



From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

I have been praying through the book of Jeremiah over the past month or so. It's a brutal, intense, beautiful, comforting and convicting walk into God's grief over his rebellious people, the beauty and pain of corrective discipline and the devastation of seeing people who are offered forgiveness and mercy, turn their backs on God and refuse to repent. It's been a deep journey for me during my daily devotions- to listen to God's Word- lift up my prayers of submission, repentance and thanksgiving (and engage the Lord with whatever topics that days' reading brought up), and then engage in intercessory prayer for my family, my church, our country the world- etc.

Jeremiah recounts much of the events surrounding Judah's exile into Babylon. In short, due to long periods of systematic faithlessness on the part of the split nation of Israel and Judah, God, after sending prophets to warn the people to repent, and after repeated refusals to do just that, God brought judgment against the people of the covenant, allowing foreign powers to destroy them and cast their people into exile. First the northern kingdom of Israel was defeated by the Assyrians. Then, 200 years later (due to a spark of faith by a few of the kings of the southern kingdom of Judah- see Josiah), after several faithless kings and a return by Judah to wicked ways, God sent Babylon to destroy Jerusalem, take captive her king, destroy the Temple and send the people of Judah into exile to the east.

Usually when the exile is discussed, we focus on that- the exile: Those people who were taken captive

and placed into slavery under the arrogant king Nebuchadnezzar (see Daniel and later, Esther). Often we gloss over the people left behind. – many generally state that following the exile, the promised land was relatively uninhabited. HOWEVER- on closer inspection, Nebuchadnezzar only exiled the elite of Judah, sending a total of 4600 male nobles and

In this Month's Edition

From the Pastor	1-2
Small Group schedules.....	3
Mission Memo	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Financial Report	4
Sexton House update.....	5
Kitchen Guidelines	6
Women's Groups	6
Calendar.....	7
Sermon Plans and Officers.....	8

aristocrats (and their women and children- so probably around 20,000 total) into slavery in Babylon. The supermajority of the inhabitation of Judah (around 75%) were allowed to stay in the land of Judah, and even though their government and religious infrastructure had been destroyed, the people were left to continue their lives in their land.

From the Pastor... continued

Jeremiah records that the people remaining in the land determined to seek refuge in Egypt. But God, through Jeremiah the prophet, instructs the people of Judah to remain in the land- to harvest the fields and keep the land civilized. But, despite God's direction and offering of His providence, the people refuse to listen. They reject God's Word and insist on moving to Egypt. God warns them further that if they pursue their own sense of direction and seek what appears to be the safe and easy way, they will instead be plagued by difficulty, sickness, starvation and violence. Still, the people of Judah choose to scoff at God's Word and follow their hearts- back into Egypt.

“Oh, do not do this abomination that I hate!’ But they did not listen or incline their ear, to turn from their evil and make no offerings to other gods.” – Jeremiah 44:4,5

Judgment comes upon Egypt. Famine, plague, and sword decimate the people of Judah due to their faithlessness as they worship foreign gods and seek protection away from the Lord. Not even Egypt and its pantheon of gods could do anything to provide or protect. No surprise there- for us anyway.

The real surprise comes from the fact that God reaches out to this remnant of Judah- devastated and broken, and calls them back into the Promised land, and into the embrace of His loving providence.

Even though we are faithless, God is faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. Hear the words of mercy that God speaks to a faithless people: “Fear not, O Jacob my servant, nor be dismayed, O Israel, for behold, I will save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid. Fear not, O Jacob my servant, declares the LORD, for I am with you. I will make a full end of all the nations to which I have driven you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished.” –Jeremiah 46:27,28.

There is much to glean from the text of Jeremiah- the purity of God's holiness, the intensity of God's wrath against evil, the beauty of God's loving-kindness and the shock of God's mercy. But one of the key lessons that stuck with me this time through was this: Don't follow your heart. Don't elevate your dreams to the point where you will seek them despite the Word of the Lord leading you another way. The heart is profoundly ill and deceptive. And human thought is dark and futile. Even the wisdom of this world is foolishness.

The conclusion? I think the wise man said it best in Proverbs 3:5-8, 11,12

“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....My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of His reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.”

