

Tidings of Peace

AUGUST

2022

Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

From the Pastor...

Enjoy the Blessing

Series Episode 8: "Faithfulness"

Dear Friends,

With the start of August comes another episode of my newsletter series on how to live in the joy of the Lord. With saving faith in Jesus, not only are we guaranteed forgiveness of sin, adoption as God's children and a reservation in the paradise of heaven, we also receive many practical blessings that provide daily substance to the promises of God. These blessings bring with them a transformed life that allows us to truly enjoy God daily- even during difficult times. This month we look at another core blessing of the Christian lifestyle:

FAITHFULNESS.

Let's take a look at this blessing and how we might live more fully and intentionally in the joy of the Lord.

I: "Saving Faith" v. "Faithfulness"

Faithfulness is a broad concept and like many broad concepts there are many facets to it. As we explore the richness of Faithfulness, I'd like to clarify something important. Saving Faith, is the entrance into all the blessings of God. Faithfulness is the on-going living in that faith. Saving faith is the "believing and receiving" that accepts God's grace and the atoning work of Jesus death and resurrection. Through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection and His lordship in our lives, we are saved, we are Christian, and we receive all the blessings of God and His promises. Faithfulness is living in that faith on a daily basis, and that is what we will be looking at today. So please keep that in mind. The rest of what I'm going to share with you is hollow and false if it's not built upon a foundation

of saving faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

II: God is Faithful

If you have been paying attention over the past few months, you will notice a pattern here. All of these topics we have been discussing – the blessings of the faith- are aspects of God's nature. Faithfulness is a

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blessing to our character and lifestyle because God is faithful.

"Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies."

-Psalms 36:5

When attempting to understand faithfulness, you can do no better than to consider the nature of God. God's faithfulness reaches to the skies, we are told. That is to say, when you consider God- His faithful nature is profoundly evident.

From the Pastor... Continued

So what is faithfulness as defined by God's nature? I'm finding it difficult to put the beauty of this facet of God's nature into words. Maybe I'm having difficulty articulating God's faithfulness because it transcends language. Consider God and His ways and you will see perfect faithfulness.

First, faithfulness is about integrity. God never compromises His nature. He is always true. Consider the following:

In the beginning, God created all things good. The created order testifies to God's faithfulness. He made nothing bad or broken, but everything He created was in line with His own nature. This is profoundly relevant in the classic crisis of the existence of evil and suffering. Why do bad things happen to good people? This is how this crisis is often posited. Aside from the fact that the question is based upon a fallacy (that there are good people- God's word reveals that no one is good- but we are all corrupted by sin)- however else that question may be addressed, the foundational truth is, God is good, and all His ways and actions are good- always and completely. However evil and suffering found their way into this world, it is not a product of God's betrayal. God and all His ways are good.

Second, faithfulness is about loving-kindness. Although humanity rejected God and was corrupted by sin and evil, in God's loving-kindness He intervened to provide for His creation, who bear His image. From the beginning to the end, God provides, protects and redeems. Adam and Eve, though they sinned against God, instead of being destroyed on the spot as deserved, God provided mercy. He distanced death that was how inherent in human nature, He covered their shame with clothing, and continued to bless and watch over them, even in their rebellion and alienation. The story of God's faithfulness in loving-kindness continues as He saves a remnant of humanity in the story of the flood. He sets aside a people for Himself as He calls Abraham and Sarah to begin the nation of Israel. At every step from Adam all the way to Jesus, we see God's faithfulness in loving-kindness. In Jesus the epitome of God's faithfulness is manifest. As God takes upon Himself the wickedness of the world and pays its penalty in His own flesh- we see that God does not compromise His Righteousness or His loving-kindness, but in Jesus, both are perfectly satisfied. "I will not leave you nor forsake you." The Lord says to Joshua, and in Jesus, to us as well.

