



### **ECO Presbyterians: Order**

This is the second of four articles that will cover what “ECO Presbyterian” stands for. The full name of our denomination is “A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.” So, ECO isn’t an acronym, but it’s our shorthand denominational name. In February’s article, we looked at “Covenant” – God covenants with us, and we covenant with each other. In this month’s article, I want to look at “Order,” the second word in the full name of our denomination.

“Order” has a couple of potential meanings. First, is that we like to do things “decently and in order” as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 14:40, about worship. But there’s also a sense of this word “order” that has a broader use in our faith. We define “Order” like this within ECO: “To commit to a shared way of life as we unite around a shared theological core.” It’s more like when the word is used in regards to monastic “orders,” where these people are committed to a shared way of life together.

The theological core around which we are ordered is perhaps best (both concisely and completely) expressed in the Apostles’ Creed: “I believe in God the Father Almighty, and in Jesus Christ his only Son....” In other words, we are united around the Triune God who has come to us in Jesus, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we might be washed clean of our sins, and be in relationship with God here/now, and for eternity. God has made this possible by his grace because of his deep love for humanity – including each of us here at Rose Hill. The Resurrection of Jesus, that we celebrate at Easter at the end of this month, is the starting point for proof of what God has done and is doing through Jesus.

So, love for God and one another, because of God’s love for us, is what binds us together as we live together in this “ordered” way: encouraging, loving, correcting, forgiving, confessing, serving, etc. We do all this for one another, and those around us that God puts in our path, so we might lead people toward Jesus and into a deeper walk with him.

One of the ways we live an ordered life together is in worship. (We discussed this at our recent Session meeting, and you can read more about that a bit later in this Messenger.) Each Sunday – except on occasions when musical worship leadership vacancies make this untenable – there are both traditional and modern elements of worship: Organ, choir, bell choir, traditional hymns, prelude/postlude, and the worship band. The sermon, scripture reading, the prayers, greeting one another, and the offering haven’t really changed from either service – they were pretty much in common when we had two services.



Continued on page six...

## RHKIDZ

Gwen North, Children's and Family Ministry Director



*Pump it Up  
fun!*



### **Bring Candy and drop it in the Lobby!**

A box will be in the sanctuary for people to bring candy for the egg hunt. We are collecting candy through March 10<sup>th</sup>. Please don't include peanut oriented candy like Reeces peanut Butter Cups because of allergies. They also have to be individually wrapped.

## *Holy Week and Easter for Kidz*



### **Palm Sunday, March 24 = Palm Parade**

The kids will meet at 9:45 at church to get ready to process with the palms in the sanctuary. They will parade before the church with a heart to worship. This is much like the way that people treated Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.



### **Maundy Thursday, March 28 = Special Activity and Worship**

The kids are welcome to attend the Maundy Thursday Service. It is an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices that Jesus made and really prepares us for Easter. There will be a special coloring activity for the kids to do in the pews for those that attend.



### **Easter, March 31 = Worship and Egg Hunt**

Bring your Easter Basket! We have a fabulous time at RHC celebrating the resurrection. It is exciting to come to worship and engage in the beautiful music, spoken word, and to reflect on God's love by looking into our hearts. The kids do an Easter Egg hunt after service. After church, everyone heads to the church gym where they organize to go hunt for eggs outside. Fun Times Ahead!

February was filled with lots of fun events chasing after Jesus and developing deeper connections with each other. We are halfway through our Wednesday night Bible Study of Hebrews learning all about a personal relationship with Jesus and how is different roles as priest, covenant, and sacrifice impact and change our life today.

We went bowling at TechCity Bowling and everyone was so good! We had so much fun. I think Elliot North had the record for the most amount of strikes over the course of the evening (7 strikes to be exact) and we learned about the nature of competition and just having fun.



We did have a minor flood in the youth room, which relocated us temporarily to the gym for fellowship and then the tables in the Church lobby, but the change of scenery was good for the creative mind and the attention spans.

Our Winter Youth Retreat is coming up soon and everyone is getting very excited. Everyone seems to be collecting and organizing all of their gear in anticipation for some time on the slopes at Crystal Mountain. Please pray for colder temps and more snow! The El Nino weather pattern this year seems to have caused warmer than normal temps and less precipitation than we normally receive. Registration is still open for this event if you'd like to participate. We'll meet at the church Thursday March 7th, drive down to the lodge, Ski on Friday March 8th (Leap Day with No School) and Saturday March 9th before packing everything up and coming back to Church on Sunday.

Rose Hill Scholarships for 2024 are now open! If you have a college age student who is attending secondary education apply for this scholarship. The form is on our website under the resources tab and also on the Youth page.

Looking forward we have a rock climbing event coming up in April, Youth Sunday in May and Summer camp in July! Spring is right around the corner!



## SESSION

Jim Peterson, Clerk of Session

The Session of Rose Hill Church met on February 20th at 7pm for their stated meeting to discern God's will for His church at Rose Hill.

The Session welcomed elders Bud VanDerAa and Linda Muilenburg to their new terms of service to Rose Hill Church, and expressed its sincere thanks and praise for the work of elder Bob Harshbarger as his term is ending. A significant portion of the meeting was devoted to the annual refresher course on the duties of an elder and on how the Session at Rose Hill Church operates. Some of those duties are particular assignments given to elders for the current year, and those assignments were volunteered for and approved. Later in the meeting, elder Linda Holbrook (who attended via Zoom) presented her resignation to the Session for health reasons and all the Session members offered prayers of thanks and for God's blessing for her just before she left the meeting.

