

# Chamber honors 3 community leaders

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

In addition to naming Kim Freeman Keizer's First Citizen, the Keizer Chamber of Commerce lauded three other community members for their service.

Jonathan Thompson, owner of Northwest Dental Art & Sleep Therapy with his wife Jennifer Frankel, was named Merchant of the Year for the way he dug in and helped the chamber, and other chamber members, ride the upheaval of the pandemic.

"He is a true champion for small businesses. My favorite story is watching him taking it upon himself to mentor the owner of a Keizer business and even helping them secure funding," said Dave Walery, the outgoing Merchant of the Year.

In accepting the award, Thompson thanked members of his family and employees who often take on extra work to make space for Thompson's chamber duties.

"We've been through a lot this year: a global pandemic, fires and ice storms. I'm pretty sure the locusts are just over the hill. We've faced it all as a team and we've come out stronger for it," Thompson said.

McNary High School choir director Joshua Rist received the Service to Education Award.



Jonathan Thompson and Kyle Juran

When presenter Tammy Ready asked McNary Principal Erik Jespersen what makes Rist unique, she received a Top 10 list in return.

"[Josh's] positivity is infections. He is genuine in every day and every way and he is generous with his time and also his heart," were just a few of the merits Jespersen cited.

Rist called the award "deeply encouraging."

"Our students in Keizer are really special. They are optimistic in the face of adversity, kind in the face of differences between each other, and delightfully



Joshua Rist and Craig Williams

musical and creative when given the opportunity and proper encouragement," Rist said.

Thompson, who performed as acting president of the chamber for much of the past year alongside Walery, presented the President's Award to Jason Lewis, owner of Lewis Media Group, an affiliation of local media production and design pros that offer an array of services.

"When the fires hit last summer, Jason immediately called me to ask what could be done. I told him there were animals on the way to the fairgrounds and we needed everything from horse bridles



Jason Lewis and Randy Moseley

to feed. Jason figured out a way for us to do it online and we raised a significant amount of money for the cause when he did," Thompson said.

In accepting the award, Lewis thanked his family and gave special attention to his parents.

"My challenge has always been that I'm kind of a nerdy introvert," Lewis said. "To help me come out of my shell, dad had me learn to play banjo and perform for family and friends."

He quoted a line from a Dan Fogelberg tune, *Leader of the Band*, "Papa I don't think I've said I love you near enough."

# Salem seeks help finding space for area's shelterless

The Salem City Council approved the placement of 20 pallet homes at a city-owned property on Portland Road Northeast to be used as unsheltered residents.

"This investment is an important step in achieving one of our top council priorities," said Salem Mayor Chuck Bennett in a press release. "As we work together to solve Salem's homelessness issues, we must also be open to innovative solutions like the pallet shelters that have proved to be a successful and affordable

solution in other cities."

The pallet shelters, which will cost Salem \$5,000 each, are designed to accommodate single individuals and couples with electricity, warmth, and added security.

Current plans for the pallet shelter program include Church at the Park serving around the clock as the on-site shelter manager. Additional vehicle camping will also be permitted in combination with the pallet homes.

With COVID-19 precautions in place,

shelter capacity in the region is limited. Navigation centers, designed for 90-day transition for unsheltered people into housing programs, are under consideration at the Oregon Legislature. Salem is on a shortlist of communities that may receive operational support to open this kind of low-barrier housing shelter.

"Solving homelessness in our region is not something the City of Salem can do alone," said Bennett. "We need the support of our community and state to increase shelter spaces, provide easier

access to mental and health care services for unsheltered populations and work to reduce barriers that lead to local homelessness."

For more information about the current projects, the City of Salem is working on for unsheltered populations including homeless rental assistance vouchers, financial support of area non-profits and tax incentives for developers focused on low-income housing developments, visit [www.cityofsalem.net/housing](http://www.cityofsalem.net/housing) or email [info@cityofsalem.net](mailto:info@cityofsalem.net).

## Worship DIRECTORY

These Salem-Keizer houses of worship invite you to visit. Call to list your church in our Worship Directory: 503-390-1051

**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
8:30 am • 10 am • 11:30 am • 6 pm  
**PEOPLESCHURCH**  
4500 LANCASTER DR NE | SALEM  
503.304.4000 • [www.peopleschurch.com](http://www.peopleschurch.com)

**SAINT EDWARD Catholic Church**  
393-5323  
5303 River Rd. N., Keizer  
Father Gary L. Zerr, Pastor  
Saturday Vigil Liturgy: 5:30 p.m.  
Sundays: 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
La Misa en Español: 12:30 p.m.

**KEIZER CLEAR LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
a member of Open Door Churches of Salem-Keizer  
**REV. ALYSSA BAKER, Lead Pastor**  
Services are Sunday at 10 am  
(Nursery & Sunday School for Children)  
7920 Wheatland Rd N • 503-393-2402 • [www.kclumc.org](http://www.kclumc.org)

**Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
4505 River Road N, Keizer • 503-393-4507  
[www.FLCKeizer.org](http://www.FLCKeizer.org)  
**Pastor Linda Matz Easterling**  
Sunday School - 9:00 am  
Worship Service - 10:00 am

**Keizer Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
6945 Wheatland Rd. NE 393-6843  
[www.KeizerChristian.org](http://www.KeizerChristian.org)  
Worship and Children's Church • 10:00 a.m.  
Office Hours 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

**COUNTRYSIDE Christian Church**  
9:30 am & 11:00 am Sunday Worship Services  
[countrysidechristianchurch.org](http://countrysidechristianchurch.org)  
Corner of Lockhaven and McLeod, KEIZER • (503) 540-1989

**John Knox Presbyterian Church**  
452 Cummings Lane North • 393-0404  
**Pastor Peter Blank**  
Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Education Hour - 9:15 a.m.  
Nursery Care Available  
[www.JohnKnoxPresKeizer.org](http://www.JohnKnoxPresKeizer.org)