Finally, Faithfulness is about follow-through. There are many more points to be made about the faithfulness of God- but for the sake of this article, I'm going to cap it off with this third point. God's promises are true, and He is faithful to deliver all that He says. God never promises something that he turns away from. In Scripture you may see conditional promises not come to pass, like when God promises Israel victory over the inhabitants of the land of Canaan but then, when Israel balks, God turns them away to spend the rest of their lives in the desert, or when God sets boundaries for Israel and promises them peace and prosperity but then Israel never receives the land by God's boundaries and rarely has peace, and a few others, but in each of those cases- we see God's faithfulness despite human faithlessness. Some of God's promises are contingent upon our faithfulness as well. But God's faithfulness is never dependent upon our faithfulness. Even when God's people were faithless, and that faithlessness yielded suffering, God always provided another way. In each of these examples, God's promises were still fulfilled, only in another form and another time- sometimes with another generation. But as the Apostle Paul says,

**"...if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot disown himself."
-2 Timothy 2:13**

III: Faithfulness is Godliness in Action

**"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for He who promised is faithful."
-Hebrews 10:23**

This text from Hebrews is probably the best way to express the blessing of faithfulness in our lives. As God is faithful and that is an objective blessing and source of joy for us (for no matter what we face, we know God is with us and for us) it is also a call to action – to commit to a lifestyle that mirrors God's goodness, integrity and follow-through. A lifestyle committed to faithfulness is a life well-lived.

From the Pastor... Continued

Our call to faithfulness is first and foremost a call to hold fast to God. Faithfulness is the anchor of our soul- to keep a tight grip on Jesus, the promise of salvation, and to live according to the instruction given to us through God's Word. Faithfulness is to keep true to Jesus regardless of what threats or temptations arise:

“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

-Revelation 2:10

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”

-1 Corinthians 10:13

Live your life for God's glory

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all you need will be given you,”

-Matt 6:33

“In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight”

-Prov. 3:6

When living for God's glory, an integral part of this is how we treat one another. To live in faithfulness to God is to be faithful to each other as well- to the best of our ability.

“Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?”

-Proverbs 20:6

It shouldn't surprise us that living in faithfulness to God includes being faithful to each other. And yet, as the writer of proverbs laments, who can find a faithful person? Many claim to be loving- but faithful? Good luck.

Perhaps it is good to leave with this final point ringing in our soul: the call to be faithful to God is also a call to be faithful to others.

In our marriage

In our work dealings

With our friends and family

With every word we speak- may our words be truth,

and may our actions be in line with the same.

I've heard it said once, “faithfulness is a gift a man gives himself.” It's true for all of us.

May we, in all of our relationships, commit to godliness as we are faithful- with integrity, loving-kindness and follow-through. Committing to be faithful will produce its own joy as we live in the goodness of God's likeness.

May the Lord bless and strengthen you to be a blessing in faithfulness.

Pastor Aaron

ANNUAL Rummage & Bake Sale

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

AUGUST 12 & 13

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Aug. 12th and 13th for our annual Rummage and Bake Sale. If you have items to donate please bring them to the church by Aug. 11th and baked items by the morning of Aug. 12th.

We will set up for the sale on Aug. 11th at 10 a.m. We are looking for volunteers to help set up and assist with the sale.

For questions or more information contact:

Vicki Zeller 541.891.3463

August Birthdays

6th Jim Zeller
 8th Janet Vercruysee
 9th Bill Dart
 12th Joyce King
 14th Kathy Todd
 21st Kathleen Walker-Henderson
 24th Stephen Goode
 25th Kevin Gorham
 29th Beverly Throop

August Anniversaries

3rd Paul & Joyce King
 12th Harold & Sally Heaton
 12th Robert & Ann Wincentsen
 18th Stephen & Sharron Goode
 19th _ & Debbie Grant
 29th Bill & Linda Dart

Stewardship & Finance Committee

June 2022

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$10,173.00
Operating Expenses:.....	<u>\$10,876.39</u>
Monthly Net:.....	(\$ 703.39)
YTD /Net:.....	(\$ 5,979.78)
Checking 6/30/22:.....	\$55,330.78
Money Market 6/30/22:	\$62,197.45

Hi Friends,

Expenses in June beyond regular operations: Office coverage for Admin. Asst. vacation \$280.00, Presbytery expenses \$348.51, AV equip; projector lamps \$109.98, World Mission quarterly payments \$450.00, Adult education; Session training \$310.14.

Thank you all for your continued support of Peace Church. Wishing you all a wonderful summer of prayer and healing during this season of very warm weather!

