

# Sunnyside Adventist Church Communiqué

## News & Announcements

Sabbath, September 18, 2021



**Greetings church family,**

### **I'm right, you're wrong. Now what?**

I was on a trip with the high school volleyball team of the school where I was principal when it happened. We were all in a rental house watching a sports movie after a day of tournament games when a song came on.

I grew up in the era the song was first popular and I was singing along with it and then exclaimed, "I love Creedence Clearwater Revival!"

One of the adult sponsors traveling with the team said, "That's not Creedence Clearwater."

"Yes it is."

"No it's not. You're wrong."

"No I'm not. I'll wager the \$10 in my wallet."

As it turns out, it wasn't Creedence Clearwater. Not by a long shot. It was The Hollies who sang "Long Cool Woman." I hate being wrong.

As much as I hate being wrong, I LOVE being right. About anything and everything. This love/hate relationship I struggle with has been heightened and magnified with my participation in social media.

What is a person to do when they see something posted by a friend or church member that is wrong? Especially when it comes to politics, religion or whether people sitting next to me in church should wear a face covering?

This gets more complicated as we look at the political climate in the United States and Canada today. People in red hats are sure they have all the answers to the social, economic, and moral problems our country faces. People who voted for the other guy are 100% sure that the folks in the red hats are 100% wrong about everything that they are 100% right about. And then there's the folks with the BLM bumper stickers. They see a whole slew of historical and systemic injustices that, in their view, need attention now!

Add to that the divide between liberal and conservative amateur theologians in our church that have strong opinions about music, preaching and whether a woman should be allowed to pastor.

To complicate things further, enter the first pandemic this country has gone through in 100 years and the problems listed above come back to us 100-fold.

People are posting, saying, preaching, and shouting all kinds of facts, opinions, and all kinds of "facts!" Masks do work. Masks don't work. Get vaccinated! Vaccinated? That's ridiculous! Take dewormer medicine and be a vegan! God will protect you from the virus if you just have a little faith! I believe Doctor Fauci! What? He and Bill Gates are out to get you!

Youtubes are being passed around like Halloween candy. Churches are hosting "experts" in every field. streaming on computer screens, telling us what to and not to do in regards to mandates, vaccinations, and face coverings.

All of this information has saturated and polarized millions of people.

I recently had a pastor in our denomination (from another conference) tell me that the vaccine I've received is going to transmit information through 5G to Bill Gates and his associates so they can track me and find me and persecute me when the time of trouble comes. This isn't the first person who has shared this information with me.

Assuming I disagreed with what my friend has shared with me, how should I have responded to this? How would you respond to this if it was a fellow church member who shared this with you? What if you saw it on a friend's social media post?

In an age of information-sharing unparalleled in the history of the world, a YouTube video is truth. If you want it to be. A Facebook meme is truth. If you want it to be.

The Bible is clear on how we should respond to people who are speaking/posting wrong things.

Proverbs 26:4 "*Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him.*"

There you go! Right from the pen of the wisest man who ever lived. The best thing to do when you hear somebody say something foolish (wrong) is to just let them speak/write/post. Engaging them in a debate will just drag you down to their level. You are foolish to engage.

But wait, there's more! The very next strokes from the pen of inspiration take a sudden turn!

Proverbs 26:5 "*Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.*"

So maybe the best thing to do when we see somebody's posts or say something full of error that could mislead other people, is to correct them so that they can know their wrongness and not be wise in their own eyes. Like Jesus, maybe we should say, "Are you so dull?"

So, which is it? It would seem the writer of Proverbs believes that every situation might warrant a varied and measured reaction. Sometimes it's good to remain silent. Sometimes it's better to rebuke and engage in a course correcting discussion.

In this age of slinging information around like everything's a fact, here's how I navigate as to whether I should engage in pointing out error/correcting misinformation. These are rules I've made for myself. I hope they can give you a starting point for how you want to cope with all the chaos.

1) I don't argue with people that I'm not vested in. If I see a Facebook post from somebody that is barely an acquaintance and not a friend or relative, I might post something for them to consider, but I won't argue.

2) I am involved in social media. If I see something posted that is conspiratorial or factually challenged, I sometimes phrase a rebuttal like this, "I know you value good information. Here's another point of view to consider." I follow that by a word of affirmation about my relationship with that person. My hope is that what I have posted will be read along with what was originally posted.

3) If a family member or a close friend that I care deeply about is passing along what I would consider to be misinformation or conspiracy theories, I will challenge them on what they are saying/posting. But I will not do this publicly. I will present evidence privately and hash it out where nobody can see it. In the end, these people are deeply loved by me and whatever their views, they may be in my life until I die.

