



*From the Pastor...*

Dear Friends,

First of all Happy Resurrection! The death and resurrection of Jesus is the core of the faith and the heart of the good news of salvation. It is good news because in Jesus' death and resurrection, all the sins of the world are paid for in full, and in Jesus' resurrection, death itself is defeated and eternal life is established for humanity. That gift- of forgiveness of sin, and eternal life (now and forever in paradise with God), is received by humanity through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. As I've shared many times, saving faith- faith that brings with it the blessings of forgiveness and fellowship with God is defined simply as this: Believing and receiving Jesus death and resurrection for yourself. And that calls us to a new life in which we Submit and Commit to Jesus Christ as our Lord. Jesus has reconciled us to God in His own body on the cross and in His victory over the grave! Praise the Lord!

As we celebrate the greatest news the world has and ever will have, it makes me consider the health and well-being of the Church in general. How healthy do you think we are as a church here at Peace Memorial? How healthy do you think churches are in general? What rubric do you instinctively use to make such a determination? What rubric SHOULD we use? What makes a church healthy or unhealthy?

If you read much on the topic of church health in modern literature, you will begin to see a compiling of common metrics for determining church health. They include: Having Inspirational worship services, a good youth group, a visionary leader,

being mission-focused, growing in number, no active conflict. Do these sound familiar? They are markers we tend to gravitate toward in considering church health. They are certainly characteristics we all may be drawn to and goals we may aspire to. But in my experience in reconciliation ministry, and in emerging studies within the faith, we are

**In this Months' Edition**

From the Pastor .....	1-3
Thank You .....	3
Birthdays .....	4
.....	4
Small Groups/Sunday Bible Study.....	5
Financial Report .....	6
Mission Memo.....	6
Calendar .....	7
Sermon Plans and Officers.....	8

discovering that such characteristics, while admirable, do not necessarily indicate a healthy church. Several churches over the past 10 years that have enjoyed all of the above characteristics have crumbled when faced with significant conflict. What appeared to be vibrant, healthy churches turned out to be not much more than a veneer. They had the outward appearance of health, but inwardly, they were shallow, and hollow vessels. All it took was a little conflict to crack the shell and expose the spiritual heart disease that had gone untreated and ignored for decades.

*From the Pastor Cont.*

So let me ask you again, what makes for a healthy church? In working in ordained ministry and in presbyteries for the past 24 years, I have observed (and this observation has been confirmed by many emerging reports and studies of the church- see [REFERENCE]), that there is one commonality among highly conflicted, unhealthy churches—they have too few people, especially leaders, in Bible study. A quick litmus test often reveals the underlying cause of a church's poor health- and can anticipate a church that will not handle conflict well- they have fewer than 20% of their average weekly worship attendance in adult Bible study outside of Sunday worship.

Why might this be so? Let's consider some key verses from Scripture:

“let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly” -Col.3:16

“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.*” -Col. 3:1-3

“Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.” -Psalm 1:1,2

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” -Galatians 2:20

There are many, many more. The Word of God makes it clear that having received the gift of faith in Jesus' death, resurrection and Lordship, we are called into a new way of living. That new life, “Eternal life” Jesus calls it, is defined as “Knowing God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.” In other words, living out our faith- becoming mature, healthy Christians is primarily about how much we:

- allow the Word of God to dwell richly within us'
- set our minds on the things above (God's Will revealed in His Word);
- delight in the law of the Lord
- meditate on God's Law
- live by faith in the Son of God

The Son of God is God's Word (see John 1). To live by faith in the Son, is to live in a manner where we regularly reflect on scripture and apply it to our life.

So here it is in a nutshell. The key to a healthy church is members who commit their daily lives to being in the Word, to reflect upon it and apply it to themselves daily. While this is a call for us all in our personal faith on a daily basis, God's Word also calls us to come together regularly. Being in the Word was never intended to JUST be a personal thing between the individual and God, it also calls us together to study, listen and submit to God's will as we discern its meaning together.

So again, a congregation's (and especially its leadership's) participation in Bible study in addition to Sunday worship, is the single common factor among churches that are mature and healthy.

