

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you from Peace Memorial EPC! I pray that my letter finds you doing well and looking forward to the time when we can gather together again in worship and fellowship. On that topic I have some good news to share. Our Session met last Wednesday to discuss the topic of reopening our Sunday worship services and together, with much prayer and discussion, we have determined to resume Sunday morning sanctuary services starting Sunday, June 7th at 10:30am with Communion.

Our plans to resume public worship is in line with government restrictions and will follow recommended safety protocols in order to make our time together in worship as safe as possible. To that end the following safety measures will be observed by our leadership as we open our services:

Safety Measures:

- Door knobs, panels and crash bars will be wiped down prior to and after services.
- Doors will be propped open so as to eliminate the need to touch those surfaces.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the front and rear doors.
- The use of fellowship pads, pew Bibles and hymnals will be restricted. Instead, hymn lyrics will be printed in the bulletins.
- Ushers will wear face masks and gloves and will hand out bulletins to worshippers as they arrive.

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-The pastor and greeters will recognize safe distancing of 6 feet and refrain from shaking hands or hugging.

-Passing the peace (greeting your neighbor) will be suspended.

-Communion services will be amended to include individual cups and cubed pieces of bread to eliminate multiple people touching the same loaf or cup. The elements will be offered to individuals by servers wearing gloves and masks.

-Pew seating will be spaced out to follow recommended safe distancing (by closing every other pew and setting seat stickers six feet apart so worshippers can assess safe distance from one another. Safe distancing is recommended between people living in separate homes.)

-Participants are invited to wear a mask to further protect themselves and others.

-Worshippers are reminded that health professionals caution all people over the age of 60, and those with pre-existing conditions that they are at a higher risk due to the COVID-19 virus and are encouraged to stay away from groups of over 10.

-If you are experiencing any symptoms of an illness, please communicate this with pastor Aaron and join us for worship online instead of in the sanctuary.

Our worship services for the next several weeks will be a “soft start-up” meaning we will only be holding worship services on Sundays. We will continue to provide online Bible studies on Wednesdays and our Fellowship hour from 11-12 on Fridays in the fellowship hall as well as via Zoom.

Our Session believes we are able to provide a reasonably safe place to worship given the size of our congregation and the safety protocols in place. While we feel we are able to open sanctuary worship in a safe manner, we realize that many may not wish to meet in the sanctuary given the risk factors. With this in mind, I will continue to provide an online version of my sermon each week on YouTube just like we’ve been doing over the past couple of months so that you can participate in worship from home.

My prayers are with you all as we seek to begin gathering together in as safe a manner as possible. I look forward to seeing you on June 7th at 10:30! May the Lord Bless us in our fellowship.

In Christ,

Rev. Aaron Beaty

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4TH CADEN JAYNE
5TH FRED HADDOCK
10TH CHERI MCGLYNN

13TH HELEN COLEMAN
18TH SHARRON GOODE
28TH CAMDYN JAYNE

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

12TH JIM & VICKI ZELLER
24TH ROGER & JANET VERCRUYSSÉ

DEACONS DOINGS

Please don't forget the Food Barrel stationed in the church lobby. Make a habit of picking up a few items for the barrel each time you go shopping. The donated foods are used by those coming to our door, looking for something because they're hungry, and by the Food Bank (who is contacted periodically to empty our barrel). Though any nonperishable food is appreciated, especially needed are meals-in-a-can (chili, soups, stews), canned meats (Spam, tuna), canned fruits & vegetables, and peanut butter.

And don't forget pets.

**Many transients have a "travel companion" and
low-income families have a furry family member.**

Thoughts from an Elder: by Joe Riker

Hard Thoughts.

Read Luke 14:25-33

The scene changes, Jesus invites all to follow him, yet following is not easy, it's a radical commitment, a wholehearted devotion. One must become a disciple with eyes wide open, counting the cost.

We would rather assume Jesus thinks what we think than listen and follow when we find what he says to be hard. We learn to compromise because Jesus' way is difficult. We live with one foot in Jesus' world of peacemaking and one in the old world of wanting our own way. We live with one foot in Jesus' world of seeking justice and another in the world that ignores injustice. We live with one foot in Jesus' world, where we are concerned about poverty, and another in the world of greed. We live with one foot in the world of reconciliation and the other in a world where we just do not care. We allow the pressures of family life, our time, our needs to obscure our call to serve the world. We let money seduce us – so enmeshing our lives in things that we miss the purpose of living. We avoid the crosses, problems, and possibilities of genuine discipleship.

