



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Friends and Fellowship Partners,

update august 2026

I don't know about you, but many times my life can feel uncertain, and maybe even a little chaotic. Things that I thought I could rely on shift, and I find myself scrambling to adjust to a new reality.

Case in point, earlier this year, my wife and I were certified as Foster Parents. Opening our home to provide refuge for children in our community is something we care deeply about. For us, it's an opportunity to tangibly share God's love to those that are too often forgotten by the system. I thought we entered the fostering care process eyes wide open and aware of all the challenges ahead of us. I was wrong. That's not to say the online resources we read or the myriad of questions we asked family members who work in the child welfare system were unhelpful—they just didn't fully prepare us for our first placement: a baby boy who spent the first weeks of his life in a children's hospital detoxing from a variety of substances he had been exposed to. We certainly weren't prepared for two weeks later when the state let us know he was being moved to a different care setting. We had welcomed this little boy into our family and thought he would be in our home for a long time, but all that changed over the course of an afternoon.



Of course, this isn't the only example of uncertainty and unexpected change in my life. In recent years, I've also survived multiple rounds of layoffs and reorganizations at my company. We even navigated our church of over a decade closing and re-launching as a church plant in the inner core of Portland. Yes, it seems that the old adage is true: "Change really is the only constant".

I guess the question then is, how do we handle and respond to crazy and chaotic changes? I know my natural tendency is to try and plan around it, thinking if I could just map out each possible scenario that I will then know how to respond appropriately to my changing world.

I think our Heavenly Father offers another way to respond to a changing world—a much better way. One that is focused not on a world that is changing at a dizzying pace, but instead on God's unchanging character and love for His people.

I don't know about you, but when I stop to remember this important truth, my perspective shifts. My situation might not have changed, but I do get to experience "the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension..." that the Apostle Paul spoke about (Philippians 4:7).

This same truth has been encouraging to me as I think about my service on the

*"Give thanks to the
Lord, for He is good,
For His faithfulness
is everlasting."
(Psalm 136:1,
NASB)*

*"He has sent me to bind
up the brokenhearted, to
proclaim liberty to captives,
and freedom to prisoners."*

ISAIAH 61 : 1

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Portland Fellowship Board. PF's message of God redeeming and transforming sexuality and relational brokenness has always been different than that of the wider culture. In the last few years, though, even in the church it seems that the message of transformation has become less popular. At times this can be disheartening, as fewer voices within the Body of Christ speak about surrender, transformation, and God's redeeming work in every part of our lives.

Yet, through the trials, I am convinced that God "*causes all things to work together for good...*" (Romans 8:28). This last May, PF celebrated as several men and women graduated from our two-year Taking Back Ground (TBG) discipleship program, each with their own story of finding freedom in surrender. A new TBG cohort will start in a few months, and we're already excited for the life-changing work the Holy Spirit will do in their lives. This upcoming fall, PF is also preparing to launch an updated version of our Hope Group program, which we plan to share with other parent ministries in Washington, Iowa, and Arkansas.

From a very practical perspective, my six years as PF Board Treasurer is ending later this year. Looking back, I have been privileged and humbled to see how God has used so many of you to bless the ministry. As the numbers guy, I am keenly aware of the cost to run a ministry like PF, particularly to run it in such a way that our resources are available to all who need them. But even more than money, your prayers and encouragement are truly what sustain the ministry.

Though much around us continues to change, God's character and faithfulness remain constant. Thank you for continuing to partner with Portland Fellowship as we proclaim freedom for the captives (Isaiah 61).

In Christ,

Derek Hines
PF Board Treasurer

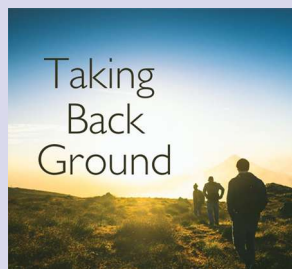
Summer 2026: In-Person Hope Group



The Hope Group will be meeting in-person the second Friday of the month in August (8/14) & September (9/11).

Join us at the PF house for dinner, testimonies, personal sharing, and prayer for our LGBTQ-identified loved ones. To RSVP, please visit: www.portlandfellowship.com/friends_family.php

Fall 2026: TBG & Hope Group



Our 2026-27 weekly discipleship programs are now accepting applications! Taking Back Ground is for Christians struggling with unwanted SSA/gender confusion, and Hope Group is for friends & family of gay and trans-identified loved ones. To register, please visit: portlandfellowship.com/programs.php

events calendar

tuesdays in august

Summer Series: The Journey
8-week Zoom series that follows the Israelites' journey out of Egypt.
6:00-7:30 p.m. PST
portlandfellowship.com/events.php

**august 13-14
Leadership Training Seminar**
Jason & KathyGrace will be leading a Leadership Training at Path of Life Ministries in Spokane, WA.

**august 14th
In-Person Hope Group Dinner**
For friends & family of gay & trans-identified loved ones.
6:30-8:30 p.m. PST
portlandfellowship.com/friends_family.php

Speakers and personal support
can be arranged through the office.

Check website for additional updates
at www.portlandfellowship.com

Portland Fellowship is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 nondenominational organization. We are exclusively supported through private donations, support services and offerings. Thank you for your gifts.