

Mill City Presbyterian Church

Half-time Stated Supply Position

Introduction

We are a church that has been assured of God's good news through the words of Jesus Christ. Always a church that served beyond our walls, we believe it is imperative that we reach out to those who seek welcome and inclusion in God's community.

Resilience is proven through testing. The pandemic has forced us to adapt. Although our building has been emptied of laughter and warm greetings, we maintain a presence each week as we broadcast worship services produced by a skeleton crew armed with hand sanitizer, face masks and a great desire to bring spirit-filled worship to our congregation and all others in search of God's Word.

A test equal to Covid occurred in early September 2020 when, with very little warning, a wildfire swept through our canyon, igniting homes and businesses in its path. Before, we were separated by Covid; now, we were scattered by the winds of fire. Yet, here was the good news... our God was at work providing healing and consolation for all who sat amongst the ashes.

Early on the morning of September 8th, a grainy, smoke-filled photo appeared on Facebook and answered the question many of us were asking, "Is the church still standing?"

And the answer was a resounding, "Yes!"

Now, as we seek a new pastor, God's invitation to us is to trust that, with the help of Christ, we can take this next step. Not a return to what we had, but a brave

new venture that carries us forward to do God's work in a new way. We search for a leader who recognizes that great opportunity often arises from great challenge, and we feel assured that God will walk with us as we seek that person. Having survived daunting challenges, we know that our church still stands.





Our Congregation

Mill City Presbyterian Church is 126 years old. That simple fact suggests several things about our congregation which are true. We are located in the center of town in a beautiful traditional-looking rural church. We have a long and rich history of serving not just the spiritual needs of our community but proudly providing space in our buildings and on our property for services like the community food bank, for a Senior Meals program, for the community library, for a weekly school release bible lesson time for grades K-4, and more. Members of our congregation are active and provide leadership in all these activities. In recent years we have shared the use of our sanctuary and fellowship hall with two other congregations. Our membership is multigenerational and represents community members who grew up in the Santiam Canyon as well as those who moved to the area for employment and/or retirement.

We consider ourselves and strive to be a friendly and welcoming congregation which enjoys the fellowship and support of each other. Our congregation values vibrant scripturally based preaching. As a congregation we observe the holy seasons of the Christian calendar. Many of our members are musically gifted, and we consider music to be an essential part of our worship service. Members regularly

volunteer to take part in our service as lay readers.

Due to the pandemic our congregation began producing virtual services. These have been hugely successful, and it is our desire to combine these with in-person services when they resume. Recently Presbyterian Brian Heron in his blog featured our congregation and its success in reaching people through our virtual services <https://holybreadcrumbs.org/>. We have experienced recent modest growth and are striving to continue to add participants and members to our church family.

