Tidings of Peace

November 2026

Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

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From the Pastor

Lessons Along the Way II:
As the Mountains Surround Jerusalem
November 2026 — Kotor, Montenegro

During our Mediterranean cruise this past August, one of the most breathtaking sights we encountered was sailing into the Bay of Kotor in Montenegro. Unlike the open waters of the Adriatic Sea, the bay winds its way between towering mountains that rise dramatically from the water's edge. Around every bend, another magnificent vista opens before you.



At the far end of the bay lies the ancient city of Kotor, nestled at the foot of the mountains. Its medieval walls climb the steep mountainside toward a fortress high above the city. For centuries, these mountains and fortifications provided the inhabitants with a remarkable measure of protection from invading armies.



Standing beneath those towering mountains, I was reminded of the words of Psalm 125:2 *"As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore."*

What a beautiful picture of the security we have in the Lord!

Surrounded by His Faithfulness

Jerusalem, like Kotor, is situated among mountains. Though the geography of the two cities is quite different, the imagery would have been immediately familiar to the ancient Israelites. The surrounding hills provided a visible reminder of security and protection. The psalmist uses this familiar landscape to communicate a profound spiritual truth. Just as the mountains stand around Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people.

Notice that the psalmist does not say that God's people are protected by their own strength, wisdom, or faithfulness. Their security rests entirely upon the Lord Himself.
The opening verse declares, "Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever" (Psalm 125:1). This is the language of covenant faithfulness. The Lord has bound Himself to His people by His gracious promises, and He will never abandon those who belong to Him.
Our confidence as Christians does not rest upon the strength of our faith, but upon the strength and faithfulness of the One in whom we have placed our faith.

Protected Does Not Mean Untouched

Of course, mountains do not prevent every storm from reaching the cities beneath them. Throughout its long history, Kotor experienced warfare, earthquakes, and other hardships despite its impressive natural defenses. Likewise, God's promise to surround His people does not mean that Christians will be spared from suffering. The Scriptures never promise us a life free from hardship. Indeed, Jesus told His disciples, "In the world you will have tribulation" (John 16:33).
We experience sickness, grief, uncertainty, disappointment, and loss just as others do. Sometimes the circumstances of life seem overwhelming, and we wonder where God is in the midst of our troubles.
Yet Psalm 125 reminds us that even when our circumstances are uncertain, our position in Christ is secure. The mountains surrounding Jerusalem were not dependent upon the feelings or circumstances of the people living within the city. They remained in place whether the inhabitants were celebrating or mourning, whether they felt secure or afraid.

So it is with the faithfulness of God.

His love for His people does not fluctuate with our circumstances. His promises do not weaken when our faith falters. His providential care does not cease when life becomes difficult.
Indeed, the Apostle Paul assures us that neither death nor life, nor anything else in all creation, "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39).

The One Who Surrounds Us

As Christians, we understand this promise most fully through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Our greatest danger has never been the trials and difficulties of this present life. It is the guilt of our sin and the judgment we deserve before a holy God. Yet in His extraordinary grace, God sent His Son to accomplish what we could never accomplish for ourselves. Through His perfect obedience, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection, Jesus has secured the salvation of all who trust in Him.
Our eternal security is not found in the strength of our resolve to hold on to Christ, but in His unfailing commitment to hold on to us. Jesus declared, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28).
The mountains surrounding Kotor are impressive, but they are not eternal. Over time, even mountains erode and change. Yet the Lord's covenant love for His people will never fail.

Giving Thanks for His Steadfast Love

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, I am reminded that some of our greatest blessings are not necessarily the things we can see or touch.
Certainly, we should thank God for our families, our homes, our daily provisions, and the countless ways He cares for us. But above all, we ought to give thanks for the security that is ours through Jesus Christ.
We do not know what tomorrow will bring. We cannot predict the challenges that may await us in the coming months or years. But we can rest in the knowledge that the God who has redeemed us is the same God who promises never to forsake us.
The mountains surrounding Kotor were among the most beautiful sights of our Mediterranean journey. But the spiritual truth they brought to mind is far more magnificent.
As surely as the mountains surround Jerusalem, the Lord surrounds His people.
And unlike the mountains, His protection is eternal.
May that wonderful promise give us confidence in times of uncertainty, peace in times of trouble, and hearts overflowing with thanksgiving for the steadfast love of our faithful God.

In Christ, Pastor Aaron

November Birthdays

14th Krista Beaty
14th Harold Heaton
15th Linda Dart
24th Gayle Carlson
24th Joan Riker
26th Tayt Curran
28th Al Burman

November Anniversaries

11th Scott & Betty Dickson
19th Pat & Marie Gregory

Stewardship & Finance Committee

September 2026

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	$16,729.68
Operating Expenses:.....	$14,695.09
Monthly Net:.....	$2,034.59
YTD /Net:.....	$11,728.98
Checking 9/30/26:.....	$67,060.45
Money Market 9/30/26:.....	$34,834.76
Edward Jones CD 9/30/26:..	$20,278.22
Edward Jones MM 9/30/26:	$12,728.72
TOTAL 9/30/26:.....	**$134,902.15**

Expenses in September beyond regular operations were: Double amounts for Building Fund and Equipment Fund transfers to catch up from August, Missions Support, and Pulpit Supply. The Stewardship drive is here and will be running through November, then Session will meet and decide on the budget plan for 2027.

Many thanks to all of you for your support of Peace Memorial EPC!

-Kathy Todd -Treasurer



Fall Quarter Small Groups

Our weekly sermon-based small groups will continue through November 17th. If you aren't in a group yet, let Pastor Aaron know.

