

Tidings of Peace



From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

I pray you are all doing well in faith and health, in relationships and in your inner peace. Saying “Happy New Year” seems trite to me right now as I’m writing my new year article to you all. 2021 poses to be fraught with uncertainty. The Pandemic shows no signs of letting up, political angst continues to run amok, social tensions are high and propaganda surrounding almost everything still seems to sell despite the end of the previous election year, and distrust of the “other” has become ingrained into our national psyche.

With all that is going on, how can 2021 be Happy?

God’s Word gives us many practical instructions and assurances that help us engage the trials and temptations of this world with hearts filled with hope, joy and peace. Here are a few:

1: Set your heart and mind on the things above. (Colossians 3:1-4)

“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.”

2: God Knows your needs and Provides for His children. (Matthew 6:33-34)

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

3: Pray to God and His peace will guard you
(Phil. 4:4-7)

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

4: Be Strong and Courageous, for God is with you (Joshua 1:9)

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

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From the Pastor... Continued

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5: Humble yourself and Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-8)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make straight your paths.
Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.
It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.”

6: Trust in God’s Presence (Philippians 4:13)

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

7: Trust in the Sufficiency of Christ (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

“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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

God’s Word is filled with instructions and encouragements that offer hope, joy and peace- even happiness- through faith. What’s interesting about them all is they have a common theme. Every word of encouragement and instruction toward hope is because God is with us. He is our hope, He is our provider, our protector, our guide, our comfort, our physician, our helper, our source of strength, He is our joy and the glory of our delight, He is our salvation.

How can 2021 be happy? By turning our faith, our hopes and our ways to the Lord, and rejoicing in His fellowship every day.

“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.” -Isaiah 12:2

May the Lord bless you and keep you in Christ Jesus our Lord this year.
Happy New Year!

Pastor Aaron



Thank You!

From the Beaty family to our Church family, thank you for the Lovely Christmas card and the cash gift. What a generous and thoughtful surprise.

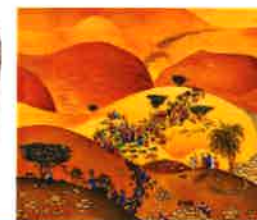
Blessings to you,
Aaron, Krista and Landon

FROM JACOB TO THE WILDERNESS

A study of Genesis, Exodus and Numbers

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00-10:00 AM Fireside Room

We have resumed our Sunday Bible classes before the worship services on Sunday.
See you then!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3RD JEAN METLER

16TH JAMES BREEN

6TH TIM MCGLYNN

17TH GEORGE KEADY

8TH BOB WINCENTSEN

19TH BERTRA BRATTON

15TH ZACH GREEN

26TH T.J. MOULTON

JANUARY ANNIVERSARYS

11TH JOE & JOAN RIKER

30TH LEN & LAWANA BARKEE

Thoughts from an Elder: by Joe Riker

A New Possibility

Read Mark 1:14-20

God's love is the gift that equalizes the powerful and powerless alike, when we rest in God's refuge. Even Jesus' calling of the first disciples is a vivid reminder that God's realm comes to us through fishermen and tax collectors, not just through religious and political leaders. God's grace is the great leveler, it makes us all one.

In Mark's gospel the first disciples were fishermen. Simon Peter and Andrew, who were poor shore-restricted net casting fishers, standing waist deep in the water throwing out their hand nets, and the more affluent, Zebedee's two sons, James and John, who were also engaged in the fishing business, own a boat, and therefore, fished by trolling long seine nets behind them and eventually pulling them up onto land. But there's more meaning to the story than just nets and fishing or whether you're poor or affluent.

Finally, with clarity about his mission and his message Jesus begins to do his work. He withdrew from the political turmoil that was developing around John the Baptist and went back north to Galilee. He left his sleepy little hometown where he would always be thought of as the carpenter's kid and moved to Capernaum, a busy cosmopolitan community on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, a place where many Jews and Gentiles lived together. There he began his work. He chose some special people to be his followers and traveled among the communities of the region, healing the sick and preaching his message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

The names "kingdom of heaven" and "kingdom of God" mean the same thing. They represent one of the most important beliefs that the Bible teaches, maybe *the* most important. This belief has a long history among the people of Israel and different people had understandings of what it means. Jesus comes teaching that one who really is the king of the whole creation is one who loves us and who wants us to love each other. That opens an entirely new possibility for all people.

