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THE ASTORIA CHRISTIAN

Vol. 42 No. 1 January 3, 2018

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.

January Events:

- Tues, Jan 9th 6:30 p.m. Man Up @ the church
- Wed, Jan 10th 6:00 p.m. Family Night resumes
- Sun, Jan 14th 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- Sun, Jan 14th 6:00-12:00 p.m. Junior High Game Night
- Mon, Jan 15th 6:00 p.m. Camp Fellowship @ Table Grove Community Church
- Wed, Jan 17th 6:00 p.m. Family Night
- Thurs, Jan 18th 6:00 p.m. Soul Sisters
- Sun, Jan 21st Annual Meeting following worship service
- Sun, Jan 21st 4:30 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting
- Wed, Jan 24th 6:00 p.m. Family Night
- Wed, Jan 31st 6:00 p.m. Family Night – Bible Bowl



Astoria Christian Church

THIS YEAR, LET US
DISSOLVE ALL OUR HOPES
INTO A *SINGLE HOPE*, TO
KNOW CHRIST AND BE
FOUND IN HIM. MAY THIS
BE THE YEAR TO DESIRE A
RADICALLY TRANSFORMED,
DEEPER, TRUER, KNOWING
CHRIST AS OUR *ALL-
SUFFICIENT ONE.*"

-Elisabeth Elliot

joyforney.org

How often do we stretch our limits? When was the last time you said “yes” to something when your whole being was telling you to say, “NO!”? I think those of us who grew up in the church or have been a part of the church for some time have been taught that “no” is a bad word. Maybe you said “yes” to helping lead the choir when you’re tone deaf. Maybe you said “yes” to serving in the nursery when you haven’t ever changed a diaper in your life. Maybe you said “yes” to your wife’s desire to get Mexican when you knew you’d be up all night with indigestion. Or maybe you said you’d teach Sunday school, lead the kid’s choir, coach little league, lead the PTO and be on the town board. And you didn’t volunteer for any of it, but someone asked and you said, “Sure, why not?”

And we do it all with the idea of helping out. Like someone ties a rope around their waist, throws us the loose end and then jumps off the bridge. There we are left holding a rope, all the while the person says, “Just keep hanging on. Remember my life is in your hands.”

And that’s how it often feels, doesn’t it. That life couldn’t go on without me. That if I didn’t do all of the millions of things I do, and help out in all the areas I help, then things wouldn’t get done. Life wouldn’t be the same. It feels like if let go, then someone is getting dropped.

And I fall into that pattern all of the time as a pastor. I feel like I carry so much responsibility for others and for the church and, often, even for God, that I can’t say “no”.

But I’ve been trying to teach myself (and it’s a constant struggle) that God is bigger than me. And not just a little bigger, infinitely bigger. And though he loves for me to serve him and help others, he doesn’t need me. He can do what he wants despite me. And all he really wants from me...is me. And that’s what he really wants from

you, too.

John 15.4 says, “Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you.” (MSG)

And that’s not easy. We feel like we’re so needed that it’s nearly impossible to say “no” to someone in need. But ultimately, saying “yes” to everyone usually means saying “no” to ourselves, and to God.

So my prayer for us in this New Year is that we find ways to say “no” in loving and God-honoring ways and to say “yes” to ourselves to connect more deeply with Him.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Christmas Baskets

We were able to bless nine families with Christmas ‘baskets’ this year. Thank you for allowing us to continue this ministry. If you have questions or suggestions or thoughts about next year’s baskets, please see one of the elders.

Thank You

The Thiner family wanted to express their deepest “Thank You” for the generous gifts given to us this Christmas. We are truly blessed to be loved by this family of believers and are honored to serve along with you.

Service Times

After having combined services and adjusting the time to 9 a.m. for Sunday mornings, the board is reviewing the change. At this time, please express your thoughts and concerns to one of the elders about the combined service as it affects you or others you know. Also feel free to express any issues or concerns with future changes to the service time. The elders will be available for a short meeting following the 9am service on Sunday, January 14th.

Camp Interns

LaMoine Christian Camp is looking for paid summer interns to apply for various positions at the camp. This is for high school and older. Please see the bulletin board for more information and an application.

Youth Offering

The offering for this week was \$612.10. Thank you to all who donated to support our youth.

Church Directory

In creating an updated directory, we ask that you return the informational form along with a recent picture of your family soon. Forms can be received from the church office or in the back of the sanctuary. Pictures can be given to Matthew or sent digitally (office@astoriachristian.com). We’d like the forms and pictures by January 14th.

December Offering

Date	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
12/3	\$1,341.00	\$66,658.72	\$76,655.26
12/10	\$846.05	\$67,504.77	\$78,291.67
12/17	\$1,818.05	\$69,322.82	\$79,928.08
12/24	\$1,009.00	\$70,331.82	\$81,564.49
12/31	\$1,265.27	\$71,597.09	\$83,200.90
TOTALS	\$6,279.37		

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.

Secretary

Marcia has decided to step down from the secretary position at the church. We want to thank her for her time and effort serving in this position. We are now taking names of those interested in serving in this position. Please let one of the board members know if you’d like to be considered for this position.

Prayer List

Denny Belville – no insurance, in need of surgery (8-6)
 Pat Bultermeier and family - hospice (8-10)
 Mike Busby – radiation treatments
 Shelly Claxton – cancer (Pam K’s friend) (12-24)
 Peggie Elliott – stroke (Bill Palmer’s sister) (12-24)
 Bob Fawcett- treatments nearing an end, testing (12-17)
 Todd Hamm - cancer treatments (7-30)
 Frankie Jones - health issues (5-14)
 Rita Jones – hip surgery (12-24)
 Leonard Kaufman - cancer (10-16)
 Bob Kessler - recovering, waiting for all clear (11-5)
 Anthony Klinebough & Margaret – work & financial (12-17)
 Hayla Klinebough – biopsy came back clear (12-24)
 Gloria Lapping – serious health issues (Pam Carlock’s mother) (12-24)
 Sharon Musson - cancer treatment (7-30)
 Dan Palmer - recovery (10-15)
 Karen Sager - radiation (1-17)
 Marissa – cancer (Letha Stambaugh’s friend) (11-5)
 Murphy Trepac – home for Christmas, recovery (nephew of Ledena Clark) (12-17)

Condolences:
 Ethel Davis family
 Debbie Sheets family – Pam Shaw’s sister

Praise:
 Caleb & Christian Sheet’s baby born healthy (Zoey)