

# Tidings of Peace

# October

Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

## From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

During our Sunday Bible class, we've been studying the nation of Israel as she inherited the land promised to them by God. Along the process Israel went from an individual (Jacob/Israel), to twelve sons who, over the course of 400 years became 12 (very populated) tribes. "Tribalism" describes a way that people tend to naturally congregate. It's a union of people around a commonality. The most basic form is family tie (as in the case of the tribes of Israel- they were united together according to their family-tribal links). This system of order worked well for Israel as they lived in Egypt for many generations as slaves. The tribal order allowed for the Israelites to provide and care for one another while maintaining their identity within and distinct from the national order and identity of Egypt. The tribal system provided for a way to resolve disputes, a system to funnel resources, and a framework of belonging for individuals. This all sounds technical, but the bottom dynamic is - family. The interconnectedness of the family units held people together, protected Israel's identity, allowed for community and communication across the broader tribes of Israel, and maintained their faith in and worship of God. Key to this common faith identity were the promises of God to their ancestor Abraham. Those promises were passed down through the family connections of these tribes.

But once Israel was delivered from Egypt, things began to change by God's design. From the time at Mt. Sinai (Exodus), where God gave the law to Moses, to the point when Israel began to settle in the promised land (middle of Joshua), God added a new dimension to Israel's tribal identity- Nationalism. Israel's identity was now becoming defined by a higher national unity. God began to unite them as a

single people in several key ways:

**United in a common worship system:** Right after the tribes of Israel were delivered from Egypt, God brought them to the base of Mt. Sinai, upon which

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Moses received the law and the blueprints for a system of worship. Both a structure and a system of laws formed their first national framework. Israel would be a nation defined by God's presence. "I will be your God and you will be my people" was God's promise to Abraham. Now Israel had that promise lived out: HERE is God (represented by the Ark of the Covenant and the tabernacle) and here is how you will be my people (represented by the law). As the tribes of Israel left Sinai for the promised land, they did so as a new people- unified by this structure of worship- each tribe now also having an assigned marching and camping order in relation to the locus of worship (the presence of God in the Ark of the Covenant and its surrounding tabernacle). (See Numbers 10)

*From the Pastor... Continued*

**United in War:** The distinct tribes of Israel were also united for the first time by war. As Israel came into contact with hostile forces through the wilderness (and in the Promised land) they were united together in a common call to arms. Through the Desert, they often had to defend themselves and were commanded by God to vanquish various forces. And once they reached the promised land, they found it was populated by well provisioned fighting forces. They were called to fight for their inherited land. There is a unique bond formed between people who fight together against a common enemy. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). The tribes of Israel fought together as one nation, bled and died together for one another's inheritance in God's promise. Even when some of the tribes found their promised land early- and uninhabited- they joined the other tribes in conquering the people of Canaan – many giving their lives to help clear out the regions the other tribes would inherit- before they went back to live on their land.

**United by Geography:** This growing nationalism was also about geography. The promised land was actual LAND (cities, mountains, plains, borders, water sources- and who owned what [high fences make good neighbors]). Many of these places already had deep significance for the people of Israel. Not only was this land promised to them by God to their father Abraham, but many of the key events of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph) took place here. This was the place of God's choosing as set aside (holy) for Israel.

**United by Politics:** Israel's legal code began to grow to include polity for dealing with each other on a national level. Cities of refuge, places of worship, and inter-tribal boundaries were established. Additionally, their land now made them neighbors with other nations and the legal code grew to provide national identity that would distinguish Israel in how it related to foreigners, all designed to build-up Israel as one nation, under God, witnessing to His goodness and glory.

It all sounds good in summary. A one person (Abraham) made by God into many people (12 tribes), united by God together as one nation to live happily- glorifying God and enjoying Him forever...

But the devil is in the details. And throughout this process, the people of Israel fought against God and each other. The new nation soon turned from God and set up a king. The nation, now a kingdom, was divided internally from the start and only briefly saw national unity. Before long the nation was split in two- the north and the south. And despite their family ties, they would go to war with each other with surprising regularity.

But the story of Israel's formation, forecasts God's larger plan. For in this world, we are fractured by sin. We huddle together in tribes – of ethnicity, nationality, society, beliefs, religion, even hobbies. We are divided in heart and by nature are hostile to God and to each other. But in the Gospel, we see God's purpose all along. The purpose for choosing the people of Israel and making them a nation. – for through Israel, even in the midst of their false unity, God sent His son, that whoever believed in Him would not perish but have eternal life.

