



Columbia Presbyterian Church

2024 Annual Report

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CPC Friends,

I hope you are having a good start to the year. Each year we like to do a full report on what is going on in the life of the church. It serves as a kind of historical record for the church and provides necessary information for you, the congregation. However, this is also a way to bear witness to what God has been up to in our midst during the past year. As always, with Kingdom work there is a lot to be celebrated and a lot of work that remains. Let's begin with celebration.

JOYOUS OVERVIEW OF 2024:

This past year was different in that it marked the end of my first year as the official Head of Staff at Columbia. It felt like that was a critical year for evaluation and then action. So, rather than starting lots of new things, we have re-invested in some of the ministries that were already bearing fruit.

MomCo Growth - We continued to invest heavily in the MomCo program (formerly called MOPS). Tifny Mathena, Children's and Intergenerational Ministry Director, who spearheaded this effort in 2023, helped it blossom in 2024. The group grew so much they had to switch rooms and add additional childcare.

Stepping Stones - Last year YoungLife had to back away from its YoungLives program for teen parents. CPC helped lead an effort to continue that program with our leaders and a few volunteers from other churches. While it is still an experiment, the Stepping Stones ministry is steadily providing meals, fellowship, and Bible study. They are looking to invite and welcome new teen parents this winter and spring.

Facilities - As several of my letters have mentioned, we need to make some investments in our facilities. After hiring a new Director of Operations, we are prepared to tackle some of those projects. We started with a refresh of the upper parking lot, a refacing of the rotted siding on the upper office building. We are looking to upgrade security, refresh carpeting in the upper offices, and various other neglected projects. You do not even want to see the list of all the things!

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee - We launched our APNC to begin a search for a permanent Associate Pastor of Discipleship. Likely this person will be in charge of connection and hospitality for new believers and visitors. They are just in their initial stage of gathering together, but will be communicating with the Session and you in the near future.

Overall, when I look at 2024, I think it has been a good year. We have had some wonderful sermon series, many new folks coming to the church, and a general sense of joy seems to be in the air. While we are having to "refresh and reboot" a little bit here and there, I think CPC is a sign of hope in Clark County. My hope is that spirit will continue into 2025, and will translate to discipleship growth that produces a community shaped by Jesus' mission.

I am hopeful you will continue to pray and support this mission in whatever ways you can!

Pastor Matt Overton

Lead Pastor



A FEW 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Christmas Eve



Easter Butterflies



Pastor Scott at Fall Fest



Ash Wednesday



K2 Live Secret Pal Reveal Night



The Gathering All Church BBQ



Consecration Sunday



Sunday School



Christmas Eve



Ministry Team Reports

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

HIGHLIGHTS

As a worshipping community, together we enjoyed our regular worship services each Sunday. Our traditional service at 9am includes hymns led by our wonderful organist Garnet Hayes, and the choir providing inspirational anthems. Our 10:30am contemporary services are led by our worship team, which also includes our three high school music apprentices.

We also found it meaningful to observe the Christian calendar by offering special worship opportunities on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Advent and Christmas. We celebrated together with an all-church outdoor worship service in September and again offered our annual Christmas Concert in December.

ONGOING VISION WORK

Our ongoing vision work involves our shared participation as we worship the Lord together through prayer, sermons, singing, choir anthems, and fellowship in our worship services. We gather each Sunday to honor the Lord, and we also feel connected to those who join us



through our livestream services. The worship staff meets each week to determine how best to design our worship services to honor God and serve our community. Just as the pastors spend many hours each week preparing their sermons, the musicians spend many hours preparing the music for worship.



SUMMARY OF MINISTRY

We are extremely grateful for the many volunteers who participate as leaders in the worship area. This includes sound, video and livestream volunteers, musicians, ministers, lay leaders, ushers, greeters, flower arrangers, decorators, artists, singers, and the list goes on. Our goal is to give God all the honor, glory, and praise while we provide a place for our community to worship Him. To God be the glory!



Jeffrey Haagenenson
Minister of Worship & Music

ADULT MINISTRY

HIGHLIGHTS

The **Columbia Faith and Life Conference** was fantastic with Eric Toumieux from Beer Sheba in Senegal as our speaker. Eric's topic was "The Gospel of Creation" and he spoke about how God loves and will redeem all of creation. We had a wonderful team approach to the **Bible classes on Sunday morning** as part of our core discipleship approach. We spent the winter and spring studying Exodus, and in the fall we launched into the book of Hebrews. Much thanks to Jeff Ovall and Chris Keinath for helping Pastor Scott teach this class. Once again, the **Fall Festival** was a highlight as we gathered in our parking lot for worship, followed by lunch and plenty of games and good fellowship. Thanks to the amazing team of volunteers for making the festival a success!



The **Guys and Kids Campout** discovered that the beach is a wonderful place to camp! Cape Lookout campground provided a beautiful place for us to connect with one another and grow deeper with God. The hardworking **Adult Faith Formation Team** has been a super group of people to work with! Thank you to the team.



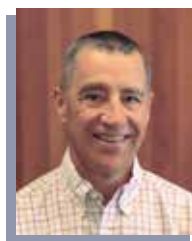
ONGOING VISION WORK

We continue to work on making CPC a place that makes flourishing disciples. This past year we have moved from the big picture view of a healthy tree being planted in good soil, to begin exploring the on-the-ground discipleship and spiritual practices. The women's retreat, led by Rev. Laurel Neal, explored developing a "Rule of Life," which are intentional spiritual practices as part of our everyday living. We are also offering a class on "The Way of Jesus" which will help people discover and incorporate regular spiritual practices into our families and homes. This will continue to be a major emphasis in 2025.

