

Tidings of Peace



Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

The Apostle Paul writes, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming." - Colossians 3:1-6

In January of 2020, Netflix released a docudrama produced by Jeff Orlowski entitled "The Social Dilemma." Through a combination of drama and interviews with present and former social media developers, this docudrama outlined the risks and the negative impact of social media on our culture and especially on the minds of our youth. It was a disturbing look at both the intentionality behind these addictive systems and at the devastating effects social media has had on our culture. In short- the social media crisis generates addiction, radicalization, polarization and increased anti-social

behavior, and a sense of hopelessness, anxiety and depression.

I highly recommend you watch this "movie." It is currently available only through Netflix, but we will be hosting a screening of this docudrama

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at the church on Friday, June 4th from 6-8PM in the Church sanctuary. That following Sunday from 9-10 AM we will have a discussion forum to engage the material. I hope you will join me.

However, as I consider the dangers and damages of Social Media, it occurs to me that Social Media itself is not the core problem. The problem is a broken human nature. We have, within each of us, a nature that gravitates toward destruction. In each generation, our culture identifies the latest culture crisis- the thing that is causing everything to go to the pits.

From the Pastor... Continued

Think about it:

- Back in the 1920s it was booze
- in the 1960's it was sex, drugs and rock & roll
- in the 1990's it was disease
- in the 2020's it's the internet and Social Media.

In reality, the core problems aren't these external factors, but the internal factor of human nature. Humanity is fundamentally broken. These external factors are merely expressions of that worldly, internal focus. They are, in effect, expressions of minds that are set up (and even addicted to) the things below.

In His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has defeated the oppression of sin and death over human nature. Through faith, we are liberated and freed to live a different way. This new way is one of hope, joy and peace in Christ with God. Along with that established way is a call to persevere in it. To, as Paul puts it in Colossians 3:1-6, "seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

This is much more than positive thinking. This is a charge to those who have been freed from the anchor of sin- to live life daily with their eyes fixed on their destination- on "the things above, where Christ is seated."

Break free from the addictive thinking of conflict, contempt and despair that the world offers and keep your eyes on Jesus and what He has accomplished for you in His Resurrection.

With that call in mind, here are some challenges for us:

1.) SEEK AFTER and SET YOUR MINDS on Christ (the revelation of the fullness of God, from whom "every good and perfect gift" flows and who is unshifting and unchanging). Disengage your minds from the voices/spirits of the world and instead turn them to Jesus Christ through His Word. Remember Romans 12:2? "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." So turn off your devices and direct your thoughts to Jesus and His Word! Do it, and do it regularly. Make sure, at least, that the time you spend in prayer and fellowship with God each day is greater than the time spent scrolling through social media!

2.) PUT TO DEATH WHAT IS EARTHLY IN YOU-

Our enemy is a master of deception. From the beginning he has worked in just enough of the truth to make a lie sound good.

Paul tells us to "put to death" the things of this world: Sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness immorality...And yet this world presents each of these vices as virtues!

- Sexual immorality in every form is celebrated across our culture.
- Impurity is embraced as the pursuit of pleasure and happiness.
- Passion is celebrated as people demand their own way and throw a fit if things do not go the way they want.
- Evil desire is lauded as the "true self"
- And covetousness is cheered as the pursuit of justice.

Beware of the old way- the way locked down and anchored in sin- that way leads to death and condemnation. For those in Christ, don't even think about such things, but put them to death.

From the Pastor... Continued

As we set our minds on the things above, what is it God wants of us? The Prophet Micah says, “
 “What does God want from us,
 but to DO justice,
 to LOVE mercy
 and to WALK humbly with our God.”
 - Micah 6:8

And yet in our pursuit of these very things, if we do not keep our eyes on Christ, we end up:

DEMANDING Justice of others (while shirking it ourselves)

LOVING vengeance (over those who have fallen)

And WALKING in the arrogance of self-righteousness

Even we- (officers in the EPC/ Followers of Jesus)- as we strive to stand for the faith and fight the good fight against temptations of all kinds, mounting persecutions and the culture’s slide into darkness, may find we have become the very thing we claim to fight against, because our focus has been so much on countering the voices of the world, we’ve stopped listening to the Word of the One who shed His blood and died on the cross to substantively deliver us from oppression of sin and death. By fighting the good fight, with the weapons of the enemy, even in our victories, we’ve only served to further “the things below”.