Many Blessings, *Kathy Todd*



2022 Mid-year

SUMMARY OF GIVING

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church
4431 South Sixth Street
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Fund	Date	Amount
Engage 2025 Church Planting (434)	02/17/2022	\$125.00
Per Member Asking (005)	03/16/2022	\$357.25
Kuhn, Mike & Stephanie (325)	03/16/2022	\$125.00
Engage 2025 Church Planting (434)	05/19/2022	\$125.00
Per Member Asking (005)	05/19/2022	\$357.25
	Total:	\$1,089.50

MISSION MEMO

What a generous congregation we have! We received notice from the Pregnancy Hope Center that all those baby bottles filled with coins, cash and checks came to \$501.04! There will be a little more added since that figure is as of June 30th, and a few more bottles came in later. Thank you, Peace peoples, for your sharing. And thank you, Kathy Todd, for being the go-to gal who set up the drive in May and lugged all those heavy bottles to the Center.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM: Last September, our church hosted a community-awareness event on human trafficking. This August 16th and 17th, the Annual Klamath County Symposium will host a two-day event on... Human Trafficking. As Maurita Johnson from ODHS succinctly put it, "Yes, it happens in Klamath."

Topics will include: How Trafficking affects Klamath County, Learn the warning signs, and What to do if you suspect something. **Local and national experts, including** keynote speaker Dr. Liz Alston, ODHS and Homeland Security will address the Symposium. Afternoon breakout session options include child trafficking, sexual exploitation and labor trafficking, led by law enforcement agencies, CARES, Sky Lakes, and the Klamath Advocacy Center. A printout of the full schedule with additional information is posted on the Mission and Outreach bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

The dates, times and location are August 16th & 17th, 8:30am-3:30pm Oregon Tech, College Union. Both days pretty much mirror each other, so you can attend one day or the other, or both if you want to do different breakout sessions. A free lunch will be served by Oregon Tech Catering (Sodexo). If you are interested, please pre-register at bit.ly/klamathsymposium or contact:

marci.e.bryant@state.or.us.

If you have trouble getting registered, let Geri Coker know and we'll get you going.



Deacon Ministry

With our new officers installed in June, Geri Coker, our long-standing Deacon and moderator, completed her term and Susan Orton was elected by the Deacon board as the new moderator for the program year. Paul King was also elected as vice-moderator (a new position). Thank you Geri for your service, and blessings to you Susan and Paul as you step into the role of moderator!

One piece of interesting news that the Deacons are working on is the celebration of Peace Memorial's 75th year as a congregation! That's right, 2022 marks this church's sesquicentennial anniversary as a corporate congregation. The celebration proper will take place in November (the date on the church's cornerstone), but prayer meetings began, which lead to corporate worship, in July of 1947. Is it merely coincidence that we started up prayer teams last month to pray over our congregation's revitalization efforts? I don't think so! Thank you to all of our Deacons.

Deacons in 2022:

Susan Orton*, Paul King, Vicki Zeller, Jocelyn Shellito, Bertra Bratton**

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. See Noreen Rhoades to purchase the book "His Last Words" for \$14.00.

Noreen Rhoades



Bible Discovery

Women's Bible Study

Every other Thursday 1:30

@ Laura Brasser's House

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

Sermon-Based Small Groups are Coming!

Dear Friends,

Back in June, our Session met together at Lake of the Woods to begin a process of developing a systematic approach to revitalization and growth over the next few years. We discussed many things from the challenges we face as a mainline, traditional church called to engage a post-modern, post-institution, even post-(and in some circles, anti-) Christian culture, to the distinctiveness (problems and opportunities) in our Klamath Falls community. We considered together a few resources that can help us frame our future process and zeroed in on a book called "Sticky Church". This resource offers a foundational step for congregations striving for growth internally and externally. I'd like to share with you the specifics of this first step, as I am excited about it and hope you will join me in jumping into this new investment in the health and future of our congregation.

I: First Thing's First

One of the key ingredients to a good vision is to make sure that our priorities are clear. Having almost laser precision on who we are and the "most important thing" goes a long way to developing a sense of unity and purpose. This key ingredient is not a mystery as its pretty clearly revealed in Scripture- though many churches miss this point or drift away from it. So before I share with you where we are going, I want to make it abundantly clear what our primary foundation is:

Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,

The Bible as the inerrant, authoritative Word of God

The Gospel of salvation as the core message of the Word

-That Jesus died on the cross as payment for sin

-That our sins are forgiven as we believe and receive Jesus' death on our behalf

-That Jesus rose from the grave in eternal victory over sin and death.

-That all who have faith (Believe and receive) this Gospel have their sins washed away, are adopted as God's children and receive the Holy Spirit.

-We are called to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

What does this mean in a practical sense? It means that I will continue to preach the Bible and do so faithfully as it was intended, without watering it down, without marginalizing Jesus, His nature or work. Jesus, and the worship of God will be at the heart of all we do.

