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Sacred Oath

by June Gumz, newsletter editor



*"Where are the
cameras?"*

I have a moral dilemma. A friend and I swore never to tell this story. She passed recently and I wonder if I am released from that promise. It is a goofy story which doesn't reflect well on our IQ's.

This experience happened to us at a time when we left our children in our husbands' care while we went to the coast for a weekend. We were watching television when my friend said, "Something is caught in my sweater and shoulder and I can't get it out, will you help me?" I tried and had the same result. Just then a PSA on TV warned everyone on the coast to be careful of ticks because Lyme disease was on the increase. Hmmm. We wondered, could this be a tick? Neither of us were tick savvy. As we thought about the PSA, it seemed prudent to go to an emergency hospital to get the 'thing' removed.

A lady doctor greeted us and asked why we were there. I pointed to my friend's shoulder and told her of our concern about ticks and Lyme disease. She pulled a magnifying glass from her pocket and looked at the object. She whispered in my ear, "Where are the cameras?" What cameras? "This is Candid Camera, right?" We could not understand her assumption until she got her tweezers and removed a grain of brown rice. Did you know that hospitals don't charge for removing a grain of rice from a shoulder? They probably assume that adding to the humiliation would be cruel and unusual.

As we hurried to the car, we made a pact never to speak of this again. So, folks, am I a bad person for passing this story along? I'm certain the doctors and nurses told their families about two 'normal' looking women who couldn't tell a grain of rice from a tick. Maybe we brightened their day with a true story that didn't include broken bones or high fevers.



It's a Breeze

by Rev. Larry King

I know that I should be writing a “spiritual” article for the newsletter, but I’m honestly pretty excited about some new software that the Center is using. I hope you don’t mind if I substitute enthusiasm for spiritual content.

*“...it really has been
a Breeze!”*

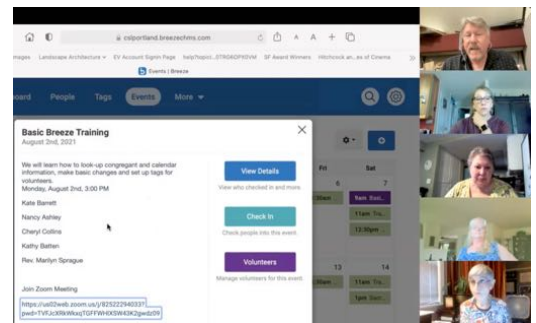
“So, what is a Church Management System?” you might ask.

It’s a software tool that facilitates behind-the-scenes management of a Spiritual Center. This includes recording of tithes and other income, volunteer scheduling, event and class registration, meeting and event scheduling, tax letters and donor giving summaries, and the collection and deposit of various fees, gifts and tithes into our bank account.

Isn’t the Center doing all that now?

Yes, but using six different systems (including some purely manual ones) that require significant time to update and maintain.

Enter “Breeze.”



The Breeze Church Management System consolidates all these processes into one, cloud-based system that is easy to use and eliminates multiple inputs. It comes at a low monthly cost; no set-up fees and they converted our old data into the new format and loaded it into the system for us. All the data is backed up to a secure cloud server and we can access it from any workstation.

This week we start training on the new system. We’ve already integrated it into our website; it’s already processing tithes and offerings, and is set up to handle registration and scheduling of all our Fall classes. Next on our agenda is using the system to help with volunteer scheduling.

Wow! So far it really has been a Breeze!

Take care and enjoy all the many activities the Center has to offer during the rest of the Summer and into Fall. I look forward to “seeing you” in person and on Zoom in the coming weeks.

Much Love and Many Blessings

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry".





Social Justice Book Club

by Nancy Ashley, RScP

This summer we are completing our fourth year of reading and meeting. We were told by the facilitator of the original class at PCSL, Kathleen Perkins, that our primary job as White folks was to educate ourselves – don't just ask BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) what we could do to help. They were tired of being responsible for us. So, we have read MANY books with the primary goal to become more educated ourselves, to share and to better understand the systemic and personal effects of our racist society.

That is not to say that we are all racist, but we have mostly grown up with certain underlying beliefs and values that were common in America. My first awareness of this was to learn that the FHA was not ALLOWED to guarantee mortgages to people of color until well into the 1960s. What? How could that be in America?

We, as a book club, have read books focused on African Americans, Latinx, Indigenous, and Asian Americans as cultures in America. An incomplete list of our books is available on our website (cslportland.org) and many are available for loan in our bookstore (ask Nancy Ashley or Kate Barrett to open it for you and point them out).

Rev. Larry will again be offering the free virtual 5-week class "Me and White Supremacy" to our congregation this fall. It's a good starting place for anyone!

This summer we are taking the opportunity to catch up or re-read books that have been suggested through the past four years. We invite any and all to join us in this endeavor. We also welcome any suggestions of books you particularly love on these topics.

*We welcome any
suggestions of books
on these topics.*

Board Report—An Act of Love

by Nadine Moller, Board President

At our recent Sunday service, you may have noticed the signs on our doors asking folks to consider masking up regardless of vaccination status. You may also have noticed that our incredibly resilient and flexible congregation complied with that request.

The fact is, it really is not “our” request, but comes from a willingness to follow and adjust our behaviors to new information as more scientific data is revealed. Health officials in Oregon and across the nation are again recommending that people mask up in indoor public settings regardless of vaccination status. Properly wearing a facemask in indoor public settings is even more important if you or a loved one is unvaccinated.

