



January 31 Communiqué



Dear Sunnyside Family,

This has been a tough few weeks for my home state of Minnesota, as well as our nation. The violence, the visceral rhetoric, and partisan expressions have continued to escalate the divides in our society—including churches. I've had various conversations with

people from a variety of backgrounds and what usually emerges, once initial emotional reactions die down (which rarely happens online by the way when we often care more about saving face than saving humanity), is grief and a genuine desire to have peace.

We are in a series called *How to Kill a Church*. Christ is clear that houses divided do not stand (Mark 3:25). So, in our discussions, let's try to remember a few verses that contain non-partisan principles.

Do not rejoice when your enemies fall, and do not let your heart be glad when they stumble, or else the Lord will see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from them. (Proverbs 24:17-18). He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).

You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:43-45).

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practised without neglecting the others. (Matthew 23:23).

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This, is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40).

The values that emerge from these verses, and others like it, are a blend of justice, mercy, and care for those around us, grounded in a love for God. It is not a kind of love that is triumphalist over tragedy, demeaning in its descriptions of people, and knows the difference between justice and blind rage.

Yet, this week, when calls for kindness and upholding human dignity in the midst of conflict have been made, or calls to lament the loss of life, these calls are interpreted as partisan statements. Church family, the fruits of the Spirit (i.e, joy, peace, patience, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, etc.) don't belong to a political

party's propaganda. If our knee-jerk reaction is to label such calls as such; then we have drunk deeply from a well other than the one that gives living water.

A sure way to kill a church, and each other, is to persist in seeing our fellow human beings solely as political and spiritual threats rather than people whom God loves. This isn't a naive call to abandon law. Every side recognizes the need for legal consequences, even if they disagree on who requires them. What is important to agree upon as followers of Jesus, is that in our quest for justice, we don't exchange the life-giving power of blood of the Lamb for the life-draining trap of bloodlust. May the Spirit enable us to continue to have a prophetic voice driven by God's love for all people, not just the ones who agree with us.

Pastor Seth Pierce, Ph.D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to Sunnyside! We are happy you are here to worship with us. Let us know who you are by filling out one of the Connect Cards and handing it to the deacons or place it in the box in the foyer before you leave.



Please pray for the following families:

† **Isaac Nziacharo**'s mother passed away in Tanzania. Please pray for the family and safe travels for Isaac and Lily.

† **Doug DeBoer** passed away Monday, January 26, 2026.



† **Shirley Judd** passed away January 9, 2026. A memorial service is planned for February 7, 2026, at 4:00 pm, with a light reception following, here at Sunnyside Church.



† **Lou Wildman** passed away on December 21, 2025. A Celebration of Life service will be conducted here at Sunnyside Church Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 2:00 pm, including the OAMC choir with music for the service. A light reception will follow.



Next Sabbath, February 7, we will enjoy our monthly church potluck immediately after our worship service. Bring enough food for your family plus more for our guests. Everyone is welcome and invited to join in eating together.

Membership Transfers – First Reading:

Joining:

Lindsay Emiko Brooks from Oregon Conference Adventist Church, Gladstone, OR

Leaving:

Roy Brown to The Dalles SDA Church, OR

Charles Larson to Whipple Creek SDA Church, Ridgefield, WA

Ralph Neidigh to Pleasant Valley SDA Church, Happy Valley, OR

Susie & Trevor Silva to La Gran Esperanza, Santa Teresa, NM

Shirley & Nelson Smith to Loma Linda University, CA

Adventurers will be taking a field trip this afternoon from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, to Powell Butte Nature Park, 16160 SE Powell Blvd, Portland. We will meet there and go on a walk, learning to follow a map, and looking for specific items, such as trees, birds, insects, tracks, clouds, and other surprises along the trail – shards of a lost Eden, glimpses of a restored Paradise. We will earn the Spotter Award, as well as complete some requirements for some of our other awards. If you would like to join us you are welcome to meet us on the trails. It would actually be fun to run into people we know! Let's show our kids we care about them and what they are doing!

If you have sent in your RSVP, don't forget Valentine's Day dinner, Sunday, February 15, 1:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall, sponsored by Senior Ministries. Food will be catered and the cost is only \$15 per person. This is for couples as well as singles of all ages.

