

# West Hills News

## West Hills Community Church

Volume 25, Issue 1

January/February 2022

### A Time Between Times...

With all of you, I give thanks to God for Marcus and Kahori Elmer and for their faithful ministry for 20 years at West Hills. As they begin a new ministry, we too, look forward to new beginnings and to what the Lord will do in us and through us to build His church.

I thank the Lord for West Hills as a church and for each one of you – members of the body of Christ. It is a joy to be here worshipping the Lord with you all week

after week.

That joy is even more precious as we actively pray for the new leader God will bring - but the arrival of a new pastor is many months away. In the meantime, we are charged to love and encourage one another, do the work of ministry, grow in faith and Christlikeness, and prepare our hearts for the new things God will bring.

Call it, "a time between times": we look back with gratitude and fondness and

we look forward with anticipation, but we live in the present and our call is to walk in His strength and His grace today. Let us consider how the Lord is calling us to grow and thrive in this time of waiting and preparation - this "between time." May God bless us as a family, and I'm looking forward to working and growing together this year.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Greg

#### **Inside this issue...**

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- Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Elder Board Update...

Wow! What happened to 2021? It seems so long ago with all our recent changes. You may still be processing things as we all are and that's normal. Let me share the heart of the Elders. We are unified in Spirit even though there are various ideas on the Board. We want to be thorough in our process, not rushed, and not dawdling. We want to discover what man God has chosen for us. We want a Pastor of character who can build on the foundation Pastor Marcus has established.

To that end, we are current-

ly looking locally at Corban University, with NAB, and other sources for a possible interim candidate. If unsuccessful locally, we will engage Interim Pastoral Ministries (IPM) in a nationwide recruitment.

We are now in Phase 1 of the process with our Preaching Team and our interim Pastor search. Phase 2 is calling, selecting, and establishing an interim Pastor. Phase 3 will be searching, recruiting, vetting, and hiring a new Senior Pastor. We will use a larger and broader cross section of West Hills folks

for Phase 3.

And let me assure you, that because of your generosity, we have plenty of reserve funds to take care of the family moves required and the other incidental costs of the transition. Questions or concerns? Please call or email one of the Elders. Next month we will talk about Interim Pastors and what they are called on to do.

Rich Dominick  
Elder Board Chairman

#### **OUR PURPOSE...**

##### **Building a community of people**

who are experiencing new life with God and with others, by **believing** in Jesus Christ, **worshipping** Him, and **learning** to live every day by the Word of God.

## A special thank you from the Elmers...



Dear West Hills family,

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! We cannot thank you enough for the wonderful farewell potluck and the generous gift from all of you! We were so encouraged by many of your words shared of how God has used Marcus through the years. Wow! We felt so blessed, loved, supported and appreciated! It was a perfect end to our ministry here and a loving send off to our new ministry.

I, Kahori, only wish I had more time to interact personally with all of you. To be able to thank each of you for the difference you made in our lives and to share all the wonderful memories of all God has done.

At the potluck, our daughter, Rachel expressed perfectly what was on my heart and thoughts, as she thanked you all for how well you have loved and supported our family for 20 years! We experienced it in the way you all welcomed us, accepted us, and supported us in your prayers, in your words and kind deeds.

Often times, Marcus and I have looked at each other and asked "Is this real? I can't believe how blessed we are." Not many pastors have the blessing of serving with a body of believers who are so unified. We have been blessed with the unity of the pastoral team and of everyone at church, unity that is focused on Jesus and His

love, and found in mutual respect for one another, as you all serve one another and care for those He has brought to our church.

I am so thankful that God chose us to serve at West Hills 20 years ago! We had no idea how blessed we were going to be! We trust God has grown us and used us to make an impact for His kingdom. God has truly done immeasurably more than we can imagine!! All praise to God for all He has done and **will** do! We will miss you!

With gratitude and love to you all,

Marcus & Kahori  
(Kahori writing for both of us)

## Youth Pastor...

Let's talk about Youth Group! Even though these difficult times complicate our meetings, the students love to gather to have fun, to talk about the Bible, and to connect with others. Please pray that our students will continue to pursue our meetings even in the midst of all things which might block their attendance; homework, sports, and the dreaded yuckiness that's so catchy.

In January, the Middle School Youth Group was able to hang out a couple of hours for some bowling fun on a day off from school. It was great to see smiles,

conversations, and just a lot of happy and fun time together.

And we're hoping to continue some of those fun happy times with the upcoming Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. We'll have yummy snacks and some games where students can win prizes. I'm super thankful for Rich and Christine opening up their home (and television screens) to watch football together.

The High School Youth Group will be heading to Sisters, Oregon for a week-end retreat. It's been a long

time since we've gone off by ourselves but we're looking forward to the adventure of visiting a new town, especially known for having coffee. Some teens just love the stuff!

