

In walking through our current sermon series on Paul's missionary journeys and his letters, I was reminded, again, of how important a holistic view of our lives truly is. And what I mean is that too often we try to segment our lives into various sections or parts. We have our home life and our work life and our friend life and our private life and even our secular and sacred parts of life. And there's a certain amount of necessity to keep some of those aspects separate. It can be unhealthy to carry too much of the weight from our job back into our homes or to allow struggles at homes to dictate our performance at work. However, we can't and shouldn't ever completely separate the two (unless, possibly, you're a spy working for the CIA or a Superhero with a secret identity – *you know who you are*). But, honestly, all areas of our lives impact all other areas of our lives and rather than completely trying to separate each area, we need to find ways to balance all of them out. When God created the world, he did so looking at the whole of creation and said, at the very end of his creative works, *“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was **very good.**”* (Gen 1.31, ESV) All the individual parts of creation in Genesis 1 were only 'good' but the whole, especially after creating humanity, it was 'very good'.

Obviously as sin creeps into our world and we experienced what we call 'the Fall' where humanity and creation are separated from God. But what's interesting about 'the Fall' is that it didn't just impact humanity, it impacted all of creation. Genesis 3 tells us that not only did Satan and Adam and Eve have struggles, but all of creation would be changed due to sin. The ground is cursed and thorns and thistles would grow as we attempt to grow crops. As Satan is cursed, there is implied cursing to other animals

as well. And we can look at the other ramifications not explicitly mentioned in the Bible. Earthquakes and famines and tornados and flooding are all a part of this curse. Paul writes about this in Romans 8 where he tells us, *“For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.* (20-23, ESV)

And, so, just as the whole of creation was in mind through God's creative work being 'very good' we see how all of creation was impacted due to sin and how through Jesus all of creation looks forward to being redeemed and restored to what God originally intended for it to be. That is a holistic view of creation, of life itself. And so, if God sees all of creation as whole, how much more should we see our own lives as whole. In fact, the more we try to separate our lives into segments and pieces, the more difficult (I believe) is it for God to be invited into each area of our lives and also our lives as a whole. And so my prayer for each one of us is that we find ways to more and more remove the barriers that separate our lives into pieces, whether due to sin or not. And that as we allow our live to be whole and complete, I pray that God can, more and more, be involved in our lives.

Just as we were intended to live in unity with those around us, especially other followers of Jesus, our lives must be united in themselves to more fully embrace and live out a life with Jesus.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Baby Bottle Boomerang

The Rushville Pregnancy Resource Center's annual fundraiser of filling baby bottles begins Mother's Day (May 8th) and ends on Father's Day (June 19th). Bottles will be available in the back of the sanctuary so feel free to grab one and fill it with coins, bills or even a check to help support this wonderful ministry.

LaMoine Christian Camp

Camp is coming back in full force this summer, with camps available for 1st grade through 2022 graduates. Sign up is available through the camp website (lamoinecamp.org) and if you marked that you're registering through our church, we will pay 50% of each camper's registration cost. Please contact the church office with questions. Also, we are responsible for cooking on Sunday, **June 12th starting at 4:00pm**. Please let Matthew know if you'd be interested in helping cook.

Sunday School

Both adult and kid's Sunday School are happening now on Sunday mornings following our worship service, with adults meeting every week and kids meeting every other week (being June 12th and 26th and July 10th). We'd love to see you there!

Day Camp

Camp Emmanuel will be hosting a Day Camp for kids from 3 year old on up each day on **July 18-22** from *9am to 3pm*. Each day is filled with lessons and games and fun activities that only being at

camp can offer. A flyer will be available in the back of the sanctuary with more information.

Prayer List

Jerry Armbruster – serious health issues
Bobby Blickenstaff – cancer treatments, weakness
Kianna Gilson - possible lupus
Mike Grater-cancer
Connie Gunter – health issues
Gary Hulett – heart failure
Danny Jones – MRI/meeting with doctors
Clarice Powell – heart attack
Clyde Prater-cancer
Joe Redshaw – surgery, recovery
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
Jaylynn Shaw - concussion
Randy Sorrels – kidney removed, recovery
LeAnn Thiner – colon surgery, complications
Mike Thomas – delayed surgery, complications
Steve Trone – hernia surgery June 6th
Condolences:
Edna Miller family

May Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
May 1st	\$654.00	\$19,196.03	\$18,363.42
May 8th	\$605.00	\$19,801.03	\$19,383.61
May 15th	\$1,005.00	\$20,806.03	\$20,403.80
May 22nd	\$645.00	\$21,451.03	\$21,423.99
May 29th	\$1,315.00	\$21,451.03	\$22,444.18

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:

Mon, June 6th-10th-VBS 9-11:30 am
daily

Sun, June 12th- Camp Cooking at LCSC
4-7 pm

Sun, June 12th-Board Meeting @ 6 pm

Tues, June 14th- Man up @ 6:30 pm

Mon, June 20th- Camp Fellowship at
Versailles @ 6 pm

Sun, June 26th-Worship & Prayer @ 6
pm at ACC

All events are subject to change. Please
keep up to date by checking the bulletin,
Facebook page or website.

HAPPY
FATHER'S DAY



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Astoria Christian Church

the **STEPS**
of a **Good**
Man **are**
ORDERED
by the **Lord.**

Blessed Beyond Words

Psalm 37:23