Sunday, February 22, 4:00 pm, Sunnyside Symphony Orchestra will be in concert here at Sunnyside Church. Their repertoire includes *The Rock* by Sergei Rachmaninoff, *Piano Concerto No. 1* by Ludwig van Beethoven with guest artist Maria Garcia, and *Symphony No 1* by Florence Price. There will be a pre-concert talk at 3:00 pm, by Jonathan DeBruyn, director. You may also view the virtual concert at sunnysidesymphony.com.

International Sabbath is February 28. We are looking for participants to carry the flags. We would like children to carry Bibles in the language of that country. If you would like to represent the country of your birth or recent ancestry, please call or text Shirley Allen at 503-539-3106. If you are interested in having a food table for the International Food Fair in the evening at 6:00, please contact Natalia Gramada

at 503-750-9151. This year this event will be dedicated, in memory, to Jan Clayton. Each year for several years she was very involved in making this program run smoothly.

MISSIONS

Thailand Mission Trip, March 10-31, 2026. For more information contact Ray Betz at 503-756-3667 (text or call) or via email at betzrm@comcast.net – be sure to include “Thailand Mission Trip” in the subject line. Our budget goal is \$28,000, and we have already received \$16,500. We need to raise another \$11,500 by February 15, 2026. Thank you for your help and participation with this valuable and rewarding mission.



The Bible Reading class is beginning again on Tuesdays at 4:20 pm, in the Bridal Room. They will be reading from the “Ancient Standard Version.” All are welcome. This group is led by Conrad Gren.



Wednesday mornings at 10:00, FaithLift, a group for ladies, meets here at the church to study the Bible, share their stories, and pray together over many needs as well as for those that need extra prayers. If this sounds like something you would enjoy attending, please come and join us. If you cannot be here in person, there is a Zoom link available to be able to join remotely.



Wednesday mornings at 10:00, our Men's Bible Study group meets to study the Bible together in the Columbia Room. Men, you are all invited to join us for this weekly study.



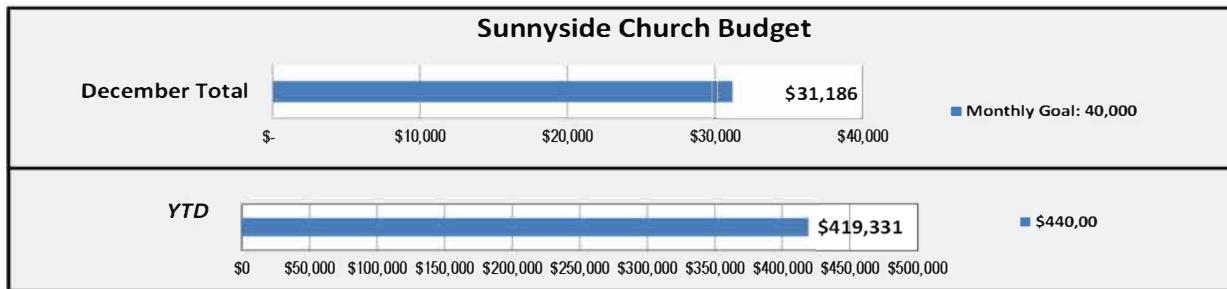
Our flower calendar is posted in the hallway and [online](#). (Go to our website, www.SunnysideAdventist.org, click on “Our Ministries.”) Please choose a date to share flowers with your Sunnyside family for worship services and place your name on it. As the date gets closer, we will contact you to see what you would like in the bulletin about the flowers.



We are blessed with some very strong prayer warriors. If you have a special request, please contact the church office at 503-252-8080 or info@sunnysideadventist.org to submit your request. There is power in prayer, and it truly makes a difference.



Give online: orad.us/Give2Sunnyside



There are some of our family that need help with transportation in order to attend church. If any of you would be willing to help with this need, please contact the office for specific information 503-252-8080 or via email at Info@SunnysideAdventist.org.