3.) GUARD THE SANCTITY OF THE PULPIT. We must not relinquish our pulpits to the culture, or to the talking points of the media. Together, we work for Christ- to speak Him- not to speak the philosophies or causes that our culture demands. Beware of playing the sound-byte syndrome— where we are commanded by the culture via media and social media, to say this or that, or to denounce the latest viral video or affirm the latest two minute sound byte. Avoid the temptation to join the virtue-signaling game- to say the phrase that the world demands that shows you are “With the program.” I’m reminded of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as they were commanded by their culture to virtue-signal- that when they heard the special music, they were to bow down and worship the golden statue. The external forms may change but the nature of sin and systems of the world never do. May we all subject our convictions first to God’s Word, that we may process with Him our fears, worries, and even our zeal for righteousness and justice in our society. May what we believe, preach and teach BE HIS WORD and not the word of the media.

Conclusion:

As Paul calls us to set our minds on the things above. The good news is that what is above is not a list of things. Setting our minds on the things above refers to that which flows from the Living One- the great I AM who was and is and is to come. Who has known us, has interceded for us, who has embraced us through adoption into eternal life and who stands with and within us.

May the assurance of the Resurrection, and the good things of eternal life- be :

The center of our thinking,

The motive for our faithfulness

the power of our preaching,

and the joy of our fellowship

In Christ, For HE IS RISEN!

He is risen indeed.

Pastor Aaron

QUILT SHOW, MAY 15!

The Peace Memorial Women's Missionary Group will host their annual QUILT AND AFGHAN SHOW on Saturday, May 15, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We're so happy to again have this event after needing to cancel last year. For a day, our Fellowship Hall becomes a stunning display of art and history as members from the Basin share their talents and heirlooms with the community. The Fireside Room will be transformed into a cafe-style dining room for attendees to enjoy scones, beverages and fellowship. This year we're pleased to have Joyce King providing piano music in the Fireside Room.

Several things are needed to make the Quilt Show a success. First, of course, are your quilts and afghans to display. Even if you have offered your quilt or afghan before, think about sharing again. People never tire of admiring the skills that go into these works, and we always have new people coming to the show. Registration forms can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Pick some up to share with your friends and family who might be willing to share their treasures.

Second, we have not one, but TWO quilts and TWO afghans to be raffled this year. If you haven't already, consider making a donation by purchasing some tickets. And take some to sell to your friends and family. The PMWVG has decided to use the proceeds from this year's Quilt Show to support our local St. Vincent de Paul Society. The more tickets we sell, the more the Society can provide assistance to our community.

Third, we need volunteers to help with the many aspects of our show. There are sign up sheets on the Women's bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. On Friday, May 14, we'll be setting up for the show, which means readying the frames for displays, hanging items, setting up the Fireside Room and getting the kitchen in bake mode. On the day of the show, we need people to man the admission table, sell raffle tickets, serve in the Fireside Room and help in the kitchen. And when the show is over, we need help taking down the displays, putting the frames back in hibernation, and returning the Fellowship Hall and Fireside Room back to regular use mode. You can just mark "use me where you need me" if you don't have a particular area to help.

And fourth, we need your support of our efforts. This can mean purchasing tickets, coming to the show (even if quilts aren't your thing, come have some scones and coffee and enjoy the musical entertainment. For \$4, you can't go wrong), and showing up to rearrange tables and chairs. But you also support us just by understanding why we're getting a little excited (okay, a little crazy) about the show. Your prayers and words of encouragement go a long way.

RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE IS A-COMIN'

It seems early to talk about it, but it'll be here before you know it. The Deacons will be organizing our annual Rummage and Bake Sale, August 13 and 14. So now, while you're doing your spring cleaning and closet organizing, set aside items to contribute to the sale. If you have items you want out of the house before August, you can bring them early. We'll be happy to store them. Just give Geri a call and we'll arrange to meet. But please remember that even though "one's man's trash is another man's treasure," some times trash is just that - trash. We welcome your donations, but please make certain they are in resale condition- no broken equipment, no stained and torn clothing.

