



Spirit of Faith

Pastor Jim Deal
Faith Presbyterian Church
Of East Wenatchee
January 2023, News Letter

...to inspire and challenge believers to seek deeper ways of serving Our Lord, to motivate all people to follow Jesus Christ, and to nurture one another.

Committing our plans to the Lord

*³ Commit your work to the Lord,
and your plans will be established.*

*⁹ The human mind plans the way,
but the Lord directs the steps.*

Proverbs 16: 3, 9

January is a natural time for planning, as we begin this new year, 2023. God's Word reminds us that we need to commit all of our plans for the future to Him, for the Lord is the one will direct our paths. We are also cautioned to plan with humility, realizing that God alone knows the future.

So with a humble heart, here are some of the plans I am excited about this year:

I am excited about our expanding mission outreach to our community. We are reaching out to those in need, through serving lunch at the Lighthouse every other month. In addition, we helped the residents at the Grace House and the Mission, who are rebuilding their lives. Our Christmas offering helped us give each of them a \$60 Gift card for Christmas! We also collected hats, gloves, and mittens for those in need. You continued to bring non-perishable food for the food pantry ministry at Serve Wenatchee. In so many ways, we are seeking to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our local community. Bravo! Let us plan to continue and expand our mission outreach in 2023!

I am thrilled as I look forward to worshipping outside on our "Patio of Praise". While the patio was largely completed in 2022, it was not ready to use before it became too cold and windy for worship. Therefore, one of the things we all eagerly anticipating is worshipping outside, in the midst of God's creation, when we are blessed with warm summer days...

continued to the next

I am looking forward to witnessing and celebrating transitions and growth in people's lives. Weddings, baptisms, and smaller milestones await us in the coming year. One of the wonderful blessings of being the people of God is the way in which we walk alongside one another, through both the highs and lows of life. On a personal level, Jeana and I will have two of our sons get married this year. Wow! Much to look forward to!

I am looking forward to seeing God's healing power at work. Our human bodies have a great capacity to repair and heal themselves, as they were designed by the Great Physician, the Lord himself. We all will watch eagerly as Ron Lodge, our accompanist, undergoes open heart surgery this month. I trust the Lord will guide the surgeon's hands, but will also be with him as he recovers, mending and repairing his body. I also believe that the Lord's healing power is not confined to physical healing. God also helps heal emotional, spiritual, and relational wounds. I look forward to seeing the healing power of God at work in our midst this year.

What are you looking forward to in 2023? What plans are you committing to the Lord? Please let me know...

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Jim



January Birthdays

<i>Barb Arlt</i>	<i>1/07</i>
<i>David Stanfield</i>	<i>1/09</i>
<i>Ron Lodge</i>	<i>1/10</i>
<i>Connor Weldy</i>	<i>1/12</i>
<i>Star Christman</i>	<i>1/19</i>
<i>Jonathan Deal</i>	<i>1/28</i>
<i>Walker Kane</i>	<i>1/28</i>
<i>Pastor Jim Deal</i>	<i>1/29</i>
<i>Emily Oakes</i>	<i>1/29</i>
<i>Alden Brown</i>	<i>1/29</i>

Happy Birthday to you!

Pastor Jim attends ECO National Gathering 2023

Friends,

This month, I will be traveling to California on Sunday afternoon, January 29th, for the 2023 National Gathering of our denomination, ECO Presbyterians, or the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

The Gathering will take place at Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and will involve pastors, missionaries, elders, and church members from all over the country. The theme for this year's gathering is "Dwell", based on Ephesians 3: 16-18, where Paul writes, "*I pray that... Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.*"

What happens at an ECO National Gathering?

Fellowship

As that national gathering website states, "For ECO pastors and leaders, this is our favorite week of the year to connect with friends and colleagues from all over the country." I will be traveling to the gathering with my friend Rev. Bruce Sexton, pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church, Hermiston, Oregon.

Speakers

We listen to speakers. This year's speakers include Rick and Kay Warren. Rick is the author of the best-selling book, "The Purpose-Driven Life." Yet the Warrens on only part of a team of various speakers.

Worship

This is one my favorite parts of the gathering. The worship features all kinds of instruments and types of music, and is always well-done. Musicians and worship teams from local ECO Churches are often involved in leading worship.

Breakouts (Workshops)

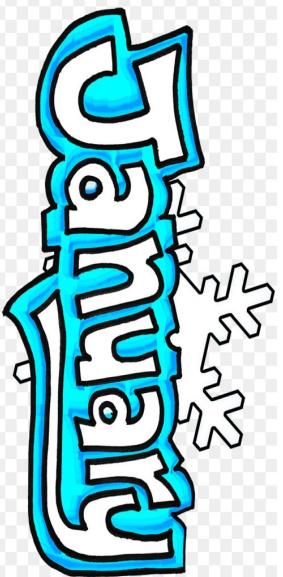
There are opportunities for me to gather with a small group of people to learn from leading practitioners, theologians and church leaders who will help us take our flourishing next step in life and ministry.

I will return from the Gathering on Thursday, February 2nd. I would appreciate your prayers for safe travel, and abundant inspiration as I go to the 2023 National Gathering. Also, please consider going with me to a future ECO National Gathering!

Blessings,

Pastor Jim

PS. For more information, check out the website: econationalgathering.org.



2023

1 <i>Happy New Year</i> 10am Worship 11:15 Fellowship Time	2	3 10:30a Office is open	4 11:00a Office is open 9:30am Women's Bible Study	5	6 10:30a Office is open	7	
8 10am Worship w/ Communion 11:15 Light Lunch 11:45 Christmas un- decorating party	9 2:00pm Personnel Ministry	10 1:30pm Board of Deacons	11 9:30am Women's Bible Study	12 10:30a Office is open	13 10:30a Office is open	14	
15 10am Worship including Babtism of Ellison Callihan 11:15 Fellowship Time	16 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	17	18 9:30am Women's Bible Study	19 10:30a Office is open	20 10:30a Office is open	21	
22 10am Worship 11:15 Fellowship Time	23	24 4:00pm Choir Practice	25 9:30am Women's Bible Study	26 10:30a Office is open 6:30pm Session	27 10:30a Office is open	28	
29 10am Worship 11:15 Fellowship Time	30 Pastor Jim @ ECO National Gathering	31 Pastor Jim @ ECO National Gathering					