If you live at CherryWood Retirement, our bus stops there to pick up anyone who would like to attend church. Please be ready, we stop by at 10:45 am for our church service at 11:15 am. This transportation is free, but if you'd like to contribute, you may mark it to "Bus."



Currently, we are seeking volunteers to help us with video, audio, and the children's division. Please call 503-252-8080 if you would like to get involved.



Would you like to hear the service more clearly? Sunnyside Church provides assistive hearing devices you may borrow. They are located in the Deacons' office. Just let a deacon know of your need and they will be happy to help you.



We would like to publicly recognize special milestones in your life. Please take a moment to share with us special birthdays, anniversaries, or any other celebrations. We are family and we would like to share with each other. Also, please let us know when you are sick or need other prayers. We want to be a part of your life and pray together with you. Send an email to Info@SunnysideAdventist.org or call the office at 503-252-8080 and let us know the latest with your family!



During this difficult time, if you are in need of financial help, let us know. Call the church office at 503-252-8080 or send an email to Info@SunnysideAdventist.org.



Our Family Resource Network has been privileged to assist many of our members when things have been challenging for them or they have experienced unexpected expenses. We have helped with rent, utilities, food, gas, car repairs, and more. We would like you to be aware of what we do and give you an opportunity to contribute to the fund being used to assist our family. Mark your tithe envelope or check for Family Resource Network, and you will know that you have had the privilege of helping one of our members who doesn't even want to ask for help! We are here to help each other. Thank you for helping us build the fund used for these expenses.



Birthdays for this upcoming week.

Liliana Gramada, Kirsten Helton, Levi Mandrones, Grant Geschke, Megan Snyder, Madison Boskind, Joanne Dixon, Ard Dayton, Petru Cucereavii, Margo Ferguson, Michele Kites



Portland Adventist Elementary School

<http://www.paes.com>

Full-Time Treasurer Needed at PAES! Portland Adventist Elementary School is seeking a full-time treasurer to join our PK-8 campus. This role requires good communication, flexibility, and skills in bookkeeping/accounting (QuickBooks experience preferred; training available). Responsibilities include billing, payroll, reconciliations, A/R and A/P, 1099 filing, budgeting, and monthly/year-end closing, with occasional reports to the school board. Interested candidates can send their resume to principal@paes.com.

Substitute Teachers Needed at PAES! Portland Adventist Elementary School is in need of substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year! We are looking for dedicated and compassionate individuals who enjoy being around children and in the school environment. Requirements: Age 21+, college degree preferred, and experience teaching and/or supervising children ages 5-13. If you are interested and would like more information, please reach out to admin@paes.com to apply.



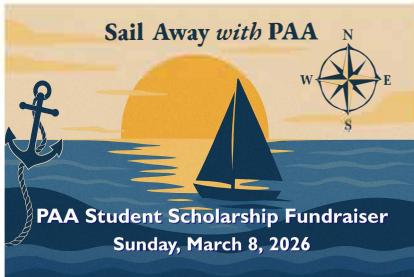
Portland Adventist Academy

<https://paasda.org>

Scholarship Funding

At Portland Adventist Academy, our purpose is to provide a Christ-centered, character-driven education to all students. However, many families face financial challenges that can make it difficult for their children to attend. We are

reaching out to ask for your support in funding scholarships that will help make this life-changing education accessible to more students. Your generous donation can directly impact a student's ability to attend and thrive at Portland Adventist Academy. To make either a recurring or one-time contribution, please visit www.paasda.org or contact me at ubrown@paasda.org at 971-351-9028 for more details. As [students share in this video](#), thank you for your support in shaping the future of our students and helping them grow in faith and character.



PAA & Fred Meyer. You may support PAA through the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program. Just connect a Fred Meyer digital account and connect it to your Shopper's Card, and designate Portland Adventist Academy as the organization you wish to support. You can get it all done on the Fred Meyer website here: <https://www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards>



Rivergate Adventist Elementary School

<https://www.rgsda.org/>



Hood View Adventist School

<https://www.hvja.org/>



<https://www.tualatinvalleyacademy.org/>



Walla Walla University

<https://wallawalla.edu>

Visit: jobs.wallawalla.edu.

