

SEPTEMBER 2026

WILDERNESS REPORT

Rachel's Reflections

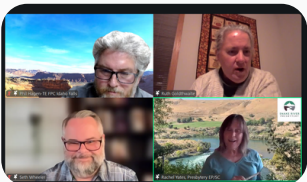
Moving On

I had car trouble this month. After backing out of my driveway, I started down our neighborhood street, but my car kept slowing down. No matter how much I depressed the pedal, the car slowed or lurched. I checked to make sure I hadn't accidentally put the vehicle into a low gear... [READ MORE](#)

September 21st Presbytery Highlights

Congratulations to Rev. Seth Wheeler!

On September 21 at 7 PM the Presbytery met on Zoom to elect and commission our new Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk. Rev. Phil Hagen, chair of the EP/Stated Clerk Search committee, spoke on the process they went through to create the job position and find candidates. A particular emphasis was placed on making sure they found a candidate willing to live within the Snake River Presbytery and who would be able to go to all Snake River Presbytery churches in person to make connections and help all churches within the Presbytery thrive. Several excellent candidates applied and after a lot of prayer and deliberation the search committee recommended Seth Wheeler to the Executive Commission.



After a short discussion a vote was taken and Reverend Seth Wheeler was elected by an overwhelming majority of voters. His first official day on the job will be October 15th. Rachel Yates, the interim Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, will have her last day on October 31st.

We'd like to thank everyone who made this possible including all the other applicants, the search committee, and Rachel Yates who has seen us through our transition. And of course, congratulations to Seth Wheeler!

This issue:

Rachel's Reflections
Presbytery Highlights
PAGE 01

Church of the Month
Camp Closing Weekend
Presbytery Meeting News
PAGE 02

Connections Corner
Grant Opportunities
PAGE 03





Church of the Month: Bethany Presbyterian Church

The Connections Committee is pleased to bring you this introduction to Bethany Presbyterian Church, in Onatrio, Oregon! Each month, we feature a church of the month, and we'd love for you to be next! Simply send a few photos and some highlights of your ministry to [Marianne Paul](#), chair of the Connections Committee.

"Our mission is to share God's message of love and forgiveness, learn from the word of God and develop and strengthen our relationship with God" Click [HERE](#) for a bulletin insert and [HERE](#) for power point slides.

Opportunities for Service

Many of you serve within your local congregations, and we are grateful for that! Did you know that there are other opportunities to serve Christ's Church in this region? The Snake River Presbytery welcomes your interest and gifts in many areas:

- Executive Commission: leadership in the Presbytery's vision, budget, staffing, and ecumenical partnerships (3-year term);
- Commission on Ministry: leadership to assist the relationships between congregations and pastors (3-year term);
- Connections Committee: leadership in fun, building connections among our congregations and members across our new, expanded geography (2-year term)
- Permanent Judicial Commission: seeking a Ruling Elder to serve for the occasional need in which church discipline is invoked (6-year term);
- Camp Sawtooth: engaged board members to help direct the activities and facilities of our outdoor camping and retreat ministry (3-year term)

Please contact our Nominating Committee chair Nathan Sobers for more information: nathan.sobers@gmail.com

Camp Sawtooth Annual Closing Weekend



A fun service opportunity is coming your way, help us put Camp Sawtooth to bed for the winter!! All kinds of help and skill levels are needed!

- Who: Everyone who Loves Camp Sawtooth
- When: Thursday, October 15th at 7PM - Saturday/Sunday, October 17th & 18th
- Where: Camp Sawtooth
- Cost: Free

Interested? Email Kevin at:

DirectorsCampSawtooth@yahoo.com or call the Camp Sawtooth Office at 1-208-726-1155.

Upcoming Presbytery Meeting Hotel Reservation Deadline Sept. 30

Our next Presbytery meeting will be held October 16th and 17th at King Hill Community United. **We have a block of rooms reserved at a group discount in Jerome, and you have until September 30th to request a room in our block.** Campsites are also available in Glenns Ferry and Bliss. We hope to have a Zoom option for portions of the meeting. A registration form is can be found [HERE](#) and more information will be available soon on our new [Presbytery website!](#)



Sophia's Table Open House

Sophia's Table, the Methodist, Lutheran, and Presbyterian campus ministry at BSU, is moving onto campus! We have secured an apartment 1.5 blocks from BSU that will serve as the ministry's central location and provide a comfortable place for students to feel like they belong. Sophia's Table moves into the apartment later in September and it will be completely empty when we do! We need lots of help to make this space a warm, comfortable and welcoming place for students. Find out how to help by clicking [HERE](#)!



World Communion Offering Grants

There's a national church grant opportunity coming up! World Communion Offering grant applications open Sept. 7, 2026, and close Jan. 15, 2027. All councils of the church engaging in reconciliation ministries that align with the [causes supported by the World Communion Offering](#) can apply for a grant, even if you don't receive the World Communion Offering. Click [HERE](#) for more information!

Church & Leadership Grants

Through your generous financial support of the Presbytery, we are able to offer grants to our congregations, pastors, and leaders. Did you know:

[Executive Commission grants](#) support congregations with property improvement needs

[Commission on Ministry grants](#) support ministers and church leaders with education and development tools and training, and offer pastoral support for congregations

[Connections Committee grants](#) support connectional mission and ministry efforts

More information and grant applications are available on the website [HERE](#). Reach out to the work group chair or your Presbytery staff with any needs or questions!

Covenant / Pittsburgh Lecture Series 2026

Friends - It's not too late to register for the 2026 Covenant / Pittsburgh Seminary Lecture Series. We are delighted to be hosting Dr. Tucker Ferda, Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Early Christian History, reflecting on the topic of "Matthew and the Messiah: Theological Imagination and the Deep Reading of Scripture". For more information on the event click [HERE](#). Interested in registering? Click [HERE](#).

Synod Newsletter

Check out the Synod's September newsletter [HERE](#)!