

The Astoria Christian

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You Are
Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

1st Morn. Worship 8 a.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m.
2nd Morn. Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. nights 6-7:30p.m.

February

Wednesday, February 3rd, Family Night
Fellowship with Bible Bowl, Pizza party, chips
Thursday, February 4th, Community VBS meeting
in church basement

Tuesday, February 9th, 6:30p.m. Man Up
meeting

Wednesday, February 10th, 6:00 p.m. Family
Night Fellowship, corn dog, pizza rolls, baked
beans, chips, & fruit

Sunday, February 14th, Community Worship
Service at VIT

Sunday, February 14th, 6 p.m. Board Meeting

Monday, February 15th, 6:00 p.m. East LaMoine
Camp fellowship meeting

Wednesday, February 17th, 6:00 p.m. Family
Night Fellowship, chicken nuggets, mac & cheese,
fruit & veggies

Thursday, February 18th, 6:30 p.m. Soul Sister's
meeting

Sunday, February 21st, 5p.m. Youth Committee
Meeting

Wednesday, February 24th, 6:00 p.m. Family
Night Fellowship, nachos & fruit

ADDITIONS TO THE CALENDAR

Friday, February 26th, 5:00p.m. Meeting at the
church for Riverman Hockey game/Mark Bassen
preaching in Peoria. Tickets \$12.00 contact Matt
before the 22nd if you would like buy tickets

February 28th, 1p.m. 1st-5th graders are invited to
go roller skating in Canton. Must have permission
slip to attend

*Dates and times are subject to change. Please check your weekly
bulletin for updates.*



The Astoria Christian

Love God, Serve God, Love Others, Serve Others



In our last sermon series, RE: SOLUTION, we took a couple of weeks to look at the life of Nehemiah. As we read through his story, we can see the important work that Nehemiah did through God's providence and we can find hope and inspiration from his words. In the midst of his story, a major theme of Nehemiah's memoirs that sticks out to me is the theme of order out of chaos.

When I look at my world, I avoid chaos as often as I can. I dislike dirty dishes, though not enough to always stop and do them, and I dislike toys and clothes strung out across the floor, though if you made a surprise visit to our house, you might not believe that either. I've gotten pretty good at ignoring both. I like to maintain a schedule and like my family to do the same, especially as it relates to me.

Most of all, however, I don't like emotional or relational chaos in my life. I avoid those painful, potentially chaotic, conversations so much so that I ignore the pain that it causes me and just try to push forward without dealing with it. Even if I know healing and peace can come through the chaos, I simply avoid it because it seems too difficult. It seems like the pain is easier to handle than the chaos that could ensue if we try to address it.

I imagine I'm not alone in this desire for order rather than chaos. Even the messiest and most

unorganized person in the world has a system or structure that allows them to get through their day. It may not be highly refined or neatly polished, but I think all of us strive for order in some shape or form. We also have a God of order. Just look at the creation he's made. The functionality of the smallest atom to the entire cosmos is so intricately ordered, the smallest variation could cause disaster. So, what does that mean for all of us? If God is a God of order, then what do we do with the chaos in our life? I would suggest, as we can see in Nehemiah's life, that chaos, especially the emotional chaos, should lead us back to God. Leaning on him and trusting that he will provide and give us grace in our efforts is the surest way to find order in the midst of our chaos. So maybe even if something will cause chaos or disorder for a time, we may have to step outside of our fear and comfort and address those things that cause us pain. Ultimately, chaos can be the best thing for us, because it helps us learn to trust that God can provide and will bring even greater order from the chaos.

Serving Him and you,

Matthew Thiner

Second Annual Bible Bowl will be held February 3rd during Wednesday family night. Save the date and plan to join us for a fun time of trivia answering about football, bible, and much more!

The Soul Sisters met Jan. 21st. We will meet again Thursday, Feb. 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. We had discussion on the topic of "Worry". It is so uplifting to hear other's input on everyday trials. We invite ALL LADIES to join us!! On the bulletin board in the basement is information about upcoming ladies conferences. Please take a look. I will post more when I receive info. We decided we will wear our Soul Sister T-shirts to church every 5th Sunday. We also discussed an all-church "Swap Event" and will talk more about this at the next meeting. Starting a community Food/Personal Items pantry with other churches was also discussed. Matt is going to bring this up at the next Ministerial Alliance meeting. Hope YOU will join us next month!! If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, 309-331-3877. Remember... PRAY MORE, WORRY LESS! ~ Judy

Prayer list

(updated 1/31/16)

Linda Allen - home, cancer treatments 5 days a wk.
 Olivia Anaganostopolus - cancer
 Doris Baker - Alzheimer's
 Mike Bankes - cancer
 Pat Breiland - home, recovery
 Robert Cooper
 Hurley Crossman - biopsy kidney tumor (wk.12-13-15)
 Jack Danner - placed in nursing home
 Linda Danner - Surgery on arm 2-1-16
 Jim Derry- Lung biopsy and back problems
 Shirley Derry - at the Elms, Room 21
 Lacey France - stress related seizures, counseling
 Ashley Griffin -steroid injection shots working, more in Jan.
 Samantha Hackman - gall bladder surgery
 Sharon Harris - continued breathing problems
 Bill Jones - possible open heart surgery (2-13-16?)
 Frankie Jones - tests
 Pam Klinebough's friend, Shelly - cancer
 Pam Klinebough - prayers for family
 Jim Lascelles- health, more surgery
 Terry Lehman - cancer

Youth Lock-in was a Success!

Thank you to everyone who donated food for our lock-in. We had more than enough homemade pizzas to feed the seven youth and three leaders for supper! Thank you to adults who came to play games with the youth and to Mary Belville for coordinating Holy Word Squares game for us! The youth enjoyed more games, snacks, soda, a movie (that most of them fell asleep to), and two hours of sleep, before enjoying a breakfast of homemade doughnuts - Thanks Missy, Matt, and Marci for all you did to make this evening a success!

Offering and Attendance for December

	1 st	S.S.	2 nd	offering
3 rd	16	34	73	\$1,511.70
10 th	11	20	48	\$1,058.00
17 th	14	23	48	\$1,921.15
24 th	13	29	58	\$1,058.00
31 st	16	30	60	\$4,170.00
Totals	70	136	337	\$9,718.85

Gavin Lockard - seizure
 Lori Martin - Lung Transplant (soon)
 Linda Hamm Pierson - late stage liver cancer (Pat B's friend)
 Dan Palmer - chemo treatments (1-11-16)
 Brad Hayes - physical therapy for shoulder
 Daygan Reneau - spine surgery recovery (Dec. 2015)
 Joel Rittenhouse
 Tammy Spencer - cancer
 Alan Snyder - personal
 Jeanette Walters - dealing with after affects of chem.
 Anita Watson, Don's sister-in-law in Ohio, chemo & radiation
 Judy Wilson - health issues with kidneys
 Condolences:
 Family of Mike Shawgo
 Brodt family
 Bob Naussabaum family
Please let Matthew or Marcia know prayer list updates. Thank you.

