



Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

From the Pastor...

Getting Honest With God in Prayer

By CRYSTAL PAINE, Proverbs 31 Ministries

“Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to you! Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress! Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call!” Psalm 102:1-2 (ESV)

I sat on the worn gray couch in our living room with tears streaming down my face on another Sunday morning.

Why, God?
Why did You allow this hard thing to happen
in my life?
It doesn't make any sense!
My heart hurts so badly!

The past few months, I had been walking with a small group of women through a discipleship program at our church. I was learning and growing spiritually and uncovering a lot of areas in my life where there were dysfunctions and unhealthy patterns and beliefs. This week, we were studying lament.

Our project was to spend some time in stillness, allow ourselves to have honest prayers with God, and open up our hearts to let God into the darkest, hidden places. I started to go back to times in my past where there were deep wounds and hurts, let myself acknowledge these to the Lord, and express sadness verbally to God — instead of stuffing down my feelings or convincing myself it wasn't a big deal.

It was as if the floodgates opened.

Years of pain and hurt and grief spilled out. It felt

weird. It felt vulnerable. But it also felt really cleansing. I could just come to Jesus as I was and share exactly what I was feeling.

“Lament” is a word we often don't hear sermons or read devotions about, but it's woven all throughout

In this Month's Edition

From the Pastor	1-2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Deacons Rummage & Bake Sale.....	3
Universal SOS signal.....	4
Financial Report	4
Mission Memo	5
Ladies Luncheon.....	6
Calendar.....	7
Sermon Plans and Officers.....	8
PMEPC Family - Picture contest.....	9-10

Scripture. In the book of Psalms, David set a great example for us of what it looks like to lament.

In Psalm 102, we find him calling out to the Lord: “Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to you! Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress! Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call!” (Psalm 102:1-2).

I love that he wasn't afraid to say out loud exactly what he was feeling. He wanted to make sure God heard him and answered him. So he repeated this plea in multiple ways to God.

And then he got really gut-honest about his feelings in Psalm 102:3-5: “For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.

From the Pastor continued...

My heart is struck down like grass and has withered; I forget to eat my bread. Because of my loud groaning my bones cling to my flesh” (ESV).

We may feel like we need to censor or sanitize our prayers so they sound more “spiritual,” but David, who was called “a man after [God’s] own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14, ESV) sets an example of what passionate prayers of lament look like.

For me, the Sunday of sobbing on the couch led to a journey of healing and wholeness in Jesus I never would have experienced had I kept holding back my feelings instead of bringing my honest prayers of lament to the Lord.

God wants us to pour out our hearts to Him. The act of genuinely acknowledging our fears, our sadness and our frustration in prayer will not alienate us from God; it will draw us closer to Him because it is an act of trust and vulnerability. “He regards the prayer of the destitute and does not despise their prayer” (Psalm 102:17, ESV).

Heavenly Father, thank You that I don’t have to hide my deepest fears, my greatest hurts and my heartfelt longings from You. Thank You that You welcome me just as I am and You want me to share my heart freely with You, so I don’t have to pretend or be anything other than exactly who I am when I come to You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

FOR DEEPER STUDY

Psalm 130:1-2, “Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!” (ESV).

Spend some time in stillness today, and allow yourself to have honest prayers with God. What are some of your greatest worries, biggest fears and long-hidden hurts? Have you expressed these to God? Bring your full self to Him today in prayer. Don’t stress over saying the right words — just freely talk to God and share what’s heavy on your heart just as you would with a very trusted friend.

August Birthdays

6th Jim Zeller
8th Jan Vercruysse
9th Bill Dart
12th Joyce King
14th Kathy Todd
21st Kathleen Walker-Henderson
24th Stephen Goode
25th Kevin Gorham

August Anniversaries

3rd Paul & Joyce King
12th Harold & Sally Heaton
12th Robert & Ann Wincentsen
18th Stephen & Sharron Goode
19th Phil & Debbie Grant
29th Bill & Linda Dart

DEACONS

ANNUAL

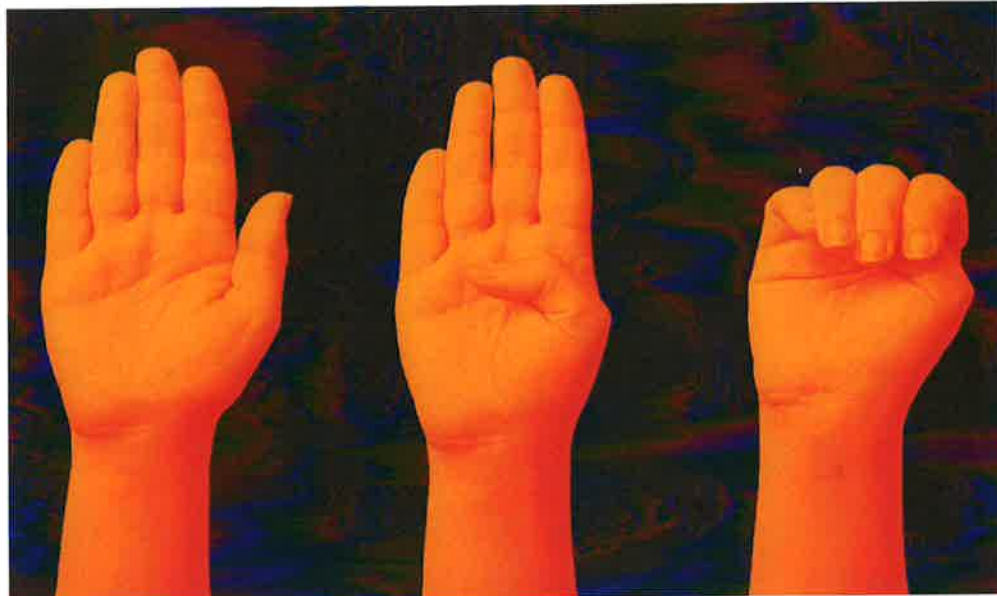
Rummage

& Bake Sale

AUGUST 11 & 12

Please bring your
CLEAN, SELLABLE ITEMS
to the church.