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY

2024 was a year in which we moved forward in developing a discipleship plan for the church. Our focus is to continue to be a place where people feel connected, are growing and flourishing as disciples, and are sent out to serve the world. This can only happen when we take time to grow in our faith through spiritual disciplines, and this needs to be done in community. The community of the church is the good soil where disciples can put down roots and grow. We are making good progress in changing the culture of CPC to be a place of flourishing disciples.

I am grateful for the staff, teams, deacons and session who show up to help when needed. As I said last year... Sunday morning is still my favorite time of the week because I get to see all of you!



Scott Peterson
Interim Associate Pastor

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGHLIGHTS

This year we emphasized investing in **combined Middle School and K2 Live events** with the goal of being more intergenerational. We combined our Valentine's and Christmas parties. These events provide our students time with different programs as well as a fun environment to hang out with each other. In early September we had a 6th grade **"Welcome to Middle School" event** and took



ten incoming 6th graders for a night out at Menchie's. This time is such a huge transition for our students and it can be intimidating. This event gave our students a chance to dip their toes into the world of Middle School Ministries. This summer we had **11 Children's and Youth Ministry Interns** who were hardworking and determined to invest their summer into growing their relationship with God, as well as growing their leadership within CPC. After a 6-year break, our **High Schoolers returned to Amor Ministries for Work Camp 2025**. This trip was incredible and life-changing for many of our students and leaders. We participated in building three homes in Tijuana, Mexico. Without the congregation's support, this trip is not possible - thank you for all the donations and support. In 2024, youth ministries embarked on six



overnight retreats. We truly believe retreats are at the core of our ethos at CPC. These retreats provide students with experiences and unique moments to get to know each other while also participating in service. Over the course of the year, students grow in their relationships with God, as well as with each other, through these retreats.

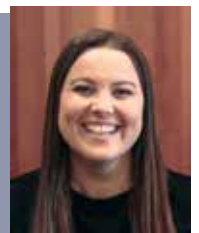
ONGOING VISION WORK

As we look to 2025, our goal is to continue to invest in our students' experiences within our community. When a student graduates from high school, we pray that we have provided them unique ways to learn about God and build lasting friendships with each other and our leaders. We continue to focus on lifelong discipleship. Middle and high school are packed with growth, learning, challenges, and our goal is to continue encouraging and strengthening our students through a relationship with Christ.

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY

Youth Ministries at CPC consist of a rich environment where students walk in faith alongside each other. We work toward building up lifelong disciples of Jesus who go out from CPC and share the love of Christ. Our programming is filled with rich Biblical teaching and various relational experiences. Through our weekly programming, yearly retreats, and service projects, our students get to grow in God together. We are dedicated to investing in our students throughout their middle and high school experiences and beyond.

Lydia Fitzpatrick
Youth Director



CHILDREN'S & INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY

HIGHLIGHTS

Spiritual Development took a front seat this year as we invested in new curriculums for each elementary age group. We are also continuing our long-held tradition of celebrating spiritual milestones through Bible Sunday, Communion Training, and 5th Grade Promotion.

Columbia MomCo grew from four tables to six this year! We meet twice a month, and are blessed by the strong community of women being formed within this group.



VBS 2024, "Scuba", welcomed 100 children and gave 70 volunteers the opportunity to "Dive into Friendship with God" as well as giving the opportunity for families to recycle various items that might otherwise end up in the landfill or ocean. This year we added a BBQ to the last day of VBS. Families, volunteers, and staff had a chance to get to know one another while eating together and enjoying Kona Ice! It was very well received and we are excited to do it again next year!

CPC now has a **Toddler Room!** The addition of this room, (LL7) has allowed us to expand our childcare enrollment in events such as Parents' Night Out and MomCo. It is also being used by the Stepping Stones ministry. We are grateful for this much loved space!

CPC Continues to connect with **Circle of Friends**



Preschool, through MomCo, Parents' Night Out evenings, and monthly reading events led by the CM Director. As new families enroll, they are provided with a welcome video from the CM Director, highlighting our programs and inviting each family to Sunday service.

Intergenerational Activities, including the Advent Wreath Making and Dinner and crafts at the Advent Festival gave opportunities for people of all ages to visit, create, and celebrate together.

The second annual **Lenten Devotional**, written and illustrated by the congregation, was beautifully created with contributions from people of all ages.

Youth Leaders are playing a larger roll in Children's Ministries as we added high school leaders to our Sunday school classes and welcomed one lead and two volunteer CM interns last summer!

Rooted Newsletter gives readers insight into youth and children's programming and education at CPC, while providing Christian resources and encouragement for those raising children.



ONGOING VISION WORK

2025 will continue providing opportunities, rooted in the example of Christ and the Word of God, for people of all

CHILDREN'S & INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY

ages to connect, flourish and serve. Children's Ministries is always looking for ways to support parents as they seek to follow the Jesus Way and to raise children who long to do the same. We continue to seek a cohesive discipleship program for all ages. In the coming year, we will focus on giving children the opportunity to participate more directly in worship services, as well as offering another parenting-related class, potentially in the fall.

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY

Children's Ministry at CPC seeks to provide a place of care and connection where children and their families can learn and grow in their knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ and His love for them displayed through the Gospel. This ministry also exists to facilitate the growth



of the Kingdom of God, providing multiple points of connection whenever possible, laying the foundation for true relationships to form and strong foundations to build.

Tifny Mathena
Director of Children's and
Intergenerational Ministry



PASTORAL CARE & VISITATION

HIGHLIGHTS

Since the beginning of April 2024, it has been my privilege to serve as the Pastor of Visitation for Columbia Church. After a 40 year career as a solo pastor of small, rural Presbyterian churches, and then 10 years of being retired, it has been an interesting change to serve in a large suburban church with a big staff. Because I grew up at Columbia, starting in its beginning years, the experience of returning has been fascinating.

