



Banks Teller

**SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER
2019**

**Banks
Community
United Methodist
Church**

E-mail:
our-church@bcumc.net
Web site:
www.bankscommunityumc.org
Pastor's email:
revmargot@gmail.com

42451 NW Depot St.
Banks, OR 97106



Pastor's Column

*Therefore, the
Lord longs to be
gracious to you,
And therefore He
waits on high to*

have compassion on you.

*For the Lord is a God of justice;
How blessed are all those who
long for Him.*

*O people in Zion, inhabitant
in Jerusalem, you will weep no
longer. He will surely be gracious
to you at the sound of your cry;
when He hears it, He will answer
you. Although the Lord has given
you bread of privation and water
of oppression, He, your Teacher
will no longer hide Himself, but
your eyes will behold your Teacher.
Your ears will hear a word behind
you, "This is the way, walk in it,"
whenever you turn to the right or
to the left. And you will defile your
graven images overlaid with silver,
and your molten images plated
with gold. You will scatter them as
an impure thing, and say to them,
"Be gone!" Isaiah 30:18-22*

Our family home was in Tennessee for thirty-odd years. We lived in a beautiful wooded area, in a little valley among gently rolling hills. The creek alongside our yard trickled gently in summer. It was easy to jump over it, or to explore for various plants and critters in and around it: blackberries, frogs, fireflies. But, in fall and spring, when rains were heavy, the creek would swell to a small river. It completely overwhelmed the culvert meant to carry it under our road. Water rose to the very edge of the yard some five or six feet deep. The force of water is stunning – and can be dangerous.

We search through many places, persons and things in the world for something that holds through storm and flood. In the days of the Prophet Isaiah, Judah's king was tempted to seek a very unwise alliance with Egypt. They were strong and well equipped for war. Egypt seemed to be a source of safety and protection from Judah's

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enemies to the north. The reasoning was, “my enemy’s enemy is my friend.” Judah had already experienced oppression and loss from invading nations. The Lord sent word by His prophet that a Teacher, a Shepherd would come to the nation. The Prophet Isaiah preached that trusting in Egypt and her military might would be disastrous. And Egypt did overrun Judah, betraying and plundering the people.

Instead, Isaiah taught the people who would listen to him that the compassionate love and true justice of God are our hope and guarantee. Isaiah himself brought God’s loving admonitions to the nation. His prophecy, at the same time, gives assurance that in a generation yet to come there would be a Teacher who is God Himself – Messiah – to be our constant guide and protector. *“Your ears will hear a word behind you, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right or to the left.” (Is 30:21)*

In Jesus Christ, God is no longer “hidden” as though He were far away in another realm or dimension. No, in our Savior we see God made flesh. We hear his words in the Scriptures of both Old and New Testaments. Jesus is present with us. He is our eternal “Bridge Over Troubled Water.” Nothing can move or remove the eternal love and compassion of our God. Divine grace is freely and fully given to us who believe and trust in His life, death and resurrection to everlasting life. Follow His voice. Do not make an alliance with the enemy.

Lord, guide us in these days of uncertainty!
Make our hearts and minds sensitive to Your

Word – Your prompting. Hold us close in Your loving embrace. Help us make choices and decisions worthy of the Jesus followers we long to be. Amen.

Margot



Letter to the Hebrews Bible Study **Christ Alone: The Supremacy of the Gospel**

Beginning this September 1st and every Sunday through November 24th from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. (Lord willing) we will meet in Hayes Hall to read this entire Bible book which clearly reveals that Jesus Christ totally completed the revelation of God’s plan, purpose and method for humankind’s rescue from death (aka salvation). There is no valid substitute for Jesus.

Student book fee is \$7.00. Scholarships are available. Please contact Pastor Margot (revmargot@gmail.com or 971-246-2118).v Adult and high school students are invited and encouraged to join in!

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER:

Sun., Sept. 8, 9:00 AM: Adult Sunday School will begin the study of Hebrews which will conclude Sunday, December 8th or 16th, and resume after New Year.

Sun., Sept. 8, 9:00 AM: Youth Sunday School will begin.

Wed., Sept. 11, 10:00 AM: Wednesday morning ladies' Study Group begins. We will be studying Church History in the Middle Ages.

Sun., Sept. 15, 1:00 PM: 8th Annual Three-Church Picnic hosted by Cornelius UMC.

Sun., Oct. 6: First planning meeting for the 10th Annual Christmas Tea following Worship and fellowship.

Heads-Up: Wed., Nov. 6, noon - Fall Senior Lunch

SUNDAYS:

9:00 AM: Adult Sunday School will begin the study of Hebrews.

9:00 AM: Youth Sunday School

WEDNESDAYS:

9:30 AM: OGC a "retired guys fellowship" meets at the Café 47.

10:00 AM: Wednesday morning ladies' Study Group. We will be studying Church History in the Middle Ages.

September

09/12 Norm Lacey
09/20 Dexter Danielson
09/20 Luke Boswell
09/24 Sarah Sprague
09/29 Trudey Cheney
09/31 Dennis Sprague



October

10/15 Evan Medinger
10/26 Terry Bernel
10/28 Kate Boswell
10/29 Shirley Hahn
10/31 Berry Fonua

MINI HEARTS PRE-SCHOOL is again holding classes in our facilities during the upcoming school year. Their school day is from 8:30 to noon, Monday through Friday. Please be mindful of their schedule if you should need to be in the building.



