

Tidings of Peace

JANUARY

Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

How has your New Year celebration gone so far this year? I remember last year- hearing many expressions of relief that 2020 was finally over- expressions of hope for how much better 2021 would certainly be... Ahh the foolishness. 2021 has shaped up to be as challenging as 2020 if not worse for many.

Over the past two years anxiety has increased, families have become strained as our culture continues to polarize over every conceivable issue. It truly seems our culture is going through an existential crisis- the fundamental understanding of the nature of reality has become lost. As a result, things that just a few years ago would have been considered unthinkable are now becoming normalized. Respect for our institutions is at an all-time low, trust in our leaders is tribal, Lawlessness is flourishing, and contempt for one another has become rooted in our hearts. Despair seems to be on the rise- even in the Church.

But here is an important point. Jesus has gifted us with Truth. And the Truth is, God is good. He is sovereign, and in Jesus, He has provided redemption for humanity. That redemption results in Eternal Life- a life filled with Joy, Peace and Hope all in the loving embrace of God's fellowship- and fellowship with each other. Given this great truth, why do so many of us feel despair? I would suggest it is because many of us have not tended the promises of God well in our hearts and minds.

I am going to share with you this year some practical steps that we as followers of Christ are called to pursue that help us live in the hope, joy and

peace that God has gifted us.

First, for the month of January, "Tend the Hope." Hope in some ways is like a fire. It requires tending or it can go out on us and leave us cold and

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in the dark. We tend our hope- and keep it alive and hot by feeding it three types of fuel on a regular basis. These fuel sources are really prayer disciplines.

Hope-Fuel 1: Godly Thinking.

From Philippians 4:8,9,

"whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me— put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

From the Pastor... Continued

In this pericope (a pericope is a section of Biblical text), we are given instructions to direct our thinking- to actively pursue thoughts- to set our minds- on the things of God. While I hate to say it this way, maintaining Hope involves “positive thinking”. Though this type of positive thinking is not JUST “think happy thoughts” – rather these are thoughts that choose to focus on and marinate in the things that reflect the nature of God- nobleness, righteousness, purity, loveliness, and everything that is good (admirable). Often despair, anger, fear, aggression and contempt emerge within us because our minds have been unintentionally soaking in negativity, and the things of the fallen order rather than the things of God. So think godly thoughts- redirect your daily inner monologue toward the light! This includes how we think about others as well- from government officials to our friends and even family. Choose to think of their good qualities, and not only that, but strive to see them through Jesus’ eyes. “For God so loved the world...”

Hope-fuel 2: Trust in God’s Promises. As Paul states in Romans 15:3,

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God is the “God of hope”! - He can fill us with all joy and peace as we TRUST in Him. This is also a kind of “positive thinking.” We trust in His nature (His Goodness, His wisdom, His power) in all things and submit to His Will. We trust in His promises. Here are a few key promises upon which we can secure our trust:

- Isaiah 41:10

10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

- John 16:33

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

-Psalm 37:23-24

23 The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; 24 though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- 1 Peter 2:24

24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

- James 1:2-3

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

- Exodus 14:14

14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

- Romans 8:28

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

From the Pastor... Continued

- Mark 11:24

24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

- Revelation 3:5

5 The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

- Romans 8:31-35

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

There are so many others. But they all have a common core. In Jesus' death and resurrection, we are offered deliverance from sin and adoption as God's Children. As we receive that gift through faith- we are filled with the Holy Spirit and sealed for heaven. This foundational truth transforms all of our worldly experience because no matter what happens, the victory we have in Jesus- of Eternal Life and the love of God, is untarnished. The darker this world gets, the brighter our hope in God's promises becomes.

Hope-Fuel 3: Give Thanks. From 1 Thessalonians 5:18:

"...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Have you ever struggled over what God's will is for you? This text makes it pretty clear. For those in Christ- God's call upon your life- His will for you is to GIVE THANKS. This isn't just a call to remember a few of your favorite things and thank Him. Rather it is a call to give thanks "IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES." This is far from the cultural norm of counting your blessings. This is a deep spiritual discipline of submitting all things and all circumstances to God's sovereignty, His wisdom and His goodness. By giving thanks in all circumstances (even in painful, confusing and dark times), we are declaring the goodness of God and our hope in the resurrection. Giving thanks is our part in transforming our inner world from despair to joy in the Holy Spirit. (if you do not have the Holy Spirit, giving thanks in all circumstances will seem a foolish and hollow endeavor. But for those in Christ- the discipline of thanksgiving is supernaturally transformative as the Spirit fills us with "all joy and peace in believing.")

