



### **ECO Presbyterians: Covenanting with God, Together**

This is the first of four articles that will cover what “ECO Presbyterian” stands for. One of the distinctives of the Christian faith is: God covenanting with people. God isn't angry at us; God isn't distant or unconcerned with us. Instead, God covenants with us. This covenanting is for our benefit as well as for His purposes.

Jesus tells his disciples at the Last Supper that there is a New Covenant with God that comes through faith in Jesus. The bread (his body broken) and the cup of wine (his blood poured out) are the tangible symbols of this covenant. In some ways, it's not that the covenant is 100% new, but instead that Jesus changes how our side of the covenant (established in the Old Testament) with God is fulfilled: through Jesus. Our trust in him makes his covenant-fulfilling work on our behalf effective in our lives.

This covenant fulfilled gives us forgiveness and righteousness from God (and not us!) and brings us into relationship with God our Creator and Heavenly Father – in this world, and in the next. Jesus' resurrection gives us the hope of eternity spent with him and our Heavenly Father. As such, the Christian faith emphasizes – with good reason – faith in Jesus, and having a relationship with him.

But our covenant is also with each other, because God's covenant is not just with us individually. His covenant is with a people group. It was Israel in the Old Testament, and it's those who trust Jesus since then.

Therefore, being a Jesus follower means being a part of his people: The Church. We are sent, together, by Jesus to live on mission for him. He's fulfilled our side of the covenant, and our response of faith is to live as he invites and sends us to do. We see this throughout his ministry and the rest of the New Testament.

Being a part of a local church – such as Rose Hill – means being on mission with those people. We are bound together by our common faith in Jesus, in a covenant relationship with him, and therefore also with each other. In ECO Presbyterian churches like ours, we take this covenanting seriously. It's what the “C” in ECO stands for: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. I would like to invite you to take this covenant seriously as well (You probably already do). But I would invite you to consider taking it more seriously.

First, if you've never become a Covenant Partner (“member” but in ECO we use this other term) here at Rose Hill Church, I hope you'll consider doing that. I will be leading a class **the first couple Sundays in February** that will be all about our church, our denomination, and what it means to be a Covenant Partner here. If you're not sure about that step, that's fine; use this class to find out more about Rose Hill and make sure God is calling you to worship, serve, and grow in faith here with us.

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## RHKIDZ

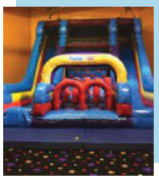
Gwen North, Children's and Family Ministry Director



### Pump It Up Party!

Rose Hill Kidz is having a Pump it Up Party! Join us for the fun and don't hesitate to bring one of your kiddos' friends to play, too.

**Sunday, February 11 from 1-3pm**



Reminder that Sunday School meets Weekly at the 10am service! See you at Sunday School!

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Second, if you are a Covenant Partner (and even if you're not) then I invite you to consider taking that covenant just a bit more seriously in 2024. How can you live on mission with the rest of the Rose Hill family? How can you lead people (from life-long Christians to atheists or agnostics) toward Jesus where you live, work, and play? How can you disciple somebody – that is, how can you model/share your faith so he/she would grow in their faith? We (staff/Elders/other leaders) want to equip you to live your faith each and every day, wherever you are.

This is the mission Jesus invites us to and sends us on. And we are covenanted with him to do this, together.

Your Pastor,

Brian

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian".

Thanks to everyone who came to Brunch with Bree! We had a great turnout and some awesome conversations about what we've got planned for this year for our Youth! We are planning on diving into Hebrews during our Wednesday night Bible Study and learning about the identity of Jesus as he is compared to priests, kings, & covenants in the Old Testament.

Youth Sunday is a few months away (May) but we started brainstorming and praying asking God how it should look terms of themes, songs, stories & discussion! It's never too late to start preparing. Everyone was sent home with a different "homework" assignment of either a song, Bible verse or story they'd like to share and incorporate into that Sunday. It will be a great opportunity to learn something new (guitar for me) and share it with the rest of the congregation!

Our Winter Retreat is coming up in March. Our lodge can fit up to 12 students. We are getting a discount on lift tickets from Crystal Mountain at a group/non-profit rate which is a blessing. Cost per student for the trip will be \$200. If you are interested in sponsoring a child for this retreat or need one for your child, please reach out! We are excited for fellowship and getting on the ski hill. Pray for more snow!

Upcoming  
event!



## SESSION

Jim Peterson, Clerk of Session

The Session of Rose Hill Church met on January 9th at 7pm for their stated meeting to discern God's will for His church at Rose Hill.

The Session reviewed the projected 2023 year-end financial status of the church and approved the budget for 2024. As shown in the table below, the tithes and offerings received during December resulted in the church ending the year with a projected surplus of \$3622.82. The final 2023 financial statements and the 2024 budget will be included in the Annual Report, which will be released prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28th.

Pastor Brian presented a draft proposal for a three-month sabbatical during the summer of 2024. His terms of call with Rose Hill Church allow him to take a sabbatical every six years. Since he has been with us for over ten years, this is somewhat overdue and the elders were very encouraging and supportive of Brian's proposal. Many of the details remain to be worked out, and you will hear more about that during the coming months.