The most direct way to test this truth is to see how a church handles conflict. Every person, and group of people who claim to follow Christ, have two “natures” with which we may deal with conflict. The first nature is that of sin. The other is the nature of Christ.

We might put on a good Christian veneer, but when real conflict comes, what lies beneath will be revealed. What will come forward in conflict is the nature that we spend the most time feeding. If we spend most of our time feeding our sin nature (And to do that, all we really need to do is nothing. It's already in us and it is being fed by all the input from the world), when conflict arises, our veneer will crack and our true heart will respond in sinful ways: anger, aggression, contempt, fear, self-preservation/interest, pride, gossip, slander,

*From the Pastor Cont.*

manipulation, etc. However, if we commit ourselves regularly to reflect on and apply God's Word to our lives, that engagement with the Lord in communion with His Word builds up our inner person- bringing to maturity and strength Christ-likeness within us. So when conflict cracks our outer veneer, what emerges from within, is the integrity of the Word in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control, gratitude, hope...

What does this mean for us? I hope you hear a call from God (if not just from me) to commit to being in your Bible daily. Get it out and read it, pray through it, reflect upon it and apply it to your life. And engage in a Bible study with others. We have several to choose from here and any of them will do.

IN our efforts to grow in the Lord and to become as healthy as we can, I would like to also invite you to make a habit of bringing your Bible with you to worship and small groups. Familiarize yourself with it and use it regularly.

Together, we can have great expectations that Christ's resurrection will bear much fruit in us as we hold fast to the Root of Life and are fueled by that Root Christ Jesus who is the Word of God.

He is risen!  
Pastor Aaron

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another, and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgiving each other. As Christ has forgiven you, so you must forgive. Above all, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which you were indeed called in one body. And be thankful. ***Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly***, teaching and admonishing each other in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thanksgiving in your heart to God."

-Colossians 3:12-18

Dear members of Peace, as most of you have heard by now, our daughter Amber Starr Doster passed into the Lord's arms on Monday morning March 25th.

On Friday March 22 while at work she suffered a heart attack. Her coworkers diligently performed CPR for over 30 minutes waiting for the ambulance to arrive. Her body was kept functioning through the weekend but after an EEG on Sunday it was determined she had no brain activity and per her wishes we stopped lifesaving measures and put her on Comfort Care. Her brother Robert and coworkers were with her when she passed early Monday morning.

Betty and I would like to express our deep gratitude for the outpouring of love from our second church family Peace Memorial EPC.

