

Sunnyside Adventist Church Communiqué

News & Announcements

January 7, 2023



Dear Sunnyside family,

It's easy to fall into routines. This is no less true in spiritual matters than mundane. Most of us have fallen into a pattern of spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible study. These two disciplines are foundational and enriching, but they are not all the Bible teaches about how we can connect better to God.

I believe that if we're willing to explore a little deeper into the Bible's teachings

on spiritual practices, we will find ourselves in much closer communion with our God. As a result, I've started using this space to share a few disciplines that I've found in the words of God. The last two times, we talked about public confession.

This week, repentance.

I was always a very spiritually-inclined child, largely thanks to the good example of my parents. Before I could even read, I remember seeing them having their own private devotional time in scripture, and I remember trundling down to my room, opening my own little children's Bible to a picture of Samson, and tracing my finger along the lines of text as I told myself the story.

As I got older, my walk with God matured. I started reading the Bible every morning and night (for real, now) praying regularly throughout the day, and setting aside tithe from any money I made doing odd jobs for family friends. But somewhere along the way, an off-center practice of repentance crept into my evening prayers with God: I began to spend almost the entirety of my evening prayer time trying to recall each and every bad thing I had done, so as to be able to properly repent of my sins. After all, doesn't Acts 2 tell us that we must repent in order to be forgiven and saved?

And so I faithfully sought to bring before God every bad deed I could possibly think of. Sometimes I would wake in the night in a panic, realizing I had forgotten a sin. The funny thing, though, is that this practice didn't make me sinless. Nor did it give me a sense of peace. Nor did I rejoice in my forgiveness. Far from it; I began to obsess over every little thing I might have done that wasn't perfect, and a very real fear that I had forgotten a sin somewhere in the past began to grow in my heart. I would pray, "God, if I forgot a sin, I want to repent of it. Please remind me of my sins so that I can repent. Please don't condemn me because I forgot."

I wracked my brain, trying to remember every evil.

But repentance in the Bible isn't about the proper accounting of our sins to God. We don't need to bring Him an itemized list so that He can administer the minimum dose of grace required.

The word "repentance" in the New Testament comes from the Greek word *metanoia*, which simply means, "to change one's mind." It's often used to talk about turning from unbelief to belief in Jesus. Repentance from sin, then, is the act of changing your mind about sin. It is moving from a state of belligerence and/or ignorance to a state of desiring change and freedom. Repentance is thinking, "I don't want to do this anymore."

There are lots of verses that state this quite clearly:

Jeremiah 31:19, 2 Corinthians 7:9, Acts 20:21, Isaiah 30:15, and many, many more. Take a look at a few of them!

Repentance has nothing to do with keeping a faithful ledger of evil, and everything to do with changing your mind about sin. And that is the process of a lifetime.

My challenge for you this week is twofold.

First, if you like me, have misunderstood repentance, tonight spend the time you would normally recite your sins instead thanking God for showing you abundant mercy that is enough to cover everything you've ever done or ever will do.

And second, ask God if there's anything you need to change your mind about. It might be a behavior that you don't realize yet is sinful. It might be a belief that you hold onto just a little too tightly to examine with a clear mind. It might be a relationship you're blind about. Whatever it is, you don't know about it yet; that's the point. So invite God to open your eyes and help you change your mind about something that *He* sees.

Pastor Jonathan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Sunnyside today. We trust you will find a worship experience here today where you are well blessed. We welcome Julia Johnson and her mother, Candice Johnson Brown, who will be presenting our special music today. Julia was born in Portland and is now doing a clinical at Portland Advent Health as a graduate student from Andrews University in the Physical Therapy program. Her mother, Candice Johnson Brown, is an educator who has lived on the South Pacific islands for 19 years serving the Adventist Church along with her husband, Gary, (now deceased), and two children.



Our monthly fellowship potluck will immediately follow our worship service. All are welcome. Even if you didn't bring food join us, others have brought plenty of extras. This is a great time to visit with friends and make new acquaintances.

The Oregon Conference, after consulting with the Sunnyside elders and staff, has asked former pastor Scott LeMert to serve as Administrative Advisor to Sunnyside Church beginning January 1. He will be serving on a part-time basis. We are excited that Pastor Scott will be joining us again; however, due to a prior appointment, he is unable to be with us for our worship service this week.