My ministry primarily involves making and staying in contact with the older members of our congregation. It has been a blessing to get to know the folks who have

played their part in making Columbia what it has been and what it is today.

With the intention of reserving my part time hours for visitation, we have limited my involvement in meetings and with committees. This has resulted in a ministry that is intensively involved with the lives of our members. And that has been privilege for me.

Although my ministry is temporary, I look forward to whatever the future holds in whatever ways I am asked to serve.

Steve Klump
Pastoral Visitor



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: K2 LIVE

HIGHLIGHTS

Unique weekly ministry for children – Columbia offers a mid-week program unlike most churches in Clark County that is bringing families through our doors. **Family Nights** – We had four nights when families joined us to share in the fun with their children and have fellowship with other families. **Overnight Retreat at Trout Creek Bible Camp** – For the first time in four years, we were able to enjoy a camp experience, feeding the kids' faith and nurturing relationships surrounded by God's beautiful creation. We enjoy sharing the camp with the Middle School Youth Group, including meals and time to worship together. **Friendship Bags to Open House Ministries** – K2 kids partnered with Open House Ministries to develop friendships with the children who reside there and help support them with their everyday needs. We filled over thirty gift bags for the elementary kids at OHM to deliver in time for Christmas. **Welcoming new kids** – Over half of our kids this fall were brand new to the program. Praise God for an amazing group of adults and youth leaders who make this ministry possible!



ONGOING VISION WORK

Family: Our Secret Pal activity is an intentional way we are involving loving adults from our family of faith, other than their parents and teachers, in the lives of the kids of K2 Live.

Missional: While encouraging and equipping kids to live out their faith outside of Columbia, we also offer a way to serve others in a mission project. In addition to our fall friendship bag project, in the spring we collected items for the Talibé boys in Senegal. We want to guide the kids to respond to Jesus' call on our lives to care for those in need while remembering that we are all equal in God's



eyes as his beloved children.

Disciplemaking: Our HighPoint curriculum disciples kids to become more like the person that Jesus is calling them to be, one Biblical character trait at a time and shows kids how to grow in a personal relationship with Christ, the One who builds godly character.

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY

K2 Live is Columbia's mid-week program for children in third, fourth, and fifth grades. Each Wednesday, twenty-five to thirty kids meet to experience God through large group activities and Bible teaching, small group discussion, gym games, craft projects, mission experiences, and trust and community-building games. Families are included in events four times during the year in an effort to include and encourage them as the primary faith educators of their children.



Anna Haagen
Director of K2 Live and
Children's Choir



DEACON MINISTRY

HIGHLIGHTS

The thirty-member Deacon Board of Columbia Presbyterian actively participated in spreading God's caring and compassion not only to its own brothers and sisters, but also to our nearby neighbors. These benevolent acts were accomplished through four primary teams:

The **Communion Team** identified servers for each monthly communion service as well as prepared the elements at four stations for each service (an increase). They also provided home communion on 53 occasions to congregants who shared how meaningful this was for them.

Every week the **Hospitality Team** provided greeters for both services, provided assistance at the Welcome Center, and provided parking guidance. They also facilitated fourteen memorial receptions.



The **Service Team** organized and supported four Red Cross blood drives, provided a Helping Hand in accomplishing multiple household projects for several congregants, moved a deacon to their new apartment, plus maintained a generator backup for a housebound congregant. The Team organized and set up two food drives, collecting over 1600 pounds of food and thousands of dollars for the Clark County Food Bank and our neighborhood school's Family Community Resource Centers. This year the Thanksgiving basket project supported 80 family groups comprising an estimated 280 children from the Marshall, McLoughlin, and Heights schools.



The **Tender Loving Care Team (TLC)** provided cards to our senior church members/friends who are 85 or older, provided Easter and Christmas gifts to our Care Partners, and delivered 47 prayer shawls to those experiencing grief, or illness; twice a month provided a dedicated trained team of people who prayed with anyone needing prayer after both worship services. This TLC team, along with other former deacons, acted as Care Partners for fourteen fragile congregants through emails, phone calls, cards, and personal visits. This year, eight such congregants have either moved or passed away, while nine new folks have been added into our care.

Throughout the year the Deacon Board dedicated its service to the Lord, to further His kingdom both here at CPC and in our local neighborhoods. The deacons have been aided and guided in this ministry of compassion with the support and leadership of Pastor Ted Buck and Pastor Scott Peterson.



HEALTH MINISTRY

HIGHLIGHTS

- 13 and 15 volunteers, respectively, made person-to-person visits with WeCare gifts to 40 households in May and 57 in November.
- The annual health fair in November featured seven community exhibitors and nine experts from our own CPC team of healthcare professionals.
- We hosted five Bring Your Own Bag lunches designed for all, but especially for those missing the usual events paused during the summer.
- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) classes continued this year, both for those working with adults and youth/adolescents.
- GriefShare, a 13-week program, ran in the spring and also in the fall with 7-15 attendees each week.



ONGOING VISION WORK

We began our ministry in 2019. Our vision/mission is to facilitate the integration of body, soul, and spiritual health; this means addressing needs that may impact physical health, such as social isolation. Our focus heretofore has been primarily to our own community of faith. However, we realize some projects can incorporate others outside of our congregation to facilitate their health. For example, we have begun to have others join the Mental Health First Aid classes but would like to expand our influence in the community. We have made some contacts of community resources, such as PeaceHealth and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and hope to collaborate with them and others in the future.



