



R V F F A M I L Y N E W S L E T T E R

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RVF

FAMILY NEWS

STAFF

Kenner Gotzman
Billy Hague
Jeremy Olivera
Michael Combs
Courtney Zimmerman

ELDERS

Larry Anderson
Dave Heidegger
Mike Fieguth
Kenner Gotzman
Michael Combs

WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Stephanie Gotzman
Allie Harrington
Jennifer Platt
Stephanie Campbell
Jessica Combs

MISSION COUNCIL

Courtney Zimmerman
Ron Ashpole
Kelly Harrington
Suzanne Pech
Sarah Carlyle



INTRODUCTION

At RVF we're always looking for ways to effectively communicate to the congregation what God is doing in our church. Currently we do that through our website, the church app, email lists, announcements, and social media. Sometimes, however, a short announcement or Facebook post isn't sufficient. In light of this, we have compiled a family newsletter to give our ministry leaders a little more space to share what God is doing at RVF.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a fellowship of believers whose desire is to be a Faithful Presence and a Prophetic Witness in our neighborhoods and the world.

CONTACT US

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GRACE & PEACE



Pastor Kenner Gotzman

In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul expresses his deep gratitude for two ever increasing virtues in their church: their faith in Jesus and their love for one another (Eph. 1:15-16). As I reflect on this last year, through all of our trials and tribulations—both personal and as a community—I too, am immensely grateful for our church family’s steadfast faith in Jesus and the love we have shown to one another. This year will mark my 19th year on staff at Rogue Valley Fellowship, and I have never been more proud or honored to serve and lead this congregation.

2020 was a year like no other! From a global pandemic to political turmoil; from national economic struggles to the local devastation caused by the Alameda and Oben-chain fires—this year brought challenges many of us have never faced. Yet through it all, our Father has remained faithful, and you have continued to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Through many different expressions (indoors or outdoors; small group or large group; on campus or online) you have sought to worship Him, hear His voice, and to serve His people. You have shown yourselves to be flexible, humble, and deeply committed to Jesus and His work at Rogue Valley Fellowship. As elders in this community we could not be more proud of you!

Not only has your faith in Jesus shown brightly, but your love for one another has burst forth as evidence of your faith in Him. You have shown the generosity of Christ by meeting the practical needs of those among us who lost jobs due to the pandemic. You have shown the love of Christ by bringing meals to those among us who have been sick or quarantined. You have shown the care of Christ by the cards and phone calls you have made to each

other. You have loved those in our congregation well; but you also extended to those outside our church community. This year when given the opportunity you fed those who had no food; clothed those who had no clothes, and provided shelter for those who had nowhere to lay their head. As Jesus said, in doing these things to the least among us you have done things to him. You have shown yourselves to be obedient, generous, and deeply committed to caring for your brothers and sisters in Christ and the local community you are a part of. As elders in this community we could not be more honored to serve among you.

It is our prayer this year that you—Rogue Valley Fellowship would continue to grow in your faith in Jesus; that your love for one another would know no end; and that your hope would be fixed on the return of our King and the consummation of His Kingdom. Until then we join with the Apostle Paul in praying, “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe...” (Ephesians 1:17-19). May the Lord bless you and keep you in 2021.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Kenner".

GOD'S PROVISION



Michael Combs

Celebrating God's faithfulness in 2020

Annual Giving

Budgeted - \$561,800

Actual - \$785, 900

Over and above - \$224,100

Annual Spending

Budgeted - \$561,800

Actuals - \$577,300

Budget Overrun of \$15,521

Year end net of ~\$208,600

The net funds were used to bless the needy and unfortunate as well as increase our general reserves set aside to fund the purchase of the Ivy Street Chapel.

Highlights:

- Partnered with Westside Compassionate Ministries to give \$50 to the 40 staff members of Washington Elementary for thanksgiving gift
- Sent benevolent gift to the Nepalese church to help them through the pandemic
- Granted Christmas love gift to staff
- Many benevolent gifts to those in and out of our community

Quote from Treasurer and Elder Larry Anderson:

"The overwhelming generosity of our God, expressed through the faithful giving of RVF's people, promoted the spreading of the gospel message in a manner reflecting our desire to be a faithful presence and prophetic witness to the community we have been called serve."