The people of Sunnyside are the mission-minded people who lead the many ministries of Sunnyside. They respond to the call of the church to serve. The selection of leaders is a process, yes—but here it's accomplished carefully, democratically, and efficiently. **The process begins again today.** Members will be given a ballot on which they may nominate one member of the church to serve on the Committee to Select the Nominating Committee (otherwise known as the Selection Committee). Ballots will be collected at the conclusion of the announcement period. The Selection Committee for 2023 will be elected on January 14, with a report to be included in the January 21 bulletin.

January 13, 5:00 PM, the Oregon Youth Night of Worship will be held at the Oregon Conference Holden Convention Center in Gladstone. ***It's free!** *It's for all high school students (public school, homeschool, private school)! *It's going to be an amazing night of food, community building, connecting, creative ministry, fun, worship, and message — a great way for high school students to start 2023 ... focused on God's NEXT for His Youth.

Pursuant to the Administrative Policy of the Sunnyside Church, official notice is hereby given of a **Church Business Meeting,** Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 7:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. The agenda will consist of reports and recommendations from the pastors, the Church Board, and such other matters as may be properly brought to the attention of the members for their consideration.

Sunday, January 22, at 3:00 PM, The Oregon Sinfonietta, directed by Donald Appert, will be in concert here at Sunnyside Church.



International Sabbath is January 28. We are looking for participants to carry flags and international Bibles in the parade of nations. If you would like to represent the country of your birth, or the home country of your recent ancestors, please call Brooke Stafford at 360-936-3373 (or email bstafford@q.com) or Jan Clayton at 360-798-7477. A video of our last International Sabbath can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPSHvriJmm8&t=2112s>.

Also be prepared at 6:00 PM, to enjoy the International Food Festival! Come for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship, along with a fundraiser. We have an amazing array of international foods from which you may purchase your favorite, or try something new — at a bargain price for a great cause! If you want to sponsor a booth, please, contact Natalia Gramada or the office at (503) 252 8080.

Please pray for the family of Ron Linder who was a former member here. He and Jeanine were very active members of Sunnyside for several years. Ron passed away December 7, 2022.



Our new flower calendar is now posted in the hallway and on our website. Please choose a date to share flowers with our Sunnyside family for our worship services and place your name on it. As the date gets closer, we will contact you to see what message you would like to put in the bulletin about the flowers.

Tuesday evenings are known as “Bread Nights” when we feed the WWU nursing students a meal once a week. We need more helpers — please consider joining us. Contact David Duffield, 901-481-7875.



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.



Handbells! Have you ever wanted to try ringing a handbell or a chime, or wondered what handbell music looks like? Every Thursday at 7:00 PM, you are invited to the choir room for an opportunity to look at music, try out the bells, meet our current members, and get more information about our Sunnyside Handbell Choir. For more information, please contact Karl Helton at sunnysidebellchoir@gmail.com.

Volunteers are urgently needed! Call the church office if you can help, 503-252-8080 — please reconsider if you have decided not to help before. We are eager to have your assistance in the following areas:

Decorating Committee	Audio
Adventurers	Video
Greeters	Children's Sabbath Schools

The Church Library is open! The library will be open on the 1st and 3rd Sabbaths of the month. Hours are 10:45-11:15 AM, and 12:30-1:00 PM. The church library has a wide selection of books available for our members to borrow, so please stop by.

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!



Directory photos — just a reminder. We have a photo directory, but we are missing many photos or several need to be updated. Please help us know who you are by picture. Send a snapshot or professional picture and we will upload it for you to the directory. Thank you.

If you are in need of financial help for rent, utilities, or other needs, the Family Resource Network stands by to help. Or if you know of a fellow church member that may need help and is hesitant to ask, let us know. Call the church office at 503-252-8080 or send an email to info@SunnysideAdventist.org



Portland Adventist Academy

<https://paasda.org/>

SAVE THE DATE - Alumni Weekend May 5-7, 2023

In person, on the PAA Campus.

