

Are you quick on your feet? And I don't mean your ability to jump on the table when you see a mouse. I mean, some people just naturally are able to think on their feet and reply well to situations. They're natural talkers and can process what is going on in front of them, read people well and reply with something knowledgeable and well-articulated. And that's not me. In fact, I think I'd be the last person you'd want in a spontaneous debate, especially if there were any stakes involved.

But at the same time, I love to process information. During this entire coronavirus epidemic and its spread I've done research and looked at charts and tried to see what was going on in the US and abroad. And I like to think I'm good at it. I like to be able to take any information and come to solid, reasonable conclusions that help me or others in some way. I do this, obviously, most often in the Bible. And just because I process it well doesn't mean I articulate it well, but that's another story!

But one thing that does occur because of this is it makes me question others. It makes me wonder if what others say or do makes sense. I lean so hard into my own understanding and processes that I have a hard time listening to other's thoughts as well. And during this quarantine and such, that could cause me problems. And I know I'm not alone, but based upon my understanding and research, I don't feel as strongly as our government about the way to respond. And I'm not saying we should ignore their guidelines, I just know I don't totally agree with how this is being handled.

And, again, that can cause me problems because if I ignore their directives, I could find myself sick and cause others to get sick. I know that I can be looked down upon by those around me or even punished by our government for my choices.

But most importantly the way I process information and data causes me to rely on myself for the outcome. And what I mean is that I tend to trust my own personal answers more than I might someone

else. And sometimes that's a good thing. We should check things out for ourselves rather than just take someone's word for it. But I also know that I too often ignore other's thoughts and plans if they don't fit into my paradigm.

And so, some might call that stubborn or prideful, and they'd probably be right. But I know that I'm not alone with that either. And you might be that way for other reasons than I am, but we can all fall into the situation where we think we know better than others. And we start to ignore and avoid and maybe even become angry. And that's not the church.

The church is, as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 14.26, "When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But **EVERYTHING** that is done must strengthen all of you."

Everything we do must strengthen all of us. That's what the church is. However, we aren't strengthen when we're stubborn or prideful or arrogant. And so, my prayer is, even in our time of isolation, to find ways to strengthen each other. This might mean we do things a little different or that we accept other's opinions and thoughts more freely. But in the end, I pray we have a stronger church and deeper love for Christ.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Summer Dates

I know it's hard to think of summer right now, but I wanted to get some dates for this summer out now. Community VBS will be **June 1-5 from 9:00 – 11:30 am**.

Also, the Ministerial will be hosting a Day Camp the week of **July 27-31st** at Camp Emmanuel. Our church will be in charge of cooking for one of those days and we could use volunteers throughout the week, too.

Lastly, Matthew is a co-dean of Junior 1 at Camp

LaMoine again this year, and those dates are **July 5-10** for grades 5th-6th if anyone wants to come out and hang out with us for that week. Please keep those dates in mind and in **prayer**.

Summer Camp

We are moving ahead and planning for summer camp to occur as it has in the past. And so, as you plan your summers, as best you can, please make sure you check out the camp's website (<http://lamoinecamp.org/>) or contact the church about dates for your youth. If you register online, there are two codes that need to be entered for you to get the best deal. First, there is the 50% off code for the church to pay half of the cost (**ASTCC2050**). Second is a 15% off code for everyone who registers through our church. This is a special discount because we are a member church (**20MEMCH15**). Please contact Matthew with any questions or if you need more financial help.

Easter

Please keep in contact as we continue to make plans for Easter. At this point, we do plan to have the following services: a **unique Sunrise Service at 7am on April 12th** followed by **breakfast at 8am** and then our **Resurrection Service at 9am**. We will NOT have Sunday School on Easter morning. The Good Friday Service has been cancelled.

Mobile Food Pantry

On **Saturday, May 2nd at 10:00 am** we will be hosting a mobile food pantry at the firehouse. This is an event sponsored by River Bend Foodbank and DOT foods. We will need some volunteers to come help distribute the food, but we also need to make sure people come to participate. If we have enough interest and need, this could become a regular

event for Astoria. Contact Matthew with more questions.

Community Youth Meeting

We are still moving forward with some community youth events and our next meeting on **Sunday, April 19th** at the church. Please come with thoughts and ideas to share with the group as well as an open mind. This date will change as necessary.

March Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Mar 1st	\$ 1,397.40	\$ 10,775.90	\$ 11,981.61
Mar 8th	\$ 696.05	\$ 11,471.95	\$ 13,312.90
Mar 15th	\$ 742.00	\$ 12,213.95	\$ 14,644.19
Mar 22nd	\$ 1,725.00	\$ 13,938.95	\$ 15,975.48
Mar 29th	\$ 1,195.00	\$ 15,133.95	\$ 17,306.77
Totals	\$ 5,755.45		

Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer spreading
 Tammy Bowman – stage 4 kidney failure
 Jenny Farr – sudden, severe cancer
 Todd Hamm – cancer treatments
 Marilyn Hendricks – congestive heart failure
 Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
 Cindy Steagall (Pam S's niece) – cancer
 The Thiner family

Praises:

Joyce Belville – finished final treatments!
 Roger Lindsey – tests came back clear
 Betty Clemens – home, doing well

Condolences:

Guy Stambaugh family
 Jenny Stambaugh family
 Brian McCormick family

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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:

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CURRENT STAY AT HOME MEASURES

Sun, April 12 th	7:00 am Sunrise Service 8:00am Breakfast 9:00am Resurrection Service
Tues, April 14 th	6:30 pm Man Up
Wed, April 15 th	6:00 pm Family Night
Sun, April 19 th	6:00pm Board Meeting
Sun, April 19 th	4:00pm Community Youth Meeting
Mon, April 20 th	6:00 pm Camp Fellowship @ Bader Christian Church
Wed, April 22 nd	6:00 pm Family Night
Wed, April 29 th	6:00 pm Family Night

Sunday services are cancelled until the stay at home order has been lifted but we will leave the doors unlocked for those who feel led to be in the church building on Sundays.



Astoria Christian Church

Make sure you keep up-to-date on cancellations and other event changes on the church website (astoriachristian.com), Facebook or even check out our online calendar (search office@astoriachristian.com on Google).

Every Sunday that we don't have services at the church we hope to stream live on Youtube at the Astoria Christian Church page and on the church website (astoriachristian.com/live-stream).

We hope to stay connected as much as possible in this time of uncertainty.