During the past 7 months of worshipping in a single blended service on Sundays, some church leaders have received comments from congregants concerning the mix of music and worship style in our services. Many are encouraging and appreciate both the variety and having us all together on Sundays. There were also some comments that expressed the desire for more traditional music in the mix, while others desire a more contemporary style for the entire service. In the discussion that followed all of the elders recognized the divergence of these views, and that all of us are making certain concessions on our worship preferences; but they confirmed their conviction that combining the services was the right thing to do for the unity and fellowship of the congregation. The pastor and elders will be praying and asking God's guidance while they consider our worship together and seek His will for it. They also request that all congregants do the same.

The following items received a brief review during the meeting:

- Pastor Brian asked the elders to consider the future potential uses of the Mission House. He will send some ideas that he has to them and will ask for their ideas and feedback.
- Pastor Brian provided an update on his planning for a sabbatical during the summer months. The elders encouraged him not to be too frugal when considering courses or activities that would help him to grow, but rather to make his sabbatical the best it could be both for him and the church.
- The newly appointed elders on the Nominating Committee will need to re-engage the committee in the spring to fill two vacancies – one elder to replace Linda Holbrook and one deacon to fill the open position.
- Bud and Dan reported on background work that continues concerning trees on the church property that need to be taken down to avoid hazards to the church and neighboring properties.

Here is a summary of the church's operating finances based on the newly adopted 2024 budget.

Operations as of January 31, 2024	2024 Actuals	2024 Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$55,342.83	\$52,414.00	5.58%
Total Expenses	\$52,047.76	\$53,197.00	-2.16%
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$3,295.07	(\$783.00)	

In Christ,  
Jim Peterson  
Clerk of Session



## Adult Fellowship



### Fuller Alumni Author Book Reading and Q&A

**March 3 , 6:30pm at Rose Hill Church**

Pastor Brian and Gwen are both alumnus of Fuller Seminary, and serve as the volunteer alumni coordinators for the Seattle area. An event they're hosting here at the church is coming up, and it's **open to anyone**. It will feature Fuller alum and author, JR Woodward, as he shares about his book dealing with church leadership and power. This is a free event, just let Pastor Brian know if you plan to attend, or follow the link in the "What's Happening" emails to register through Eventbrite.

## FACILITIES

Dan Wolfe, Facilities Director



## HANDCRAFTERS FELLOWSHIP

ON THE 3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 11AM - 2PM

AT THE HOME OF ANNEKE DODGE

BRING A BAG LUNCH; DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE PROVIDED.  
PLEASE CALL OR TEXT KARLA THOMAS AT 425-269-7538 TO RSVP.

NEXT MEETING:  
MARCH 16TH



### Sunday Discipleship Classes in March National Gathering Speakers & Discussion

Sundays in March, we will be watching videos from our denomination's recent National Gathering and engaging in conversation about how their messages impact our life and faith.

After worship in the Sanctuary overflow room



Continued from first page...

We are all making some sacrifices to our personal preferences on Sundays, because at Rose Hill we are committed to a shared way of life as we unite around a shared theological core, rather than uniting around our worship preferences. Sunday mornings are not the only time or place this happens, of course. But it is probably the most visible. What matters is being centered on Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us, and draws us together to worship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus aids us in making some concessions in regards to our personal worship preferences, and helps us live an ordered life together.

I pray this Lenten season would be one of good order for us here at Rose Hill, where we share in life together. I look forward to each Sunday with you, and especially look forward to our Resurrection Day celebration at the end of the month: done decently and in order...and for the good of the order.

P.S. Check out the sermon from 2/25 for more on this topic.

Your Pastor,  
Brian



## March Birthdays

6	Brian Hackwith	21	Telly Roderick
18	Yam Hudson	26	Dave Cram
19	Emily Hudson	30	Brad Hurte
20	Gwen North		Nancy Knight
			Patti Smith



*Happy Birthday!*

## March Anniversaries

5	Erik & Rachel Freund
16	Karl & Bette Palo
27	Steve & Janet Hargett

*Happy Anniversary!*



## Weekly

M	10:00am	Piecemakers Quilters
	11:15am	Staff Meeting (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.)
	6:15pm	BSF
	7:00pm	Online Discipleship Class
T	9:30am	Online LOL Bible Study
	7:00pm	Worship Team Practice
W	5:30am	Men's Online Prayer Group
	6:30pm	RHC Youth Group
TH	10:00am	Men's Coffee
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
	8:00pm	Praise Ringers
SU	10:00am	Worship Service

## March Calendar

3	6:30pm	Fuller Church Leadership Event
5	7:00pm	Facilities Team Meeting
9	8:00am	Men's Breakfast
9	9:00am	Work Party
16	11:00am	Handcrafter Fellowship
19	7:00pm	Session
21	11:30am	Adult Fellowship Lunch
24	10:00am	Palm Sunday
26	7:00pm	Deacons' Meeting
28	6:00pm	All-Church Pot-blessed Dinner
28	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
31	10:00am	Easter Sunday & Egg Hunt

**March 10**  
**Daylight Savings Begins**

**March 28**  
**Office Closed on Good Friday**


**March 5, 7pm**  
**Facilities Team Meeting**

**March 9, 8am**  
**Men's Breakfast**



The 2024 Rose Hill Scholarship Application is now available on our website on the "Resources" page.

The application deadline is March 31



**ECO**

## Paul Hudson Ordination

**March 3rd at 2:30pm**

A special service of ordination for Paul Hudson, with a pre-recorded message from Pastor Brian North.

You are invited to watch the livestream of Paul's ordination service on the Community Presbyterian Vacaville's Youtube page.