



COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

History

Community Bible Church has a rich and unusual history. In 1918 a Methodist church and a Presbyterian church merged to help conserve resources during World War I. The ministry became known as the First Federated Church. Despite the unusual makeup, the church called men of a variety of denominations as pastors, the last of whom belonged to the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination.

In 1946, the Presbyterians wanted to reclaim the building they owned in order to plant a Presbyterian church in Central Point. The congregation, however, wanted to maintain its non-denominational status, and so they returned the building to the Presbyterian Church. One couple decided to remain with the Presbyterian Church, while the rest of the congregation loved the fellowship and decided to move as a group to worship at the Central Point Grange Hall.

The Community Bible Church was born from this group. The church maintained close ties with the CMA denomination, which helped CBC with pastoral searches, until 1985. Since that time, the church has chosen to maintain a strong non-denominational stand.

In 1996, Pastor Pete Slusher was called to CBC. From the time of his call, God has grown the church in its attendance, staff size, and ministry programs. In that time attendance has steadily increased from an average of 150 to an average of 600 while maintaining a distinct family feel. Along the way, the church has added an Executive Pastor, Pastor of Education and Pastor of Student Ministries, and a Pastor of Worship. The church added an education wing & multi-purpose gymnasium to its facility in 2004. With both staffing and facilities, CBC has positioned itself for growth into the future.

On January 1st, 2023 Pastor Pete announced to the congregation that he would retire in April of that year after 27 years at Community Bible Church. This was not a surprise to the elders, who had been kept informed of Pete's timeline and had been working and praying for the previous 18 months about the future at CBC. The elders asked Pastor Kevin (CBC's Pastor of Education) to candidate for Lead Pastor, and in May of 2023, Pastor Kevin assumed the Lead Pastor role.

In the city of Central Point, the church is known as a true community outpost. With a variety of outreach ministries, the church has a positive reputation among the people of Central Point and beyond. CBC's mission, vision, and statement of what we believe can be found on [our website](#).

CBC In Transition

CBC has experienced significant transition in the last few years. All of this transition could prompt a potential candidate to ask about the reason behind all of these changes at the same time (In the last eighteen months CBC also went through a change in the pastoral leadership of our Student Ministries). We believe this is a sign of the health of CBC rather than a weakness. Our former Pastor of Student Ministries continues to worship and serve at CBC (elder, community groups, and

Adopted In. Growing Up. Reaching Out.

children's ministries). He enjoys a wonderful relationship with our new Director of Student Ministries (Eddie). Pastor Pete and Pastor Kevin have a great relationship, and Pete plans to stay in the valley, worshipping and serving at CBC. Pastor Mike (current Pastor of Worship), likewise, plans to continue worshipping and serving at CBC. His aim is to be a support to the new Director of Worship Ministries in whatever way is most helpful.

The stability CBC has experienced, even in the midst all of this transition, is unique and speaks to the strength of the church. One of the opportunities the transition provides an incoming Director of Worship Ministries is to lead toward change in a new era.

About the Worship Ministry of CBC

Pastor Mike was the first full-time worship pastor employed by CBC. He was filling the role in a volunteer capacity for several years before being asked to take over full time in 2015. He intends to remain at CBC and serve the body after stepping away from his current role.

CBC's multigenerational approach to ministry has some clear influence in the world of music and worship. Instead of catering to one demographic and going "all in" with a particular style, CBC attempts to minister to a broad audience. CBC is neither an old-fashioned church playing hymns on an organ and piano to a congregation of pew sitting gray haired saints, nor a "hip" church playing the latest Elevation or Jesus Culture songs in a warehouse with fog machines and high production values. We endeavor to sing the most God-honoring, congregational songs whether they were written last month or last century.

Currently, the week-to-week focus is on the two corporate worship services (9:00 & 10:45am). A team of volunteers are needed each week to handle various responsibilities both on stage and off. There are also a number of special services/events that happen more sporadically that require thought and planning (Soup Supper, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, etc).

The last few years of worship ministry have been challenging as we have attempted to navigate various COVID-related meeting restrictions and weekly service production conditions. For a few months in 2020 we were only able to livestream services with a very small crew, then we were able to build back in with fairly small numbers meeting onsite and now back to full/regular meetings. We have about 30 dedicated volunteers who staff the worship and tech ministries with room to grow.

Distinctives of CBC

- Expository Preaching of God's Word
- Gospel-Centered
- Elder Leadership
- Multi-generational Ministry
- Friendly & Welcoming Family Atmosphere
- Community Involvement
- Emphasis on young families

Adopted In. Growing Up. Reaching Out.