I've shared with you ONE of the practical steps in fostering a wonderful year- tending our Hope. Next month I will share with you another step- Fostering Love. So join me in making January a month of joy and peace as we keep our hope alive.

For now, as Paul said, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Here is to a Hopeful New Year in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor Aaron

HELP WANTED!

We are looking for someone willing to shovel snow from our church front and west-side entrances, and the sidewalk that connects them. Last year we had several people respond- this year, nada. The job requires removing snow before 8:30 am, Sunday through Friday. This is a paid position. If you know anyone who might be interested in making a few extra bucks, please contacted Geri at (541)884-7297, or the church office at (541)884-5057.



Stearns Elementary

COAT Drive 2021/22

Peace Church has adopted Stearns Elementary School again this year.

Since the State of Oregon is providing actual school supplies this year

**WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON
PROVIDING COATS/JACKETS
for the children this year.**

Donations can be dropped off in the box on the table at the entrance to the Sanctuary or in the box in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You for your continued support to this wonderful outreach to the community!!

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

4TH Thursday of the month @ 12:30 in the Fireside Room

We will finish the study of the book "Hagar", by Mike Kuhn, in January and the Women's Missionary Group has settled on "His Last Words" what Jesus taught and prayed in His last hours, by Kim Erickson. It impacts the importance of Jesus's last words of eternal life, powerful and full of love. If you've been longing for more intimacy in your relationship with God, more meaning in your life and more boldness in your witness, "His Last Words" will draw you into what you need: The Word of God. Ladies, if you are interested, join our Ladies Bible Study on the 4th Thursday of January 2022. See Noreen Rhoades to purchase the book "His Last Words" for \$14.00.

Noreen Rhoades

BUCKET BRIGADE back in action January 24th

After taking some time off to enjoy the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, the Bucket Brigade will be back in cleaning mode Monday, January 24th. We plan on finishing up in the kitchen- cleaning those light globes, organizing the cupboards and drawers we didn't get to before, and seeing what might be lurking on those window sills. We'll start at 10 am, just to make sure the roads are a little less icy. Hope you can join



Birthdays

3rd Jean Metler
 8th Bob Wincentzen
 16th James Breen
 17th George Keady
 19th Bertra Bratton

Anniversaries

30th Leonard & Lawanna Barkee

Sunday Bible Class

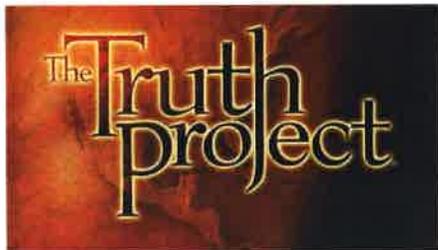
9:00-10:00 AM
Fireside Room

JUDGES

The Inheritance of Israel



Pastor Aaron Beaty and Deacon Geri Coker continue through the story of the nation of Israel as she comes into her inheritance, the promised land. Now that the tribes of Israel have occupied the land, they face a new challenge- learning to live as the people of God with the Lord as their king, without a human ruler. The book of Judges records Israel's struggles to trust the Lord during times of unique challenge when the surrounding culture is hostile to the ways of God. God delivers even when His people stray. The book of Judges provides a profound lesson to the Church today as we see many parallels between the 21st century and the time when everyone did what was right in their own eyes.



Theology On Tap (TnT)

1st and 3rd Mondays
6-7:30PM

Church Fireside Room

Join Pastor Aaron as we continue the video series,
"The Truth Project" with Dr. Dell Tackett.

Here are a few words about this powerful study from Focus on the Family:

"In a 2003 study, the Barna Research Group revealed a stunning statistic that continues to reverberate throughout the evangelical world – *only nine percent of professing Christians have a biblical worldview.* *The Barna Update*, "A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person's Life," December 1, 2003.