SUMMARY OF MINISTRY

The work of the Health Ministry Team (HMT) is led by a certified faith community nurse and a supportive steering committee, made up of several health professional team members as well as a retired nurse educator from another Presbyterian church. Several others who do not have health backgrounds round out the committee. We meet twice a month to share information, listen to feedback, and plan our next activities/projects. In addition to the highlights above, we host one-time classes, provide support to the pastoral staff, stock a mental health brochure rack in the Gathering Area, and are responsive to other needs as they arise. We aspire to be intergenerational, working with Circle of Friends Preschool, and listening for other needs of our faith community.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a bittersweet year for Presbyterian Women (PW) at Columbia. We had to realize that our 2024 church sale would be our last one. Although we have had great help from our youth, the adults who have worked the sale for years are getting older and are unable to put in the hours needed to operate the sale. But that final sale was a huge success and we made enough money to support our mission projects through 2026. Any group in the church that would like to take on the sale, please contact PW. We have a lot of equipment you can use.

We also reduced our 2024 gatherings by one, ending the year with a very successful Christmas luncheon. The program was a dramatic reading written by Beth Moore and read by Marilyn Kimble. Sally Stalnaker provided some lovely music.

Our three circles, Ruth, Lydia and Marion/Elizabeth, meet monthly for fellowship and Bible studies. One circle continues meeting via a hybrid of Zoom and in person, while the other two meet in person.

This past year, PW awarded one scholarship to a woman for graduate work.



Through Bible study and fellowship, we encourage our women to pray for and support each other. Through cards of condolence and cheer, we reach out to members of our church on behalf of the PW. Our circles donated food, clothing, toys and gifts to the needy by working with programs within our church and with Safe Choice of the YWCA.

Columbia PW are guided by a shared purpose of Presbyterian Women church-wide: Forgiven and fed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study. To support the mission of the Church worldwide. To work for justice and peace; and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.





Missions

MISSIONS MINISTRY

HIGHLIGHTS

Missions Ministry Team (MMT) supported the following ministries and missionaries with funds, communication, volunteer service, and prayer: Clark County Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Marshall and McLoughlin schools, Open House Ministries, The Linen Closet, Clark County Young Life, Stepping Stones, Haiti Foundation of Hope, Clean Water for Haiti, and Senegal – the Falls, Baba Garage, MIS, World Vision, Pastor Ngor, Beer Sheba, the Nagelkirks and the Mattocks.

Stepping Stones - is holding meetings at CPC the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. CPC volunteers are providing and serving meals and praying for the girls and their families.

Marshall and McLoughlin Schools - CPC volunteers support staff and students with backpacks, shoes, clothing, toiletries, support for Back-to-School events, Thanksgiving baskets and other food items, a bike for the Spelling Bee grand prize, lunchtime activity groups, and staff encouragement events. CPC provided over 200 hours of volunteer time.

Evergreen Habitat for Humanity - CPC partnered on 4 build days with over 300 volunteer hours.

Open House Ministries (OHM) - CPC volunteers provided over 50 volunteer hours at OHM Resource Fair in August, provided Columbia Play Project for OHM children on two afternoons, supported two rooms by gathering needed household furnishings, and 20 CPC volunteers spent over 100 hours furnishing and decorating two apartments.



Christmas Giving Trees - provided presents and household goods for two OHM families (4 adults and 7 children) and over \$2,500 in gift cards for Stepping Stones and Marshall and McLoughlin school families.

The Food Drives - in coordination with the deacons, provided cash and donated food.

Welcomed mission partners - From Senegal: Eric Toumieux with Beer Sheba, Leo Diouf with Project Nicodemus and Feluine Fall from St Louis. Also welcomed missionaries Rich and Joyce Mattocks with Tyndale Bible Translators serving in Papua New Guinea.

Communication - MMT continued to bring missions and missionaries in front of the congregation with visit reports, Mission Connections updates during worship, Columbia Weekly articles, trip briefings, intergenerational connections, and classes.

ONGOING VISION WORK

MMT continues to support the global ministries, local ministries and missionaries with funds, communication, volunteer service and prayer. MMT encourages CPC to engage in mission work to encounter God, to enter into a life changing relationship with Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to show you your place in God's work.

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY

MMT communicates and builds relationships with mission organizations and missionaries supported by CPC. We encourage CPC congregants to connect, flourish and serve local and global missions. MMT seeks and screens requests for new missions/missionaries that fit CPC's purpose and vision statements. MMT manages CPC's missions budget by reviewing mission organizations and missionaries funding needs and disperses funds per budget availability. MMT submits an annual budget request to session for approval each fiscal year.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS PRESCHOOL

HIGHLIGHTS

In May, Circle of Friends Preschool Director Sharon Wallenborn retired after 30 years of service. Sharon was a loving, hard-working, dedicated woman of strong faith who gave her heart and soul to the development of Circle of Friends (COF). In June, Laura Ericcsen accepted the position of Director. Laura joined the COF team in 2010 and worked in various classrooms, started the Two-ty Pop 2-year old program, created a virtual program during COVID, and worked as the Assistant Director for two years before becoming the Director. COF won The Columbian's Best of Clark County Award for Best Preschool in Clark County for the second year in a row. The Columbian reported that COF won the award by a substantial number of votes over the competition.



ONGOING VISION WORK

COF is proud to be a ministry of Columbia Presbyterian Church and is committed to representing CPC's commitment to children and families. More and more preschool families attend worship services, classes, or church functions offered at CPC. Some of our most important future work will be to continue nurturing and strengthening our bond with CPC. COF is excited about and dedicated to adding new programs, upgrading, modernizing, and revamping our current activities, events, curriculum, and day-to-day operations and routines. Examples include adding a half-day Kindergarten class in the future, new programs like a "Lunch & Learn" mid-day class to help kids learn elementary lunchtime skills, and adding more Christian-based curriculum into our classroom teaching.