Please continue to pray for everyone attending Youth Group that God's Word will impact their hearts and minds; allowing that good news to transform their lives. I so very much appreciate all the prayers and support given to the Youth Group.

In His Grip,  
Pastor Bobby



"I am the vine;  
you are the  
branches.  
If a man remains  
in me and I in  
him, he will bear  
much fruit; apart  
from me you  
can do nothing."  
- John 15:5

## Community Life Pastor...

I am experiencing something new and it is a good situation!

Kim and I have been through several times of having interim pastors. In the past, the situations leading up to having an interim pastor were not positive. We had seen division and disunity that tore up our fellowship and our effectiveness in ministry.

Now, we as a church family are adjusting to ministry without Pastor Marcus. But, it is not like the past situations in previous churches where we needed an interim pastor. It is a positive situation!! Marcus did not

leave because there were problems!!

Kim and I have been here at WHCC for almost 15 years and I was blessed to work closely with Marcus for 5 years. I know God has prepared him to be a perfect fit for leading our region of 32 churches and the pastors of the churches!!

Although I will miss my usual interactions with him, I'm happy for how God is using him and I am so very thankful that Marcus equipped us for the future!

We have a solid foundation of loving Jesus, loving The Word, and loving people. We have a solid foundation

of people willing to serve in ways that give them joy. We have an organizational structure to spread the work load.

What a blessing to serve with a church family/ community that is excited about seeing each other every time/day we do life together!! That's healthy and it's very special!!

Together for Jesus,  
Pastor Ron



## MEN'S RETREAT

West Hills Community Church  
&

Salt Creek Baptist Church

**February 25-27, 2022**

**at Wi-Ne-Ma Christian Camp**

Cost is only \$99 per person!

*Checks are payable to:*

*West Hills Community Church or Salt Creek Baptist Church*

**Registration deadline: February 20th**

Questions? Contact Doug Herndon at 503-991-6729.

*This retreat is for ages 16 & up.*



## Women's Ministries

Happy New Year! Looking forward with anticipation and joy to the Holy Spirit's work this year in the women of West Hills!

Our prayer is that we look to Him as we run our race in faith, as Hebrews 12:2 states: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."* Lord, increase our faith and help us lay aside anything that hinders us from pursuing you wholeheartedly.

What is happening in women's ministry currently? We have three D-groups started already! A D-group is a great opportunity to stay connected in God's Word.

We are thankful for Dee Bryson for starting a new topical Bible study on "Hope", a wonderful study to encourage us to keep our eyes on Jesus, our HOPE.

The Super Bowl Bake Sale has become an annual event and will be held once again right after church on February 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a "delicious" fundraiser designed to offset the cost of Women's Ministries events. All who like to bake are encouraged to donate baked goods and drop them off in the gym starting at 10 am that Sunday. Those who like to eat baked treats are encouraged to bring

money and take home goodies to enjoy. Please consider contributing and supporting the ladies of West Hills.

Starting on March 15<sup>th</sup> Lucille Alley and Sarah Smith/Angela Kirkpatrick will be leading us in a new 9-week study available both morning and evening called "Better" by Jen Wilkin. This is a study of the book of Hebrews, where we are encouraged to fix our gaze on Jesus. He is where the joy is! Watch for the sign-up lists.

Blessings,  
Women's Ministry Team



## Children's Ministries...

The last few weeks, we've had many volunteers get sick and were unable to serve (including myself) and those who were well willingly stepped in at a moment's notice to cover our Sunday morning Children's Ministry's needs. I am so thankful for our volunteers and our church family! Without you, Children's Ministries would not be possible. Thank you for taking the time to love

on our families and their children. I pray that the Lord would fill you up as you pour out to others. You're the best!

I've been thinking about some goals for Children's Ministries this year and I'm excited to see what God will do in our lives, in our church, and in our city! Please pray for direction, wisdom, and discernment.

Whatever this year holds, I pray that our love for Him and love for others would grow and that we would glorify the Lord in everything we think, say, and do.

McKenzie O'Neil



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Ladies Fall Retreat**  
**September 23rd-25th, 2022**  
Christian Renewal Center  
Silverton, OR

## Finance Commission...

November 2021 – General Fund Giving: \$48,438.44  
November 2021 – General Fund Budget: \$49,873.50  
November 2021 YTD income/expenses: \$107,555.32

December 2021 – General Fund Giving: \$48,826.23  
December 2021 – General Fund Budget: \$49,873.50  
December 2021 YTD income/expenses: \$100,047.47

We have also received monies given each month for the purpose of paying down the mortgage principal for the gym:

November 2021 - \$2,595.25  
December 2021 - \$2,675.25

As of January 7, 2022, the gym loan balance is \$280,219.50.