After the 17th we will be taking the holidays off, but don't worry, small groups will start up again in January! We will also be starting up an evening small group at that time.

Blessings to you in Christ our Lord! Pastor Aaron

Sunday Bible Classes

Adult class: Our Sunday Bible class for adults is taking the fall off due to Pastor Aaron's travel plans as he cares for his parents and others who have busy travel plans. We plan to start up after the new year with an exciting series on what Jesus said about the end times! Stay tuned!



Children's Bible Class: Bible study for kids meets each Sunday from 9-10.

MISSION MEMO

As we gather this Thanksgiving to praise God for the many blessings we have received, let us give thanks that our church has the love and financial resources to support several special organizations in our community. One such organization our church has been supporting is

Tater Tots Pediatric Therapy.

If you are not familiar with Tater Tots, let me share excerpts from the words of co-founders Kylan and Kayla Taylor:

"When people hear the term "Pediatric Therapy," they often think of toys, bubbles, swings and crash pads. That is partly because we as therapists like to focus on the fun aspects of our jobs when telling people about them, and not so much on the difficult, messy work that we often do with families. In a close-knit community like the Klamath Basin, it is impossible not to have a family member, friend, or neighbor who has a child with a disability of some kind, and we as therapists are often the only lifeline for these families.

"As pediatric therapists, we understand the challenges that come with living in an isolated, rural community. For families who have children with special needs, their closest option for specialized services is often Medford, Bend, Eugene, or even Portland. 'Home-grown' support and advocacy for these families and children will ensure that children do not miss out on an opportunity to experience the beauty of a childhood in the Klamath Basin.

"We truly believe that investing in our children and families is the best way to strengthen the bonds that hold our community together. We deliberately formed Tater Tots Pediatric Therapy clinic as a non-profit organization because we want it to be something that the community owns and is invested in."

Another long term relationship we have had with our community is with the **Salvation Army Giving Tree,** sometimes called the "Angel Tree." Kathy Todd will soon be getting gift tags for children to brighten their Christmas. And Kathy is very conscientious about getting tags for gifts in keeping with our Christian values. The tree will again be set up in the front entrance, and the process is simple- select a tag (or two), purchase the gift, return **unwrapped** with the tag included, and Kathy will take them o the Salvation Army. We have a record of "no tag left behind," which speaks well of our congregation.



PRESCHOOL-1st GRADE: To start, Geri Coker will lead the little ones through God's Creation story. Class will meet in the nursery.

ELEMENTARY: Vicki Zeller will be guiding the older grade school children through the stories in Luke. Class will meet in the upstairs classroom.

YOUTH AND ADULTS: The high school grades will be joining the adult study in the Fireside Room as Pastor Aaron facilitates R.C. Sproul's work on "The Last Days According to Jesus."

Children's Bible Classes Have Resumed

Classes will meet each Sunday from **9:00–10:00 a.m.**, providing our children with an opportunity to grow in their knowledge of God, learn the stories and teachings of Scripture, and discover more about what it means to know and follow Jesus Christ.

Sunday Bible classes are an important part of our ministry to the children of our congregation. Our desire is not simply that our children know Bible stories, but that they come to understand the **big story of Scripture**—God's work of creation, redemption, and His gracious plan of salvation fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for the teachers and volunteers who give their time and energy to help nurture the faith of the next generation. Their ministry is an important part of the promises we make together as a church family when we baptize and welcome children into the covenant community.

Parents and grandparents, we encourage you to make Sunday Bible class part of your family's weekly rhythm this fall. While the adults gather for Bible study in the Fireside Room, our children can be learning and growing in God's Word as well.

Children's Sunday Bible Classes

Beginning: Sunday, September 13

Time: 9:00–10:00 a.m.

When: Every Sunday

We look forward to seeing our children back in class
as we begin another year of
learning God's Word and growing together in Christ!

Hello Peace!!

We would like to provide transportation to folks that cannot provide their own.

If you are able and willing to pick up a fellow parishioner on Sunday morning, bring them to service and return them to their home we would love to hear from you.

Please contact:
Debbie Grant
(541) 892-2312



Fall Bazaar

Craft Fair

November 14th

SETUP IS ON FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 13TH

9:00 A.M. - DONE

BAZAAR IS ON SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 14TH

9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

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We're on the web!

Www.peaceEPC.com

"like" us on Facebook

"Oh, taste and see
that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the one who takes
refuge in Him!"
-Proverbs 34:8

Sermons for November:

THE ARRIVAL OF SALVATION

11/1- -Authority to Cleanse and Forgive
Luke 5:12-26

11/8- -The Great Physician for Sinners
Luke 5:27-39

11/15- -Lord of the Sabbath
Luke 6:1-11

11/22- -The Blessed Kingdom *(Beatitudes)*
Luke 6:12-26

KINGDOM TEACHING & POWER

11/29- -Love Your Enemies/ True Obedience
Luke 6:27-49

DEACONS

Noreen Rhoades- Chair
Debbie Grant
Michelle Preston
Gary Preston
Joan Campbell
Cheryl Paletz
Sharon Haddock
Marie Gregory

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

SESSION/ELDERS

Pastor Aaron Beaty-	Moderator
Geri Coker-	Mission
Kathy Todd-	Stewardship & Finance
Rob Campbell-	Worship
-	Discipleship & Evangelism; Clerk
Gary Scott-	Building & Grounds
Bill Dart-	

Session meets the 2nd Monday from 12-2.