Staff Biographies

Pastoral Staff:

- **Kevin Hearne (Lead Pastor)**—Pastor Kevin Hearne has been serving on pastoral staff at Community Bible Church since August 2011. He was the Pastor of Education from 2011 until May of 2023 when he assumed the role of Lead Pastor. Kevin grew up in the Central Valley of California and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from The Master's College in Santa Clarita, CA and his Masters of Divinity and D.Min. from Western Seminary in Portland, OR. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on recognizing and training future church elders. Prior to serving at CBC, Kevin was a Pastor of Discipleship & Equipping for 6 years in Salem, OR and Youth Pastor for 9 years in Colville, Washington.

Kevin and his wife Janelle were married in January 1997. Janelle also grew up in the Central Valley of California and graduated from The Master's College, where the two met. Janelle teaches 1st grade at Jewett Elementary School. Kevin & Janelle have four boys—two adult sons (as well as a daughter-in-law), one in college (LeTourneau University), and one attending Central Point public schools. They enjoy spending time with family and friends, eating good food, drinking good coffee, and traveling.

- **Dale Bitterling (Executive Pastor)**—Pastor Dale Bitterling has been serving on the pastoral staff of Community Bible Church since February 2002. Dale grew up in Central Point, Oregon, and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Southern Oregon State College in 1990. Prior to serving at CBC, Dale was an elementary school teacher in the Rogue Valley for eleven years.

Dale began his ministry at CBC as the Youth Pastor. In 2008, he also took on the role as the Director of Sonshine Early Learning Center, the church's preschool and daycare center. A year later, his position progressed to include all of Children's Ministries as he became the Children's & Families Pastor. In 2010, Dale switched roles completely and became the Executive Pastor of CBC.

Dale and his wife Debbie were married in December of 1989. Dale and Debbie are blessed with two adult kids and five grandkids. Their family enjoys camping, biking, and playing games. Debbie also grew up in Central Point (and at Community Bible Church) and is a graduate of Rogue Community College. Debbie is actively involved in several ministries at CBC. Debbie is a Respiratory Therapist at Rogue Valley Medical Center. She enjoys reading, horseback riding, and water skiing.

- **Eddie Hertel (Pastor of Student Ministries)** – Eddie Hertel has been serving on staff as the Director of Student Ministries since December 2021. Eddie grew up in Portland, Maine, and received his Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Divinity degrees from Cedarville University in Ohio, graduating in 2021.

Eddie and his wife Elisabeth met at Cedarville and were married in July 2020. Elisabeth grew up in a military family, living in a number of different areas growing up. Elisabeth works in the Central Point school system. Eddie and Elisabeth are still new to the area, but

love being able to call the Rogue Valley home. They love being outside, traveling, playing games, eating good food, and drinking good coffee.

Additional Ministry Staff:

- **Angie Swaim (Children’s Ministries Coordinator)**—Angie has been serving as a children's ministry assistant since September of 2015 and children’s ministry coordinator since 2019. Angie was born in Oregon but grew up traveling around the country in a construction family. She was homeschooled through high school and began working in children’s ministry as a teenager. She settled in St. Helens, OR in 1992. In 1996, she met her husband Joe and they married the following year. Joe graduated from Portland State with an education degree in 2006 and in 2012 they felt God leading them to southern Oregon to be closer to Angie’s family. They have three children—two sons and a daughter (and a wonderful daughter-in-law).

Angie has always enjoyed being active in her church in a variety of ministries from the 35+ years spent teaching (and eventually directing) children's ministries to worship, youth, and women's ministries. Here at CBC, Angie and her husband, Joe, have led a home Bible study, served on the worship team, and Joe has served as a deacon and elder. As children's ministry coordinator, Angie is privileged to serve both the children of CBC and the many adult volunteers who work with them.

- **Jessica Hooper (Administrative Manager)**—Jessica began serving as the CBC Facilities Manager in January 2018. In 2022 she transitioned to Administrative Manager. She oversees both the facility and the office at CBC. Jessica grew up in Gold Hill, OR and has remained local her entire life. In 2007, she married David and blended a family of “his” and “hers.” Six years later they added a “theirs” bringing them to a total of five kids. Jessica worked for a private medical practice for 12 years in many different capacities, finishing her time there as the practice manager.

Jessica and David have three sons and two daughters. Jessica's hobbies include running, camping, and planning family gatherings.

- **Sabrina Lopes (Financial Manager)**—Sabrina Lopes has been serving as the bookkeeper for CBC since November 2009. Sabrina grew up in Napoleon, OH, and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Georgetown College in 1992, with double minors in Religion and Sociology. Prior to serving at the church, Sabrina worked five years in corporate accounting for Toyota, followed by five years in private accounting. She married her husband, David in 2002 and began keeping books for their businesses. They have lived in the Rogue Valley since 2006. David is a custom cabinet maker and owner of Eagle Woodworks and has a bicycle shop called The Bike Guy. The Lopes have one son at Cedarville University and one daughter, attending Logos Public Charter School.

They enjoy spending time with family camping, hiking, kayaking, playing games, watching musicals and plays, and traveling.