

I know it'll Be 'too

late' when you read this, but I hope that it's still valuable to you. This election, just like the past several, feels very divisive and polarizing. And even within the church there are various opinions on who is best for our country as a leader or if Christians should even be involved in politics or how we respond to those who disagree with us politically. And there are a lot of avenues to travel down when it comes to this topic.

And a huge part of our division is how we feel about certain topics. Each one of us has issues and agendas and policies that are more important to us than they are to those around us. And that can be because of how we were raised or what we've learned from various sources in our lifetime. But a big part of it can be simply our own experience and situation in life. For me (at 40 'something'), social security and retirement issues aren't nearly as important as they would be to someone approaching 65. However, education and college costs issues are much more important to me as my oldest is trying to figure out the costs of moving away from home next year.

But then there are issues that we've taken on as hot button topics for various reasons, including major ones like abortion and immigration that may not impact a lot of us directly, but we have strong feelings about them as Americans and as Christians.

And my point here isn't to try and convince you of some political agenda or policy that I feel is important. What I want to encourage us to do today, now that the election is behind us and

we're going to have to live with whoever we elected, is figure out how we're feeling about it. If you're upset, is it just because your candidate wasn't selected or is it somehow more personal than that? If we're pleased, is it because we feel vindicated or because we have hope that things will be better moving forward?

And, honestly, I believe that if we're having some strong feelings (anger or fear or even gladness and joy) tied directly to the results of this election, I hope we consider why we have such strong feelings. And it's not that it's bad or wrong to have those strong feelings, but often there is some deeper and more significant reason behind those strong feelings.

And, too, often those strong feelings will get in the way of how we interact with people moving forward, too. It might affect how we speak of our 'new' president or those who support him or her. In fact, I've heard many strong feelings leading up to this election that worry me about where those feelings are coming from. Because, we know, in the end, regardless of what happened this week or will happen in the weeks, months and years to come, God is still King of the Universe. He is still sitting on this throne, directing those things in life that are most essential for us, and whatever happens in our little worlds won't impact that much. Sure, life might get harder, maybe even awful moving forward, but we also know that God's got this. Because of Jesus and his love for us, we have a hope and security in him. So, I pray that each one of us will lift up whoever we elected in prayer that God will lead them as they lead us, but more that we find joy and peace in our true King.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Community Christmas Sing

On **Sunday, December 1st at 6:00pm** we will be having our annual community sing at the United Methodist Church. If anyone is interested in singing a song (or two) or reading a poem or a story or even interpretive dancing, let Matthew know and we'll make sure you get a chance to participate.

Hanging the Greens

On **Sunday, November 24th at 4:00pm** we will be hanging the greens around the church to help make the church more festive for the holidays.

Matthew and Shaina are going to The D.R.

Come join us for food (spaghetti and more) and fellowship on **Sunday, November 17th** to learn about the ministry in the D.R., why we are going, what we hope to do while we are there, and how you can partner with us! We will start with a free-will-donation meal **at 6pm** and then present about our upcoming trip.

Operation Christmas Child

We will be taking our annual Operation Christmas Child offering as well as packing shoe boxes on **Sunday, November 10th** following the service. Please plan on having supplies for the boxes here as soon as possible. The goal is to pack 50 boxes and the more people we have involved, the quicker and more enjoyable the process is.

Prayer List

- Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver
- Dennis Anderson (Kathy Anderson's husband) - broken arm
- Randy Bollinger - cancer
- Pat Breiland - congestive heart failure
- Cooper Davis - cancer treatments
- Lila Edwards (Letha's sister) - surgery
- Larry Jennings (friend of Brandon) - brain cancer
- Wendy Kaler - burns, home fire
- Debbie Opp - chemo treatment, off work
- Selena (Marion's daughter) - problems at work
- Jon & Cindy Mummert - safe travels
- Cheryl Parr - health issues
- Dennis & Cindy Ratcliff
- Tom Stevens - cancer treatments
- Pam Trone - awaiting biopsy results
- Becky Watson - cancer treatments
- Country's leaders
- Condolences**
- Anthony Klinebaugh's cousin's family
- Stormy Jones' family
- Praise**
- Sam Thome - home and better

October Financials

	Weekly Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Oct 6th	\$947.00	\$35,610.39	\$37,261.60
Oct 13th	\$912.00	\$36,522.39	\$38,193.14
Oct 20th	\$822.00	\$37,344.39	\$39,124.68
Oct 27th	\$1,255.00	\$38,599.39	\$40,056.22

Vol. 41 No.11 November 6th, 2024

The Astoria Christian (USPS 352-870) is published monthly by Astoria Christian Church, 219 W. State St, PO Box 677, Astoria, IL 61501. Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, IL.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astoria Christian, PO Box 677, Astoria, IL 61501

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:

Weds. Nov. 6th – Family Night @ 6pm

Sun. Nov. 10th – OCC Shoebox

Packing @10:15am

- Board Meeting

@6pm

Tues. Nov. 12th – Man Up @6:30pm

Wed. Nov. 13th – Family Night @6pm

Sun. Nov. 17th – Thiner Fundraiser

Dinner @6pm

Weds. Nov. 20th – Family Night

@6pm

Thurs. Nov. 21st – Ladies’ Fellowship

@6pm

Sun. Nov. 24th – Hanging of the

Greens @4pm

NO FAMILY NIGHT ON THE 27th

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



Astoria Christian Church

“Only fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things He has done for you.”

1 Samuel 12:24