SUMMARY OF MINISTRY

COF's mission is to provide and serve preschool-age children and their families with a loving and nurturing family environment. Our goal is to provide our students with a basic foundation of the Christian faith and a consistent, respectful, stimulating learning environment that encourages all aspects of development. COF has 170 students, three parent-and-me two-year-old classes, seven preschool classes, and ten Pre-K classes. Pre-K students who are in classes for three or more days enjoy science every other Wednesday. This year, three enrichment classes are offered: "Little Performers" dance class, "Mini Movers" gym class, and "Espanol con Senorita Kennia" Spanish class. COF continues to be run by a hard-working and dedicated Board of Directors who welcomed three new board members this year.



COLUMBIA FUTURE FORGE

2024 was a challenging year for the Forge and yet it yielded some incredible fruit for us as a ministry. As you likely know, the Forge is a separate 501(c)(3) from the church, but it sees itself as firmly embedded in the life of CPC. Below we have briefly listed the challenges, celebrations, and future hopes of the Forge ministry.



THE CHALLENGES

- Jun Jeong, Utmost Athletic Program Director, transitioned closer to family on the East Coast.
- While we experimented with our first Executive Director, Jennifer Jones, it did not go as we had hoped. Jennifer transitioned in late October.
- We had to take a break from the Hayes Freedom on campus training program because we no longer have the capacity to sustain 12 weeks of trainings.



THE WAYS GOD PROVIDED

- We received a \$10k grant from the Price Foundation to directly employ and train larger numbers of students through Mowtown Teen Lawncare. We have our highest, consistent total number of students employed each week with 11.
- We created two new strategic partnerships with Habitat for Humanity and Proud Ground. Both are



housing initiatives in Clark County.

- We had 14 Clark College athletes who were exploring or deepening their understanding of the Word of God through a “Clark Baseball Bible Study.”
- Liam Fitzpatrick took over as Program Director for Utmost Athletics and is doing an incredible job in his new role. He is excited about the ministry possibilities that exist within Utmost.

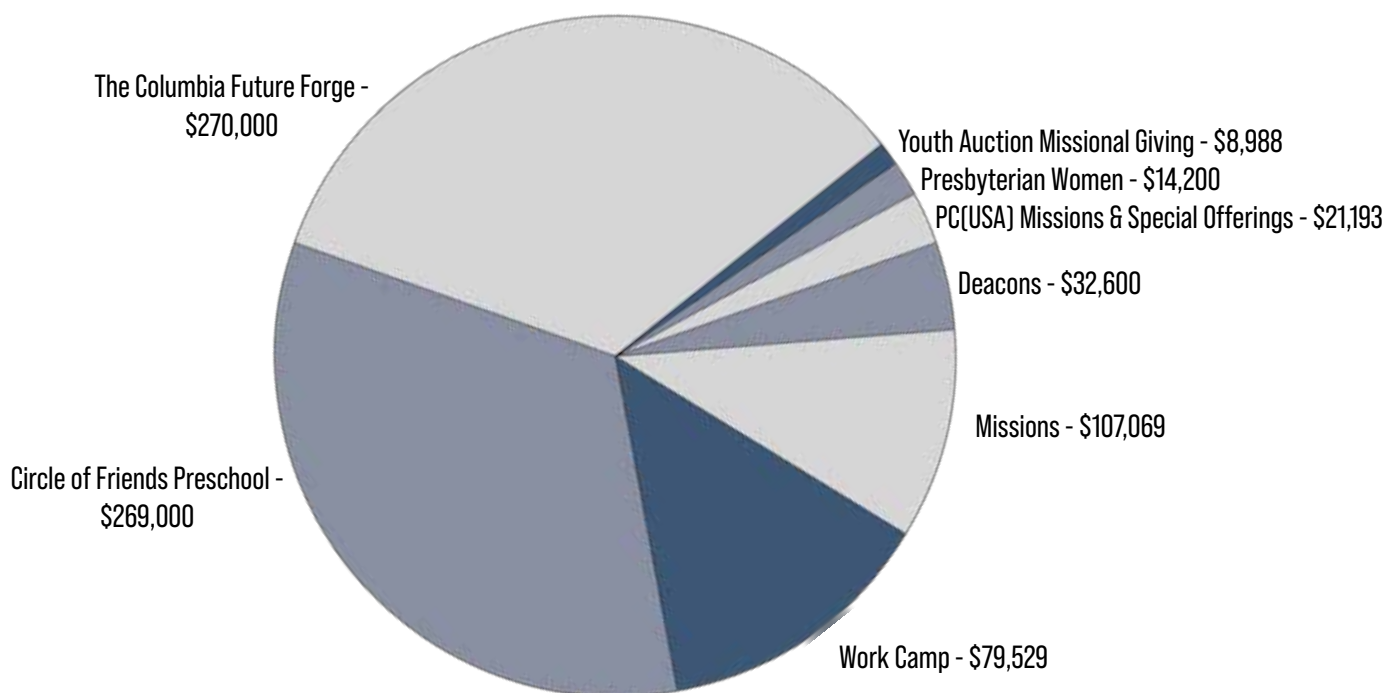
WHAT DOES 2025 HOLD?

First, the Forge board is considering the idea that an Operations Director might be a better fit for us than an Executive Director, but we are praying through that. Secondly, we are near capacity in our Utmost space and are unsure what that means just yet. Last, we need to explore and deepen our community partnerships. There may be a way for CPC to serve alongside Forge students as a new creative extension of our mission.