BUCKET BRIGADE IN CONFERENCE May 24

Our volunteer Bucket Brigade will form on Monday, May 24 at 9:00 am. This month's area will be the Conference Room, also known as the AA room. Bring your elbow grease and favorite cleaning supplies to give this room a good going over. We'll try very hard not to blow out any light fixtures. And the constant reminder- helping once does not mean helping forever. Just do what you can, when you can, and where you can as your interests dictate. Thank you to all who help out. Doing these bite-sized cleanings is really making a difference to the overall appearance of our church home.

DEACONS DOINGS

Session has cleared the road to lift some of the restrictions on how we do our weekly fellowship time, and boy, are we ready to see the end of commercially packaged snacks! In May, we'll resume bringing those homemade snacks for coffee hour (and I think there's been enough hints dropped about lemon bars). Those of you who are volunteering to provide coffee hour service should bring what you'd like to share (such as lemon bars). You'll still be asked to wear a mask while serving and reduce the amount of touching by putting requested goodies on people's plates rather than letting them help themselves. But at least we can have that homemade chocolate chip cookie rather than another Chips Ahoy!

We'll celebrate this return to more normal on Celebration Sunday, the first Sunday of the month when we like to honor those having birthdays and/or anniversaries, by serving Strawberry Shortcake. And we mean shortcake- not those spongy "dessert cups" or angel food cake- REAL shortcakes. There will also be ice cream available for those who prefer a sundae.

On Mother's Day, May 9, the Deacons will present the women of the church with flowers and the Women's Group will provide a special cake during coffee hour. Something to remember regarding what we know as "Mother's Day." In our church tradition, every woman of the church takes on the role of "Mom," vowing to nurture and support God's children. Biologically producing a child is not what makes a mother - providing guidance, love and support is. And there isn't a woman in our church who hasn't done that, whether that child is 3, 13 or 30. Let us honor you for that.

And, last but not least, on May 30th, we'll gather after church for a BBQ! We'll be serving hamburgers cooked by Masters of the Grill, potato salad and ice cream bars. This is Memorial Day Weekend, so maybe we can sing a few songs and hymns to honor those who sacrificed themselves to answer the call, as that old hymn put it, "As He died to make men holy let us die to make men free."

It's almost that time again for Pregnancy Hope Center's annual Baby Bottle Campaign!!



Starting on Mother's Day (May 9th), we will provide empty baby bottles for you to fill with a contribution of your choice: change, bills or checks. The campaign will last until Father's Day at which time we will deliver our donations to the center. Even after you turn in your bottle, it's always easy to keep an extra bottle at home to throw your change in. They are happy to accept donations any time, and the Mission Committee is happy to deliver them for you. If you have any questions about Pregnancy Hope Center's mission, we are happy to find and provide answers. Blessings to All!!



The Inheritance of Israel

A Journey through the book of Joshua

With Pastor Aaron Beaty and Deacon Geri Coker

Sundays 9:00-10:00 AM

Fireside Room

FINDING HAGAR: GOD'S PURSUIT OF A RUNAWAY Study, May 26

The Peace Memorial Women's Missionary Group is discussing Rev. Michael Kuhn's book on Hagar during our monthly study. We'll be meeting on Wednesday, May 26, at 12:30 to explore chapters 9 and 10. We begin with a short meeting to discuss what's going on with the Women's Group's various activities, then immerse ourselves in the ancient but relevant life of Hagar. All women are invited to join us. The May roll call word is "Neighbor," so come ready with your Scriptures referencing that word. We try to be done by 2:00pm.

WELCOME TO THE NEW ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT

Contemporary Christian artist, Matthew West, wrote in his lyrics, "Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of People living in poverty, Children sold into slavery, The thought disgusted me, So, I shook my fist at Heaven, Said, "God, why don't You do something?" We probably didn't shake our fists at Heaven, but when we saw on television two toddlers dropped from the border wall in New Mexico by their coyotes and that frightened 10-year old boy from Nicaragua abandoned in rural Texas, we may have prayed that same question, "God, why don't You do something?"

The Mission Committee of Peace Memorial has been called to help answer that question. The fight against human trafficking is now a designated mission concern for our church. This is only right, for the Church has always been in the lead to abolish the evils of human trafficking, the 21st century term for slavery. You might recall from history that the famous abolitionist John Brown became involved in the abolitionist movement following the brutal murder of Presbyterian minister and anti-slavery activist Elijah P. Lovejoy in 1837. Does this mean the Mission Committee is planning a road trip to Harpers Ferry? That would be no. So what does this mean?