8TH ANNUAL THREE-CHURCH PICNIC

8th Annual Three-Church Picnic hosted by Cornelius UMC. Join us on Sun., Sept. 15, 1:00 PM at Dogwood City Park, S. 26th Ave. and Dogwood Street, Cornelius. Please bring a dish of your choice to share with about 50 people. Main course, side dish, salad or dessert.



Picnic

LET'S HAVE TEA

Our Annual Tea/Auction is just around the corner and it's time to start thinking about, planning for, and making or rounding up items for this fun afternoon. This will be the 10th year for this event and we pray it will be just as fun and successful as years past.

The 10th Annual Tea/Auction is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th, 3:00 PM. We will have our first planning meeting Sunday, October 6th following



Worship and fellowship. Volunteers are needed to prepare tea foods, decorate tables, serve foods, cleanup, and provide help in other small ways. Please consider in what ways you would be willing to help. Many hands make



light the work; if we all pitch in we will be blessed by the outcome.

We are again soliciting items for the auction such as baked goods, home sewn or knitted items, wood crafted treasures, certificates, new or like-



new "gems", and more. Items for all ages are needed. If you have items to donate, or have any questions talk to Andy or Gail.





CHILDREN INVITE FRIENDS, FAMILY TO LEARN ABOUT JESUS

By an Operation Christmas Child national leadership team member in a sensitive country

God is using Operation Christmas Child to open doors for more children around the world to learn about Jesus, even in what we call sensitive countries where there are serious social, ethnic, or political challenges to sharing the Gospel.

For example, when one of our Operation Christmas Child ministry partners saw two boys selling bread and milk early in the morning to help their families make ends meet, she invited them to hear the story of Jesus. She and her husband had started a church specifically to share the Gospel with the poor in their society.

The boys eagerly went to learn about Jesus. They were excited to receive Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts, but the next day when they asked her if they could bring their friends, it was so they could hear about Jesus, too!

This group became part of The Greatest Journey, our follow-up discipleship

program for shoebox recipients. A total of 30 children, all from non-Christian backgrounds, participated in the 12-lesson course.

But some people in their neighborhood who practice another religion discouraged the children from attending. Some periodically missed classes, while others attended in secret. A number of the children started going to church services regularly and have begun bringing their parents to hear God's Word. Pray for these children and their families as they learn how to follow Jesus Christ in the face of opposition.



PARENTS IN PANAMA RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

By Operation Christmas Child ministry partners in Panama

After attending an Operation Christmas Child outreach event in Panama this past year, brothers Isaías, 9, and Abel, 10, began participating in The Greatest Journey.

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They often had been left at home by themselves, especially on weekends, while their parents, who were addicted to alcohol, attended parties.

The brothers began to pray for the parents and invited them to their The Greatest Journey graduation ceremony. After hearing the Gospel, both of the parents decided to follow Jesus. Praise God for how He has reunited this family!

In another part of Panama, several mothers brought their children to an Operation Christmas Child event and also sat in as the boys and girls participated in The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program. By the end of the 12-lesson course, eight of the mothers accepted Jesus as their Savior! Now, they are bringing their families to a new church that has formed in a difficult-to-access area.

We thank God for making an eternal difference in the lives of millions of children and their families around the world through Operation Christmas Child.



In both stories above we hear how a simple gift of a shoebox can impact a child, a parent, a community. A single shoebox reaches more than just a single child. A single shoebox can bring a change to so many lives by leading them to Christ.

We are being God's helping hands when we pack a shoebox with the simple little things

that can bring a smile to a child's face and a chance to learn about Jesus through "The Greatest Journey" Bible course. God has His hands on every shoebox and all the logistics involved in getting the boxes to the millions of children in remote areas of the world. We can help by packing a box or order a box on-line, and more importantly pray for Operation Christmas Child and all the children who will be receiving those shoeboxes.

National Collection Week is November 18 – 25. We will be receiving and blessing our shoeboxes during Worship on November 17th. We hope you will be among the many who will pack a shoebox and bless a child.



CHRISTMAS BOX APPLICATIONS

The applications for the Christmas Box Program will be at the Banks Public Library on October 1st.



FALL SENIOR LUNCH

The Senior Lunch will be on Wednesday, November 6th at 12:00. Good food, fellowship and entertainment are provided.

Celebrating



Years



CANNED FOOD OF THE MONTH AND RECYCLING

Our stock is building and we thank you for that as it means we will have plenty of foods to pack in our Christmas food boxes. Please continue to bring in the Food of the Month during these last months of the year. The following is what we will be collecting: **September – hearty soups; October – chicken stove top stuffing; November – chicken broth; Dec. – cranberry sauce.**



The collection of recyclable cans and water bottles is on-going and we appreciate your “contributions”. Keep bringing in your empties! We can now also redeem juice bottles but only if they are the **round ones**. These funds help with the purchase of foods for the Christmas food boxes. Last year we

served 41 family units, almost 10 more than in previous years, putting a strain on our resources.

The Christmas food box outreach is a mission of this church and we rely on your contributions. When you contribute through the Food of the Month or your empty bottles and cans, or monetary gifts, you are blessing many individuals with the gifts of food and love. We thank you.

PASTOR MARGOT’S OFFICE HOURS

Banks Community UMC

Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. - noon
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday - 10:00 a.m. - noon
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(At all hours, and any day Sunday through Thursday, please use her cell phone number.) She is also available for urgent or emergency matters at all times via cell.

BANKS TELLER

All submissions to the *Banks Teller* are **DUE BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH** preceding the month you wish it to run. The *Banks Teller* is published every two months.