Thank you for all your prayers and financial support!
Pastor Matt Overton
Acting Executive Director



TOTAL MISSIONAL IMPACT



The pie chart you see above was originally shared in our fall Generosity Report. For the last two years, we have produced this graphic to help explain the broader financial impact CPC has on missions - we call this our “Total Missional Impact.” It shows how the “Missions” category in our annual budget is only a narrow slice of CPC’s actual investment in mission. Not only do we invest more dollars on mission, we also creatively leverage our facilities and resources to support local ministries that are reaching into our community with the good news of Jesus Christ. Here are some examples of this broader view of missional impact:

- The Columbia Future Forge and Circle of Friends Preschool provide a huge mission impact into the community, but CPC funds these semi-independent ministries minimally. For example, the Columbia Future Forge has a \$300k budget, but each year the church supports the Forge between \$4k-\$19k in terms of direct funding. A small amount of funding has been leveraged into a major amount of mission.
- The Deacons Fund is not directly tied to mission, but the relief it provides to people in crisis, both inside and outside our church, is an extension of our central mission to the poor.
- The High School Work Camp Auction is not visible in the missions budget, but its proceeds go to a variety of missions outside our church.

Please let us know if this provides a more helpful and comprehensive sense of our missional footprint.

Church Leadership



PERSONNEL MINISTRY

HIGHLIGHTS

Personnel Ministry Team (PMT) researched and developed compensation metrics to ensure fair and competitive wages for each staff position, implemented the development of personal goals by staff, and revised the staff review process to provide staff with an opportunity to discuss their personal goals with PMT representatives so Columbia can better support the accomplishment of those goals, PMT continued emphasis on personal growth of all staff by replacing study leave with professional development for all non-ordained staff. PMT recommended to Session that, based on financial resources, Columbia can support a Lead Pastor/Head of Staff, an Associate Pastor, and a Parish Associate. PMT also identified the need for, and developed a position for, a Director of Operations that will oversee four functional areas: finance, human resources, operations, and technology; as well as oversee special projects.



ONGOING VISION WORK

Implementing a time and attendance module to improve the efficiency and accuracy of payroll processing as well as better compliance with Washington State employment laws. Updating the Employee Handbook to ensure personnel policies and benefits are up-to-date and clearly documented. Updating the job descriptions for Lead Pastor/Head of Staff; Associate Pastor and Parish Associate. Supporting staff and ministry teams in the hiring of a Youth Worship Leader and a Director of Operations. Researching/reviewing Washington State employment laws regarding exempt positions to ensure Columbia's compliancy. Monitoring Columbia's evolving

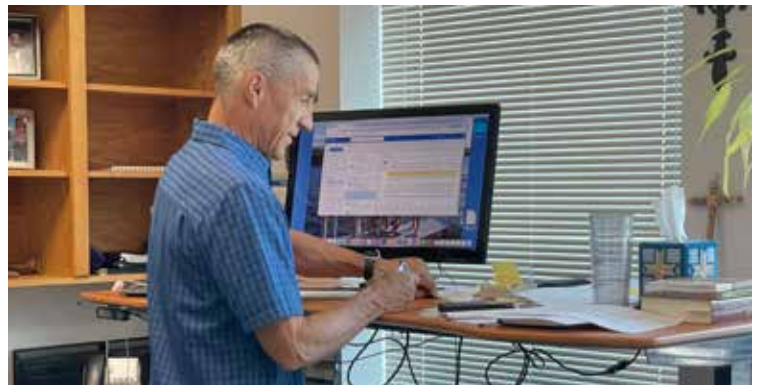


human resource needs to ensure the effective use of current staff and the addition of new staff, if needed.

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY

PMT's primary responsibility is to collaborate with staff to maintain a healthy work environment. To help accomplish this, the PMT maintains the employee handbook to ensure personnel policies and benefits are up-to-date and clearly documented, develops and maintains job descriptions for each position to ensure roles and responsibilities, as well as required knowledge, skills and experience are documented, develops a salary structure and salary ranges so that all employees are fairly compensated according to their roles and responsibilities, and works with staff to develop and implement policies and procedures that assure compliance with laws, regulations, insurance requirements, and best practices.

2024 members of the PMT included Carol Cate, Ben Stimmel, KT Teng, and Tricia Williamson.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

HIGHLIGHTS

The Nominating Committee nominates elders and deacons, and in 2024 we had the additional blessing of nominating an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC).

We began meeting in June, and over the summer we discussed nominations for the APNC. On October 20, we presented a slate of nine nominees to the congregation. Elected by a unanimous vote, the APNC consists of: Erin Endreson, Marilyn Kimble, Steve Martin, Jeff Ovall, Brian Randolph, Mary Smith, Ben Stimmel, Aaron Villanueva and Julie Wilcox.

In September, we set to work nominating people for deacons, elders and elder-trustee. As with the APNC, we received nominations from the congregation and nominated people ourselves, praying for God's guidance and discernment along the way.

The entire process confirmed to us that Columbia is blessed with a deep well of people who are and can be leaders and servants in the church.

The 2024-25 Nominating Committee consisted of elders Bob Sisson and Erin Lambley; deacons Stephanie Bisch and Gail Wolz; and at-large members Diana Gage, Tim Mauer, Gary Stewart and John VanDinter. Pastor Matt Overton also is a member with voice but no vote.

Nominees for Elders, Class of 2028

Connie Kearney
Erin Lambley
Kim Randolph
Bob Sisson
Andy Woodrow

Nominee for Trustee, Class of 2028

Connie Kearney

Nominee for Deacon, Class of 2026

Kelli Putney

Nominees for Deacons, Class of 2028

Christiana Amewudah
Mylei Carlson
Brittany Erspamer
Ann Ferguson
Pat Henderson
Fnot Kahsay
Brooke Smith
Karen Stegemiller
Sharon Wallenborn
Alexa White

Nominating Committee 2025-26

Elder #1, to be appointed by Session
Elder #2, to be appointed by Session
Deacon #1, to be appointed by Deacons
Deacon #2, to be appointed by Deacons
Sharon Franklin, at-large member
Diana Gage, at-large member
Gary Stewart, at-large member
John VanDinter, at-large member

2025 ELDER AND DEACON NOMINEES

Connie Kearney - Elder

I have been nominated for a second, three-year term as an elder and trustee. Trustees concentrate more on the corporate aspect of CPC — budget and maintenance and operation of the church facilities. Besides my role as an elder and trustee, I am a member of the sanctuary decorating committee, Marian/Elizabeth Circle, and president of the CPC Foundation. I am a retired attorney and have two grown children and four grandchildren. I serve on the board of the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon, and am an emeritus trustee for the Oregon State University Foundation, the PeaceHealth Medical Center Foundation, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of SW Washington. My husband Lee and I have attended CPC since about 2010.