4) Don't make anything personal. Name calling, insults and mudslinging toward the person who posted/proclaimed what you perceive to be in error, or toward any public official who you may be arguing about, is beneath a person who calls Jesus a friend.

5) I'm a pastor. If someone is passing along conspiracy theories or misinformation in my church, I will put a stop to it pretty quickly. A personal visit and a friendly reminder that we need to keep our eyes on Jesus and off the dark corners of rumors circling the globe is my duty as a shepherd of the flock.

6) Humor. When my pastor friend told me that the inoculations were magnetized so that the government could use 5G to track me, I said, "Boy is some FBI agent going to be bored with my life! They will track me from the church to my home and then back to the church again... over and over and over again!"

They laughed and then got serious and said, "So you think the vaccinations are safe?"

I answered and said, "I have no idea! I just wanted to follow the example of President Trump, President Biden, all the Republican and

Democrat Governors! I figured if they all got it, it must be the thing to do!"

Then I broke out laughing. And he followed.

In the end, the most important thing to me is that I treat everyone with love and respect. Folks typically aren't drawn to Jesus because they lose an argument. Treating humans with love and respect is paramount to my interactions with all people in my sphere of influence. If I can't rebut a post or a comment with love, then I have no business saying anything at all.

**Pastor Mark Witas**

## News & Notes

### THIS WEEKEND

**Tonight, Friday, September 17, 7:00 PM**, we will be gathering together in the fellowship hall to watch another episode of "The Chosen." Come and join in on this time together!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to Sunnyside!** In compliance with state regulations, **please wear a mask over your nose and mouth the entire time you are in the building, both during Sabbath School classes and church service**, as well as maintaining physical distancing. We want to do our part in promoting a healthy situation. Again, if you feel sick or have been around anyone that has been sick, we request that you stay home and watch our services on livestream.

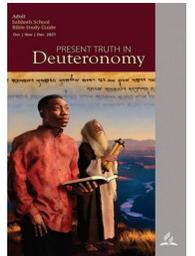
**Sabbath School quarterlies** for October-December are now available. There is a stack on the ledge next to the office window where you may help yourself. If you need one mailed to you contact the office at 503-252-8080 or send an email to [info@SunnysideAdventist.org](mailto:info@SunnysideAdventist.org). We'll make sure you get what you need. You may also download a free quarterly at <https://absq.adventist.org/>.

**A memorial service will be conducted for Ralph Martin** Sunday, September 26, 1:00 PM, here at Sunnyside Adventist Church.

**Tuesday, September 28, 7:00 PM**, there will be a constituency meeting for Portland Adventist Academy. Delegates, please save the date and attend this very important meeting. Details will be forwarded closer to the meeting date.

 **Save the date! The weekend of October 2**, there will be an *It Is Written* rally here at Sunnyside Church. John Bradshaw will be here in person as the speaker.

**The Church Library is open!** The library will be open on the 1st and 3rd Sabbaths of the month. Hours will be 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.

**The movie “The Chosen” is being featured** with a different episode each Friday night, 7:00 PM, in the fellowship hall. Come and join us for this spiritual event along with great fellowship!

**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](mailto: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.

**Our flower calendar is** posted in the hallway and [online](#). Thank you to those of you who have signed up — we have several dates still available. Take a minute to choose a date and let us know when you would like to share flowers with your church family. (Go to our website, [www.SunnysideAdventist.org](http://www.SunnysideAdventist.org), click on “Our Ministries.”) As the date gets closer, we will contact you to see what you would like in the bulletin about the flowers.



**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



# Happy Birthday



**Sunday:** Rhonda Bolton, Nancene Graham, Joelle Lian, Wendell White; **Monday:** Rita Christensen, Gale Crosby, Kathy Crull, Nicholas Gosney, James Newell, Jerilyn Schosnig; **Tuesday:** Charlene Hendrickson; **Thursday:** Richard Gingrich; **Friday:** Scott LeMert

## ADVENTIST EDUCATION

### Portland Adventist Elementary School

<http://www.paes.com>

**Portland Adventist Elementary School** is seeking a pianist to accompany the school choirs. This would include two weekly rehearsals with each of the 5th-8th grade choirs as well as rehearsals with each of the K-4th grade choirs as needed for performances. The PAES Music Department also includes a piano studio. In the past the choir accompanist taught lessons at the school around rehearsal times. The incoming pianist would be welcome to build a studio of PAES students. We would also welcome the pianist to accompany the school while singing during chapels on Fridays. Total time commitment as an accompanist would average 5 hours per week for the 5th-8th grades and up to an additional 5 hours per week for the K-4th grade choirs. As a school with 300+ students, the addition of studio lesson hours would mean the potential for a full-time schedule. The choir accompanist position is paid hourly by PAES at a rate of \$27/hour. The pianist would set their own rate for lessons. If you are interested in this opportunity please contact the PAES Music Director, Megan Schwark, at [music@paes.com](mailto:music@paes.com) or 603-391-8928.