Our vision is to be the Basin's face of this new abolitionist movement. We shall be working with the Klamath County Human Trafficking Task Force to promote awareness and prevention of trafficking, and restorative care for victims of enslavement. We'll be receiving assistance from the Rebecca Bender Initiative (you may want to get information by going to rebeccabender.org) on how we can best fulfill our mission. The Polaris Project has identified 25 categories of human trafficking in the US. That's HUGE area and the RBI can help us identify our place in the anti-trafficking movement.

Why is it so important for Peace Memorial to jump in with both feet? Human trafficking is a man-made evil from the get-go. And man alone cannot stop the evil he initiated. God, using people of faith, is the only Power that can tackle this. West continued in his song, "God, why don't You do something?" He said, "I did, yeah, I created you." People of prayer and passion- that's us.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Financial Report

March 2021

At a glance

Operating Inc.:	\$11,251.90
Operating Exp.:	\$9,796.98
Monthly Net:	\$1,454.92
Ckg Acct Bal 3/31	\$45,939.84
MMkt Bal 3/31	\$53,631.48

March 2021

Here is our monthly update on finance:

March Operating Income:.....\$11,251.90

Expenses:..... \$9,796.98

Monthly Net:..... **\$1,454.92**

YTD Net:..... \$9,339.37

Checking 3/31/21:.....\$45,939.84

Money Market 3/31/21:..... \$53,631.48

Hi Friends,

Expenses in March beyond regular operations were continuing education class for Pastor Aaron, grounds landscaping spray, annual CLLI music copyright fee, and flowers.

The annual audit was completed on March 13, 2021 and results were reported to session. As a result of this audit, the committee found records to be in order and had no recommendations at this time.

Blessings to all,

MAY

Birthdays

2ND SUSAN HAUSER
 5TH NOREEN RHOADES
 6TH JOCELYN SHELLITO
 12TH SHERYL KEADY
 13TH PAT BROWN
 15TH GERI COKER
 19TH BEV MOULTON
 20TH JOSIE SMITH
 25TH CHUCK COKER

Anniversaries

1ST RODNEY & KATHY TODD
 3RD AARON & KRISTA BEATY
 8TH FRANK & PATTI HARVEY



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We're on the web!

www.peaceEPC.com

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"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight"
-Prov. 3:6

II. The Disclosure of the Christ, the Son of God

5/2 - Jesus' Ministry throughout Galilee
Mark 1:35-45

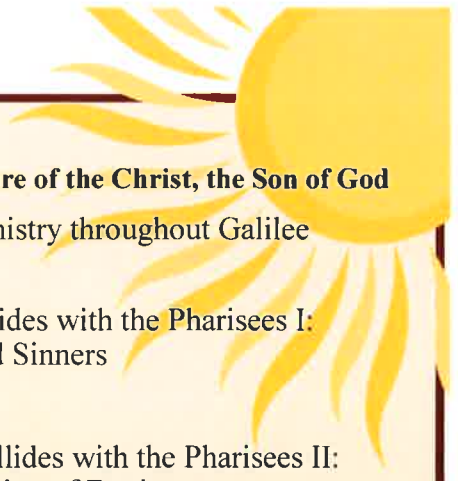
5/9 - Jesus Collides with the Pharisees I:
Sins and Sinners
Mark 2:1-17

5/16 - Jesus Collides with the Pharisees II:
Celebration of Fasting
Mark 2:18-22

5/23 - Jesus Collides with the Pharisees III:
Sabbath Observance
Mark 2:23-3:6

(Further Ministry in Galilee and Beyond)

5/30 - "Jesus with His Disciples"
Mark 3:7-35



Your SESSION

Elders

- Pastor Aaron Beaty- Session Moderator
- Noreen Rhoades- Clerk of Session
- Kathy Todd- Finance & Stewardship
- Don Perryman- Christian Education
- Linda Dart- Mission and Outreach
- Jim Zeller- Building and Grounds
- Sally Heaton- Worship

Your DEACONS

Geri Coker- Chair

- Bev Moulton
- Susan Orton
- Jocelyn Shellito
- Vicki Zeller

The Deacons meet the third Sunday of each month following worship.

Your

TRUSTEES

- Harold Heaton
- Stephen Goode
- Sharron Goode
- Sharon Haddock

Session meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6-8PM.

