

# Sunnyside Adventist Church Communiqué

## News & Announcements

Sabbath, April 17, 2021



**Greetings church family,**

### Black Bears and Angels

Do you have stories that you will tell your children and grandchildren of times when you felt God's protection in a special way? You know these stories are important to share. I imagine we all have stories like that, and I hope you are sharing them with your families.

I want to tell you one that happened to my mom. Most of you already know that I grew up in a small town 300 miles north of Vancouver, B.C. as the crow flies. The town was Bella Coola, which means beautiful valley. We lived on property with 116 acres that was at the foot of one of the mountains. It was my playground growing up.

Roaming on our property we would see moose, deer, and black bear, and hundreds of bald eagles. One time I saw a huge timber wolf looking at my dad while he was burning excess wood that he was clearing for an orchard. Since bears were rather common, most of the time, we were not too concerned about our safety because a black bear will usually run the other way. They don't see well, and they really don't like having to deal with trouble if they can help it. They normally mind their own business like we do ours. Sometimes we would chase them out of our orchard if they were eating too many apples. Several times, I would be riding our little Honda 70 on the back trails of our property and would run into one on the trail. The bear and I would look at each other curiously, but not with alarm. We would acknowledge each other then go our separate ways.

One day however, my mom was on one of her walks in the back area of our property. It was near the creek that ran down the one side of the mountain. There was one particular spot where a rocky cliff full of huge stones and rugged outcroppings ran on one side. My mom was just passing it when a mother black bear, who happened to have 2 cubs tucked in the rocks, suddenly smelled mom's human scent as the wind swept passed her. She felt threatened with her cubs so near and so she started charging right towards my mom.

Can you imagine how you would feel if this was happening to you? I know my mom was surprised because black bears rarely do this. As the bear charged, our dogs took up stations right on each side of my mom. They didn't budge. They didn't bark. They just stood their ground to protect my mom. As the bear got about 6 feet away, she stood up on her haunches and threw her head from side to side bawling out a roaring warning.



My mom was facing the bear and was backing away with the dogs. She was praying all the while stepping backwards carefully. Telling the bear that she was not going to harm her babies. My mom said her heart was beating so fast and the adrenalin was pumping so hard getting her ready to run, but she instinctively knew that running would not be the right thing to do. So, she kept stepping backwards slowly, staying eye to eye with this mama black bear as she backed away step by step.

Mom said it was so strange. After the bear stood up and roared, she seemed to finally see my mom and the two dogs. Instead of continuing to charge she backed away and then ran down the trail back to her babies.



What a relief! My mom said her legs felt a bit weak at first, but when she felt it was safe, she finally turned around and hurried home. My mom always felt that her guardian angels were on both sides of her along with the dogs to let the mother bear know that she shouldn't come any further and that my mom was not going to hurt her.

My mom and our whole family thanked God that day so much for his watchful care over that very dangerous situation. Not everyone lives to tell a story like that.

Sometimes we feel like we are coming up to an unexpected challenge that is charging right at us and we feel helpless. Maybe it is a relationship that is toxic. Maybe it is health challenges. Maybe it is this crazy pandemic that has completely toppled our equilibrium. No matter what it is, maybe we can learn a lesson.

#1 Face your challenges, don't avoid them.

#2 Pray that God will let you know how to deal with the challenge. Is this something you should stand your ground on? Is this something you should back away from? Or is this something that you should stand still and watch God's timing to deal with the issue.

Whatever you are facing. I know that God will be with you. He promises that He will be with you in your coming and going. He will help you face every challenge no matter what it is. However, I have learned He never forces Himself on anyone who doesn't want Him around. So ask Him to be a part of your everyday world and when those big challenges come up you will already be so used to trusting Him to get you through that it won't be as scary as it would be without Him. My prayer for you this week is that you will see His hand of love walking with you to face whatever comes your way.

**Pastor Wendy Witas**

## News & Notes

### THIS WEEKEND

**Welcome to worship!** Just a reminder, masks are required to cover the mouth and nose for the **entire service** and while you are in the building, 6' distancing must be maintained, sit in the unmarked pews, and please no handshaking or hugging. If you have a medical condition or other reasons that will prevent you from wearing a mask properly, or feel you cannot maintain distancing, please take this opportunity to watch live-streaming from the comfort of your home.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please pray for the family of Norman Price** who passed away Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

**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. Send an email to [info@SunnysideAdventist.org](mailto:info@SunnysideAdventist.org) or call the office at 503-252-8080 and let us know the latest with your family!



