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The Astoria Christian
Church, P. O. Box 677,
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You Are

Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

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

Sunday School10:30 a.m.

September

Saturday, Sept. 9th - Sunday, Sept. 10th

Sat. 9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.

& Sun. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Leadership Next Level Conference

- Sun., Sept. 10th 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- Tue., Sept. 11th 6:30 p.m. Man Up at Steve Hamblins home
- Fri., Sept. 15th 9:30p.m. - 11:00p.m. 5th Quarter at Vermont Christian Church
- Sun., Sept. 17th 10:30 a.m. Community Worship Service
5:30 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting
- Mon., Sept. 18th 6:00 p.m. Camp Fellowship
- Wed., Sept. 20th 5:00 p.m. Family Night Kickoff
- Thur., Sept 21st 6:00 p.m. Soul Sisters
- Wed, Sept 27th 7:00 a.m. See You at the Pole
6:00 p.m. Family Night



Astoria Christian Church

*1 Corinthians 13.7 says that to love means: "You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him."
(TLB)*

Watching the news and stories from Hurricane Harvey

blasting through Texas disappointed me, especially much of the response on my Facebook feed. While people are losing their homes, businesses and even their lives, much of the posted news items on my feed seemed to focus on a particular megachurch pastor who may or may not have opened his church doors to victims.

That's because often we look at others and their choices and we play the 'What would I do in that situation?' game. You know the one. Where we look at a person's life and we say, "Oh, I'd never do that." Or we look at a parent and we wonder how they could ever let their kids eat that or play with that. And I do it ALL THE TIME. I'm as guilty as anyone. It's an easy, and unfortunately enjoyable, game to play. In fact, this article in some ways is hypocritical, because I'm being critical of critics, but I feel it's worth writing anyway.

But then I stop and think of the benefit of that game. I stop and wonder, "Why do I care so much about that other person's life?" Why do I need to have a response, a critique, to what they are doing? And I think there are times where I am genuinely caring for that person and genuinely want something better for them. But there are more often times I am annoyed or angry or frustrated with someone else's choices and really I'm not mad at them, but somehow hurt inside me. And it's in those moments, I try to stop and ask myself, "Why do I care so much?"

Honestly, I don't know why I care like I do. I have found that often, for me, I only care because it hits a fear or anxiety inside me. And I try to decide why I'm afraid or anxious about their choices, and see what buttons it pushed in me.

Then I consider what Christ desires for me. And Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13.7 that to love means "You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always

stand your ground in defending him." (TLB) We might summarize that to simply give people the benefit of the doubt. When I was younger, I was pretty hard on parents for their choices with their kids. And then I became a parent. Now, I have a really hard time critiquing or even advising parents because sometimes you just do what you need to do to get through the day. And I've found, if we're willing to withhold our criticism and our judgement and our critique long enough to hear their story, we might find that it's a little easier to love those around us.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

We are parting ways with the classic baby blue choir robes that were stored in the chapel. If you would like to have one or two, they are currently downstairs on the coat rack by the piano and are available to anyone who will use them. At the end of September, the remaining robes will be removed.

We are looking at starting a new missions committee that will help review and oversee the missions we support and possibly to help bring more awareness to our church about our missions. Look for a date in the coming weeks for the first meeting. Contact Steve Trone if you're interested in being a part of this committee.

We will again be joining the community worship service on Sunday, September 17th at the city square. There will be no regular services or Sunday School on that morning. Service is at 10:30am.

Soul Sisters

A Living Proof simulcast with Beth Moore, "Captivated, The Wonder of Christ on The Winding Road" Hosted by Sister Circle at First Christian Church in Beardstown on Saturday, September 30th, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Event tickets are \$20 each with

an optional Subway Lunch \$6 if you pre-register by 9/16. Walk-ins welcome!

Astoria Backpack Program

Thank you for those who committed to helping serve the Astoria Backpack Program. We have signed up for the month of March, which has 5 weeks, and will give everyone a chance to serve once or twice. Also, the church will not be collecting money to support this ministry at this time, but we strongly encourage individuals to support it as they feel led.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MISSIONS (ICOM)

On November 16-19 a world-wide presence will be on display in Peoria and the church has paid for you to attend all of it. In order to register for this event, you will need to use the code "peoria17" at the website <http://theicom.org/register>. Click on the 'Individual Registration' button and use the 4th option. Anyone needing assistance or without internet access, please let us know and we can help. The church van will be going up for at least part of this event, but individuals or groups are welcome to attend as they are able. This will be an incredible opportunity to see what God is doing throughout the world.

Operation Christmas Child

Accepting Hygiene items for the month of September. Toothpaste, combs, mild soap, etc.

Prayer List

(7/30/2017)

Donald Anderson - cancer treatment (10-16)
Denny Belville – no insurance, in need of surgery (8-6)
Robert Belville - shortness of breath after heart surgery (8-27)
Jennifer Bent - specialist in October at SIU (8-27)
Pat Bultermeier and family - she is on hospice (8-10)
Mike Busby – radiation treatments

Betty Clemens - partial hip replacement- about a week in the hospital (9-1)

Justin Cozad - battling cancer

Mike Davis - at St. John's in Springfield, cellulitis, and infection from open heart surgery in June (8-17)

Payton Edwards - prayers needed

Charlotte Elliot - home after seizure this week (8-31)

Bob Fawcett- bladder removal (8-11)

Todd Hamm - cancer treatments (7-30)

Chris Jones - MRI showed spot, 1 radiation treatment (8-6)

Danny Jones - recovery (7-30)

Frankie Jones - health issues (5- 14)

Leonard Kaufman - cancer (10-16)

Shirley Kleinlein - battling cancer (Kathy Stambaugh's aunt) (6-11)

Declan Llewellyn - EKG shows hole in heart, monitoring at this time (7-23)

Jeff McCartney - late stage liver cancer (8-13)

Margaret Miller - health issues(8-27)

Sharron Musson - cancer treatment (7-30)

Geraldean Nelson - cancer in bones, chemo (1-1)

Dan Palmer - pre op surgery for infection (8-27)

Katie Ratcliff - shingles (8-27)

Eli Rhodes - Croop (8-27)

Jed Rhodes - kidney stones (8-27)

Karen Sager - radiation (1-17)

Linda Schneider – cancer treatments

Letha Stambaugh's friend Marissa - cancer

Praises:

The baptism of Larissa Carlock (8-6)

Clause and JoAnn Miller are doing well and send their love (8-6)

Attendance/Offering July

Date	Worship	S.S.	Offering	Needed
6	92	20	\$1,479	\$1,636.41
13	66	37	\$1,116	\$1,636.41
20	64	24	\$1,105	\$1,636.41
27	62	27	\$1,611	\$1,636.41
Totals	284	110	\$5,311	\$6,545.64
Averages	71	27		