### Portland Adventist Academy

<https://paasda.org/>

#### PAASS Students Need You!

The Portland Adventist Academy Development Office is looking for four dependable volunteers who can work independently to assist with the annual PAA Student Scholarship Auction on November 7. There is an immediate need for go-getter volunteers to help procure auction items. Experience is not necessary. Being imaginative and creative is a plus. Volunteers may also assist with setting up the auction. One dependable volunteer is also needed for Development Office clerical assistance. Some flexibility is helpful. Contact Development Director Sam Vigil Jr. for more information at 503-255-8372 x218 or [svigil@paasda.org](mailto:svigil@paasda.org) or click [HERE](https://paasda.org/news/paa-auction-needs-volunteers/). (<https://paasda.org/news/paa-auction-needs-volunteers/>)

#### International Student Host Families Needed

Many students from France, China, and Korea come to Portland Adventist Academy each school year. Students stay either 2 weeks, 3 months, a school year, and some stay all four years of high school. Each student needs a caring host family to support them as they're far from home. Your home might be perfect! Host families find the time rewarding — especially as they share family traditions and American culture. Some families find deep value in sharing their love of Jesus. Learn more about hosting a student by contacting the program director, Mrs. Bibb at [mbibb@paasda.org](mailto:mbibb@paasda.org). Informational videos and PDFs are on our website [HERE](https://paasda.org/admissions/international/host). [paasda.org/admissions/international/host](https://paasda.org/admissions/international/host).

#### PAA Substitute Teachers Needed!

Portland Adventist Academy is looking for responsible substitute teachers for the coming school year. Subs work with friendly and energetic high school students. Teachers provide all material so all you have to do is be present and follow instructions. No college

degree is necessary but you must be 21 or older. Work would be occasional and only during school hours on weekdays. All candidates must pass a background check (paid for by PAA). To apply or learn more about the job, visit our webpage [HERE. https://paasda.org/news/paa-substitutes-needed/](https://paasda.org/news/paa-substitutes-needed/)

### **PAA Bus Driver Needed**

One of the many ways we strive to meet the diverse needs of our families is by providing a way for students on the west side of the city to get to PAA and back home safely each day. If you have a commercial driver's license and can be available weekday mornings and afternoons, we hope you'll join our team for the coming school year! The job pays well and is so rewarding. Learn more [HERE. https://paasda.org/news/bus-driver-needed/](https://paasda.org/news/bus-driver-needed/)

### **PAA's 50-Years of Cougars Celebration Weekend**

Portland Adventist Academy Cougar Athletics is celebrating 50 years! Everyone is invited to a special weekend of events in honor of Coach Bill Judd and the 1971 inaugural varsity men's basketball team. It happens September 25 & 26 and includes a Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony with dinner as well as a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Spread the word to supporters, alumni, and forever cougars! Information, RSVPs and reservation information is [HERE. https://paasda.org/news/paa-cougar-athletics-holds-first-hall-of-fame-event/](https://paasda.org/news/paa-cougar-athletics-holds-first-hall-of-fame-event/)

If you're an Amazon shopper, you can add Portland Adventist Academy as your [AmazonSmile](https://www.smile.amazon.com) 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](https://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**

**We at Big Lake are SO excited to announce a \$100,000 matching donation is on the table**, until Sunday, September 19th! If you've been thinking of donating and haven't yet, now is the time. Help us pay off the brand new lodge by donating now. PayPal donation link: <https://bit.ly/givetobiglake>. Checks can be sent to our business office address at: 19800 Oatfield Rd, Gladstone, OR 97027. Thank you for your commitment to Big Lake!

**PACS Food Pantry Drive-thru OPEN** Mon-Fri from 9:00-11:00 AM. 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!**

### **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)

**We are looking for a housekeeper** who can work an average of about 2 days per month providing backup for our custodian when he's on vacation and for certain holidays. Contact Shari Ferrier, 503-252-8500.

### **Last Week's Worship Service in Photos below:**