Bob Sisson - Elder

I've been a member of Columbia since 1978, when Mary and I moved here for my job as a reporter for The Columbian. Our son and two daughters were born and raised here. Over the years, I've enjoyed serving as a deacon, being a Stephen Minister, going on middle school bike hikes with our kids, attending Men's Bible Study, and being on three Go Teams to Senegal (including this year's). I have been on Session here at CPC for the past three years and am looking forward to three more.



Erin Lambley - Elder

My husband and I started attending Columbia before our son Callan was born, about 8 years ago, and we joined after he was born. In 2022, we welcomed our second son Clifton. Columbia has been a wonderful blessing for our family, and for me personally. I formerly served on the Adult Faith Formation Team, have been an elder for three years, and have begun serving on the Personnel Ministry Team in 2025. My faith has developed immensely during the past few years, and I attribute much of that to the learning environment at Columbia. It's a great place to be, and I'm looking forward to continuing to serve you through the work of our Session!



Kim Randolph - Elder

I was raised in a Christian home, by parents who were themselves raised in Christian homes, and we began attending Columbia in my youth. When I moved back to the area to work shifts for Bonneville Power after having been away for school and teaching, I eventually settled on Columbia as my adult church home as well. I have been involved in various ways, from volunteering with youth retreats, Godly Play and VBS, to being on the Senegal Go Team in 2009, and even serving previously as deacon and elder. I am looking forward to being able to serve in this capacity again, now that my 3 kids are no longer kids.



2025 ELDER AND DEACON NOMINEES

Andy Woodrow - Elder

After a 33-year career in the Air Force, my wife Angie and I arrived in Vancouver 2015. The first Sunday in town, we landed at CPC thanks to recommendations from our pastors in San Antonio, TX and Yuba City, CA. After 13 moves, CPC has been an amazing reunion of 'friends we had never met.' I have been called to session at two other churches and recently served as a member of the PNC here at CPC. I have been richly blessed through adult education, men's retreats, and weekly worship. In my encore career I teach aerospace science as part of the Junior ROTC program at Battle Ground High School. Angie and I love exploring the PNW on foot, in kayaks, or on bikes. We enjoy that our daughters and their families live in the same time zone, which affords many opportunities to see them and our eight incredible grands. Gods' timing has led me to this call to be an elder and I look forward to further service to the CPC community.



Mylei Carlson - Deacon

Hi Columbia! I have lived in Vancouver most of my life. When we were dating, my husband, Steven, and I made Columbia our church home, and we were married here in 2003. We now have two children, Sabine and Sajan. While at Columbia, we've shared many significant moments: births, baptisms, a memorial service, a first communion, and the birth of many new friendships. Columbia has embraced not just my nuclear family, but also has ministered to my extended family in amazing ways. We are grateful for this church family, and I feel blessed to be a part of continuing to serve God through my church.



Christiana Amewudah - Deacon

I am from Ghana, West Africa and grew up in Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. I have been a Sunday school teacher, Bible study and prayer group member, a Chorister and Presbyterian Women Fellowship member. I am a widow with three children: Selorm, Yayra, and Samuel. I am a teacher with Mathematics, Science and Special Education Endorsement in master's degree. I am a Fashion and Textile designer. I am the Secretary and a member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG). I started attending CPC in 2009 and became a member in 2010. I have been a deacon, and volunteered with the annual rummage sales, food drives, and Winter Housing Overflow. CPC has been a blessing and I am looking forward to serving as a deacon again. I will use my diverse and multicultural background in this congregation sincerely in Jesus' name.



Brittany Erspamer - Deacon

Hello Church Family! I'm Brittany, and I'm so grateful to become a deacon, as connecting with people face-to-face and heart-to-heart mirrors how God desires to connect with us. I grew up in a family-centered Lutheran Church, fully embracing God as my Father at summer camp in 6th grade, where I then attended faith-deepening non-denominational churches, and now praising Jesus for bringing us to Columbia this past spring. My husband, Matt, and I are middle school sweethearts from Wisconsin; thankful to God for redeeming our marriage and leading us to call Vancouver home. Beholding God through spiritual practices shapes me to become like Him, His presence guiding me as I walk beside students as a School Counselor. Most joyfully, God is blessing us with becoming parents this summer.



2025 ELDER AND DEACON NOMINEES

Pat Henderson - Deacon

When visiting Vancouver, WA, we were introduced to CPC by my husband's daughter, Melanie. Once we moved from the CA Bay Area, we visited other churches in the area and Portland, but CPC felt like home and becoming involved in activities like the AM Gift, Habitat for Humanity activities, and other learning experiences just fueled the flame of joining. At our previous church I was a deacon, an elder, assisted with church bookkeeping, choir, seasonal liturgical Sacristy decorating plus other areas of service. I am very curious as to what the Lord will have in store for me as a deacon at CPC.



Ann Ferguson - Deacon

I am a returning deacon. I have been amazed at the number of blessings I have received from the people that we serve as deacons. The ability to touch someone's life and have yours affected also shows God's presence even in the little things. I look forward to continuing to support our congregants at CPC. I have attended CPC for 21 years and have 2 grown daughters - Delaney and Aenea. I also help with K2 Live and sing in the choir.