Because of this, today's believers live very similarly to non-believers. A personal sense of significance is rarely experienced, we spend our money and time on things that fail to satisfy, and we begin to wonder what life's ultimate purpose really is. We are, in short, losing our bearings as a people and a nation.

To counter this downward slide within the body of Christ, Focus on the Family has launched one of the most ambitious and powerful projects in the history of our ministry – *Focus on the Family's The Truth Project®*.

The Truth Project is a DVD-based small group curriculum comprised of 12 video lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett, instructor of Christian Worldview at the Focus Leadership Institute and a former Senior Vice President of our ministry. This study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

We believe this curriculum can be a catalyst for exponential change within the body of Christ, as thousands of people are "transformed by the renewing of [their] mind" (Romans 12:2). As He has throughout history, God continues to call ordinary people to make an eternal difference in our world."

Bring your own dinner and join us together as we re-construct a Biblical world-view by diving into the TRUTH.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

November 2021

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$11,299.00
Operating Expenses:.....	\$11,351.80
Monthly Net:.....	(52.80)
YTD Net:.....	\$14,171.17
Checking 11/30/21:.....	\$52,649.15
Money Market 11/30/21:	\$58,295.76

Hi Friends,

Expenses in November beyond regular operations: Payments to Charter, PMA's to Presbytery and General Assembly, janitorial supplies, fire extinguisher inspection, county property taxes for house and the church, local missions, and world missions. All were budgeted items.

Welcome to the new year! Our operating budget for 2022 was approved by session on December 13th. We are a little short on income to expense estimates, but we will be entering the new year with more than adequate funds. We will be ending the year of 2021 with funds comfortably in the positive. The year end figures will be reported in the annual report which will be coming out soon and during the yearly congregational meeting. We welcome any questions or suggestions you may have for the Stewardship/Finance Committee, and look forward to serving the Church in the coming year. Kathy Todd, Treasurer

DEACONS DOINGS

"Baby, It's COLD Outside" Soup Luncheon, Sunday, January 30. When the weather is dreary and cold, nothing warms the body and soul quite like a bowl of homemade soup. The deacons know this, so will be providing a soup luncheon during fellowship on the 30th. We'll have potato and chicken noodle soups, French bread and cookies. There's no special reason - just a chance to break bread together.

This is a good time to remind you that every one has a chance to help out with coffee hour. There is a sign up sheet on the coffee counter, just before you start gathering your goodies. Don't be shy about volunteering! There are no set "must bring" or restrictions involved. If you make the world's best bar cookie, now's your chance to shine. If you think the world needs more Brussels sprouts, well, umm, okay. What you bring doesn't matter. Our coffee hour is all about the fellowship, with something to help soak up that coffee. And serving during coffee hour is the best way to learn your way around the kitchen, and we all know the kitchen is the heart of any home.



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We're on the web!

www.peaceEPC.com

"like" us on Facebook

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

III: The Suffering of the Christ Mark 9:2-15:47

1/2 - An Invitation to the Table
Matthew 15:29-39

1/9 - **The Gospel of Mark:** :
Jesus Curses the Fig Tree
Mark 11:12-14; 20-26

1/16 - **The Gospel of Mark:**
Jesus Cleanses the Temple
Mark 11:15-20

1/23 - **The Gospel of Mark:**
Jesus' Authority Challenged
Mark 11:27-33

1/30 - **The Gospel of Mark:**
Parable of the Tenants
Mark 12:1-12



Your SESSION

Elders

- Pastor Aaron Beaty- Session Moderator
- Noreen Rhoades- Clerk of Session
- Kathy Todd- Finance & Stewardship
- Bob Wincentzen- Christian Education
- Linda Dart- Mission and Outreach
- Jim Zeller- Building and Grounds
- Betty Shaw- Worship
- Sally Heaton-
- Stephen Goode-

**Session meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 1-3PM.*

**Please note new Day/Time*



Your DEACONS

- Geri Coker- Chair
- Susan Orton
- Jocelyn Shellito
- Vicki Zeller
- Bertra Bratton

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



Your TRUSTEES

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