May the peace of Christ be with you all,

Pastor Aaron

Small Group Schedules**BEGINNING APRIL 3RD****Sermon-Based Small Groups Quarter 3**

Women's Group:	Mondays 10:00-12:00, Church Fireside Room
Goode's Group:	Tuesdays 3:00-5:00, Stephen and Sharron Goode's home
King's Group:	Tuesdays 3:00-5:00, Fellowship Hall
Men's Group:	Wednesdays 8:00-10:00 am, TBA

MISSION MEMO

The Pregnancy Hope Center's BABY BOTTLE DRIVE is in full swing through FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 18th. And it is right that this drive should go from Mother's Day through Father's Day. Many have a tendency to zero in on the woman's (or girl's) needs when discussing unplanned pregnancy- how do we support her to make the decision for life, what can we do to help her prepare, and what about after the baby is born? What services can we offer? But, as those of us who studied basic biology know, that woman (or girl) did not become pregnant by herself. There is a man (or boy) also involved. And when he hears the words, "I'm pregnant," what does he experience? What fears and anxieties? How do we support HIM to make the decision for life, what can we do to help HIM prepare, and what about after the baby is born? What services can we offer HIM? The PHC has programs to help the fathers, as well as the mothers, funded in part by those baby bottles you are filling.

There is another ministry of the PHC that we don't often consider, because it's a ministry that deals with the pain someone who chose to have an abortion endures. The PHC provides post-abortion counseling for women who are haunted by their decision to end their baby's life, whether that decision was 30 days or 30 years ago. To help understand just what that decision might do to a woman, I encourage you to watch "The Kay Painter Story: From Abortion to Forgiveness." You can find it on YouTube. Thank you to Sheryl for sharing the information on this courageous woman.

QUILT SHOW RESULTS

Another Quilt Show is in the history books, and the Women's Missionary Group would like to thank all who participated. The Fellowship Hall was alive with 42 displays, and scones were going out faster than we could bake them. The raffle prize winners were Sheryl Keady, who took home the quilt, and Sharron Goode won the afghan. Special thanks goes to the men of the church- Jim, George, Bill, Paul and Stephen- who moved tables and chairs and frames, and went up and down ladders to hang quilts before the day of the show, then came back after the show to move tables and chairs and frames, and go up and down ladders to take down the quilts. You guys are the best!

June Birthdays

18th Sharron Goode
 21st Judy Burman

June Anniversaries

1st Rodney & Kathy Todd
 12th Jim & Vickie Zeller
 24th Rog & Jan Veracruz

Stewardship & Finance Committee

April 2023

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$12,227.32
Operating Expenses:.....	<u>\$11,321.22</u>
Monthly Net:.....	\$ 906.10
YTD /Net:.....	(\$ 2,922.13)
Checking 4/30/23:.....	\$60,729.61
Money Market 4/30/23:	\$65,442.30

Expenses in April beyond regular operations were quarterly federal and state taxes, and scheduled local and world missions support.

The annual audit was completed April 15, 2023 with no major issues. Thank you to the team that assisted with this process.

We thank you for your continued support of Peace Church!

Kathy Todd



Sexton House Update

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

By the end of June our old “parsonage” will no longer be standing as seen in these photos.

The house had been the home of long time parishioner Don Perryman until his retirement .

We are anticipating something new and wonderful happening on the lot during the upcoming summer months.

Perhaps a nice park, a new playground, nothing has been set in stone as of now so potential ideas are still welcome.



KITCHEN GUIDELINES

For the sake of safety, and so that food prep can be done without the inconvenience of too many people in the kitchen area at one time, we are asking that only the individuals who are assigned to do food prep be in the kitchen at any given time.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

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



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 Wednesday of the month.

Veronica Rhoades



Bible Discovery

Women's Bible Study

Every other Thursday 1:30

@ Laura Brassers House

(Call the Church office for details and location (541) 884-5057)

June 2023

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

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



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We're on the web!

www.peaceEPC.com

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Sermons for June:

- 6/4 - 2 Peter
The Day of the Lord Approaches
2 Peter 3:1-13
- 6/11 - 2 Peter
Jesus is Coming, Quick Look Busy!
2 Peter 3:14-18
- 6/18 - Luke
The Prodigal Son I: The Lost Son
Luke 15:11-32
- 6/25 - Luke
The Prodigal Son II: The Older Brother
Luke 15:11-32



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

-1 Thessalonians 5:18



DEACONS

- Vicki Zeller
- Jocelyn Shellito
- Susan Orton
- Paul King
- 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 |
| Bob Wincentsen- | Discipleship |
| Geri Coker- | Mission and Outreach |
| Jim Zeller- | Building and Grounds |
| Betty Shaw- | Worship |
| Stephen Goode- | Building and Grounds |

*The Session meets the 2nd Monday of
each month from 1-3PM*

TRUSTEES

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