II: The Form of our Foundation

As we put that Jesus-focus into practice, it becomes clear that at the heart of our identity, we need to enable two key structures to meet that Jesus/Bible/Worship focus. These two things are what will make up the heart of who we are and be the main thrust of our revitalization and growth in the Lord.

As such we are

inviting everyone to commit to these two things this fall. They are:

1. Sunday Worship.

Since Jesus and His Word are the heart of who and what we are AND the origin of what we are called to do, our Sunday morning Worship service will be the primary source of engaging God together by confessing our sins, attending to His Word, glorifying His name, and connecting together in praise.

The substance of our services, as always, will be Jesus centered and the source material will always be the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. In our Sunday services we wish to develop a sense of anticipation of meeting with God in a unique way. We certainly meet with God whenever we draw near to Him in prayer, but there is nothing like meeting with God together in the fellowship of believers. God calls us together and promises to bless us in our fellowship. This foundation is already in place and our plans for the fall are to continue in our development of good worship times together in our music and preaching.

2. Sermon-Based Small Groups.

The second structure we are putting into place is weekly Sermon-Based Small groups. This is the new part for our congregation. While we've had various small groups- they have been diverse in their purpose, subject and format. One of the key lessons our Session is learning through our study, is the significance of small groups that are specific and unique in several areas. This format should work for any church of any size to accomplish another key ingredient to church vitality and growth: Deep Christian Fellowship.

We are looking at starting small group ministry with four specific features that should make them particularly effective:

A. Sermon-Based

Instead of every small group doing something different, or even following a common curriculum (which requires separate study and prep), having the small groups focus on discussing questions based on the previous Sunday's sermon will not only make leadership of the small groups much easier, but also unite the congregation in a common focus. The discussion will serve to provide the Christian emphasis to the fellowship times and intentionally draw us together toward richer faith and knowledge all while supporting one another in relationship. As part of my weekly preparation, I will provide the discussion questions that will be the format for the small group discussion times. This also means that small group members will not have much extra preparation time needed for the small group meetings. Since the bulk of the discussion material will have already been experienced together in the sermon, members will only need to think through the questions ahead of time in preparation. For those who miss a service, my sermons are available online and I will add the sermon questions to our website as well.

B. Affinity specific

Small groups have notoriously struggled with how to organize people. Should people be grouped by geographic location? Time? Topic? Age? Honestly, I've tried them all with pretty weak results. Our study material highly recommends organizing small groups by affinity, meaning- the groups are not imposed on people, but rather organized by common interest. Singles group, women's group, men's group, couples, friends, new folks, are all suggestions. Since we are a small congregation- our ability to provide a wide range of affinity groups is limited, so we will do our best, but the idea is to join a group that has some natural connection for you.

Each group will be about 2 hours and loosely follow the following format:

- Gathering and refreshment (light snacks) 15-20 min
- Sharing and prayer for one another 30-45 min
- Attending to the Word together 30-45 min
(engaging the sermon questions)
- Closing and plans for next meeting 5-10 min

While there is substance to these meetings in the sermon questions, the emphasis is actually on relationship. It should be expected that you may not always get to all of the discussion questions- especially if a member of your group is experiencing crisis and needs extra care. Small group leaders will receive training on how to balance this but Jesus-present relationships are the emphasis of these meetings, NOT the gaining of new information, though you will certainly deepen in your understanding of the Word as well.

C. Weekly

I suspect this will be one of our challenges. While a very large percentage of our congregation participates in current small groups (including Sunday Bible study, TnT, Women's Missionary group, Women's Book Study, the Wednesday craft group, and Thursday Bible Discovery and others) most of them do not meet weekly. A huge part of the effectiveness of Sermon-Based Small Groups is regular weekly connection. This is where life can happen- and that's where relationships become not only deep but profound. As small groups pray together, share their stories and support one another through joys and crisis, all while seeking Jesus together, Christian Fellowship emerges. It's here in these regular meetings where churches become what our book calls, "Sticky". That means our small group ministry provides for deep, significant relationships with God and each other- and that becomes the place where new people find the richness of our congregation- they visit, get connected to a Sermon-Based Small Group and choose to stay. They **stick** with us, and not because of flashy programs but because of deep, authentic Christian fellowship and connection. These deeper connections then keep us all more in touch with one another- so not only do we lose less new people, but we are also more in-tune with events in regular members lives- so if someone is struggling, there is a regular place to discuss and support. The result is not only a deeper and more significant fellowship, but a significant increase in retention of members both old and new.