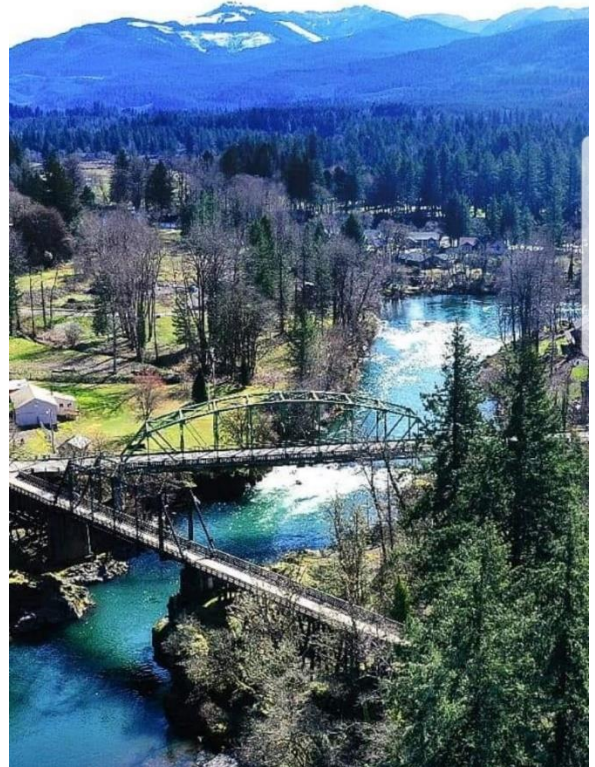
Our Community

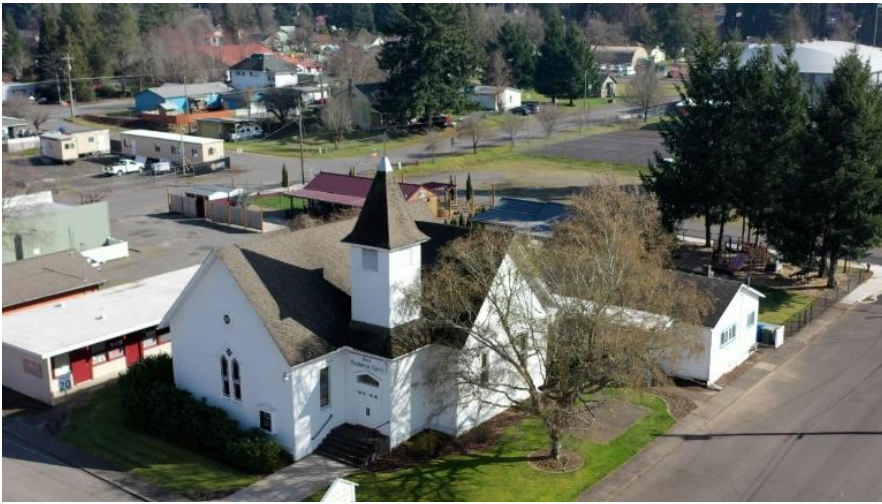
The term "A River Runs Through It" is an apt description for the community of Mill City. The clear and sparkling river is there for fishing, boating, kayaking, and strolling down the path beside it. But the community that flanks the river also has many plusses.

Despite being a small community we spring into action when it is time to support student scholarships, pass a bond for a new school, celebrate our Independence on July 4th., enhance our community with a bridge makeover, support our local sports teams, hold a community-wide garage sale, form a community chorus or help out our neighbors.

Our school district and its activities serve to tie the communities of Mill City, Gates, Detroit and Idanha together. The school buildings are centrally located in Mill City. A new junior high - high school building with an additional gymnasium has opened this year. In addition, a new cafeteria has been added to the elementary school. Our school facilities serve as the site of both school and community events.

Mill City has a volunteer fire department, medical clinic, dental office, city park, and well-cared for city utilities. We remember our history with a curated museum, which is overseen by the North Santiam Historical Society.





At this time we are recovering from a wildfire which gave our community a blow but did not destroy our community spirit. New homes, as well as multi-family units are being constructed. The school district and the lumber mills are currently adding employees due to the growth in the community. We are 20 minutes away from Santiam Hospital, located in Stayton, and 45 minutes away from Salem, our state capital and closest major city.

Pastoral Duties

We are seeking a pastor who will provide pastoral leadership to a rural congregation of approximately 40 people, and who is willing to partner with us in serving our community.

Worship and pastoral care expectations include: leading worship, providing strong preaching, administering communion and coordinating a weekly bulletin. Preparing worship for live, as well as on-line services, is expected, in cooperation with the Worship Committee. Pastor-led educational studies are encouraged. We consider pastor participation in the "Jesus and Me" weekly session for elementary age youth as well as Summer Vacation Bible School to be important. Pastoral care to our shut-ins and hospital visitation is expected, as well. The pastor will lead wedding and memorial / funeral services as needed. Participation in the Community Ministerial Association is encouraged.

The pastor will work with the Clerk of Session and the Treasurers to insure that the business of the church functions smoothly. Our pastor will moderate the Session Meetings, oversee the Session Committees and work with the Deacons.

As this is a half-time position (20 hours per week) it will be critical for the pastor to work with the Session to develop realistic priorities of duties and responsibilities, recognizing that half-time service does not provide time for a full-time work schedule.

Compensation will be based on the Presbytery guidelines for half-time service with benefits, which meets or exceeds the minimum salary.

**For more information or to apply:
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