Thank you for your generosity!  
Kim Shubin  
On Behalf of the Finance Commission





## Missions Commission

A big shout out and thank you to missions' commission member Joe Glad for his participation at "Mission ConneXion Northwest". The purpose of ConneXion is to connect local churches to increase the numbers of actively serving missionaries where there is the greatest need. Sending, Giving, Praying, Funding, Training, Going is the basic emphasis. All working through

local church involvement, spreading Gods Word around the world. At the same time respecting the diversity in the body of Christ while promoting unity in our common task of taking the gospel of the Kingdom to every tongue, tribe, people and nation. This was a wonderful opportunity to learn more and get involved in the evangelism we are all called to be a part of.

So if Joe can do it, what's keeping the rest of us from joining in God's Joy of serving and sharing? Do you feel Gods prodding? The missions' commission could use a few new faces. Please prayerfully consider joining Joe in spreading Gods Word. Become a member of the missions' commission today.

Dave Russell  
Missions Commission

### Winter 2022 Sermon Series

## Foundations of Faith

### Winter Sermon Series...

Our Winter Sermon Series "Foundations of Faith" is based on the New City Catechism.

**Catechism** is a historical practice of the church which seeks to answer foundational questions of the Christian faith.

In January, Marcus and our Guest Preaching Team introduced our series answering the first four questions of the catechism.

This month we will answer questions 5-8 :

**5.What else did God create?**

**6.How can we glorify God?**

**7.What does the law of God require?**

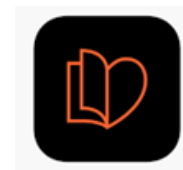
**8. What is the law of God stated in the Ten Commandments?**

**For more information about the New City Catechism:**

Website: <http://newcitycatechism.com/>

Mobile App: "New City Catechism" in your App Store

Book: Available on Amazon



# Update your Information



## Updated Church Directory Coming Soon!

Has your email or other contact information changed?

We are preparing to print an updated Church Family Directory.

If your contact information

has changed or you have not submitted a new photo for the photo wall send us your information and photos!

Send your photos and information updates to Karen in the church office.

whccsalem@gmail.com.

Thank you!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries...

### January Birthdays

IIAMS, Doug	01/03
SHUBIN, Kim	01/04
TORRES, David	01/05
WASHBURN, Hal	01/08
DYKES, Justin	01/12
KRAVITZ, Heidi	01/13
MCCANN, Milly	01/14
ANDERSON, Ken	01/15
WIENS, Stan	01/15
TOLAND, Linus	01/18
BOWLEN, Patricia	01/19
NOYES, Janet	01/19
O'NEIL, Liliias	01/19
FAIRCHILD, Sue	01/20
GAULT, Grant	01/21
KUYKENDALL, Dan	01/21
DUVAL, Roger	01/25
FITZGERALD, Marguerite	01/25
BELL, Christine	01/26
SMALLEY, Scott	01/27

BUECHNER, Mikayla	01/31
<u>January Anniversaries</u>	
JACKSON-HOCKETT, Nathan & Jill	1/02
MCCLELLAN, Dave & Carol	01/11

### February Birthdays

CONSTANTIN, Adrian	02/03
CARROLL, Roger	02/04
ELMORE, Breana	02/04
KIRKPATRICK, Angela	02/04
KLEIBER, Jen	02/04
TERLESKI, Kathy	02/07
EVANS, Jonathan	02/08
WILLEMS, Aaliyah	02/09
ROEHL, David	02/13
O'CONNELL, Julia	02/15
O'CONNELL, Keegan	02/15
BELL, Ruth	02/19
TINKEY, Kathy	02/20
MARTENS, Kay	02/22

WILLIAMS, Trevor	02/22
ROEHL, Faith	02/24
LEDOUX, Donovan	02/25
IVANITSKY, Irena	02/27
KLEIBER, Roman	02/27

### February Anniversaries

WILLIAMS, Jon & Sara	02/03
DUVAL, Roger & Sarah	02/08
DUVAL, Richard & Christine	02/20
ANDERSON, Bruce & Lois	02/24
LEDOUX, Donovan & Sarah	02/29





*Believing... Worshipping... Learning...*

## West Hills Community Church

Greg Denney  
Worship Pastor

Bobby Van Kleek  
Youth Pastor

Sorin Crivceag  
Hispanic Pastor

Ron McNinch  
Community Life Pastor

McKenzie O'Neil  
Children's Director

Karen Adams  
Church Administrator

Adela Waldie  
Women's Ministries Dir.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b> <b>Middle School/High School Class</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>Hispanic Service</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <b>10:45 a.m.</b> <b>2:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>AWANA</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Men's Coffee</b> <b>Middle School Youth Group</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Stitches of Love</b> <b>High School Youth Group</b> <b>Prayer Team</b>	<b>10:15 a.m.</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study</b> <b>Worship Team</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b>

### West Hills Community Church

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