The Session was encouraged to hear of some increase in enrollment at the Rose Hill Christian Preschool, though enrollment remains below the level needed to cover all operational costs. This situation was anticipated when the elders decided to reopen the preschool. They committed at that time to subsidize preschool operational costs during the first year while enrollment was building up. Our Preschool Director, Jennifer Fenn, is hopeful of a few additional students in the next few months. And the next few months are also the prime time of year when Jennifer will be promoting the preschool to the public and beginning to enroll students for the 2024-25 preschool year.

The Session also heard from Dan Wolfe that the renovation of the west restrooms near the Fellowship Hall is planned to begin at the Church Workday on January 13th. Work should be well underway by the time you receive this newsletter article.

Here is a projected year-end summary of church operating finances for 2023. As of this writing the church books have not been closed for the year and some adjustments may still be made. The final financial reports will be available in the church Annual Report.

Projected as of December 31, 2023	2023 Actuals	2024 Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$512,964.85	\$543,540.00	-5.62%
Total Expenses	\$509,342.03	\$544,092.00	-6.39%
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$3,622.82	(\$552.00)	

In Christ,  
Jim Peterson  
Clerk of Session

Are you interested in Handbells?  
Would you like to try ringing a Handbell?  
Would you be interested in the different kinds of  
sounds can you make with a Handbell?



Stay after church on **Sunday, February 25th** for a hands-on seminar with our handbell choir. All ages from elementary students to senior adults are encouraged to attend. A light lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Tim Weltz or Mary Lovett.



## Adult Fellowship

A poster with a teal background and white sunburst rays. It features a white box with the date and event name, and a list of items to bring for the blessing bags.

Women's Ministry  
Presents:

**FEBRUARY 3, 1-5 PM**  
**BLESSING BAGS & BUNCO!**

**For all Women & Girls**  
**Bring a snack to share and items**  
**for the Blessing Bags**

- Individually packaged food: granola bars, trail mix, crackers, jerky, etc.
- Travel size: soap, toothpaste/toothbrushes, wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.
- Gallon sized bags
- First Aid Supplies, Kleenex packets
- Encouraging notes, New Testaments, etc.
- Bottled Water
- \$5 gift cards

A poster with a green background and illustrations of food. It features a white box with the event name, a fork and knife icon, and details about the lunch.

**3RD THURSDAY**  
**ADULT FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**



(Revitalized Senior Lunch)

Every 3rd Thursday  
11:30am: doors open  
11:45am: singing  
12:00pm: food is served

All adults welcome

Free event

All food provided

**Feb. 15th**

7pm worship service following  
an all-church dinner at 6pm.



Feb. 6, 7pm  
Facilities Team Meeting

Feb. 10, 8am  
Men's Breakfast

Feb. 19  
Office Closed for President's Day

# NEW COVENANT PARTNER CLASS

Interested in learning more about Rose Hill Church? Join this class led by pastor Brian in the overflow room next to the Sanctuary.

After worship the first two Sundays in February



Feb. 4 - Mar. 24

# FIVE GUYS

## THE AUTHORS ARE WISE

 ROSE HILL CHURCH



Sermon series starting this February,  
focusing on some of the overlooked  
letters of the New Testament.

## February Birthdays

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Daniel Zivcak    | 12 Clay Lanum         |
| 2 Bob Lovett       | 15 Doug Ricard        |
| John Bailey        | 16 Pam Risinger-Hurte |
| 3 Randy Muilenburg | 17 Laura Seifert      |
| 4 Andy Padvorac    | 18 Caleb Johnson      |
| Blake North        | Pat Ernsberger        |
| 10 Cynthia Aalami  | 26 Dena Burns-Hunt    |
| Maddy Hartnell     |                       |



*Happy Birthday!*

## February Anniversaries

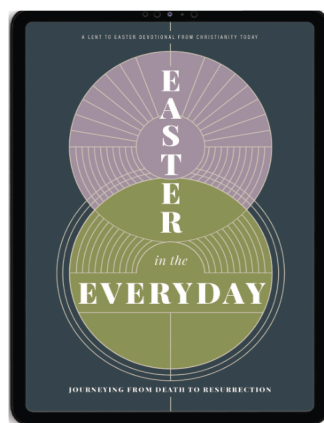
- 13 Scott & Janelle Phibbs  
16 Tim & Elaine Weltz

*Happy Anniversary!*



## February Calendar

- |    |                                  |                         |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2  | 6:00pm                           | Youth Bowling Night     |
| 3  | 1:00pm                           | Bunco & Blessing Bags   |
| 6  | 7:00pm                           | Facilities Team Meeting |
| 10 | 8:00am                           | Men's Breakfast         |
| 10 | 9:00am                           | Work Party              |
| 11 | 1:00pm                           | Pump It Up Party!       |
| 14 | 6:00pm                           | All-Church Dinner       |
| 14 | 7:00pm                           | Ash Wednesday Service   |
| 15 | 11:30am                          | Adult Fellowship Lunch  |
| 19 | Office Closed on President's Day |                         |
| 20 | 7:00pm                           | Session                 |
| 25 | 11:30am                          | Handbell Seminar        |
| 27 | 7:00pm                           | Deacons' Meeting        |



"Easter in the Everyday", a devotional for the Lent/Easter season, will be available for download on the RH website starting in early February.