Faithfully expecting God's provision in 2021

2021 Budget Focus Points

- Ensure funding is compatible with our vision
- Increase missions, mercy ministry, and benevolent giving
- Ensure adequate staff compensation
- Build General Reserve fund for planned purchase of Ivy Street Chapel

Budget forecast for 2021

Budgeted Income: 618,000 (10% year over year increase)

Budgeted Spending: 618,000

- Personnel: 50%
- Facilities: 13%
- Ministries: 30%
- Other: 7%

Budget Highlights:

- 11.8% of budgeted spending
 - Global Missions
 - Local Mercy Ministries
 - Benevolent Needs
- \$38K increase in budgeted ministry spending
- Continuing to build General Reserve Fund
- Increased budgeted benevolent and missions spending by \$21K

Ways to give at RVF

- In person in the offering box
- Via online giving at <http://rvf.church/give>
- Via your bank's online bill pay or send a check for with no fees to 600 Whitman Place Medford, Oregon 97501

GRATEFUL



Billy Hague

2020 was a year that required more flexibility and creativity than I ever could have imagined. Things changed so often and so quickly that my areas of ministry were always being re-thought and re-invented. I am grateful to be part of a church with people who have been gracious and flexible through a year that was difficult in many ways.

I am proud of and grateful for my missional community facilitators/hosts who rolled with the punches and helped keep groups connected even when it was over Zoom calls only. Groups have met on Zoom, outdoor, indoor, struggling through trying to have conversations with masks on, and navigated many other changes and challenges.

Neighborhood engagement and outreach has obviously looked very different. I miss being able to engage west Medford more fully but we have maintained strong relationships with

I am proud of and grateful for the
missional community facilitators

Central High and Washington Elementary faculty and staff. Recently a few of our church members have been in talks to help with an afterschool program at Central High and I am thinking and praying about how to best engage the neighborhood and not just wait for the pandemic to end.

Youth ministry at RVF has also looked very different but one of the best things that has come from this year is an amazing bunch of volunteers to run junior high youth group. Jordan Hamasu, Richard Bokish, and Jess Combs have done a great job with the students, and our junior high students are loving it! High school has stayed steady through the year; and though we miss the way of doing things before the pandemic, it has also brought more focused relational time for me and several students since we have not been able to rely on large gatherings as much. We are currently working our way through the Sermon on the Mount and considering what it means to walk in the way of Jesus in a challenging world.

I am grateful to get to serve this church and our community through all the ups and downs and strange times. From re-imagining ministry expressions, to recording (and re-recording) countless announcements and teachings and trying to get comfortable in front of the camera, to hanging Christmas lights at the annex with Richard to try to bring some light in a difficult time, this year has been strange and challenging but filled with God's grace. I could not ask for a better community to walk together through all of this while we seek Jesus. God bless you RVF, and thanks for letting me serve you!

IVY STREET UPDATE



Prayer Points

- Favor with the LDS leadership
- Continued financial provision
- Patience and wisdom
- Favorable timing

Our hope and prayer is that the Ivy Street Chapel will become the home of Rogue Valley Fellowship and the center of our ministry work in West Medford. We continue to be in contact with the LDS leadership regarding the purchase of their Ivy street chapel. Recently we sent them a letter from our Board of Elders giving them more information about us as a church and letting them know

of our current situation. We received a prompt reply from their regional facilities manager which gave us hope that perhaps we'll hear from them in the near future.



