be a loving fellowship committed to Christ and inspired to seek and lead all persons to salvation through Him.

Lead Pastor:	Rick Oliver
Worship Pastor	Rick Cunningham
Youth Pastor	Laura Rooper
Interim Secretary	Sara McCormack

Church Office Hours:	9 a.m. - 3 p.m. M - F
Office Phone:	(514) 276-1894
Office Fax:	(541) 276-6307
Email:	churchoffice@fcogpendleton.com
Website:	www.fcogpendleton.com

Classes and Education

Wednesday Evening

Dinner at 6 p.m.:

Join us for a time of food and fellowship. A \$1 donation is appreciated.

Children:

Pre-school—1st Grade
Godly Living/Christmas Lesson

2nd—5th Grades
The Birth of Christ

Youth:

6th -12 Grades (Youth Room)
Laura Rooper

Adult Classes:

Grace Based Parenting Class (Parlor)
Marty and Mandy Campbell

Heroes of the Bible (Library)
Pastor Rick Oliver

If you have information about a class that you would like included in the next newsletter, please call the office 541-276-1894 or email churchoffice@fcogpendleton.com.

Youth Group

First Church of God youth meet downstairs at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday night. There are always snacks, games, a message, and occasional worship. The Youth Group is run by Laura Rooper and a handful of very dedicated and wonderful volunteers. More volunteers are always welcome! Laura's goal for the Youth Group is for the kids to have a loving and stable place to come, and that they would hear the message of Christ.

Graced based Parenting Building Character in the parlor starting December 7th at 6:30 taught by Marty and Mandy Campbell on Wednesday nights

Based on his book, Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right, Dr. Tim Kimmel gives parents a positive strategy for raising kids who can stand up to the pressures around them by raising them from the inside out with character. The Building Character small group study will help you:

- Raise kids who can thrive in a hostile culture
- Instill the six most critical character traits that a child needs to turn out right
- Prepare kids for the biggest challenges of life—loneliness, fear, temptation, betrayal...
- Minimize the hassles of parenting
- Maximizes the potential of your children's future
- Apply practical lessons that work with your kids

The Building Character study will give you a strategy for raising your kids on purpose. Like a blueprint serves the builder of a beautiful home, this study will give you practical ways to use character to build happy, confident children who can stand strong and reach their true potential in the future.

Heroes of the Bible

This study, led by Pastor Rick Oliver, is of Heroes in the Bible and how they handled challenges in their lives. It is held Wednesday evenings in the library and starts at 7 p.m.

Classes and Education

Sunday Morning

ADULT CLASSES

Beautiful Outlaw (Parlor)

Jim Phelps and Teri Ward

Study of Galatians (Library)

Maggie Wurtz

Youth (6th -12th grades) (Laura's office)

Laura Rooper

Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)

(4 years to 5th grade)

Patsy Phelps

Volunteer Opportunity

Sunday School Teachers Needed. If you are interested in working with children and helping build a foundation in their walk with Christ, contact Patsy Phelps at jphelps@wtechlink.com or the church office at 541-276-1894 or churchoffice@fcogpendleton.com

Band of Brothers: Led by Allen Waggoner, will meet on Tuesdays, December 6 and Dec. 20. We will continue our study of Freedom in Christ. All men are welcome to attend. 7 p.m. in the parlor.

Circle of Sisters: Meets Sundays at 6 p.m. in the parlor. All women are invited! Join them as they continue their study of **Beautiful Outlaw** by JOHN ELDEREDGE.

For more information, contact Becky Waggoner, 541-443-3043 or email: waggoner@uci.net.

Jim Phelps and Teri Ward are teaching on **Beautiful Outlaw** by JOHN ELDEREDGE in the parlor at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings starting December 4th.

Reading the Gospels without knowing the personality of Jesus is like watching television with the sound turned off. The result is a dry, two dimensional person doing strange, undecipherable things.

In **BEAUTIFUL OUTLAW**, John Eldredge removes the religious varnish to help readers discover stunning new insights into the humanity of Jesus. He was accused of breaking the law, keeping bad company, heavy drinking. Of being the devil himself. He was so compelling and dangerous they had to kill him. But others loved him passionately. He had a sense of humor. His generosity was scandalous. His anger made enemies tremble. He'd say the most outrageous things. He was definitely not the Jesus of the stained glass. In the author's winsome, narrative approach, he breaks Jesus out of the typical stereotypes, just as he set masculinity free in his book, **Wild at Heart**. By uncovering the real Jesus, readers are welcomed into the rich emotional life of Christ. All of the remarkable qualities of Jesus burst like fireworks with color and brilliance because of his humanity.