## April Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Susan Orton

16<sup>th</sup> Sally Lovins

23<sup>rd</sup> Debbie Grant

30<sup>th</sup> Grace Johnson



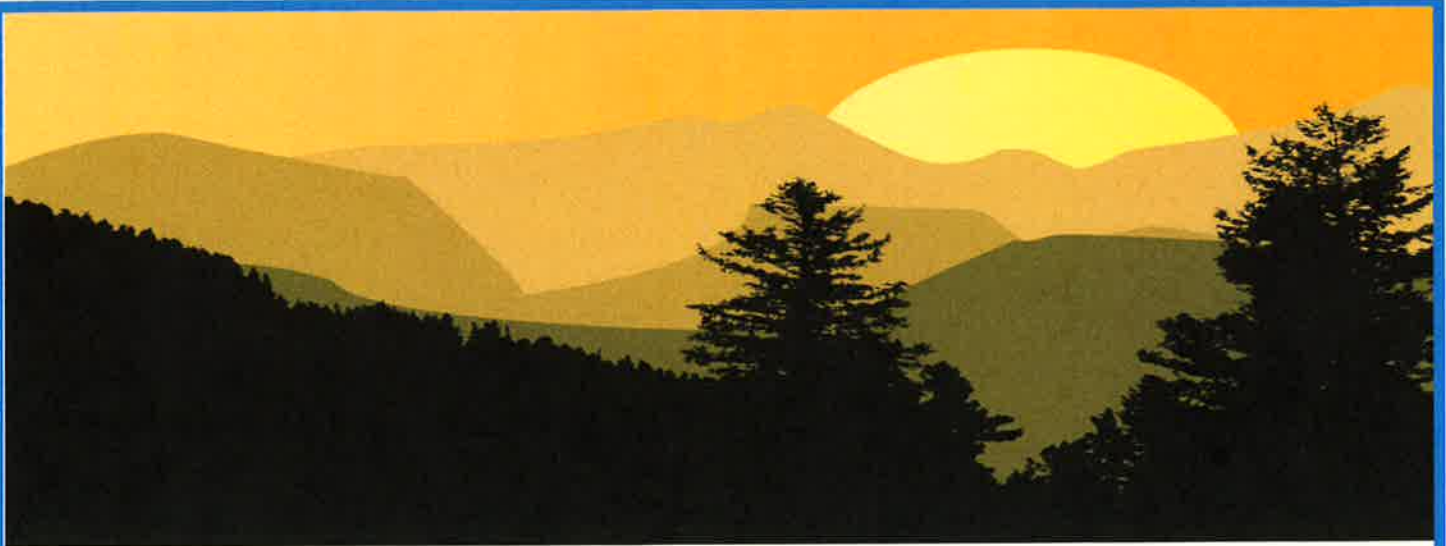
thank you

Dear Whom it may Concern,  
my name is Samuel Kim.  
I wanted to thank you for  
your financial gift you sent in  
2021 for my mission to Japan  
through EPC WO.

The mission to Tokyo for a year  
never took place because I decided  
the church plant in Tokyo is not  
where I should be placed in that  
season. There were many delays  
and I wasn't able to obtain visa.

I did personally go to Japan in  
2023 and wish to go back for  
evangelism, Lord willing.

The financial gift you sent to W.O.  
for my mission to Japan will be used  
for the Kingdom work as EPC Workers for



## Small Groups for Spring

**Our Sermon-Based Small Groups will be resuming April 9th.**

**Tuesdays:**

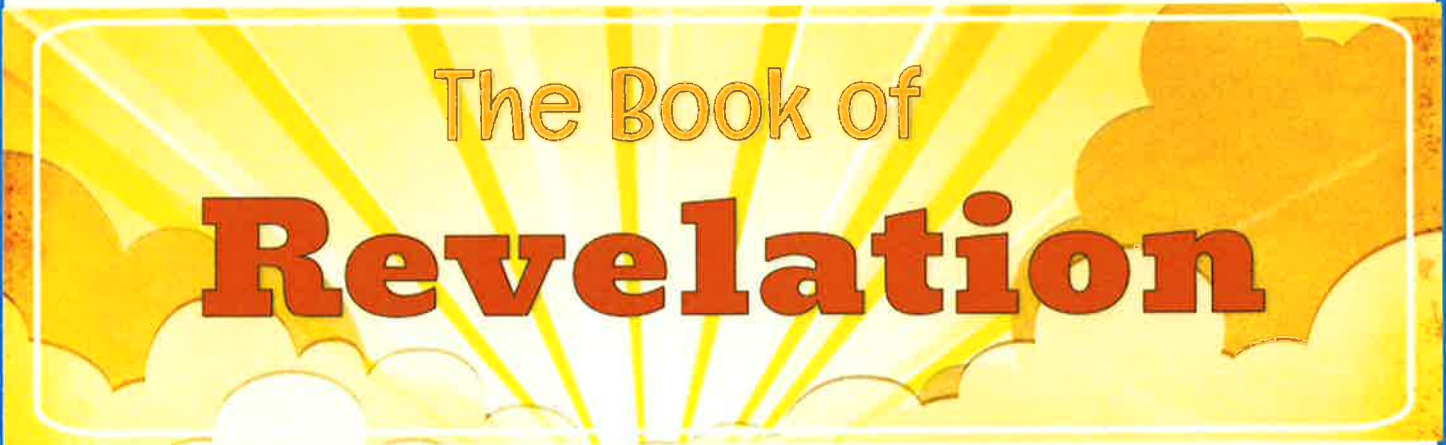
**Women's Group 10-12 Church Fireside Room**

**King Group 2:30-4:30 Church Fireside Room**

**Goode Group 3:00-5:00 Stephen & Sharron Goode's house**

May the Lord Bless you and keep you in Christ our Lord.