**Our flower calendar is now posted** in the hallway and [online](http://www.SunnysideAdventist.org). (Go to our website, [www.SunnysideAdventist.org](http://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.

### 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.



**Several of our classes are meeting during this challenging time via Zoom.** We want to share these with you — if you see one that you would like to join, send your contact information to [info@SunnysideAdventist.org](mailto:info@SunnysideAdventist.org) or call 503-252-8080, and we will make sure you receive a Zoom invitation to join. Here is a list of Sabbath School classes: Santiam class (Gingrich, Fenn, Hill, Martin & Westermeyer); the Reboot Bible study group (Glovatsky, Kielman, Dickerson, and Dragulin); Steffen Moller and his team of teachers, Jim's Through-the- Bible study class, and a class led by Tom Stafford, Raymond Baker, and Dean Browning; the Faith Time group; and the Romanian group. On Wednesday morning there is Women's FaithLift prayer ministry group; and a men's Bible study group. Let us know if you would like to join in!



**During this difficult time**, 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](mailto:info@SunnysideAdventist.org).



### LIFE AT SUNNYSIDE

#### Special Events:

**Shonie Scheller celebrates her 91st birthday Monday, April 19!** Happy birthday, Shonie!



#### Happy Birthday!

**Today:** James Cason; **Sunday:** Ginaya Drake; **Monday:** Duane Mitchell, Stephanie Taylor; **Tuesday:** Ana Siminel; **Wednesday:** Rosemayne Thompson, Jennifer Colby; **Thursday:** Ingrid Schmidt; **Friday:** Deborah Boskind, Gabriela Hutuleac, T.W. Philip, Kathy Schaffer

### ADVENTIST EDUCATION

#### Portland Adventist Elementary School

<http://www.paes.com>

#### Portland Adventist Academy

<https://paasda.org/>

#### ENROLLMENT/REENROLLMENT IS OPEN FOR 2021-2022

To get started with online enrollment, current families can go to [www.renweb.com](http://www.renweb.com) and log into ParentsWeb. Contact Mary Sperl for assistance at 503-519-6868 or [msperl@paasda.org](mailto:msperl@paasda.org). To apply for Financial Aid, please complete the [2021-2022 FACTS Financial Aid Application](#) as soon as possible to get the most out of the available funds. Contact Darcie Hordofa for assistance at [dhordofa@paasda.org](mailto:dhordofa@paasda.org) or 971-351-9015.

**ENTER TO WIN \$1,000 TUITION!!** Whether you are a new or returning student, if you **complete** your RenWeb registration for next school year, you will be entered into a drawing for \$1,000 towards your 2021/2022 tuition. If you are also interested in a scholarship for next year, you will need to complete your FACTS Financial Aid Application as soon as possible. See the ENROLLMENT/ REENROLLMENT section on the first page for a link to the FACTS application.

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](http://www.smile.amazon.com). Search charitable organizations for *Portland Adventist Academy*. Link: <https://paasda.org/news/amazon-smiles-at-portland-adventist-academy/>.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AREA EVENTS**

**PACS Food Pantry Drive-thru OPEN** Mon-Fri from 9:00-11:00 AM.  
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](mailto:pacsfood2020@gmail.com). Located at 11020 NE  
Halsey St, Portland OR 97220

**PACS Thrift Store is OPEN** - we have temporary hours: Mon-Thurs  
9:00 AM-5:00 PM & Friday 9:00 AM-2:30 PM.  
Our donation drop-off center is open and we value your donations but  
due to a high volume of donations please call ahead to see if we are  
accepting, 503-252-8500. Located at 11020 NE Halsey St, Portland  
OR 97220.

**PACS Thrift Store - At Home Shopping:**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/pacsthiftstore](https://www.facebook.com/groups/pacsthiftstore)

### **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!

### **Job Opportunity:**

**PACS is hiring!**

**Needed! A full-time Donor Experience Specialist.**

Includes full benefits including health, vision, dental, PTO, and more.

For more information contact [laura.pascoe@pacsonline.org](mailto:laura.pascoe@pacsonline.org)