The multitudes are following Jesus because they think he is building an empire. They have heard about this new superstar who tells great stories and helps unhappy people. The crowds think the trip to Jerusalem is a parade. It will be a story to tell the grandchildren, "Did I ever tell you about the time I walked with Jesus? What a party that was!"

The crowds think they are following Jesus, so he wants them to know where he is heading. His attitude is the opposite of most preachers. He is distressed when crowds show up, because he assumes they would not be there if they understood the cost. What Jesus has is a church-growth guru's fantasy – a mass of people ready to sign up. All Jesus has to do is to woo them, entertain them, give them bread and fishes, give them tempting glimpses of comfort, success, and happiness, and then just haul them in. With a little marketing, Jesus could easily break the membership records and receive all kinds of praise. Instead, Jesus offends them. People talk about the Letter to the Romans "Road to salvation", but seldom mention the "Road" of Luke's writings – "hate loved ones, carry a cross, and follow Jesus." WHAT?

1.) HATE LOVED ONES, Jesus has a lengthy list of people to hate: Father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, and self. Our first reaction is to want to explain why Jesus does not mean what he is saying. We would like to take the edge off those hard words by suggesting that the word translated as "hate" must mean something else. The Greek word is *miseo*. It means hate. This is Jesus at his best in exaggeration. He uses exaggeration to startle the listeners. If it is necessary, you turn your back on your family. He makes us ask, "Do I really want to follow Jesus rather than some less demanding Messiah?" What does it mean?

2.) CARRY A CROSS. What could be more despicable in the ancient world than carrying in public the instrument of your own death? The Romans reserved crucifixion for slaves and foreigners. The condemned person was first scourged, then forced to carry a cross to the place of execution. Roman soldiers stripped them of their clothing and fastened the victims to the cross with nails. Nothing is more shameful than carrying one's own cross. To bear a cross is to choose the consequences of suffering with Christ – telling the truth when it is hard, working for justice for the poor, loving enemies, listening to the lonely, and caring for the lost.

Thoughts from an Elder: Continued

3.) FOLLOW JESUS. Anyone following Jesus needs to know that he was going to Jerusalem to be killed. Christianity is following someone headed in a direction we would not normally go. Jesus is trying to tell us, with absolute clarity, that nothing – not family or work or possessions – can take precedence over God.

Rosalyn Carter describes leadership this way: “A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t want to go, but ought to be.” Under this definition, Jesus was definitely a GREAT leader

Instead of talking about happiness, Jesus talks about towers and wars. Which of you intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and see whether you have enough money to complete it. Count the cost before you say that you are going to follow. What king, going to wage war, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with 10,000 to oppose the one who comes against him with 20,000? Jesus is a king making sure that his army is really committed: “Anyone who won’t shoulder a cross and follow can’t be my disciples.

We feel as if Jesus is saying that we will never do enough. This talk of counting the cost and fighting the battles would be completely discouraging, except for this – we get Jesus. It is often when it is hardest that we discover that Jesus is with us.

Have you ever had a week where everything goes wrong? You know you are trying to do what is right, but nothing is working. Then there is the moment when you feel Christ with you, caring for you, holding you.

When we become utterly dependent upon the grace of God, when we live in partnership with Christ, when we listen to the promptings of the Spirit – then we find our way to hope. God carries us when we cannot carry any more crosses. God nurtures us when family pressures have drained us dry. God keeps seeking, finding, and forgiving us when we get buried in anxious living.

God helps us live in the way of Christ, one with compassion, an alternative to the jungle of selfishness around us, secondly, with generosity, in opposition to the pervasive greed we see, and thirdly, with love, treating people as friends and not problems to be solved. Jesus is demanding, but he also gives everything – meaning, comfort and joy. Costly discipleship is not easy, especially when the world makes other claims, but the question becomes, “Are you willing to give up your limited life to truly live in Christ?”

If we follow, that is what we get. We get Jesus.