-Pastor Aaron



**Our Sunday class on the book of Revelation will resume on Sunday, April 7th.**

We hope to see you there: Sundays 9:00-10:00, Fireside Room

4/7 The Wicked Lament & the Saints Rejoice

4/14 The Victorious Rider & The Chained Dragon

4/21 The Final Judgment

4/28 The New Jerusalem

## Stewardship & Finance Committee

### February 2024

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$13,502.52
Operating Expenses:.....	<u>\$10,972.01</u>
Monthly Net:.....	\$ 2,530.51
YTD /Net:.....	(\$ 784.14)
<b>Checking</b> 2/29/24:.....	\$69,231.15
<b>Money Market</b> 2/29/24:.....	\$35,620.72
<b>Endowment</b> 2/29/24:.....	\$21,302.11
<b>TOTAL</b> 1/31/24:.....	<b>\$126,153.98</b>

Expenses in February beyond regular operations: Continuing education, local missions, pre-emergent spray, and Presbytery expense.

Wishing everyone a Blessed 2024!

*Kathy Todd*

### MISSION MEMO

What an amazing, loving congregation this is! I took the donations of diapers and baby wipes and baby blankets received during our "Luv Tacos Lunch" to the Pregnancy Hope Center on March 18. I told them I had a carload of diapers, and boy!, I was not kidding! The staff was overwhelmed by your generosity. After hauling in the numerous bags and boxes, the staff joined in prayer of thanks and asked blessings on our church. And we have been blessed to be able to support this great ministry. I trust you all enjoyed the lunch and fellowship. Who knows? This might become a tradition.



# April 2024

April 2024							May 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 31	Apr 1	2	3 2:30pm Handbell Practice	4 1:30pm Laura Brasser's Bible Study (Laura Brasser's Home)	5 Office Closed	6
7 9:00am Bible Study 10:30am Communion	8 12:00pm Session	9 10:00am Women's Group (Fireside Room) 2:30pm King's Group (Fireside Room) 3:00pm Goode's Group (Goode's Home)	10 10:30am PMWMG Meeting 2:30pm Handbell Practice	11 10:30am Missions & Outreach	12 Office Closed	13
14 9:00am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	15 4:00pm Stewardship/Finance	16 10:00am Women's Group (Fireside Room) 11:00am Discipleship Mtg (Fireside Room) 3:00pm Goode's Group	17 2:30pm Handbell Practice	18 1:30pm Laura Brasser's Bible Study (Laura Brasser's Home)	19 Office Closed	20
21 9:00am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons	22 1:00pm Building & Grounds	23 10:00am Women's Group (Fireside Room) 2:30pm King's Group (Fireside Room) 3:00pm Goode's Group (Goode's Home)	24 Articles due to the office for Newsletter 12:30pm PMWMG Bible Study 2:30pm Handbell Practice	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:00am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	29	30 10:00am Women's Group (Fireside Room) 2:30pm King's Group (Fireside Room) 3:00pm Goode's Group (Goode's Home)	May 1	2	3	4



Peace Memorial  
Presbyterian (EPC)

4431 South 6th St.  
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Phone: 541-884-5057

E-mail: [office@peacepres.org](mailto:office@peacepres.org)

Pastor: [pastoraaronepc@yahoo.com](mailto:pastoraaronepc@yahoo.com)

We're on the web!

[www.peaceEPC.com](http://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 April:

#### 2 Corinthians

4/7 - The Temple of the Living God  
*2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1*

4/14 - To Live and Die Together  
*2 Corinthians 7:2-16*

4/21- Give Generously  
*2 Corinthians 8:1-15*

4/28 - Proof of Your Love  
*2 Corinthians 8:16-24*



## DEACONS

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

*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
Geri Coker-	Mission and Outreach
Sandi Deatherage-	Building and Grounds
Betty Shaw-	Worship
Stephen Goode-	Building and Grounds

## TRUSTEES

Stephen Goode  
Harold Heaton  
Bill Dart