

U.S.P.S. 352 870

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By the Astoria Christian  
Church. Published 1<sup>st</sup>  
Week of the month.

POSTMASTER:

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The Astoria Christian  
Church, P.O. Box 677,  
Astoria, IL 61501

You Are

Welcome At  
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School .....10:30 a.m.

# July

Sunday, July 9th 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
 Sunday, July 16th 5:30 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting  
 Mon., July 17th 6:00 p.m. Camp Fellowship @ First Christian Church Beardstown  
 Sunday July 30th Fifth Sunday Youth Offering 6:00 p.m. Community Prayer Meeting - location to be determined

*Dates and times are subject to change.*

*Please check your weekly bulletin for updates.*

## Enjoy your summer!

ACC BUCKET LIST Ideas 2017

Memorize a Bible verse

Blow Bubbles

Play Laser tag

Read a book together (the Bible has some awesome stories)

Go to the park

Do a kind deed for a friend

Drink lemonade

Play a board game

Send a gift to someone in the military

Have a progressive dinner

Do a kind deed for a neighbor

Listen to Matt's sermon (we prefer at church, but online works, too)

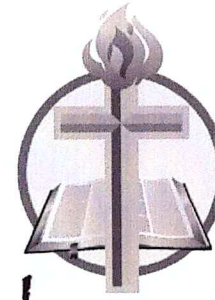
Do a kind deed for a stranger

#checkoutoursummerbucketlist

#letusknowwhatyourdoingthissummer

#facebookACCpage

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Astoria Christian Church

**MY GOD IS  
 SO BIG  
 SO STRONG  
 AND SO  
 MIGHTY  
 THERE'S NOTHING  
 MY GOD  
 CANNOT DO**



During our week of VBS a few weeks ago we sang a song called "My God is So Big". This version of the song takes the classic words and adds unique verses and a bridge (and of course a rock beat!). The kids seem to love the song, especially when they get to the main chorus with the actions. But I always see several confused looks on their faces when we sing the bridge, "God, the Spirit, God, the Father, God, the Son, 1 + 1 + 1 = 1". I often see them counting on their fingers and hear them yell out, "No, its 3!" And I just nod and smile as we finish the song.

After the song finishes, I try to explain to them why the song says that 1+1+1=1 rather than 3. And of course this doctrine on the Trinity being one God but three distinct persons is difficult for a 5 year old to grasp (and even a 95 year old to grasp). But, I still try my best to explain it in a few brief moments before we move on to "5 Little Monkeys," because they don't argue with me about that song (and all that jumping wears them out).

But the teaching of God being one but three is an essential part of what we believe. And there are several reasons why this is an important teaching, but one element of its importance that is sometimes overlooked is the nature of community in the Trinity.

When we see God being three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we see that he is within himself a community. He doesn't need anything else to complete him. He's whole. But we also see from his communal nature a reflection of our need for community. And despite our hurt and complaints, all of us seek some sense of community.

And that's why we see throughout the Bible the necessity for how we treat one another. Jesus especially makes this clear often, but makes it the clearest in John 13.34, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (NIV). And we see Jesus going to the cross and dying for us to be restored to him as the depth of love he has for us. Complete. Perfect. Unconditional. Sacrificial. Forgiving. Graceful. Gracious. Merciful. Kind. And it's those and other adjectives that should be reflected in our lives, too.

And that's my goal for myself and for all of us: that we learn to love one another on such a level as Christ loves us. And I know it isn't easy. And I know it won't ever be perfect. But I also know that because God is community, we should seek community as well.

Serving Him and you,  
Matthew

### International Conference on Missions

We have registered the church to attend the International Conference on Missions in Peoria on November 16-19. More information is coming, but please save these dates now and plan to attend.

### ASTORIA BACKPACK PROGRAM

An exciting new program is being offered to our students called Astoria Backpack Program. The aim of this program is to meet the needs of students who need meals over the weekend. They will pack and distribute sacks of food to help feed the children in our community on a weekly basis. Currently, we are

gathering information on who would like to help from our church and considering how we can partner with them. They are accepting monetary donations and seeking volunteers who will give 1 hours on Thursday nights to help pack these. As a church, we are looking at taking a month where 5-6 people per week would give an hour to help pack these meals. They anticipating serving 25 children in K-8th grades, which would cost about \$75 a week. A sign up will be passed at the end of July to see if we have enough participation to support this program. Please see Matthew with questions.

### Thank You

The parsonage updates were approved and work has already begun. Thank you for everyone who prayerfully considered this expense and update to the parsonage. Matthew and his family are deeply appreciative of the faith and love expressed in this endeavor.

Thank you to everyone who came out to Steve and Donna Hamblin's for our All Church Cookout! Thanks especially to Steve and Donna for their efforts and willingness to open their home. Keep your ears open for another potential cookout this fall.

### Prayer List (7/1/2017)

Donald Anderson - cancer treatment (10-16)  
Doris Baker – eating less and losing some weight, Alzheimer's (7-1)  
Denny Belville – no insurance waiting on surgery (6-18)  
Pat Breiland and Cooper - travel to Norway (6-25)  
Leroy Bollinger - not doing well (3-19)

Mike Busby – radiation treatments  
Justin Cozad - battling cancer  
Hubert Cripe -Rushville hospital,would enjoy visits (6-4)  
Jack Danner - hospice (12-16)  
Linda Danner - fall, broken ribs and other bones (6-11)  
Mike Davis – ICU, moved to private room  
Donna Hamblin's daughter Amanda - dying thyroid (7-1)  
Todd Hamm - cancer surgery, treatments (2-5)  
Danny Jones - prostate cancer, surgery on the 10<sup>th</sup> at Mayo (7-1)  
Frankie Jones - health issues (5- 14)  
Sharon Jones - hospitalized with high heart rate (6-11)  
Leonard Kaufman - cancer (10-16)  
Shirley Kleinlein - battling cancer (Kathy Stambaugh's aunt) (6-11)  
Frankie Jones -VA appt. Monday (6-25)  
Sharron Musson - at hospital in Springfield, dealing with cancer and loss of parents (6-18)  
Gerald Nelson - cancer in bones, chemo (1-1)  
Dan Palmer - infection /hospital 6-25  
Norma Powell - stroke with some paralysis (6-18)  
Home and doing well (6-25)  
Paul Sager - home after heart blockage/stints 6-25  
Karen Sager - radiation (1-17)  
Linda Schneider – cancer treatments

### Condolences:

Family of Wendy Wilson (7-1)

### Praises:

Brenda Fawcett - cancer free (7-1)  
The homecoming of Mary Ellen B. (7-1)

Attendance/Offering June				
Date	Worship	S.S.	Offering	Needed
4	69	28	\$1,232.00	\$1,636.41
11	69	30	\$1,168.00	\$1,636.41
18	67	26	\$1,338.00	\$1,636.41
25	50	23	\$1,298.00	\$1,636.41
<b>Totals</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>\$5,036.00</b>	<b>\$6,545.64</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>26</b>		