AREA EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



You are invited to a free night of worship, praise, and fellowship on February 6 at Adventist Health Portland. This month's featured speaker will be Randi Whitewith music by Echo Worship. Randi White, Medical Group Administrator at Adventist Health Portland, will share an honest journey of navigating mental health, wellness, and faith in a complex world. Speaking from lived experience – not from having it all figured out – Randi reflects on how past and present brokenness can shape who we become and, and how self-compassion, connection, and grace can help us grow into the people we most want to be. A soup and salad dinner will be held from 6:00-7:00 PM with the program starting at 7:15 PM. Register for dinner by Wednesday, February 4. Learn more and register for dinner at AdventistHealthFirstFriday.com



If you're a woman who is widowed, divorced, single, lonely, hurting or willing to come support those of us who are, please join us for our annual Valentine Luncheon ("HEART TO HEART") Sunday, February 8th at 11:00 AM, hosted by Take Heart Ministry. In addition to a catered lunch and wonderful music, there will be a *program designed just for you*. We are meeting at Roseburg Adventist Church in their Better Living Center. You may want to check and see if anyone else in your area is coming and carpool. We hope you'll plan on being there and bringing a friend. Register online by using the QR Code on the postcards or orad.us/TakeHeartLunch2025. If you don't do online registration, ca or email Tawny Sportsman at 541-401-2521 or Tawny.Sportsman@OregonAdventist.org. Mail your \$25.00 check to Tawny Sportsman at 4913 Mimosa Circle, Sweet Home, OR 97386.

Register by February 1st and your name will be entered in a *special drawing!* Questions? Give Tawny a call at 541-401 2521 or email her at Tawny.Sportsman@OregonAdventist.org.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BOB KEENEY

February 21 at 4:00 pm • Pleasant Valley SDA Church, 11125 SE 172nd Ave., Happy Valley, OR 97086. Bob and Fran Keeney were married 49+ years, with their 50th anniversary coming up May. Bob would have turned 80 in June. He worked at Adventist Health for 34 years. Bob was a type 1 diabetic from age 10, and his health suffered in the last few years, being cared for at home by Fran, the love of his life. All who knew and loved Bob are invited to join his family celebrate his life. Refreshments and a time of sharing will follow the service. Those unable to attend the service can watch it online using this link: https://youtube.com/live/yBWogel_vaQ.



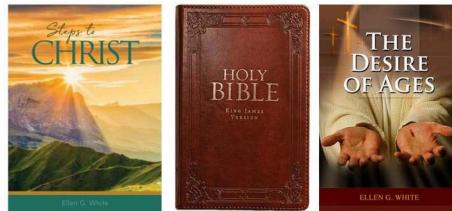
Join us for a weekend where we disconnect from the world and fully connect with our Savior! Come expecting to be transformed at this year's Oregon Prayer Conference in Rockaway Beach, Oregon! This year's event will be held March 20-22 at the Twin Rocks Convention Center and will host speaker Pavel Goia. Pavel Goia holds two master's degrees and a Doctor of Ministry. He pastored in his native country of Romania and the United States for many years. Current he is an editor of Ministry Magazine and associate director for the Ministerial Association at the General Conference. His life has been filled with powerful answers to prayer and continues to be one miracle after another. Together with Kelly Mowrer, he authored the book, "In the Spirit and Power," which emphasizes the vital need for prayer, revival and full commitment to God's service. Learn more and register for this year's prayer conference at orad.us/2026ORprayerconference. Questions? Contact Oregon Conference Prayer Ministries at Tawny.Sportsman@OregonAdventist.org, or call 541-401-2521.



PACS UPDATE

YOUR DONATION EQUIPS OUR MINISTRY

We are collecting gently used or new copies
of these essential books:



Please bring your donated copies to PACS
11020 NE Halsey St Portland, OR 97220

Help us share the life-changing message of faith with our community!



How do we serve?

Portland Adventist Community Services – PACS is a vibrant faith-based Community of Service with staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners who provide food, low-cost dental care, and low-cost clothing/household items to individuals and families.