Eldredge goes on to show readers how they can experience this Jesus in their lives every day. This book will quicken readers' worship, and deepen their intimacy with Jesus. on Sunday mornings

Maggie Wurtz teaching on **Galatians** in the Library at 9:30 a.m.

December 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sunday Services:

8:30 a.m. First Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Second Service		BOB = Band of Brothers COS= Circle of Sisters Willowbrook meets at Willowbrook	1	2	3 12 p.m. YG Leaf Raking meet at the church
4 6 p.m. Circle of Sisters	5	6 6 p.m. Willowbrook 7 p.m. BOB	8 6 p.m. Young at Heart Christ- mas Party at the Phelps' home	9	10 10 a.m. YG Christmas Shop- ping in tri-cities meet at church
11 6 p.m. Circle of Sisters	12 6 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting	13 6 p.m. Willowbrook	14 6 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. YG & Parenting class 7 p.m. Bible Study	15	17 5 p.m. YG Christmas Party meet at church to go to the Phelps'
18 4:30 p.m. Children's Christ- mas Program 6 p.m. COS Sis-	19	20 6 p.m. Willowbrook 7 p.m. BOB	21 6 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. YG & Parenting class 7 p.m. Bible Study	22	24 6-8 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
25 11 a.m. Christmas Service	26	27	28	29	30
					31 6 p.m. to midnight YG Game Night/New Year's Party at church

FOOD BASKETS

Evangelism and Fellowship are now taking donations for non perishable food items for our needy families. We will be doing food baskets for Christmas for some needy families in our community. Please bring your donations and leave them at the Evangelism table in the food box.

Suggested items:

Canned soup	Bread/Muffin Mix/
Frozen vegetables	Grain
Canned fruit	Canned meat
Pasta/pasta mix/rice	Peanut butter
Dried or canned beans	Stuffing
Tomato Products	Potatoes
Sweets (Desserts)	Frozen turkey patty
	Frozen Ham patties

The Living Nativity

Pendleton Faith Center is once again putting on the Living Nativity. They are asking that anyone interested in being part of the event filling out a volunteer sheet and returning it to them at rayo@my180.net or emailed to P.O. Box 1433, Pendleton, OR 97801. Please see the bulletin board for more information and for a copy of the volunteer sheet.

December Anniversaries

Bill & DiAnna Miller Dec 8th

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Look for the new Church Directory after the first of the year!

GIFT OF THE MONTH

WILLOWBROOK:

Each Tuesday evening from 6 -7 p.m. we have activities to share with the Residents at Willowbrook Terrace. Here are our planned activities for the rest of October. What a great opportunity to share with these precious people. Sign up at the Evangelism table in the foyer or just come to Willowbrook and share!!!

December 6: Decorate stockings

December 13: Chocolate dipped spoons & Chocolate dipped suckers

December 20: Mason Jar gifts

December 27: **No Willowbrook**

KEYS FOR KINDNESS:

We are continuing to collect those old, unidentified keys. The funds raised are used for Multiple Sclerosis research. This is a good incentive to clean out those unwanted keys. And a great way to bless others.

PENDLETON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

We are collecting personal hygiene products, grab and go snacks for PHS students in need. Collection container is on the Evangelism table in the foyer.

December Birthdays

Ken Garret	1	Herb Bitting	19
Kevin Porter	3	Hannah Cunningham	21
James Weller	7	Marty Cambell	21
Georgia Garret	7	Eric Schulze	22
Mike Hagan	8	Angela Boston	25
Lee Sweet	12	Brad Stevens	28
Marly Wunderlich	13	Hailey Porter	29
Bowdrie Boston	17	Rodney Parker	31

Wednesday Teachers

Pre-1st

- Dec. 7 Godly Living-Who will Go?
Mike & Pat Hagan
- Dec. 14 Godly Living-Heavenly Homes
Tom Demianew
- Dec. 21 Christmas Lesson-Born in a Manger
Jarod Ward
- Dec. 28 No Classes

2nd-5th

- Dec. 7 The Birth of Christ-Joseph's Dream
Rob & Billie Parker
- Dec. 14 The Birth of Christ-Journey to Bethlehem
Karen Demianew
- Dec. 21 The Birth of Christ- Visit of the Magi
Rod & Karen Parker
- Dec. 28 No Classes

Volunteer Opportunity

Sunday School Teachers Needed. If you are interested in working with children and helping build a foundation in their walk with Christ, contact Patsy Phelps at jphelps@wtechlink.com or the church office at 541-276-1894 or churchoffice@fcogpendleton.com

Children's Church

- | | | |
|---------|----------------------|-------------|
| Dec. 4 | Reana Sweet | Rod Parker |
| Dec. 11 | Debbie Oliver | Luke Oliver |
| Dec. 18 | Patsy Phelps | |
| Dec. 25 | No Children's Church | |
- NOTE: Age 4 to 11st Grade will meet with their teacher downstairs and Grades 2 to 5 will meet in the parlor.