Fnot Kahsay - Deacon

I was born and raised in Asmara, Eritrea (Eastern Africa). Even though I grew up attending Orthodox church with my parents, I have been attending different Presbyterian churches since I came to the United States. I attended First Presbyterian Church in Centralia WA, then when I moved to Seattle, I was attending University Presbyterian Church. When I moved to Vancouver, WA in 2010, I was going to the Eritrean Orthodox St. Gebriel Church in Portland, and I found CPC church as my home church and decided to be a member over three years ago. I had attended the GIFT women's Bible study before COVID, and I am fortunate and blessed to be in the CPC family. I am looking forward to serving the church wherever God leads me.



Kelli Putney - Deacon

My name is Kelli Putney, since I married Curtis Putney at CPC in 1987. Before that I was Kelli Barnes and spent Sunday school as a child, and later youth group, with Ted Buck as my youth pastor at CPC. Later we joined our children here, when they were drawn to youth group and K2 in 2008. Eric is 24 and at Rutgers working on his PHD in Physics. Beth, 28, graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and is an ordained Presbyterian Pastor. I've been involved in VBS, middle school youth group and Sunday school. I started teaching public elementary grades 32 years ago, and I believe that ministry has set the stage for my journey as a deacon at CPC.



2025 ELDER AND DEACON NOMINEES

Brooke Smith - Deacon

I was born and raised in Carmichael, California. I attended CSU, Fresno, studying mechanical engineering. During that time, I attended University Presbyterian Church, near school. My sweet wife, Mary, and I met in a Bible study through UPC. We started our life together in the San Francisco Bay Area, where I worked as a mechanical engineer at NASA Ames Research Center. When we had Stuart, we moved to Brush Prairie, WA; I was working for Hewlett Packard in Vancouver. Twenty months later, Jamie was born. During our kids' growing up, we attended local, nondenominational churches. I served as a deacon and handyman-on-call. For about 6 years, we have been attending CPC. My calling is to serve others. My gift is fixing/repairing machines. I look forward to serving as a deacon at CPC.



Sharon Wallenborn - Deacon

This church has been a lifeline for me, a place I have always considered my second home and my extended family. Raised Catholic and attending a Catholic elementary school, Columbia was the first non-Catholic church I ever visited — and I never left. This year marks 50 years of spiritual growth and enduring friendships, all thanks to this loving church community. Over the years, I have had the privilege of teaching Sunday school, being active in Vacation Bible School, participating in small groups and Bible studies, and serving as an elder. I was honored to be selected as Woman of the Year by the Presbyterian Women. However, my greatest joy has been serving as the director of Circle of Friends Preschool for the past 30 years. As I step into the role of deacon, I look forward to continuing to serve in new ways. We are truly a blessed community, and I am profoundly grateful to call this my second home.



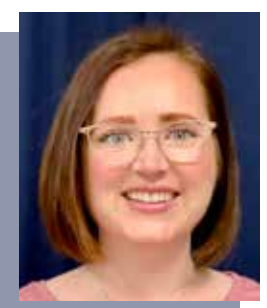
Karen Stegemiller - Deacon

I, along with my husband Victor and daughters Joy and Daisy, have been attending CPC since 2021. We learned about CPC from living in the neighborhood, our children attending Circle of Friends, and from visits to the CPC annual rummage sales to look for treasures. At CPC, I've been involved in the Children's Ministry, helping with Sunday school, VBS, and MomCo childcare. I really enjoy serving and helping people where help is needed, and am happy to see how God may use me as a deacon at CPC.



Alexa White - Deacon

My son, Spencer, and I first started coming to CPC after being a Children's Ministry Director at another church and needed a new church home. I asked two other moms in Spencer's 5th grade class who I really liked where they went to church - Erin Moro and Anne Overton - I bet you can guess what they said! We came for VBS about 2 years ago and knew this was a special place. I became a member 6 months later. I volunteer on the Steering Committee and Table Leader for our CPC MomCo group and I am a Sunday school preschool teacher. I love our church and I want everyone who walks in the doors to feel the way I did when I first walked through the doors - like I was home.



CLERK OF SESSION

Columbia received 26 new members during 2024, reinstated the membership of 2 members, had 5 members drop their memberships, and 17 members died. Our total membership, as of December 31, 2024 was comprised of 736 members, 545 active and 191 inactive.

Two children, three youth, and one adult were baptized in 2024.

We held our annual Congregational Meeting on February 11, 2024. The purpose of this meeting was to elect officers, receive Annual and Financial Reports, and to vote on Pastoral Terms of Call.

Session met monthly, except July, throughout the year, holding additional meetings as needed.

We are privileged to serve at Columbia and are moving forward, following God's call for Columbia in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Lambley
Clerk pro-tem



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

IN MEMORIAM

Beverly Anderson
Jim Andrew
Bruce Becker
Matthew Clute
Edward Demko
Betty Ruth Frakes
Marilyn Fritz
Arden Godshall
Stephen Johnson
Sheila Hockley
Evelyn Lafferty
David Laughlin
Richard Malin
Raymond Ogle
Robert Poole
Kenneth Serviss
Jan Tesch
Judith Trist
Ruth Van Kley
Pauline Wolfe





Guys & Kids Campout



High School Work Camp



Bob Poole's Advent Artwork



K2 Live Spring Retreat



MomCo



Parent's Night Out



Office Volunteer, Dave Hammock



5th Grade Promotion



Children's Sunday School



Blood Drive



Children's Choir



Middle School Bike Hike



Easter



Fall Fest



Christmas Eve



Advent Wreath Making Event



The Gathering



Children's Ministry Team