D. Built-in Renewal

Our Bible-Based Small Groups will run through three 10-week seasons over the year with a couple of weeks of break in-between and then summer months off. This allows the groups to meet long enough to build deep relationships but short and specific enough that people do not feel overwhelmed with no end in sight. By approaching our Sermon-Based Small groups seasonally with natural breaks in between allows for natural renewal and refreshment and also the prime situation in which to change if a group is not working for you.

III: Building on the Foundation

That is an outline of our step-one in revitalization and growth plan. One of the disciplines we will need to develop and live into will be prioritizing these two structures above all other events we want to do. Whatever other event we might want to see, we must ask ourselves, "What impact will this have on people's ability to attend Sunday Worship and their Bible-Based Small Group?" If the answer isn't supportive of those two priorities, we need to think creatively on how to alter them so they do not corrupt our core commitment. Our Committees are already working on how this will translate to things like Bible or Theology classes (Sunday morning and TnT). For our other small groups- I am asking you to consider joining your existing group into this new format- weekly meetings and following the Sermon-Based format. I will be in touch with your leaders to discuss this for the fall.

From this focused foundation on Worship and Sermon-Based Small Groups, will spring service and fellowship opportunities (as each small group will be asked to engage in at least one service project and a special fellowship event each year).

Please keep this process in your prayers and ask God's guidance for your own participation in the fall. I look forward to sharing more about our mid and long-term vision (as it develops) with you as we enter the fall. For now, expect to see small groups forming hopefully in our first quarter. I look forward to this new stage in our life together!

Blessings to you in Christ our Lord,
Pastor Aaron

Check out these other missions supported by our congregation.



www.pregnancyhopecenter.com
(541) 883-4357



www.kitsaphouse.org
EPC Church Plant. 1% of our budget goes



www.compassion.com
(800) 336-7676



www.klamathfoodbank.org
(541)882-1223



www.kfallsmission.org
(541) 882-4895

August 2022

August 2022							September 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 31	Aug 1	2	3	4 1:30pm Bible Discovery w/LB	5 Office Closed	6
7 Celebration Sunday 10:30am Communion 10:30am Worship	8	9 10:30am PMWMG Mtg	10	11 10:00am Rummage Sale SETUP 10:30am Missions & Outreach	12 Office Closed 9:00am Rummage & Bake Sale	13 9:00am Rummage & Bake Sale
14 10:30am Worship 11:45am Worship Comm	15 4:00pm Stewardship/Finance	16	17	18 1:30pm Bible Discovery w/LB	19 Office Closed	20
21 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons	22 1:00pm Session 4:00pm Building & Grounds	23	24 12:30pm PMWMG Study (Fireside Room)	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship	29	30	31	Sep 1	2	3



Peace Memorial
Presbyterian (EPC)

4431 South 6th St.
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Phone: 541-884-5057

E-mail: office@peacepres.org

Pastor: pastoraaronepd@yahoo.com

We're on the web!

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

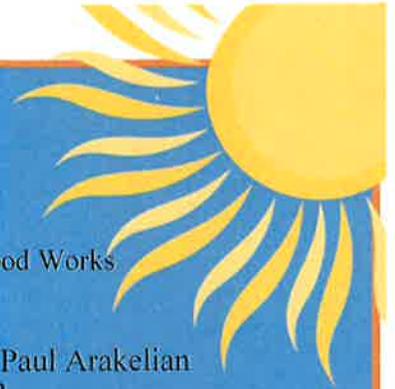
Sermons for July:

8/7 - Be Ready for Good Works
Titus 3:1-15

8/14 - Guest Preacher: Paul Arakelian
Ephesians 6:7-8

8/21 - Guest Preacher: Mike McCandless
"The Three Circles"
Various Texts

8/28- Initial Warning
Timothy 1:1-11



SESSION



DEACONS

Susan Orton- Chair
Paul King- Vice Chair
Jocelyn Shellito
Vicki Zeller
Bertra Bratton

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

Pastor Aaron Beaty-	Moderator
Noreen Rhoades-	Clerk/ Discipleship
Kathy Todd-	Finance & Stewardship
Bob Wincentzen-	Discipleship
Geri Coker-	Mission and Outreach
Jim Zeller-	Building and Grounds
Betty Shaw-	Worship
Stephen Goode-	Building and Grounds

Session is taking off the month of July.

*They meet the 2nd Monday of each
month from 1-3PM*



TRUSTEES

Harold Heaton
Stephen Goode
Sharron Goode
Sharon Haddock