

KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Keizer Christian's roots in city grow deep

By LAUREN MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer Christian Church congregants believe in what Rev. Erik Free called the "core elements of Christianity."

They include tenets such as: Jesus as the Son of God, who came to save the world, God as divine creator of the world, a mission to spread the Gospel and the practice of baptism and holy communion.

"Even amongst our churches you won't find the same answer to any given question," Free said.

Free has been the pastor of Keizer Christian Church for three years.

The only requirement to becoming a member is a profession of faith – there is no statement to sign.

Keizer Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a Protestant denomination of Christianity. The denomination came into being through the Stone-Campbell movement, a Christian movement in the early 19th Century that wanted to

unify all the churches and model them after the church in the New Testament.

The name, Stone-Campbell, came from the leaders of two separate groups that had similar ideologies about how the church was supposed to look. Barton Stone lead a group called, "Christians," based in Kentucky. In western Pennsylvania and Virginia, Thomas and Alexander Campbell were starting a group called, "Disciples of Christ."

They believed that creeds (formal statements of Christian belief) kept the church separated and, as a result, Keizer Christian Church has no doctrinal statement.

"We avoid strict adherence to historical doctrinal statements as a requirement for membership, asking only for agreement to a general statement of faith meant to reflect

Matters of FAITH

The seven square miles of Keizer are home to more than a dozen churches of various religious affiliations. Matters of Faith is a series aiming to explain what makes these places of worship different and unique.

common Christian belief," Free said.

The church has no set beliefs on theologically debated topics that are not considered core elements. Despite the difference in opinions on certain topics, Free said the church is "committed to being church together," and it welcomes and encourages questions.

"We are an outward focused worshipping community – our time together on Sunday mornings is meant to fill us, equip us, and inspire us to serve God by serving God's people, the people of our community, each day of the week," Free said.

They operate under the Disciples of Christ denomination, but do not answer to a higher denominational power. Free said individual churches are responsible for themselves. He added Disciples of Christ are closely tied with the United Church of Christ.

"All churches are self-described as welcoming," he said, but he still describes Keizer Christian Church that way.



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Keizer Christian Church, a Protestant denomination, has its foundation in the Stone-Campbell Movement of the early 19th Century.

"We expect people to come as you are."

Free said there are a mix of worshippers in the congregation,

"some people wear a sports coat, some people wear jeans and some people wear their favorite sports

sweatshirt," he said. "I tend to preach in a suit and I get teased for it," he added.

Though the congregation is older, the music is a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary worship and a choir is a staple of the church.



Rev. Erik Free

"There's something for everybody so nobody is happy all the time," he said, smiling.

Keizer Christian Church has a long history in Keizer. They were planted here by Salem First Christian Church and were originally located on the plot that became Albertsons.

After selling the land to Albertsons they moved the original building to Wheatland Road, where the church is now. They split the building in half and added the sanctuary in the middle.

The congregation is one of the funding churches of the Keizer Community Food Bank and the Keizer Community Dinner. They host a "Fun in the Field" event in the summers which is a local event for the

capitol auto group

FEEL GOOD STORY

Saluting the people that make us proud of our community

capitolauto.com

Winter Savings EVENT

Save up to \$150 on ALL Wood, Gas and Pellet Fireplaces, Stoves and Inserts
February 1st - 29th

FIREPLACE XTREORDINAIR **Lopi**

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM TODAY!

Home FIRE STOVE GRILL CITY
CCB# 48630

1695 Market St NE, Salem, OR 97301
503-364-6339
www.homefirestove.com

As an Energy Trust of Oregon trade ally, we can help you access cash incentives to make it easier to improve your home's energy efficiency.

CROWN

MEMORIAL CENTERS • CREMATION & BURIAL

Simplicity - Convenience - Low Cost

SIMPLE CREMATION ♦ \$695
SIMPLE DIRECT BURIAL ♦ \$995
TRADITIONAL FUNERAL ♦ \$2965

SALEM 275 Lancaster Dr. SE Salem, OR 97317 (503) 581-6265	PORTLAND 832 NE Broadway Portland, OR 97232 (503) 783-3393	EASTSIDE 1433 SE 122nd Ave. Portland, OR 97233 (503) 783-6865
TUALATIN 8970 SW Tualatin Sherwood Rd. Tualatin, OR 97062 (503) 885-7800	TIGARD 12995 SW Pacific Hwy Tigard, OR 97223 (503) 783-6869	MILWAUKIE 16475 SE McLoughlin Blvd. Milwaukie, OR 97267 (503) 653-7076

"Easy Online Arrangements"
CROWNMEMORIALBURIAL.COM

Privately Owned Cremation Facility
Family Owned - Family Focused

Bring in Spring with Egan Gardens

Fri. Feb 28th - Sun March 1

Sales, prizes! Beauty, fragrance, warmth!
Mon-Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5

-FREE-
One Jumbo pack of Pansies

With this coupon Good Feb 28th - March 11 one coupon per customer, please.

Egan Gardens GREENHOUSE GROWERS

(503)393-2131
9805 River Rd NE Salem
EganGardens.com

First Choice Orthopedic Care



Comprehensive Total Joint Program hip, knee & shoulder

ARTHROSCOPY acute fractures SPORTS MEDICINE
CARPAL TUNNEL joint replacement

Dr. David Thorsett, left, is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon. As an athlete, he knows what it feels like to be sidelined by injury. His passion is helping patients restore their health and active lifestyles.

Dr. Nicolas Stratton, center, is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon who has been providing compassionate care at Santiam Hospital for 15 years. He enjoys hiking, biking and snowboarding with his two daughters.

Dr. Blake Nonweiler, right, is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon. He believes in taking time to listen to his patients, combined with teamwork, produces the best patient experience and outcome.

embrace HEALTH
SANTIAM ORTHOPEDIC GROUP
Part of Santiam Hospital