As Luke records the words of Paul,

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” -Acts 2:38  
-41

In the midst of all the tribalism of the earth (The fractures that divide us from each other and set us up against one another), Jesus spoke a word that transcended them all- calling us to be one people in His name. On that day (Pentecost), about 3000 people from many nations became one people in Jesus. And that was just the beginning

*From the Pastor... Continued*

And so, from Israel (12 tribes made one nation) God calls all the tribes of the earth to be one people in Jesus. Not everyone will make it to that promised land of connection, belonging, and unity with God and each other in Jesus- some will die along the way because of rebellion. Some will refuse to hear that call or to see beyond the boundaries of their own tribe. And even now as we – the Church – are gathered together as one from every tribe on the earth, like Israel, we find ourselves fighting amongst ourselves as modern tribalism threatens to break us apart.

The Biblical lesson of Israel's example to us today is to turn to God, lament our sin, and long for the coming of the One who will establish unity forever. And as God came to extend His promises from Israel to the world by paying the price for our sin in the death and resurrection of Jesus, so He will come again to herald in the unity and peace that He has promised. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

# OCTOBER

## Birthdays

1<sup>ST</sup> AARON BEATY

25<sup>TH</sup> LAWANA BARKEE

8<sup>TH</sup> SCOTT DICKSON

25<sup>TH</sup> JEANNINE WIRTH

17<sup>TH</sup> MARJORIE DIVINE

27<sup>TH</sup> LANDON BEATY

17<sup>TH</sup> SARAH SMITH

28<sup>TH</sup> RUTHMARIE HAMEL

19<sup>TH</sup> COURTNEY HARVEY

31<sup>ST</sup> BETTY SHAW

## Anniversaries

6<sup>TH</sup> MATT & TINA GREEN

18<sup>TH</sup> JAMES & NOREEN BREEN

## **DEACONS DOINGS**

The Deacons will be providing a chili dog lunch for all you workers who help at the Fall Work Day on Oct 25.

The Deacons will host the annual HARVEST DINNER on Sunday, Oct 31st. We'll have our usual chili baked potatoes with all the toppings, tossed salad and desserts. This is a time to fellowship and give thanks for all God's blessings.

There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers at our weekly coffee hours on the counter where you get your goodies and beverages. Some Sundays have a designated group such as Deacons, Women's Group, and Session, but don't let that stop you if you want to help out. Every one knows the most fun place to be is the kitchen, and there's no better way to learn where things are than hanging out on the other side of the counter. So while you're waiting in line to get your refreshments, jot your name down.



Stearns Elementary

## COAT Drive 2021/22

Peace Church has adopted Stearns Elementary School again this year.

Since the State of Oregon is providing actual school supplies this year

**WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON  
PROVIDING COATS/JACKETS  
for the children this year.**

*Donations can be dropped off in the box on the table at the entrance to the Sanctuary or in the box in the Fellowship Hall.*

***Thank You for your continued support to this wonderful outreach to the community!!***

## **CIRCLE STUDY RESUMES Wed, Sept 22**

When we last met, Hagar had fled, met God, and returned to her mistress and the father of her son. But the family dynamics are just heating up! We'll pick up on our study of Michael Kuhn's *Finding Hagar: God's Pursuit of a Runaway* on Wednesday, September 22nd. We'll meet at 12:30 pm to explore chapters 11 and 12. The roll call word will be "patience," so get those Scripture passages ready. All women are invited to join in this study. Even if you have not attended before, do come to learn and share.

## **BUCKET BRIGADE'S NEXT ASSIGNMENT**

Monday, October 25 at 9 am will be the next gathering of the Bucket Brigade. We'll be working along side the Building and Grounds Committee for their Fall Work Day. We've had a special request (see? Our fame is spreading) to tackle the Christian Nurture Office. It has become a kind of "catch-all" room, much like the back hallway had become. If you don't enjoy working outdoor jobs with the B&G folk, please come help Noreen restore some order to that office.



***BIG THANK YOU to Vicki, Linda and Jocelyn for helping with the kitchen clutter.*** Have to admit- we were brutal in removing loose napkins, crunched styrofoam cups, expired food products and smelly cottage cheese containers. Items that are used once in a blue moon were stored elsewhere since we had made all this room. We didn't get to everything, so we just might need to do "Kitchen... The Rest of the Story", later.

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING: DID YOU KNOW???**

We had a great response from the community at our Human Trafficking 101 awareness event. We had anticipated an hour for the presentation, and were together for almost two! Many are interested in starting to network so we can meet the challenges in our community.

DID YOU KNOW the average age for entry into the sex trade is 11-18 years old for boys and 12-18 years old for girls?

DID YOU KNOW the average number of foster placements for trafficked youth is ELEVEN?!!!

DID YOU KNOW most victims in Klamath Count are trafficked by members of their own family, often in exchange for drugs?

And here's a real shocker: DID YOU KNOW that Klamath County, rated first in the state for child abuse several years running, has NO child therapy specialist to help these traumatized children? That's right- NO, NONE, NADA!

The Mission Committee has been digesting the information we received, and will be setting out a plan of how we move forward in this fight. One thing is very evident- one committee of one church can't do it alone. We'll be reaching out to other churches and organizations. And we'll be reaching out to you to help make the calls to state and local entities, attend the City Council and County Commissioners meetings, challenge the school boards, and pray, pray, pray.