Volunteers Needed

Looking for something to do to ring in the New Year? Volunteers are needed to chaperon the Youth Group New Years Eve Party and Game night from 6 p.m. to Midnight. Ear plugs and cattle prod will be provided along. Interested? Call the church office!

Nursery Volunteers

- Dec. 4
1st Service- Tayler Wyss
Sunday School- Tanna Alford
2nd Service- Tanna Alford/Renea Sweet
- Dec. 7
Tayler Wyss
- Dec. 11
1st Service- Tayler Wyss
Sunday School- Tanna Alford
2nd Service- Tanna Alford/Tammy Short
- Dec. 14
Tayler Wyss
- Dec. 18
1st Service- Tayler Wyss
Sunday School- Tanna Alford
2nd Service- Tanna Alford/Beau/Sara Reynolds
- Dec. 21
Tayler Wyss
- Dec. 25
TBA
- Dec. 28
Tayler Wyss

Our Nursery is growing! Nursery helpers needed for Sunday mornings. Once every 2-3 months during Sunday School & 2nd Service. Ages 14 and up.

Attention all Singers:

I am thrilled to pieces that so many of you have volunteered to do special Christmas songs for our services in December! You have made quite a commitment, but it will be worth it all!

We will be practicing December 4, 11, and 18 right after second service.

Men will be singing their special on Dec. 4th (both services).

Women will be singing their special on Dec. 11th (both services).

Men & women will be singing their special on Dec. 18th (both services).

Men & women will be the worship team for Rick C. at 11 a.m. Christmas day. We will lead the congregation in singing Christmas songs!

If you wish to sing with us and have not yet contacted DiAnna, please do so ASAP at 541-276-9020 or diannamiller@acn.net or Debbie Oliver at 541-278-0730 or dannoliver24@hotmail.com.

Y.A.H. (YOUNG AT HEART)

Christmas Party

Thursday, December 8, 2011

6:00 pm

Jim and Patsy Phelps' Home

Once again, it is time to mark your calendar for our annual Christmas party. We invite all, who are 50 or over, or those who just like hanging out with us and having some fun and fellowship.

Place: Jim and Patsy Phelps' home

47019 Kirkpatrick Road-

Bring: Finger food and a white elephant gift.

Please call or email, by Tuesday December 6th, Jim and Patsy @ 541-276-4898; jphelps@wtechlink.com or DiAnna Miller @ 541-276-9020; diannamiller@acn.net to let them know if you are going to attend.

To all those who sent me cards during my stay in the hospital for my ankle surgery, I give thanks. For all of those who are praying for my recovery, praise you and bless you. I am recovering very well. It will be another 30 days before I can put weight on my foot and ankle. After that, the doctors expect full recovery. I will be able to walk with very little pain. Love you Linda Foley, 2915 W 7th Ave apt 4, Kennewick, WA 99336. My e mail is keepingonlinda@yahoo.com.

Pastor's Notes

I'm looking at the calendar. It says November 30th, but I still can't believe it! I know Thanksgiving has come and gone; Black Friday is history; Cyber Monday is in the books and the Christmas season is upon us! Some people are already tired just thinking about the days of Yule ahead.

Well, how about this for a novel idea; let's not try to make every event on the calendar. Set priorities. Don't attend activities or functions that don't add to your life or worship of Christmas. Involve yourself in events and activities that add meaning and purpose to this time of year instead of headaches and aggravation. The angels proclaimed that this is a time of "JOY"!! Try using the Advent Devotional written by the men of our church. Plan to have Christmas ready by December 21st, St. Thomas

Day, rather than December 24th. Make Memories this year that you savor in joy for years to come and rejoice that the Lord has Come! That is the reason for the season!

~Pastor Rick

Laura's Notes

My first three months as your pastor for FCOG have been exciting, inspiring, and challenging. As you may know, this is my first full-time youth ministry position. So much to learn!! My vision for the youth is that they would be a "community of courage"- courage to love one another and go deeper into the heart of God. There are days that this goal seems idealistic, but the truth is that God can do all things. My heart is that your ministry at FCOG would be a loving, and stable force in kids' lives. I am currently seeking volunteers, and, in particular, male leadership. I have a vision for small groups that can only be accomplished with the help of people who are willing to partner with me in this ministry. I also ask the church to be prayer warriors on behalf of the youth, so that love and grace may cover them. I enjoy working with Pastor Rick and have benefited from his mentorship! I feel very blessed to have been called to the community of Pendleton.

~Laura Rooper

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