Hours: Thrift Store, Sun | 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Mon – Thurs | 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Fri | 9:00 am – 2:30 pm / Sat | Closed

Donation Drop Sun | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Mon – Thurs | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm / Fri – Sat | Closed

Dental Clinic:

Contact the Gateway Grace Dental Clinic to schedule an appointment 503-907-6768

Volunteers:

To volunteer at PACS, contact Jaclyn Russell at (503) 252-8500 ext. 1130

Donations:

From large to small, we take them all.

Money, clothing, even big and tall,

humble egg boxes, and home goods for all

If you are looking for an opportunity to serve in a missional environment focused on giving hope to those in need through Portland Adventist Community Services, then please go to: <https://www.pacsonline.org/job>

There are three postings available.

* Development & Planning Manager

* Thrift Store Assistant Manager (Part-time)

PACS Thrift Store has many shoppers. We need Steps to Christ, Bibles, and Guides to share with them. If you have sor to share, please let us know or bring them to PACS and hand them in to the office.



PACS is Hiring!

Portland Adventist Community Services is Hiring! Come join our non-profit organization in the Portland area that serves the community with a Thrift Store, Food Pantry, and Dental Clinic. **We are hiring a Development & Planning Manager, Dental Clinic Coordinator, and Dental Assistant.** If you are interested in these positions, please visit our website, <https://www.pacsonline.org/careers>.

PACS needs truck drivers. Why?

This year, so far, our truck drivers have brought 365,670 lbs.(Jan-Mar) in donated food to feed our diverse community. That represents a huge number of people being fed. What a difference PACS drivers make! If you have a heart for people and like to drive a truck, no CDL license is needed, don't hesitate to contact Jaclyn.

Hours: 7:30-11:00-ish

Telephone: Jaclyn Russell at (503)-252-4589

Email: Jaclyn.russell@pacsonline.org

Sign-up: <https://www.pacsonline.org/volunteer>

Better Life Television, a non-profit Christian (Seventh-day Adventist) broadcasting ministry comprising television, internet, radio, broadcasting, and evangelism, is seeking a Speaker/Executive Director of Operations to drive

performance and operational excellence for our organization. Employment preference will be given to members of the Adventist church, as permitted under the EEOC's Title VII provision. This position is based in Grants Pass, Oregon. [Learn more about this position.](#)

NW Adventist Federal Credit Union is hiring a Member Solutions Specialist. Why Join Us? We are more than a credit union. We are a ministry of service to our community. When you join our team, you'll find a workplace that is kind, supportive, and mission-driven. If you have a heart for service and enjoy meaningful, detail-oriented work, we would love to meet you. Apply today! Send your resume to staff@mynwcu.com or visit www.mynwcu.com/careers.



Are you interested in becoming a hospital spiritual care volunteer? Adventist Health Portland Spiritual Care department invites individuals of all ages to apply. Volunteers will have the opportunity to offer pre-surgery support for patients and their families, ensure patients have access to spiritual resources, and more. If you feel called to be part of our team, take the first step by filling out our application form: <https://www.volistics.com/appform/769001903>

Adventist Health Hospice is looking for compassionate volunteers to provide companionship to patients, provide a much-needed brief break for a tired caregiver, make phone calls on Thursdays to check on patient supplies, or assist with light housekeeping, errands, or pet support. Thorough training and support are provided by Adventist Health Hospice team members. If interested in learning more, contact Karen Hartmann, Bereavement/Volunteer Coordinator at 503-251-6192 or email Hartmakl@ah.org. You can make a loving difference in someone's life at a challenging time.

Volunteers Needed at PACS

PACS' thrift store, food pantry, and dental clinic all need volunteers. We have lots of fun and exciting jobs ranging from customer-facing cashiers and greeters to pricers and truck drivers behind the scenes. No experience or age requirements to volunteer, we're happy to train you and welcome the entire family! If you're interested, please contact our volunteer manager, Jaclyn, at Jaclyn.russell@pacsonline.org or call 503-252-8500 x1130.

Housing Needed

- Room needed for a male, hopefully close to TriMet availability.
- Also a mother and daughter are looking for space available.

If you can help us with either of these needs, please contact the church office at 503-252-8080 or info@sunnysideadventist.org.

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Sunnyside News

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