Honor Classes: '43, '48 (75-year), '53, '63, '73 (50-year), '83, '93, '98 (25-year), '03, '13, '18 (5-year)

[More info on the Alumni web page.](#)



If you're an Amazon shopper, you can add Portland Adventist Academy as your [AmazonSmile](#) charitable organization. Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchases to PAA. You can feel good knowing that you're helping our students receive a Christ-centered and character-driven education! Create your account at www.smile.amazon.com. Search charitable organizations for *Portland Adventist Academy*. Link: <https://paasda.org/news/amazon-smiles-at-portland-adventist-academy/>.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming events here at Sunnyside Church:



- ◇ January 14, 4:00 PM, Hymn Sing Vespers
- ◇ January 22, 3:00 PM, The Oregon Sinfonietta Concert
- ◇ January 28, 11:15 AM, International Sabbath
6:00 PM, International Food Festival
- ◇ February 11, 4:00 PM, Evensong
- ◇ February 26, 4:00 PM, Sunnyside Symphony Orchestra Concert



Walla Walla University — wallawalla.edu

Walla Walla University is offering a Leadership Award to be applied to your freshman year at WWU of up to \$1,500, depending on the leadership positions you have held in high school or academy as a junior or senior. This includes class or student body officers, church leaders, yearbook or newspaper editors, team captains, and many others. See what a leadership role could net you at sfs.wallawalla.edu/calculators.

Walla Walla University's School of Nursing is Hiring!

Would you or someone you know like to join the WWU nursing team in Portland, Oregon? We are hiring for several positions including Advanced Acute clinical instructors, Community Health clinic instructors, and a full-time Faculty in Family Nursing. You can review these and other openings at jobs.wallawalla.edu.



PACS UPDATE

PACS Food Pantry Drive-thru OPEN Mon-Fri from 9:00–11:00 AM, with an after-work option once a month from 5:00–7:00 PM, every third Thursday of the month. We are still operating with social distancing and social responsibility. If you or someone you know needs food, please tell them about us. If you cannot make it to PACS please send a note with someone and they can get you food. Any questions please call PACS at 503-252-8500 or email pacsfood2020@gmail.com. Located at 11020 NE Halsey St, Portland OR 97220.



Today: Dave Allen, Ann Carl, Edson Simon; **Sunday:** Forest Robertson, Jason Whilite; **Monday:** Victor Garcia, Michelle Marin; **Tuesday:** Robert Byrd, Sandra Reynolds; **Thursday:** Caleb Siaw, Patricia Steinmetz; **Friday:** Donna Hull, Ryan Tapu

AREA EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

His Praise Men's Chorus is looking to continue praising the Lord through music and fellowship. We invite all men in the Portland/Vancouver area to come and join us! We practice weekly, and sing for churches in the region once a month or so. For more information, contact Charlie Drury at cd88sings@gmail.com, or 503-935-7995, or Jerry Irvine at jerryqirvine@gmail.com, or 206-261-6452.

ADVENTIST EDUCATION



Portland Adventist Elementary School
<http://www.paes.com>

PACS Thrift Store is OPEN Sun 11 AM-4 PM, Mon-Wed 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, Thurs 9:00 AM-7:00 PM, & Friday 9:00 AM-2:30 PM. Our donation drop-off center is open and needs your donations! Mon-Thurs 9:00-1:00 PM, and Sun 11:00 AM-2:00 PM. If you have any questions about what items we accept, please give us a call at 503-252-8500.

Depending on volunteer availability, we offer pick-up service for a small fee. If you have furniture or larger items and no way to get rid of them, give us a call and we'll do our best to help you out! Located at 11020 NE Halsey St, Portland OR 97220.

Gateway Grace Dental Clinic at PACS is OPEN

Gateway Grace Clinic at PACS is open and accepting uninsured patients for low-cost preventative dental care. If you or someone you know needs to schedule an appointment with us, please call 503-907-6768 or email dental@pacsonline.org.

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 Gerelisa at gerelisa.eisele@pacsonline.org or call 503-252-8500 x1130.

Empty Egg Cartons? PACS Needs Them!

If you have any 12-count empty egg cartons we would love to take them off your hands to use in our food pantry! Please drop them off at our Office or Donation Receiving. Thank you in advance!

PACS Thrift Store - At Home Shopping:

www.facebook.com/groups/pacsthiftstore.



PACS Job Openings!

Check PACS website at www.pacsonline.org/jobs

Portland Adventist Community Services is hiring! We have two crucial part-time positions available and are looking to interview immediately. If you or someone you know are interested in either of these part-time jobs, please email laura.pascoe@pacsonline.org. You can also visit www.pacsonline.org/jobs to learn more about the positions.

Big Lake Job Opportunity

Have you ever dreamed of driving a snowcat at Big Lake? Applications are now opened to join the winter team at Big Lake Youth Camp from January through the end of March. Positions available include hospitality, maintenance, janitorial, or guest services. Position includes a FREE season pass to Hoodoo Ski Bowl. Fill out our New Staff Application online here: <https://biglake.wufoo.com/forms/2023-big-lake-youth-camp-new-staff-application/>