This belief in the kingdom of heaven has several facets, first it is a belief about the shape of reality in which we live, a belief that the most important one in the whole creation is the Creator, and that the Creator is as Jesus said he is: one who loves us, one who is at work to save us, and one who is always moving us towards fullness of life. Eventually, after the resurrection, the early Christians came to speak of this kingdom or the lordship of Jesus Christ. That is a belief about what is true about life that comes to meet us each day.

Belief in the kingdom of heaven is also a belief about the future toward which God is moving the whole creation, both in this life and beyond it. It is an expectation that there will someday be an era of justice and well-being for all people, and a time when we will all learn to love one another.

Thoughts from an Elder: Continued

Belief in the kingdom of heaven is also a belief about the best way for us to put our lives together. It is an invitation to let God be the most important thing in our lives and do our best to live trusting God and trying to do what God wants us to do. Someone has said, "The kingdom of heaven is true religion."

Now you have a basic introduction to the theology of the kingdom of heaven. What do you think about that? I know what some of you may be thinking: "That sounds good, but what did Jesus mean when he said, "The kingdom of heaven has come near?" He said that a long time ago, and as I look around me right now what I see doesn't look much like heaven to me.

The world has gone through a long torturous history since Jesus came preaching. Many of us find ourselves involved in one more chapter of that history. We live in a world full of dishonesty, moral compromise, and political corruption. Many of us feel jaded and cynical. We find it hard to take hold of any kind of hope, much less hope for a world in which we will all love each other. We feel that we have to follow this world's ways if we hope to survive. Many of us suspect that if we really did try to live the life that Jesus taught us, we would quickly be run over and left bleeding in some ditch. Let's admit that many of us have good reason for feeling that way.

Jesus came into a world of violent conflicts, and from very early in his ministry conflict swirled around him. But Jesus came saying, "Things don't have to be this way. God created things to be different from this and God is at work to make things different from this." It takes courage to take hold of that hope and to let it shape our lives. But those who do so can know they are not alone. God offers a better possibility for each of us and for the whole creation.

Music Notes

Submitted by Bertra Bratton

Voices vary.

My own voice is nothing to cheer about, but I sing hymns enthusiastically when I'm in church. Every note. But this time I had decided to sing softly and listen to those other voices.

The voice in the pew behind me wavered as it sang, struggled to reach the high notes, then faltered off pitch.

Beside me, on my right, another voice sang less than half the time and vacillated between baritone and soprano because it kept youthfully cracking. The voice on my left sang clearly.

All three voices sounded beautiful.

The voice behind me belongs to an elderly friend just out of the hospital and with a gloomy diagnosis - but singing his gladness at being alive.

Beside me were Bud, 13, whose adolescent voice changes almost weekly, and Christine, whose singing expresses her calm efficiency.

The music in the church never sounded better. Lately I have been listening intently for more music and I have heard it everywhere.

Aside from hearing obvious music such as bird songs and the laughter of children, I have harkened to the melodies of roller skates on the sidewalk, of soft rain falling on a thirsty young garden, of a teenager humming as she made cookies, of babies crying in a maternity ward.

Some music has carried me back through the years-the whistle of a boy signaling for Bud to come outside and play, the giggles of our collegian daughter flirting on the telephone, the ringing of the ice cream truck's bell and the resulting slams of screen doors up and down the street.

And, when the windows were open and the sounds of bees, birds, and boys drifted lazily through the warm air, I have heard music that lulled me toward sleep as surely as a lullaby.

For this kind of music, you need neither voice nor instrument, stereo nor orchestra. Just a consciousness that the sounds of today are the memories of tomorrow.