FAITHFULNESS & LOVE



Courtney Zimmerman

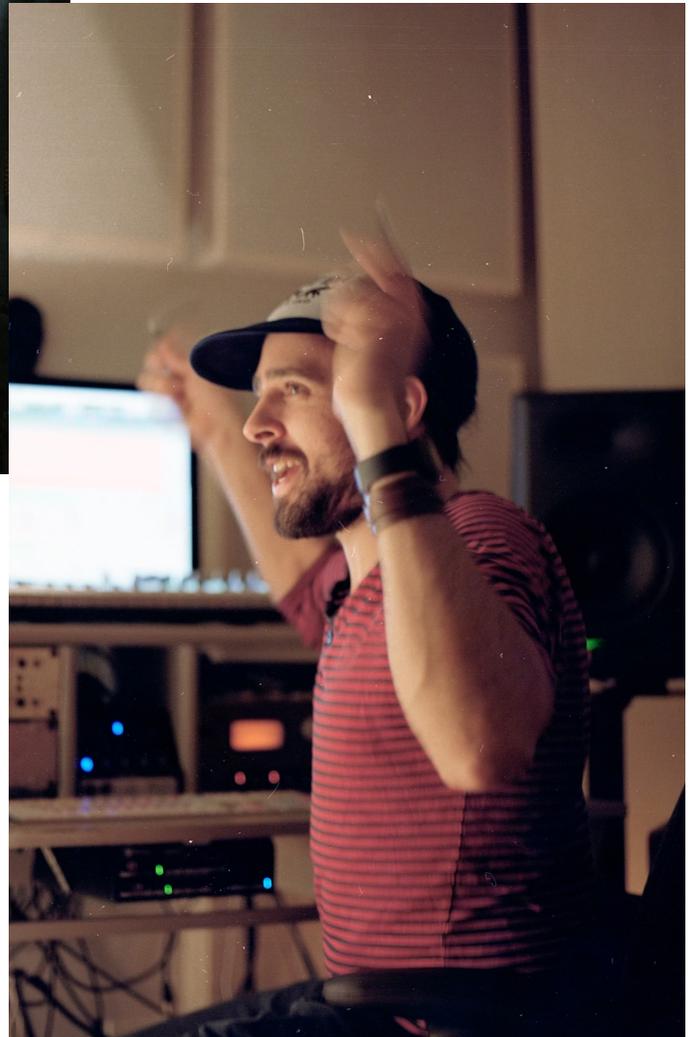
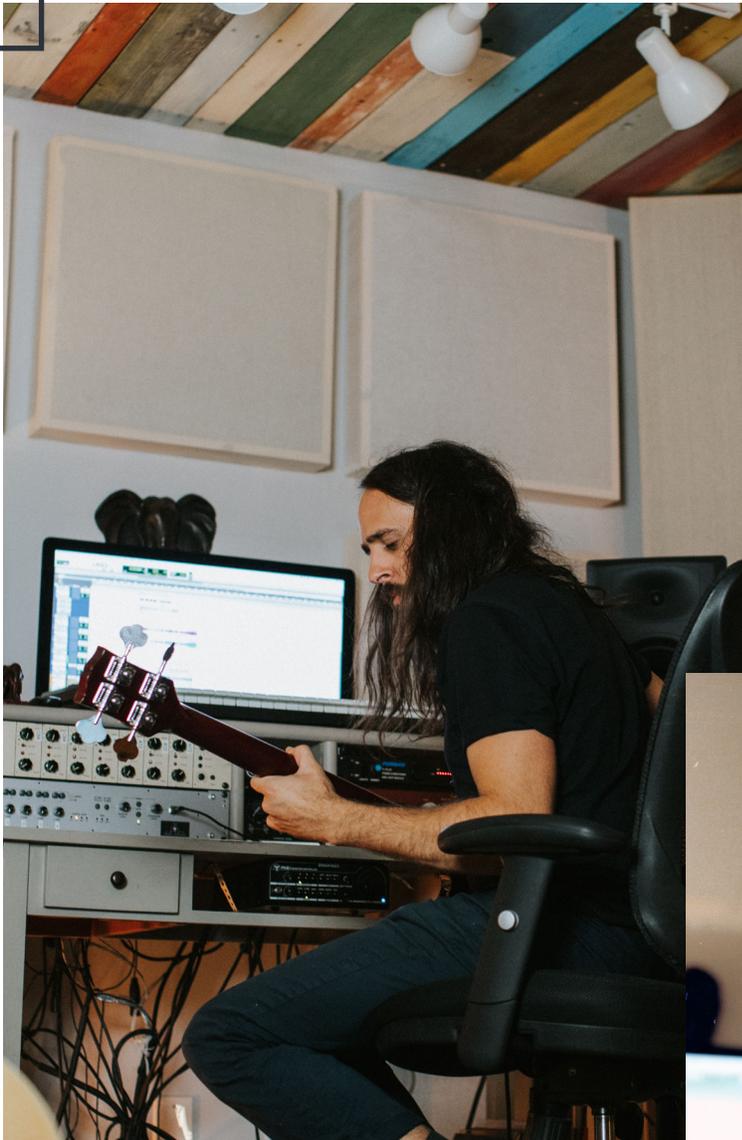
Rather than reiterating the challenges of 2020, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the many ways I saw our church family rise to the task of living faithfully and loving well despite it all. Last spring when we had to spend an extended period of time without being able to meet, I was overwhelmed with families' commitment to continue gathering weekly even though virtual church at home, oftentimes with little ones running amuck, was less than ideal. And I was deeply grateful for each person who sought to personally touch base. So thank you, families, for your faithfulness and love.