We hold the health of our congregants and community as a value. We ask you to consider wearing a mask when attending our indoor services. If you come to services and forget your mask, our ushers can provide you with one.

The Board of Directors continue to monitor and follow CDC and Oregon Health Authority guidelines during this pandemic and recognize that as the science is updated, the guidelines may change. We acknowledge the fluidity of the situation and know that we can easily adjust as needed.

Many of us were disappointed in what appears to be a step back. I like to think of it as a step forward in unity as we hold each other’s wellbeing at heart. It only takes a moment to mask up, and that brief moment of masking up signifies the love you hold for your community and yourself. Thank you for your understanding and your willingness to remain flexible and resilient as the situation unfolds. Most of all, thank you for your continued support of PCSL.

Love and Blessings

Nadine Moller, RScP
Board President



Health officials in Oregon ... are again recommending that people mask up in indoor public settings regardless of vaccination status.



“...masking up signifies the love you hold for your community and yourself”

*All Fall classes will
be held online.*

Fall Classes

All of our Fall classes will be held online in our virtual “Zoom” classroom. Click on the link to find out more and to register. You can see all of our online classes and workshops at <https://cslportland.org/classes-and-workshops/>

Me And White Supremacy

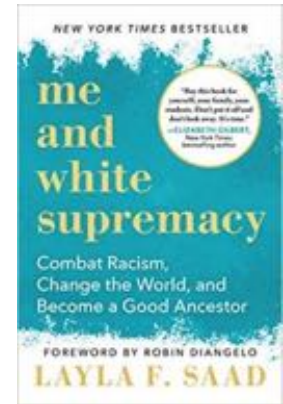
Facilitated by Rev. Larry King

5 Weeks; Tuesdays

9/21/2021-10/19/2021; 6:30-8:00PM PT

In this 5-week book study and journaling course we will dive deeply into the heart of unconscious bias and racism to learn how we can make a difference at this pivotal time in history.

We'll be using the book, *Me and White Supremacy*. The book will lead us in a reflective 28-day inward journey that will be supported by this five-session study experience.



Clarity

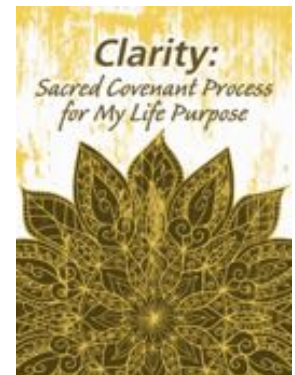
Sacred Covenant Process for My Life Purpose

Facilitated by Rev. Marilyn Sprague

1-Day Saturday Workshop

9/25/2021; 10:00 AM-2:30PM PT

Clarity comes not from the outside but from your inner self—from the deep truth of your essential nature. The Sacred Covenant Process is a high spiritual and intuitive process, which reveals your precious agreement with Spirit about your life and how Spirit will express through you.



Self-Mastery

The Emergence of the True Self

Facilitated by Kate Barrett, RScP

8 Weeks; Thursdays

9/30/2021-11/18/2021; 5:00-8:00PM PT

The Self-Mastery Course focuses on healing the perceived separation between personality and Spirit. Through an active exploration of the creative nature of thoughts and feelings, beliefs and emotions, the students have an opportunity to gain mastery in the art of living as conscious, intentional beings.



*Classes continue on
next page*

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Spiritual Living**

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Interact with Rev. Larry's
Blog: cslportland.org/blog

Listen to a Podcast:
cslportland.org/podcasts/



We rent our space!

Planning a meeting, event
or special occasion?
Contact Jason Hutchison for
rental info at 503-807-1227.

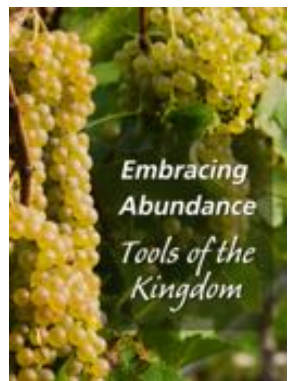
Embracing Abundance
Tools of the Kingdom

Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Christina Tillotson

4 Weeks; Saturdays

10/09/2021-10/30/2021; 1:00-3:00PM PT

Apply the basic spiritual principles for increasing your abundance consciousness of an unlimited Universe. Through interactive experientials you will expand your concept of God, release false limiting beliefs about money, and create a plan for continuing to increase abundance in selected areas of your life.



Spiritual Principles and Practices

Facilitated by Rev. Larry King

5 Weeks; Tuesdays

10/26/2021-11/23/2021; 6:00-9:00PM PT

In this online class you will discover proven practices that bring spiritual principle into action allowing you to manifest desired goals and intentions. Through affirmative prayer, self-awareness, meditation, visioning and gratitude you will learn to harness the power of the divine creative process and change your life forever.



The Power of Forgiveness
Walking in the Light of Love

Facilitated by Rev. Marilyn Sprague and Kathy Batten, RScP

1-Day Saturday Workshop

11/13/2021; 9:00 AM-3:00PM PT

Forgiveness is letting go of the burden of the past. It is the power to release anything that keeps us bound to people and circumstances of past experiences. It frees from hurts and resentments and allows us to step into the light of Love available in this now moment.



"Today I live with purpose. I welcome opportunities to grow, to serve and to be a loving presence."

Ken Cragen RScP
