

## *What has been the biggest struggle for you these past few months?*

I imagine all of us have struggled to a large extent on how to deal with this virus and the stay at home order we find ourselves just starting to come out of. And though I personally have felt some benefits, especially more time with my kids, I also know that I've struggled in various ways. But in terms of being a leader of a church my struggle has been especially challenging.

And I've struggled because I truly believe there are just as important aspects of our life as our physical health. And though I truly believe keeping our bodies healthy is important, I believe that relational and spiritual health are just as important. Even more, I believe that all areas of our lives are important to keep in balance. And so, when we choose to neglect one area over another, we can suffer just as much as if we do it the other way around.

What I mean is that though it's great to try and keep this virus from spreading and to keep people from getting sick, I also believe it's just as important to keep people connected to God and have a strong spiritual health. And, hopefully, even in quarantine we can still find ways to do that.

But even more than that, I truly believe that the most complete and holistic way for us to be spiritually healthy is to have good relational health, too. As important as it is to have personal time with God, a devotional and prayer time, it's just as important to connect with others who share our faith and help us stay connected to God. And I really honestly think that's exactly what Jesus had in mind when he gave us the two greatest commandments.

We read those in Matthew 22.37-39:

Jesus tells us, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' And though it seems like its two separate commands, it's really one in the same.

I was watching a video where the popular pastor Steven Furtick was speaking. He was saying that we've developed a culture where we don't interact well. We don't speak dynamically, face to face, like we should.

We talk online or we only talk with those we agree with most of the time. We don't discuss difficult topics and we don't work out our differences and learn to hear from one another well.

And I say all of that to point out that we need fellow Christians to meet with regularly. Connecting and loving others is vital to our spiritual health and our love for God. And as a leader in the church I feel like I need to help facilitate that as much as possible. And I really struggle with that during this pandemic.

But it also takes all of us, together, to make relationships and our community stronger. We need to seek ways to continue to connect despite the circumstances, and we need to make our relationships stronger by working through conflict in a humble and godly way.

And so I ask you to do that as much as possible. Reach out to a fellow believer and find a way to love them. It might just be a prayer or a quick call. Or it could mean making them some food or helping them pay a bill.

But no matter where we're at, we need God and we need each other as much as our physical health. I pray we find ways to find holistic health, especially in this time.

Serving Him and you,  
Matthew

## *Keep Up to Date*

If you haven't already checked it out, the best way to keep up to date on what's happening during the stay at home order is our Facebook page ([facebook.com/astoriachristian/](https://www.facebook.com/astoriachristian/)). You should be able to check it out even if you don't have a Facebook account.

Also, you can watch our live stream every Sunday at 9am on our website, too at [www.astoriachristian.com/live-stream](http://www.astoriachristian.com/live-stream).

## *Summer Camp*

Camp LaMoine will NOT have any camp sessions this summer. They do, however, continue to have financial need, so please consider sending them a gift to help through this time. The youth committee is sending approximately how much we normally would for the camp season. If you have a camper that would normally go, we ask that you consider doing the same.

## ***WE ARE OPEN!!!***

At this time we are excited by the state's decision to allow for church services to open at our discretion. And so, we plan to have scheduled services starting Sunday, May 31st at 9am. We, however, want to be responsible as we reopen our doors. So here are a few guidelines we want to make everyone aware of.

1. Masks are STRONGLY recommended to be worn, especially while walking to your seat. Once in your seat, we don't expect masks to be worn.
2. We will practice social distancing, meaning that we will walk and sit at least 6 feet from anyone you don't live with. Obviously families can still sit together (if they really want to!)
3. Hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances to the building, please use this as necessary.
4. We will NOT have Sunday School or other events at this time.
5. If you feel ill (especially with cough, breathing issues or fever) PLEASE stay home. We also STRONGLY encourage those at higher risk to the virus to remain home as well. We will continue to live-stream the service.
6. Please come at your own risk and remember that you might not feel the same as someone else about this situation. Above all, we ask for love and respect to be shown as we gather to worship and serve our Savior. Feel free to contact Matthew with questions or concerns.

## *May Financials*

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
May 3rd	\$880.00	\$19,593.95	\$25,294.51
May 10th	\$1,205.00	\$20,798.95	\$26,625.80
May 17th	\$1,210.00	\$22,008.95	\$27,957.09
May 24th	\$1,422.00	\$23,430.95	\$29,288.38
May 31st	\$1,430.00	\$24,860.95	\$30,619.67
Totals	\$6,147.00		

## *Prayer List*

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer spreading  
Tammy Bowman – stage 4 kidney failure  
Jenny Farr – sudden, severe cancer  
Danny France – heart attack, kidney issues  
Todd Hamm – cancer treatments  
Joe Hayes – recovering from stroke  
Marilyn Hendricks – congestive heart failure  
Estyl McCombs – recovering from ulcer bleed  
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver  
Ted Shirley – improving from virus  
Joe Stambaugh – hip surgery recovery  
The Thiner family  
Judy Windsor – biopsy  
Unrest in our communities  
**Praise:**  
Randy Lindsey – hip replacement done  
**Condolences:**  
Cindy Steagall (Pam S's niece) family  
Leslie Corman (Pam S's brother) family  
John Moose family  
Will Holtkamp family

# 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.

## Events:

**June 13th** 7-10:30am Blood Drive in  
basement

*As stay at home orders are adapted, hopefully more events will be added. Please keep up to date at [astoriachristian.com](http://astoriachristian.com) or the Astoria Christian Church Facebook page.*



# Astoria Christian Church

# HEROES

## of Faith

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises...”  
(Hebrews 11:13)

Join us for the second round of this sermon series starting June 7<sup>th</sup>. We will look at biblical and historical heroes of the faith and how they stepped out to serve God in their circumstances.