

Here's a little bit of self-revelation for you...

I struggle mightily with blame and correction. I don't handle correction, criticism or blame well at all. I get very defensive and tend to shut down. I know this about myself and have taken steps to work on this personal flaw, including counseling and studying techniques, but it is simply something I continue to deal with. And I know I always will, like Paul's 'thorn in his flesh', but I want to do better because I know I'm not perfect and need correction and criticism to help me and this church grow.

And I tell you that, partially so that you'll hopefully understand me better (and maybe offer me a little grace) but partially because we all have those things in our lives, right? We all have personality flaws and quirks that keep us from being who we want to be and reacting how we want to react. And it's important to acknowledge those flaws, whatever they may be, learn to accept them but never be content with them either.

And what I mean is that I know I have the flaw of defensiveness when it comes to criticism. I've been this way since I was little. I accept that as part of my life. However, I have taken and will continue to take steps to be better at dealing with that. I will continue to seek counseling. I will continue to find techniques. I will continue to pray and rest in God when I feel overwhelmed by negativity. I am not content to just let it be what it is because it can significantly impact the relationships I have.

And I want to challenge you to do something similar in your life. Most of us know that we struggle with something because it's caused us difficulty in life at various points. It could be as

simple as how we phrase or word things to something as dynamic as addiction. But I want to challenge you to find it, to pinpoint that major flaw and to go through the process of acknowledging, accepting and working on being better at it. If you're not sure what it is, ask your spouse or kids or close friends because I'm sure they can see it. And whatever it is, I promise it is impacting your relationships, and if for no other reason, that makes it worth this effort to grow. But let's take it a step further. I know, personally, I want lots of grace when it comes to my flaw. It makes my life much easier when people will remember that I struggle with this and approach me with that flaw in mind. And I know you want that, too. Right? You want me and others to approach you knowing your flaw and your struggle and react to you in love knowing that about you.

And that's where Paul's words in Ephesians 4.2 are helpful, *"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."* It's hard when we deal with people's flaws to be those things, right? Especially when we continue to have to face those flaws in those closest to us and in those who don't try to work on their flaws. That's where humility comes in. Humility is the act of realizing that we're not different or better than that other person. It means that we realistically look at our own flaws, our own sins, and then take that knowledge into that relationship. It should lead to grace. It should lead to gentleness. It should lead to patience. But ultimately it is love.

I pray we learn to look at our own flaws and use that to love others around us well.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Camp Fellowship

We are adjusting our camp fellowship date this year because the school will continue to meet here in May, so we will be hosting the camp fellowship on Monday, July 19th. We are looking for a few individuals who are interested in lead the effort of putting together the meal for that event. If you have interest, please let a board member know.

Financial Update

We wanted to make everyone aware that offerings over the past few months have been down significantly. Over the past few years we have had a declining trend in our giving and our budget has been adjusted to match as best as we could. However, there are limits to how much more we can cut without reducing some essential parts of our ministries. The board asks that you fervently pray about this situation, asking for God's guidance on how to move forward for his glory and for this church. If you would like more details, please see one of the board members.

Worship and Prayer

Over the rest of the year, the Ministerial will be hosting Worship and Prayer nights at the old Oak Ridge Café on Broadway St. The goal is simply to gather as a Christian community to worship our one God as well as seek his presence to heal and move forward in this year well. Most dates will be the last Sunday of the month, but the next one will be Friday, March 26th at 7:00pm.

Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer
Tammy Bowman – kidney failure and other health concerns
Dorothy Clevenger – heart issues and cancer treatments
Todd Hamm – cancer
Dean Harris (Marion T's uncle) – stage 4 throat cancer, blood transfusion
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
Todd Stambaugh – stage 4 glioblastoma
Judy Windsor – hospice
Those suffering from COVID: Gene Grafton
Teens in accident

Condolences:

Melvin Hendrick's Family
Henry Umphryes Family
Tim Graham Family
Nathan Grafton Family
Rosalie Barrett Family
Marjorie Scrogum Family

Praises:

Laurie Martin – got 'all clear' on rejection

February Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Feb 7th	\$420.00	\$4,153.61	\$7,987.74
Feb 14th	\$0.00	\$4,153.61	\$9,319.03
Feb 21st	\$1,172.00	\$5,325.61	\$10,650.32
Feb 28th	\$1,332.00	\$6,657.61	\$11,981.61

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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:

Tues, March 9th 6:30 pm Man Up

Sun, March 14th 6:00 Board Meeting

Mon, March 15th 6:00 Camp Fellowship
(Central Christian Church in Browning)

Fri, March 26th 7:00 Worship & Prayer
(Old Oak Ridge Café)

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



Astoria Christian Church

Give
THANKS
to the LORD,
for **HE** is GOOD.
His LOVE
ENDURES forever.
PSALM 136:1