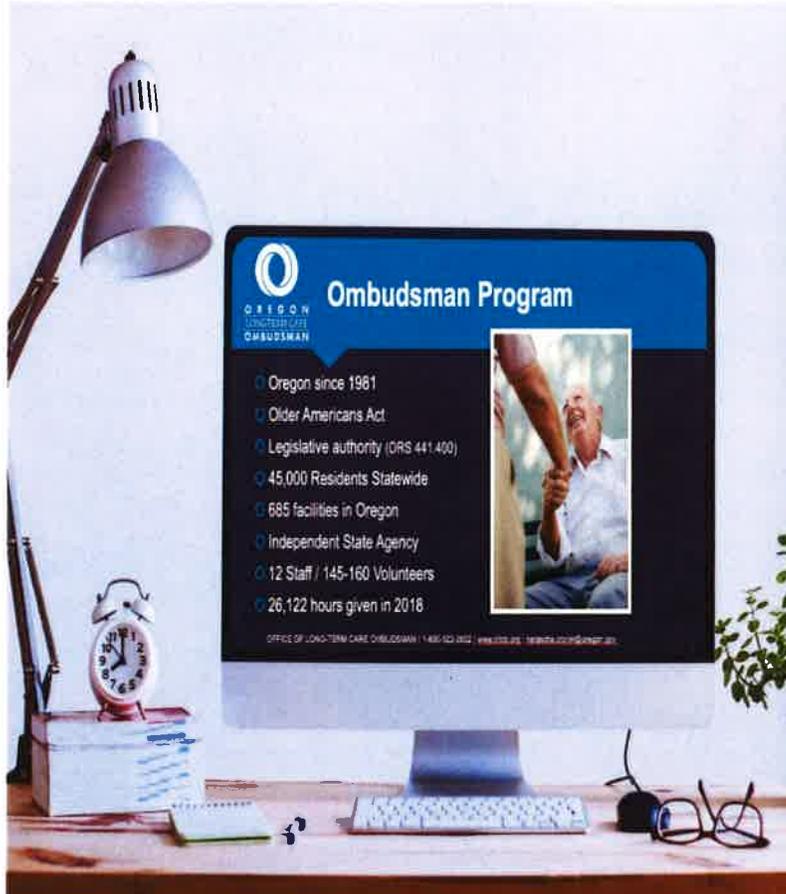


Remember to pick up your baby bottle!!!

Bottles are in the back of the Sanctuary.

Please fill and return by Fathers Day June 21

This is to benefit the Pregnancy Hope Center



Stuck at home?

Why not use this time to learn about the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program!

Certified Ombudsman Volunteers are independent advocates who listen to, and address the concerns of residents living in long-term care facilities. They investigate concerns and complaints, work with those involved to resolve problems and help to ensure resident rights and dignity.

FREE WEBINAR!

Every Thursday at 1:30PM

Register for the webinar at:
www.oltco.org/ltco/volunteer

Questions? Would you like to know more? Contact Natascha Cronin at natascha.cronin@oregon.gov or call 971.600.6149

June 21st

HAPPY
Father's
DAY

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Financial Report

April 2020

At a glance

Operating Inc.:	\$10,223.96
Operating Exp.:	\$10,122.22
Monthly Net:	\$101.74
Ckg Acct Bal 4/28	\$29,227.28

April, 2020

Here is our monthly update on finance:

April Operating Income: \$10,223.96

Expenses: \$10,122.22 Net: \$104.74

Year-to-Date Net: (\$173.13)

Greetings All!

Expenses in April beyond regular operations:

State & Fed taxes: \$790.82, Zoom software

\$149.90, building repairs & maint: \$204.95, yearly copyright license:
\$133.00

We were recently notified that our monthly Avista bill is going up by \$60 per month, but our electric bill went down by \$44 per month, so the budget impact is not that great. Unfortunately, the utility companies don't give prior notice for these changes, so we just have to work on averages during budget preparation.

Thank you for your continued contributions for our Church home.

Blessings to all!

Kathy Todd



Give



Serve



Attend



Grow

Stewardship
a way of life



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E-mail: office@peacepres.org

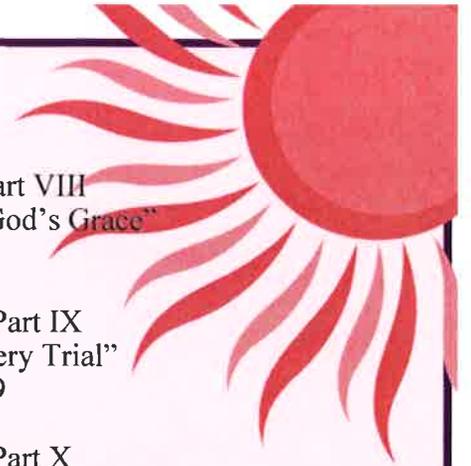
Pastor: pastoraaronepc@yahoo.com

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*



6/7 - 1 Peter Part VIII
"Stewards of God's Grace"
1 Peter 4:1-11

6/14 - 1 Peter Part IX
"Expect the Fiery Trial"
1 Peter 4:12-19

6/21 - 1 Peter Part X
"Shepherd the Flock"
1 Peter 5:1-14

The Minor Prophets

6/28 - "Empowered By His Spirit"
Zechariah 4:6-10

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

Sheryl Keady

Stephen Goode

*Session meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month
from 6-8PM.*