If you see this
SIGNAL
CALL 911



Stewardship & Finance Committee

June 2023

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$11,325.00
Operating Expenses:.....	<u>\$11,158.32</u>
Monthly Net:.....	\$ 166.68
YTD /Net:.....	(\$ 4,763.46)
Checking 6/30/23:.....	\$56,090.28
Money Market 6/30/23:	\$56,017.63

Expenses in June beyond regular operations: SAIF-yearly payment, World Missions, Adult Education/Small Groups.

As you may have noticed, the old house in the back is gone. So, you will notice that the money market balance is substantially less as we have paid for the asbestos abatement and the demolition fees. We still have some costs for fill material and fencing before the project is complete. Wishing you all a safe and beautiful summer!

Kathy Todd

MISSION MEMO



"Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death." Exodus 21:16 ESV

A group from Peace Memorial attended the showing of "Sound of Freedom" on July 6th. The film is a dramatization of Tim Ballard, a former Special Agent for the Department of Homeland Security, who gave up his career as a federal agent to devote his life to saving children from human trafficking. He founded Operation Underground Railroad in 2013 to do just that.

The work of O.U.R. is commendable and should be supported. But what about locally? What about what's happening in our own backyard? Because human trafficking is indeed happening in our own backyard. In 2018, the Klamath County Task Force on Human Trafficking was formed as a "collaboration of agencies who are committed to developing a victim-centered, trauma-informed response to human trafficking. Our mission is to coordinate a comprehensive community response to exploitation, to hold perpetrators accountable, and to protect trafficking survivors. We provide crisis intervention, court advocacy to survivors, assistance in accessing medical, housing, counseling, and other needs." (quoted from the KCTFHT website). The epicenter of this work is Marta's House.

Several names have been used to describe the work done there- Women's Crisis Center, Klamath Crisis Center, Klamath Advocacy Center- but Marta's House is how we at Peace Memorial call it. The Mission and Outreach Committee included Marta's House for designated support. Your offerings to the church help fund their work, including their efforts to rescue and renew those who have been caught up in trafficking situations.

We might not be able to do to the perpetrators as God commanded in Exodus, but we can share the love and peace of Christ with the survivors. Please continue to pray for all involved in the dark world of slavery- the victims, the rescuers, the rehabilitators, and yes, even the perpetrators.

LADIES LUNCHEON JULY 26TH

The Women's Missionary Group once again thoroughly enjoyed their annual luncheon, which was held at King Wah's.

14 Ladies along with Pastor Aaron enjoyed a wonderful meal and exceptional fellowship. We had two wonderful guests: Jocelyn's sister Jan Blackburn and our own Joan Riker!! We truly enjoyed gathering together and thank everyone who was able to attend.

Serena Rhoads



August 2023

August 2023							September 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 30	31	Aug 1	2	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 Communion	7	8 10:30am PMWVG Board Mtg	9	10	11 Office Closed 9:00am Deacons Annual Rummage & Bake Sale (Fellowship Hall)	12 9:00am Deacons Annual Rummage & Bake Sale (Fellowship Hall)
13 10:30am Worship	14 1:00pm Session	15 11:00am Discipleship Mtg	16 10:00am Crafts Fellowship 10:00am Handbell Sextet	17	18 Office Closed	19
20 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons	21 4:00pm Stewardship/Finance	22	23 10:00am Handbell Sextet 12:30pm PMWVG Meeting	24	25 Office Closed	26
27 10:30am Worship	28 1:30pm Building & Grounds	29 12:00am Congregational Potluck (Fellowship Hall)	30 Articles due to the office for Newsletter 10:00am Handbell Sextet	31	Sep 1	2



Peace Memorial
Presbyterian (EPC)

431 South 6th St.
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Phone: 541-884-5057

E-mail: office@peacepres.org

Pastor: pastoraaronepc@yahoo.com

We're on the web!

www.peaceEPC.com

"like" us on Facebook

"Give thanks in every
circumstance, for this
is God's will for you
in Christ Jesus."

-1 Thessalonians 5:18

Sermons for August:

Reconciliation Ministry Series

8/6 - The Ministry of Reconciliation 5/6
The Space Between Spaces
Hebrews 3:12-19

8/13 - The Ministry of Reconciliation 6/6
The Power of the Cross
I Corinthians 1:17-31

8/20 - Guest Preacher

8/27 - Guest Preacher



DEACONS

- Paul King - Chair
- Susan Orton
- Jocelyn Shellito
- Debbie Grant

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

SESSION/ELDERS

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Pastor Aaron Beaty- | Moderator |
| Noreen Rhoades- | Clerk/ Discipleship |
| Kathy Todd- | Finance & Stewardship |
| Gerri Coker- | Mission and Outreach |
| Sandi Deatherage- | Building and Grounds |
| Betty Shaw- | Worship |
| Stephen Goode- | Building and Grounds |

NO SESSION MEETING IN JULY

TRUSTEES

- Stephen Goode
- Harold Heaton
- Bill Dart