

Once in a while we all get news

or information that just takes us by surprise, right? And it can take us from having a great day to having a very bad day. And it doesn't necessarily have to be horrible news, just surprising and unwanted. And after we get over the shock, we might actually realize it's not a big deal or that we can handle it, it's just the initial revelation that catches us by surprise.

And I think we all know that feeling. And some of us, myself included, don't necessarily handle those surprises very well. In fact, when I was working late one night at a Perkins as a shift manager, someone came rushing into the restaurant screaming that their car was on fire. Now, immediately I wanted to respond, but it seemed like everything in my body went into flight mode, rather than fight mode. But being the manager on duty I tried to process what I should do. Now, I like to consider myself a rather rational person who makes wise and thoughtful decisions. I was not that rational person at that moment.

And, just to let you into the workings of my mind, after the initial shock, I still didn't make any movement because I knew that the best answer was to grab one of our fire extinguishers and race to put it out, but I also knew that fire extinguishers were expensive and I didn't want to use one unless absolutely necessary...So I thought maybe I should just run out and see how bad it is, but I got caught between thoughts, so on the outside it looked like I was just running around in circles, literally. Finally, I made it outside but by then the fire had already gone out.

Now, I think all of us act out of character when it

comes to shocking news like this. And that's understandable. However, it's in the other times, the less shocking and non-emergency times, that our reactions are even more important.

And I think this past year reveals that well. And I'm not judging anyone with this or making specific comments on individual's choices, but fear was a major part of our reaction last year. And that isn't necessarily a fear of COVID itself, but it could have been a fear resulting from any of the hundreds of consequences to the pandemic: job loss, income loss, isolation, loss of development, being controlled, etc. I think most of us faced some kind of fear and we reacted to that fear.

But what I see most importantly from that fear is not the feeling itself but our reaction to it. And any time fear comes into our hearts, we need to remember that fear can be God-given but he also gave us the opportunity to choose how we'd react, especially after the initial shock of it.

Paul writes to his protégé Timothy in 1 Timothy 1.7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." (NLT) And when Paul writes this, he's referring to fear of speaking about Jesus, but more generally about all types of fear.

And that's where our choices come in. Fear is so overwhelming at times, and sometimes hard to see or understand, that we just react. We don't realize it is fear that's driving our reactions.

Which is why slowing down is so important. When we slow down and analyze our feelings, we can determine if fear is driving us. And, if it is, we need to really try to see if our reactions match in line with the Spirit that God gave us.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Camp Fellowship

We are adjusting our camp fellowship date this year because the school will continue to meet here in May. So we will be hosting the camp fellowship on Monday, July 19th. We are looking for a few individuals who are interested in leading the effort of putting together the meal for that event. If you have interest, please let a board member know.

Worship and Prayer

Over the rest of the year, the Ministerial will be hosting Worship and Prayer nights at the old Oak Ridge Café on Broadway St. The goal is simply to gather as a Christian community to worship our one God as well as seek his presence to heal and move forward in this year well. We hope to have them the last Sunday of every month. The next one is Sunday, April 25th.

VBS Planning

We are looking into what VBS might look like this year and would like some input. We are planning a meeting on Thursday, April 8th at 4:30pm at the church and anyone is welcome to attend. If you missed this meeting, feel free to contact Matthew with any thoughts. We will have additional meetings as we move forward.

Brighten up Astoria

If you haven't already heard, the community is coming together to help each other. On Saturday, April 17th we are having a day where neighbors can help neighbors and do a little work at each other's houses. If you have a small to

medium job that we could help with, contact the church 329-2150 and we'll get you on the list. If you can help, let Matthew know and we'll make sure you know the final details on the plan.

Prayer List

- Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer
- Denny Belville – unable to operate
- Tammy Bowman – kidney failure and other health concerns
- Dorothy Clevenger – heart issues and cancer treatments
- Les Davis – procedure went well
- Sandy Durre – stroke
- Todd Hamm – cancer
- Dean Harris (Marion T's uncle) – stage 4 throat cancer
- Jim Maningoine – heart monitor
- Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
- Todd Stambaugh – stage 4 glioblastoma, latest scans were all clear!
- Judy Windsor – hospice

Condolences:

- Gene Grafton Family
- Betty Lawver Family

Praises:

- Betty Davis celebrates 93rd Birthday!!
- Baby girl Mia Mummert born

March Financials

	Weekly Actual	Annual Actual	Annual Budget
Mar 7	\$565.26	\$7,222.87	\$13,312.90
Mar 14	\$855.00	\$8,077.87	\$14,644.19
Mar 21	\$1,833.50	\$9,911.37	\$15,975.48
Mar 28	\$710.00	\$10,621.37	\$17,306.77

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You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

Events:

Thur, April 8th 4:30pm VBS Meeting

Sun, April 11th 6:00 Board Meeting

**Sat, April 17th 10 am 'Brighten Up
Astoria'**

Mon, April 19th 6:00 Camp Fellowship
(Bader Christian Church)

Sun, April 25th 6:00 Worship & Prayer
(Old Oak Ridge Café)

*All events are subject to change. Please
keep up to date by checking the bulletin,
Facebook page or website.



Astoria Christian Church

He^e is Risen