The Koinonia Center
1414 Kincaid Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Sept 26-29, Thurs-Sun — **U of O Move-in Weekend**

We will host open hours for students and families to drop in and see where we are located and what we have to offer for the Fall term. As always, the coffee will be hot and fresh!

Sept 27, Friday, 8-10pm — **Flock Party Welcome Freshman Class!**

A chance to introduce ourselves, pass out brochures, have a raffle, and share treats!

Sept 30-Oct 4, M-F, 9-6pm — **Free Coffee for First Week of School**

Join us for fresh coffee to start off your first week of school!

Oct 12 Saturday, TBD — **U of O vs Ohio State - Watch Party @ K-Center**

Wear black and join us to cheer on the Ducks and enjoy snacks together

Oct 18, Friday, 5pm — **U of O vs Purdue - Watch Party @ K-Center**

Wear white and join us to cheer on the Ducks and enjoy snacks together

Oct 19, Saturday, TBD — **Volunteer Opportunity for Students**

Oct 25-27, Friday-Sunday — **Family Weekend at U of O**

Oct 25, Open House — **Coffee and Cookies to Welcome Families**

Oct 25, TBD — **Family Night**

Oct 26, Saturday, TBD — **U of O vs Illinois - Watch Party @ K-Center**

Wear yellow and join us to cheer on the Ducks and enjoy snacks together

THE KOINONIA CENTER

At The University of Oregon

September/October 2024 *Established 1925*

Greetings K-Center Alumni/a and Supporters!

It's been a while since you've heard from us, but there has been lots going on at the Koinonia Center and we are excited to update you on all the new developments. The most exciting news we have to share is that we've hired a new Director of Campus Ministry, Jennifer Daniels. Jennifer comes to us from Corvallis (but has agreed to trade in her black and orange for green and yellow!) with a wealth of experience in various ministries of care and support. Having three children at University during and after the pandemic, she has a unique perspective about the circumstances of college students today and the particular challenges they are facing after COVID. In our initial conversations, we were impressed with Jennifer's particular wisdom about the potential of collegiate ministries to meet the needs of today's students but also her willingness to think outside the box about how to do that work, an adaptability born of her work with non-profit startups. We were also glad to learn about Jennifer's commitment to mental health supports, as that continues to be a huge need for this demographic. Though not yet ordained, Jennifer is working through the candidacy process in her home congregation and we are eager to support that journey. Overall, we are very enthusiastic to partner with Jennifer in what we know will prove to be a new and different season of ministry. She is already off to a strong start and entering this new semester with a lot of momentum. We hope you'll take the opportunity to come over and meet Jennifer yourself at our upcoming Donor Thank You Dinner, Sunday, September 22, 5pm at 1414 Kincaid St. Welcome Jennifer!

In other news, you may have heard that there are some updates about the building at 1414 Kincaid St. After a long process of discernment, in a conversation between Presbyterian Collegiate Ministries (the entity who held title of the property on behalf of the Presbytery) and the other co-owners, the decision was made last year to list the property for sale. The sale has now finalized and the property transferred to the new owner. This change will not have an effect on the day-to-day operations of our ministry. We will maintain the ministry space in the first floor of the building as a "home base" for our outreach to students. But it does have some financial implications. If you've been tracking this project since its inception in 2010, you know that the redevelopment of the building has seen many issues over the years and tested the fortitude of those closely involved. Though there were ups and downs, it never really succeeded in its original intention of providing revenue to support the K-Center ministry. But now, that possibility is coming into view. Thanks to the grace and generosity of those who have supported PCM over the years and the stalwart dedication of Central Presbyterian Church, we were able to invest the bulk of the proceeds from the sale in an endowment fund which will support our work with students going forward. (You can read more of the nitty gritty details of that below, in Steve's treasurer's report.) Suffice to say, we are hugely blessed to have this solid financial foundation to work with, an amount which will cover as much as 50% of our operating

budget each year. With your help and the ongoing contributions of local congregations to make up the rest, we finally have a clear plan to provide for this ministry as we round the bend into the K-Center's 100th year. We are beyond grateful to the many efforts that have gone into this process and the many individuals who have made this possible.

