

THE ASTORIA CHRISTIAN

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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.

August Events:

- Aug 5th – Aug 9th Grace Bible Church
VBS (6pm – 8pm
daily)
- Sun, Aug 11th 6:00pm Board
Meeting
- Tues, Aug 13th 6:30pm Man Up
- Sun, Aug 18th 4:30pm Youth
Committee Meeting
- Mon, Aug 19th 6:00pm Camp
Fellowship @
LaGrange Chapel
- Sat, Aug 24th 9:00am Bader VBS @
Camp Emmanuel
- Fri, Aug 30
-Mon, Sept 2 LCSC Family Camp



Astoria Christian Church

*When all
else fails,
God doesn't
Psalm
73:26*

How do we make connections? I mean, that's the plot of about every romantic comedy or drama ever produced, right? And connection are essential. Whether it's a romantic one or one with our friends or with our kids. But how do we connect? Most of us find some connections simple and easy. Those surface level relationships that are friendly and enjoyable that liven up our lives and hearts. And then we have a few deeper connections based upon shared experiences, family ties or a choice to love another person. And those connections make life worth living. They make it worth getting up in the morning. And though they take work and intentionality, they can give our life purpose as well.

But what I've wrestled with a little lately is how do we take that connection with others and relate it to God? I mean, personally, I don't struggle with a connection with God very often (though there have been seasons in my life that I have) I know that others don't have it come as naturally. I guess for those who might struggle, or for the times when I personally struggle, how do we take ancient stories and experiences and make them alive and active for us today? How do we connect with the experiences of men and women who lived centuries, even millennia, ago?

If you're confused, just hang with me for a second. Now, I'd be the first to say that we don't just experience God through the words of those who lived in the past. We can certainly experience God now; I know I have and do. However, those experiences must also be based upon the truth that we read about from those who experienced him in the past; those who interacted with him in a profound and intimate way and especially with those who saw and spoke with God's Son Jesus. Because if our experiences of God is in conflict with

what we read and hear from those who saw and knew him more personally in the past, then I doubt it's really God we're experiencing.

And so, the root of all our experience with God must lie in those stories we see in the Bible. If that's true, then the best way I see for us to experience God today is to make the stories we read in the past into a present and personal reality. In fact the Jews made it a practice to do this regularly, especially with the Passover.

And though I don't claim to have a clear and perfect answer to how we do this, I do think our participation in practices and traditions help point the way, as does our connections with others. One practice in particular that's important for this connection is the Lord's Supper. But even just the consistent gathering of fellow Christians and purposeful traditions can help us connect with those stories and ultimately with God.

And so, for me, it all comes down to better connections with others, something I'm working hard at. But I also know that better connections ultimately means better connecting with God and the way he's interacted with our world in the past, which lead to seeing the way he interacts with our world in the present.

And so, I pray, that you'll join me continually and regularly in that shared connection. Connecting with what God has done in the past, making him a present and personal reality, but even more connecting with what he is doing now, especially in terms of how we connect with others around us. And hopefully along the way all the connections we have in this world will deepen and make our lives even richer.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Family Camp

LaMoine Christian Camp is once again offering a Family Camp on the weekend of Labor Day (Aug 30th – Sept 2nd) for anyone and everyone to participate. It is a great way to get away for a few days (even if just part of the weekend) and just spend time with your family and other Christians in the area. The Thiner family enjoyed their time there last year and would love to have you join us! Register by calling the camp or online (lamoinecamp.com). Cost is simply a free will donation.

Family Night

We are considering reworking our Family Night format and would LOVE to discuss it with you. If you're planning to help us on Wednesday night, even occasionally, please plan come to our next **Youth Committee meeting on August 18th at 4:30pm**. Though details aren't finalized, we would like to discuss some various options we have. This is a great ministry that we hope to continue to adapt, grow and allow God to use in powerful ways.

Homecoming Concert

Astoria's Homecoming is set for **Saturday, September 14th** and the Ministerial Alliance is bringing in a fresh face for our 'Gospel Hour' in the afternoon. **Phil Stacey** from American Idol will be sharing his talents with us that afternoon and we hope you'll plan to attend. He might sound a bit different from some previous musicians, but it should still be a great time! Also, we will meet together as a Christian community for our **Unity Service on Sunday, Sept 15th in the Square**.

Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer spreading
 Bobby Blickenstaff – waiting for results and treatment plan
 Allen Brown (Ashley G's sister-in-law's dad) – open heart surgery went well
 Tammy Bowman – stage 4 liver failure
 Katy Jo Dean – severe accident, slow recovery
 Todd Hamm – cancer treatments
 Laurie Martin – hip replacement recovery
 Paul McQuillin (Amy Rice's brother) – hospitalized with infections after surgery
 Bill Palmer – eye surgery went well
 Lori Rodriguez – pain, needs hip replacement, continued consultations
 Brandi Rudd – ending treatments
 Stanley Stambaugh – began cancer treatments
 The Thiner family
 Marissa – cancer (Letha Stambaugh's friend)
 Hailey (14 y/o friend of Carlocks) – cancer
Praises:
 Mike Hargrave – grandbaby born on his birthday
 Jon & Cindy Mummert – tests came back good
 Miranda Hoppock – cancer free

July Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
July 7	\$1,389.00	\$33,538.28	\$35,944.83
July 14	\$805.52	\$34,343.80	\$37,276.12
July 21	\$1,418.00	\$35,761.80	\$38,607.41
July 28	\$1,520.53	\$37,282.33	\$39,938.70
Totals	\$5,133.05		