Burton Hillis

From Better Homes and Gardens May, 1978

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Financial Report

November 2020

At a glance

Operating Inc.:	\$11,526.10
Operating Exp.:	\$10,480.74
Monthly Net:	\$1045.36
Ckg Acct Bal 11/30	\$31,174.85
MMkt Bal 11/30	\$46,440.37

November 2020

Here is our monthly update on finance:

November Operating Income:....	\$11,526.10
Expenses:.....	\$10,480.74
Monthly Net:.....	\$1045.36
YTD Net:.....	\$1,286.58
Checking 11/30/20:.....	\$31,174.85
Money Market 11/30/20:.....	\$46,440.37

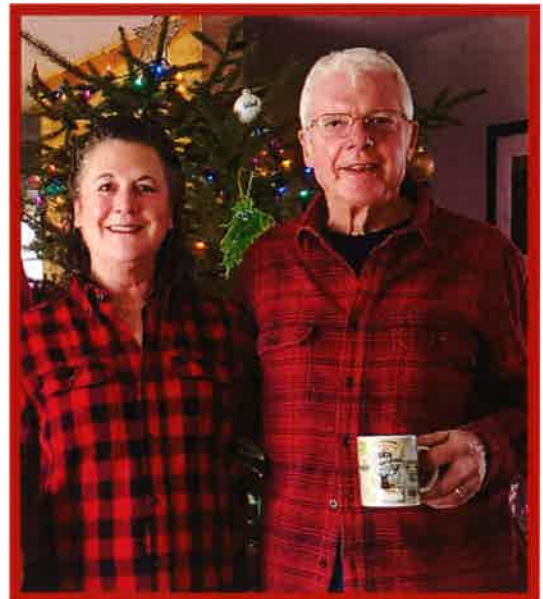
Greetings!

We are winding down the year and we are doing well financially. Some expenses in November beyond regular operations were our quarterly Presbytery and General Assembly per member askings, yearly fire extinguisher check, county property taxes, world missions quarterly donation, and pulpit supply. There was no spending in the money market, restricted funds.

Session approved the 2021 budget on December 16, 2020. Our income projections come up approximately \$7,000 short of our anticipated expenses. However, we will be starting the new year with ample monies in our checking account, probably around \$30,000. We will have the final year-end numbers in the Annual Report which will be out early in the new year. We welcome any questions you may have regarding the budget and expenses, and will happily answer your inquiries.

Thank you for your dedication to our church, and may God bless you all in this new year.

Peace to all,
Kathy Todd





Peace Memorial
Presbyterian (EPC)

4431 South 6th St.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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

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

Romans

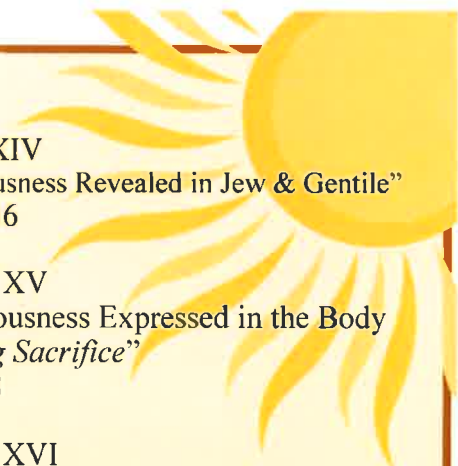
1/3 - Romans XIV
"God's Righteousness Revealed in Jew & Gentile"
Romans 11:1-36

1/10 - Romans XV
"God's Righteousness Expressed in the Body
part 1, *A Living Sacrifice*"
Romans 12:1-8

1/17 - Romans XVI
"God's Righteousness Expressed in the Body
part 2, *Genuine Love*"
Romans 12:9-21

1/24 - Romans XVII
"God's Righteousness Expressed in the body
part 3, *Submit to Authorities*"
Romans 13:1-7

1/31 - Romans XVIII
"God's Righteousness Expressed in the Body
part 4, *Love Your Neighbor*"
Romans 13:8-14



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.*