As we celebrate the dedication of those who have come before us, it seems appropriate to consider how we might best respond. The truth is: there is still a lot of work to do! Young people are living in a new reality and we have the drive to rise to the moment and meet them there as we have done for almost a century. But as always we need your help. We continue to rely on your financial contributions. But we are also looking for some more personal support. The K Center Board is a small group with a large to do list. In the coming months, we'll be looking to add several members that can bring more and varied skills to the table. Particularly, we are looking for some folks who can be available in Eugene to support ongoing programming and also others further afield who can bring skills in development, communications, non-profit leadership and perspective on University life and administration. If you are interested in supporting students through a uniquely difficult time, please contact board President Ed Wilson.

Those are a lot of updates. But we hope in reading them that you feel as we do that the Spirt is still alive and active in our midst. We hope to see you on Sept 22, 2024, at 5:00 when you'll have a chance to meet Jennifer, and we'll talk more about our future. It is looking bright.

With blessings,

The Koinonia Center Board of Directors
Ed Willson, President. Karen Young, Secretary.
Steve Stermer, Treasurer. The Rev. Dr. Liz Leavitt.

NEW DIRECTOR

Our new Director of Campus Ministry, Jennifer Daniels, currently comes to us from Corvallis, but don't worry Ducks, she has agreed to trade in her black and orange for green and yellow! Actually a "Duck by marriage," Jennifer met her husband while taking art classes at U of O years ago. She ultimately graduated with a B.A. in history and peace studies from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT and an MDiv from Princeton Seminary. After a season of life spent raising kids, volunteering at her church and working as a hospice chaplain, Jennifer decided to direct her energies toward ministries on campus and take on the challenge of working to give spiritual support to students.

Having three children at OSU during and after the pandemic has helped Jennifer develop a unique perspective. These experiences bring insights about the circumstances of college students today, preparing her to help U of O students to meet the challenges they are facing after COVID. Jennifer has a strong commitment to supporting student mental health needs and plans to come alongside an already solid Behavioral Healthcare program offered on the U of O campus.

When away from campus Jennifer spends time with her family including her American Spitz dog, named Lewis after C.S. Lewis, a favorite author of the family. Jennifer enjoys movies, cooking, traveling, exploring Eugene restaurants, watching the Portland Timbers and Thorns, and attending college sports. For Jennifer, returning to Eugene after many years living in other parts of the country feels like coming home.

NEW COFFEE HOUSE VIBE

Another new way we are seeking to connect with students is by rethinking how we use our space in the K14 building. The plan is to create a comfortable atmosphere where students can relax, study or enjoy conversation. The Koinonia Center recently completed rearranging the space to offer a coffee house vibe with a layout suitable for small groups or one-on-one conversations.

We hope you'll stop by soon and see the new look!

NEW WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

We are introducing a new look for the Koinonia Center this Fall. We hired a recent U of O alumni, Jose Renteria '24, to help us with this new branding project so we can assure our message connects with our student audience. Jose has experience teaching in the computer science department at U of O while a student and has proven both talented and patient, teaching the ins and outs of working with the website.

His contributions are greatly appreciated! As part of the process, we will be updating our social media accounts to reflect our new events and direction.

COOKIES FOR CHRIST

Speaking of coffee house, the Koinonia Center is looking for cookie donations to go in our freezer for serving to students during our coffee house hours. The message of Christ always sounds better for the first time over a cookie! This is a wonderful way to contribute to the campus ministry and serving the students. What better way to show love than over a yummy treat! If you're willing to bake and share a batch, please be in touch with Jennifer directly.

SEEKING DONATIONS

In addition to snacks for hungry students, the Koinonia Center is seeking donations for a large screen Smart TV and a regular boom box radio. The Smart TV is for viewing Duck games as a group and movies, documentaries, and podcasts. This would allow us to not have to subscribe for cable because individuals could just log into their accounts to order Duck games and other offerings. If you are interested in contributing to this purchase, let the Director know. We also need a boom box for background music. A regular radio with good speakers will do. If you have one gathering dust in a guest room, we'd love to put it to use!