

## you are unique

Like no two snowflakes are alike, each one of us is different. And that may sound a little 'hallmarkish' but it's true. And even more than our DNA being different, each of us have unique circumstances, histories, jobs, experiences, brain wiring and ways we deal with the world. Even if we have similar personalities or DNA, we don't all have the same experiences. Each one of us is incredibly unique. So why do we spend so much time comparing ourselves to others? Why do we look at others who have similar jobs and see how we match up? Why do I look at other fathers and husbands and see how I'm doing better and where I'm failing in comparison?

We all do it. Even the most confident of us at times look around us and see others doing better than us, who make more money or have a bigger car. We read on Facebook about a friend who gets big promotion. We go back to class reunions sometimes just to see how we match up against our classmates, or maybe we skip it because we feel like we're not successful enough.

When Jesus was in the moments before being arrested and ultimately killed, he took his closest friends to an intimate time of prayer. In Luke 22:41-42, we see Jesus intimately pleading with his Father in prayer, "And [Jesus] withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.'" (ESV)

Now, the cup that Jesus was talking about was the cup of God's wrath against the sin in our world (see Jeremiah 25). And he knew it would be difficult to drink. But it was a cup that only he, as God's son, could drink. And so, he pleads with God for another way to remove the sin in our world and restore humanity back to God. But in the end,

he knew that God's will was to be done and was willing to do it.

And just as Jesus needed to drink the cup he was given, we are each given a cup to drink. Henri Nouwen writes, "We have to dare to say: 'This is my life, the life that is given to me, and it is this life that I have to live, as well as I can.'" (*Can You Drink This Cup?*, 28) And that's my prayer for each of us. Accepting the life that we've been given and living it in such a way to do God's will with it. So, can we stop looking around and comparing ourselves to others and simply do our best to live this life that we have for Christ? I pray we can.

Serving Him and you,  
Matthew

## Operation Christmas Child

A HUGE thank you to all of you who provided toys, games, other essentials and money for the shoe boxes that we packed and sent in November. We packed 72 boxes and raised over \$244 to send those boxes around the world. A big thank you to Dusti for her efforts as well.

## Mission Update - Blessing Heart International

This mission we support in Haiti founded by Wilckly and Dee Dorcé asked for support to add new teachers. The missions committee and other individuals decided to send down enough to support a teacher for over a year. Please continue to pray for all our missions and the needs they continue to have.

## Food Shelf

The Vermont Community Cupboard is looking to serve our community better by helping start a

food shelf in Astoria. They would like to have an individual or couple who have a heart for loving others through providing food to those in need step up and do what they do here in our town. They are willing to come alongside and show the ropes for how to run a food shelf and connect them with companies and avenues to collect the food. If you're interested in helping or have questions, see Matthew.

## Church Directory

There was an insert placed inside the bulletins last Sunday to be filled out for all our regular attendees that will supply the information we need for our new directory. Please return those ASAP along with a recent picture of your family. Pictures can be given to Matthew or sent digitally ([office@astoriachristian.com](mailto:office@astoriachristian.com)) Additional forms are available from the church.

## Baby Dedication

We are hoping to have a baby dedication service in the coming months. Please let Matthew know if you would be interested in participating in this service. A 'baby' could be a child of about any age that you'd like to dedicate to love and follow Jesus.

## Prayer List

Denny Belville – no insurance, in need of surgery (8-6)  
Mary Belville - unspoken prayers (11-5)  
Jennifer Bent – waiting on surgery and other decisions (11-5)  
Pat Bultermeier and family - hospice (8-10)  
Mike Busby – radiation treatments  
Evelyn Carlock – not feeling well (11-19)  
Chelsea Curry – vertigo issues (11-19)

Bob Fawcett- unable to remove bladder, treatments instead (9-21)  
Todd Hamm - cancer treatments (7-30)  
Danny Jones - recovery (7-30)  
Frankie Jones - health issues (5-14)  
Leonard Kaufman - cancer (10-16)  
Bob Kessler - recovering, waiting for all clear (11-5)  
Anthony Klinebough & Margaret - financial (11-5)  
Gloria Lapping – health issues (Pam Carlock's mother) (11-19)  
Jon Mummert – recovering well, going to FL soon (11-26)  
Sharon Musson - cancer treatment (7-30)  
Dan Palmer - home from Iowa this week (10-15)  
Karen Sager - radiation (1-17)  
Marissa – cancer. Letha Stambaugh's friend (11-5)  
Murphy Trepac - heart valve issues continue with complications, nephew of Ledena Clark (11-26)

### Condolences:

Family of Jack Danner

**Praise:** Welcome to the world Baby Hayla Mae Klinebough

Laurie Martin's lung function back up - 105%  
Charlotte Elliott - neurologist appointment went well

Bethany Farwell - brain surgery went smoothly  
Tytus Rennert - Knee surgery went well

Tuscola football teams season

ICOM experience very positive for those who attended

## Attendance & Offering

Date	Worship	S.S	Offering	Offering Needed
5th	69	23	\$1,484.00	\$1,636.41
12th	54	24	\$1,096.38	\$1,636.41
19th	56	24	\$809.00	\$1,636.41
26th	57	26	\$1,581.00	\$1,636.41
Totals (Avg)	236 (59)	97 (24)	\$4,970.38	\$6,545.64

# 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.

## *December Events*

- Wed, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. Family Night
- Sunday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 4:30 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting
- Wed, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. Family Night Christmas Celebration (potluck meal)
- Sunday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting\*
- Sunday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Sunday, Dec 31<sup>st</sup> Youth Offering

\*note date change



# Astoria Christian Church

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



*For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be  
upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty  
God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9.6, NKJV*