Then when we were able to meet in person again in May, we all had to adjust to the reality that being back together didn't mean church as usual. During this time, I was moved by the commitment of my incredible volunteers. Not once did I hear a complaint over yet another change of format or time! It truly was a testament that you serve not for personal gain but for love of the children within our church. I know I have said

this to you many times, but I will say it again: thank you for your love and commitment to our children.

If the weight of COVID wasn't heavy enough for our community, September's Alameda Fire in many ways felt like the final straw. And yet--and yet this experience, perhaps more than any other in the past year, revealed to me the depth of our church family's love for the community. You rallied together and gave sacrificially of your time and resources to provide holiday support, prayer, and a listening ear to over 240 displaced families. It was not an easy endeavor, and at times it felt like we had stepped in over our heads. But God is faithful, and He was honored by your faithfulness. Thank you for loving our community so well.

Let me end by saying, though I have only been on staff for less than 2 years, I have grown deeply in love with our church family--especially the kids! They amaze me with their questions and ideas, and spending time with them each week is a gift.



BLACK MOON



Jeremy Olivera

Although this year has been filled with many changes for our church, I'm taking this time to recollect some of the key moments I was able to witness the grace of Jesus in the music and worship ministry. As meeting in person for services was challenged and the spaces we had available to us restricted our music expressions to stripped down setups, I really felt a new weight of reality to our worship. As we sang our way through the ups and downs (mostly downs) of the whole year, it became more apparent what an expression of worship is paying reverence to Jesus despite our circumstances, and in the sacrifice of praise, experiencing His faithful relationship to us as His church. It's times when things are stripped away that we experience the amazing steadfast love of Jesus, inciting our truer selves to respond with a deeper adoration of this glorious Creator.

I want to thank you so much for your constant support. Whenever I felt really discouraged in my job as everything constantly kept changing, God continually provided encouragement from all over our church. Whether it was someone sharing that they were impacted by the songs chosen or just a passing comment, it honestly was the work of the Spirit to offer deep encouragement through you all. I feel incredibly blessed to be in this role, so thank you for your love through this season of ever-revolving expressions of church services.

This year I have also had the privilege of working on a solo album. The songs on this project really process doubting, fear, anxiety, and how Jesus meets us in those questions and moments. Most of the songs were written before the year began, but they definitely took on a deeper meaning as the year ran its trying course. In the course of making this album, I felt privileged to creatively process a time in my life where I was asking Jesus genuine, "un-churchy" questions and had Him meet me where I was. He revealed His presence in my raw doubting, confusion, and fears, and these songs describe the experience. I feel the honest expressions of our struggles are extremely important for the Christian life, especially when our circumstances leave us stripped away from easy answers. I'm excited to say that I'll be releasing the first six-song collection called "Black Moon" starting on March 12. I hope these songs offer an invitation to bring your honesty to God and receive in return His healing and never-changing love, forming in you a fresh perspective on what it means to be a child of God.

May the next quarter bring us rest and continued expressions of authentic worship as we respond to the experience of knowing God's faithfulness through uncertain times.

V E R S E

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe..."
May the Lord bless you and keep you in 2021.