## Sunday Bible Class

9:00-10:00 AM  
Fireside Room

### *JOSHUA*

## The Inheritance of Israel



Pastor Aaron Beaty and Deacon Geri Coker continue the journey of the nation of Israel as she comes into her promised inheritance- the Land of Canaan through the book of Joshua. Israel has entered the promised land but with the receipt of this land comes trials of various kinds. Together we will explore Israel's victories and failures and through it all, the faithfulness and glory of God. By studying this holy history, we will listen together to the voice of God as He speaks to us today, building up strength in faith, hope and peace in Jesus through Israel's examples, both negative and positive.



## Theology On Tap (TnT)

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays

6-7:30PM

Church Fireside Room

Starting on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, Join Pastor Aaron as we begin the video series, "The Truth Project" with Dr. Dell Tackett.

Here are a few words about this powerful study from Focus on the Family:

"In a 2003 study, the Barna Research Group revealed a stunning statistic that continues to reverberate throughout the evangelical world – *only nine percent of professing Christians have a biblical worldview. The Barna Update, "A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person's Life,"* December 1, 2003.

Because of this, today's believers live very similarly to non-believers. A personal sense of significance is rarely experienced, we spend our money and time on things that fail to satisfy, and we begin to wonder what life's ultimate purpose really is. We are, in short, losing our bearings as a people and a nation.

To counter this downward slide within the body of Christ, Focus on the Family has launched one of the most ambitious and powerful projects in the history of our ministry – *Focus on the Family's The Truth Project®*.

*The Truth Project* is a DVD-based small group curriculum comprised of 12 video lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett, instructor of Christian Worldview at the Focus Leadership Institute and a former Senior Vice President of our ministry. This study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

We believe this curriculum can be a catalyst for exponential change within the body of Christ, as thousands of people are "transformed by the renewing of [their] mind" (Romans 12:2). As He has throughout history, God continues to call ordinary people to make an eternal difference in our world."

Join us as we kick this study off on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Bring your own dinner and join us together as we re-construct a Biblical world-view by diving into the TRUTH.

## Stewardship & Finance Committee

August 2021

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$9,467.00
Operating Expenses:.....	\$12,470.29
Monthly Net:.....	(\$3,003.29)
YTD Net:.....	\$17,458.03
Checking 8/31/21:.....	\$55,040.74
Money Market 8/31/21:	\$57,804.32

Hi Friends,

Expenses in August beyond regular operations were Presbytery & General Assembly per member askings, world missions support, Presbytery expenses for Pastor and Commissioners, and music supplies.

We are getting ready to put together our budget for 2022 very soon in preparation for our stewardship drive. Please pray over our church and our financial stability for the upcoming year.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Kathy Todd

Fall Clean Up Day

**MONDAY**

**October 25th**

**9am - 2pm**

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!!**

**CONTACT JIM ZELLER @ 541.274.1942 FOR MORE INFORMATION**



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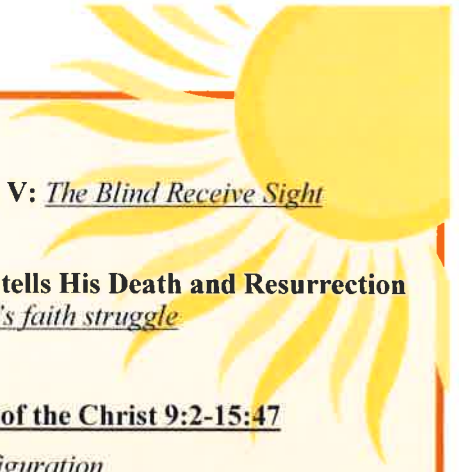
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We're on the web!

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



10/3 - **Restoration V: The Blind Receive Sight**  
Mark 8:22-26

10/10 - **Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection  
the 1st time: Peter's faith struggle**  
Mark 8:27-9:1

**III: The Suffering of the Christ 9:2-15:47**

10/17 - The Transfiguration  
Mark 9:2-13

10/24 - Jesus Delivers a Boy from an Unclean  
Spirit  
Mark 9:14-29

10/31 - **Jesus foretells His Death and  
Resurrection a 2nd Time: Rebuked Pride**  
Mark 9:30-37

## Your SESSION

### Elders

Pastor Aaron Beaty-	Session Moderator
Noreen Rhoades-	Clerk of Session
Kathy Todd-	Finance & Stewardship
Bob Wincentzen-	Christian Education
Linda Dart-	Mission and Outreach
Jim Zeller-	Building and Grounds
Betty Shaw-	Worship

## Your DEACONS

Geri Coker- Chair

Bev Moulton

Susan Orton

Jocelyn Shellito

Vicki Zeller

Bertra Bratton

*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.*

