



*From the Pastor...*

Dear Friends,

In 2010, NASA began working on a project to study a distant planet by sending a remote controlled car, packed with scientific instruments to its surface. The plan was to construct an SUV-sized roving science lab complete with a drone helicopter that could scout and take arial readings, digging units that could drill and scan soil and rock samples and even a system to potentially return soil samples to earth. The Rover and its delivery package would be launched into space and rocket propelled to a speed of 24,600 mph. It would fly through the void for almost 7 months before it would reach its destination 330,000,000 miles away: Mars.

Once the vehicle arrived, it would need to radically decelerate within seven minutes from the blistering speed of its sojourn to a gentle enough rate so as to softly land on the Martian surface without sustaining damage. To make matters more complicated, given the vast distance between ground control and the spacecraft (transmissions from Earth take about 10 minutes to reach Mars), the dramatic deceleration process needed to be entirely automated. There was no room for error, and no way to correct if something went wrong. If any of the pre-programmed deceleration stages failed, the \$2.2 BILLION project would careen into the Martian

landscape and disintegrate in a fiery crater. NASA wouldn't even know until several minutes later when the Rover failed to make contact.

It took ten years of research, organization, development, and \$2.2 BILLION dollars for the mission to be ready, but on July 30th 2020, NASA launched the Rocket holding the Martian Rover "Perseverance" into space.

In this Months Edition

From the Pastor .....	1-2
Presbytery Highlights.....	3
Thoughts from an Elder .....	4
Assistance League.....	5
Bucket Brigade & Deacons Doings .....	5
Bible Study.....	6
Stewardship & Finance.....	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries .....	7
Upcoming Sermons/Church Information .....	8

Everything about this story is impressive. The amount of planning, scientific expertise, engineering, construction and the sheer financial cost, the vast amount of space, the unimaginable speeds involved all strain the limits of imagination. But perhaps most striking is the fact that the rocket that launched into the clear skies last July, was aimed at... nothing.

## *From the Pastor... Continued*

The Rocket was programmed at a point 330 million miles away... and nothing was there but empty space.

Mars rotates around the sun once about every 687 days. In other words, one Martian year equals about two earth years. Not only did scientists calculate the angles, speed, and fuel needed to reach Mars, they had to calculate where in space Mars would be in seven months from the rocket launch. So when the Rover left the launch pad, it was flying toward empty void. Mars had not yet arrived.

It reminds me of Hebrews 11:1, **“...faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”**

It's a simple verse but carries with it immeasurable importance. So much of life may seem like we are being launched into the vast void with nothing but a promise that at the end, we will be received by the hands of God. Often we may doubt or fear whether we are on the right course, whether we can trust in what God has promised.

But here we can possibly learn another lesson from NASA. Because they launched 10 years of work and \$2.2 billion worth of hardware toward an empty location in space not out of wishful thinking, but out of a firm sense of assurance. Assurance that mathematics work. That calculations made were accurate. They launched KNOWING that what was unseen now would come around at the right time.

Our faith is the same. We have a great assurance in the unseen. What God has promised is as reliable as those mathematical equations that allowed scientists to commit so many resources to a project. In fact, God's Word is more reliable than the assurances in the minds of those NASA Scientists. With NASA, it's always possible, despite redundant checking, that someone could have made a mistake, could have mis-calculated. But with God, His promises do not depend upon our maintenance or management. God is true in all His ways and while we may not see the fruit of His promises every moment, His timing is perfect and in the fullness of that timing, our faith will be proven well-placed.

On Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:58 p.m. PST, The Perseverance rover gently landed on the surface of Mars to thunderous applause from the scientists and observers at ground control. Perseverance had reached its destination.

One day, in the fullness of time, Jesus will come again and collect His Church to Himself. In the meantime- as we await the loving embrace of God's hands, He is with us in His Spirit. His presence ever attentive to us on our journey and granting us Perseverance in the assurance of things hoped for.

May the peace of Christ grant you Perseverance in the journey.  
Pastor Aaron

## **Tenth Stated Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest**

**Zoom virtual meeting hosted by**

**Terrace Heights Evangelical Presbyterian Church,**

**Yakima, WA, Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

### **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- We examined and received two Teaching Elders: ➤ Rev. Dennis Yim transferred from the EPC Pacific Southwest Presbytery. Dennis is serving Outside the Bounds at a Korean Presbyterian Church in Renton, WA.
- Candidate Under Care Nick Welsh was examined and approved for Ordination and Installation at the Grace Presbyterian Church, Weed, CA and McCloud Community Church, McCloud, CA.
- We received as a Candidate Under Care RE David McConnell-Booher. David is currently serving as Youth Director of the First Presbyterian Church, Fairbanks, AK.
- We approved the Status Change of TE Richard Evans from full-time Associate Pastor to part-time Assistant Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, OR. Richard has taken a part-time position as Hospice Chaplain with Asante Healthcare in Medford, OR.
- We greatly appreciated two hours of teaching focused on “Building Bridges to the Unchurched in Our Communities” by TE’s Megan Hackman and Mike Kuhn. Megan presented teaching for the “Heart” by providing practical ways of beginning interactions and building friendships, then Mike provided teaching for the “Mind” by challenging us to view our place in the community as an “Embassy” rather than a “Fortress”.
- Presbytery approved a Motion from Council regarding the creation of a Church Reconciliation Team that is made up of individuals who have completed the Ambassador of Reconciliation mediation training or who have been otherwise qualified. The Team will work in conjunction with and be accountable to the Ministerial Committee. Presbytery also approved an Amended 2021 Budget which sets aside \$5,000.00 to be used over 5 years to support the Reconciliation Team.
- Additional Officers and Committee members were approved. We welcome RE Dennis Kviz (Sunset Presbyterian, Portland) as the new Chair of Minutes Review, RE Kathy Todd (Peace Memorial, Klamath Falls) filling a vacancy on MinCom, RE Pete Hoover (Christ Community, Caldwell) filling a vacancy on Care of Candidates and 3-year terms were renewed for Larry Jung (Revitalization) and Rick Dietzman (World Outreach).

Much appreciation is expressed to Larena Mills and Rick Dietzman who insured the virtual meeting ran without difficulties. Also, appreciation to TE Lance Williamson, Past Moderator, who was on “standby” if the internet connection at Terrace Heights failed.



**Thoughts from an Elder: by Joe Riker**

**20 things you might consider giving up this Lent. And these are things to give up not just for Lent, but for the rest of your life. These thoughts have been excerpted from several Christian magazines I have read over the years and I don't remember which ones!**

1. **Guilt** – I am loved by Jesus and he has forgiven my sins. Today is a new day and the past is behind.
2. **Fear** – God is on my side. In him I am more than a conqueror. (see Romans 8)
3. **The need to please everyone** – I can't please everyone anyways. There is only one I need to strive to please.
4. **Envy** – I am blessed. My value is not found in my possessions, but in my relationship with my Heavenly Father.
5. **Impatience** – God's timing is the perfect timing.
6. **Sense of entitlement** – The world does not owe me anything. God does not owe me anything. I live in humility and grace.
7. **Bitterness and Resentment** – The only person I am hurting by holding on to these is myself.
8. **Blame** – I am not going to pass the buck. I will take responsibility for my actions.
9. **Gossip and Negativity** – I will put the best construction on everything when it comes to other people. I will also minimize my contact with people who are negative and toxic bringing other people down.
10. **Comparison** – I have my own unique contribution to make and there is no one else like me.
11. **Fear of failure** – You don't succeed without experiencing failure. Just make sure you fail forward.
12. **A spirit of poverty** – Believe with God that there is always more than enough and never a lack
13. **Feelings of unworthiness** – You are fearfully and wonderfully made by your creator. (see Psalm 139)
14. **Doubt** – Believe God has a plan for you that is beyond anything you could imagine. The future is brighter than you could ever realize.
15. **Self-pity** – God comforts us in our sorrow so that we can comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.
16. **Retirement** – As long as you are still breathing, you are here for a reason. You have a purpose to influence others for Christ. That does not come to an end until the day we die.
17. **Excuses** – A wise man once said, if you need an excuse, any excuse will do.
18. **Lack of counsel** – Wise decisions are rarely made in a vacuum.
19. **Pride** – Blessed are the humble.
20. **Worry** – God is in control and worrying will not help.

God has so much more in store for you. But so many of these things above are holding you back from walking in the full destiny he has laid out for you.

**Today is a new day.**



Assistance League is a national organization with a chapter here in Klamath County. Assistance League owns Findables, a used furniture and home décor store located at 1330 East Main St.. It is operated entirely by volunteers and the proceeds from the store go to clothe needy children in Klamath County (Operation School Bell.) More than 1300 children were clothed in 2020 by Assistance League. The store is stocked by shopping yard sales, etc., and by donations. Findables desperately needs your gently used furniture. Drop off at 1330 E. Main between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. OR Call Reen Stagner at 1.253.468.8746 for pick up.

### **BUCKET BRIGADE BACK ON THE MARCH**

Volunteers on the Bucket Brigade will meet on Monday, March 22nd at 9:00 am. We were inspired by that beloved Christmas carol, "Deck the Halls and Spruce the Sanctuary, Fa-la-la-la-la....." So we'll be cleaning the side entrance hallway and CE hallway. We did a thorough cleaning of the sanctuary a few months ago, but we want to do some touch-ups in the sanctuary so we're all ready for Easter. It would be nice to remove the artificial pine needles and glitter before we adorn the Cross. Again, coming to help does not obligate you to come every time, but we'd love to have you join us. It's amazing what a small band of broomers can accomplish in a few hours,

Our Bucket Brigade tackled the back hallway and former music office on February 22nd, and boy- what a difference! Thanks to all who joined in to clear away the accumulation of "things to deal with later." Great job, ladies!

### **DEACONS DOINGS**

There is good news on the COVID-19 front- a vaccine is available, cases are decreasing, and restrictions to our daily lives are lifting. The deacons have decided to give ourselves one more month of cushion, so we'll continue doing coffee hour as we have for the past few months. The deacons will provide all the individually-packaged snacks in March. Those who are helping during coffee hour will serve and clean-up. Come April, though, be ready to bring on the lemon bars!

*On **Friday, March 5th**, EPC teaching elder Andrew Brunson will be a featured speaker for the Voice of the Martyrs live-streamed "**Imprisoned for Christ**" event. As you may remember, Pastor Andrew was imprisoned in Turkey for two years. **The event starts at 4:30 pm** and will end around 8:30 pm. The deacons will be providing sandwiches, chips and beverages for those of you who wish to attend.*

You may have noticed a little bit of furniture rearranging in the foyer and narthex. This was done to allow space for an Elder station to complement the greeter. Visitors will be greeted as we've always done, but there will now be an Elder on hand to provide additional information (such as where the restrooms are and how we serve communion) and answer any questions regarding church programs. There are also now two receiving areas for your donations to the Food Bank and Stearns School. There are baskets in the foyer, so you can free your hands before getting your bulletins, as well as receptacles in the Fellowship Hall for those coming in the side entrance. And while we're on the subject of greeters- if you are interested in being a greeter or willing to help collect the offerings, let Susan Orton or Bev Moulton know.

**These are a couple of ways to take part in the life of the church.**



## The Inheritance of Israel

*A Journey through the book of Joshua*

With Pastor Aaron Beaty and Deacon Geri Coker

Sundays 9:00-10:00 AM

Fireside Room

Thank you!



To Everyone at Peace Memorial  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you again this Christmas  
for your generous donation of toys.  
We had less agencies participating  
but were able to give out more toys  
than ever!

God bless you,  
Debi & Jeff

## Stewardship & Finance Committee

### Financial Report

January 2021

At a glance

Operating Inc.: \$17,440.03

Operating Exp.: \$11,582.45

Monthly Net: \$5,857.58

**Ckg Acct Bal 1/31 \$40,639.80**

**MMkt Bal 1/31 \$52,606.20**

January 2021

Here is our monthly update on finance:

January Operating Income:....\$17,440.03

Expenses:.....\$11,582.45

Monthly Net:.....\$5,857.58

YTD Net:.....\$5,857.58

Checking 1/31/21:.....\$40,639.80

Money Market 1/31/21:..... \$52,606.20

Hi Friends,

Expenses in January beyond regular operations were quarterly taxes, building insurance, quarterly sanitary district, irrigation annual fee, and State of Oregon non-profit fee.

Blessings All,  
Kathy Todd

## MARCH

### Birthdays

15<sup>TH</sup> JUSTINA GREEN

18<sup>TH</sup> MATT GREEN

22<sup>ND</sup> RODNEY TODD

28<sup>TH</sup> VICKI ZELLER

### Anniversaries

17<sup>TH</sup> GEORGE & SHERYL KEADY





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"like" us on Facebook

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



Romans

3/7 - Romans XXIII  
"Goals for the Fellowship"  
Romans 15:14-21

3/14 - Romans XXIV  
"Godly Plans"  
Romans 15:22-33

3/21 - Romans XXV  
"Personal Greetings"  
Romans 16:1-16

**Conclusion of Romans**

3/28 - Romans XXVI  
"Wisdom, Innocence, and the Great Doxology"  
Romans 16:17-27

## 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.*

