

**What's next?** These last few weeks, even months, have been one of the most trying times universally for us, right? Most of us have probably asked 'what's next?' more than once recently. Whether it's what the governor mandates or the weather dictates or life simply obligates it feels like we are in a constant state of limbo. And in these unprecedented times, there's really no one to blame. I mean, we blame all sorts of people, but I honestly don't believe much blame can be passed out. Most of us are just trying to navigate the times as best we can. And then something audaciously tragic happens like the loss of a godly and wonderful woman and three innocent little boys. And though we could point the finger at one particular person (maybe) there were so many factors that had to fall into place for this to happen the way that it did. But in the days and weeks following that tragedy, we probably asked 'what's next?' even more. Maybe we might even say, 'I don't know how much more I can take'.

And I get that. I really do. I know my own experience these past few months, but especially these last couple weeks, I've asked some questions. I've struggled with some doubts and I don't know that I've come to much of a resolution. I've appreciated those who have checked in on me but honestly I don't know how to respond usually. And I guess that's my point; I'm not sure how I'm doing.

In some ways things are going fine for me. Even good. I sleep well usually and I'm not overly stressed. But, also, I'm not sure I'm fully experiencing what is happening around me. And the reason I share this is that I doubt I'm alone. I doubt I'm the only one who feels like

we're just floating through time, waiting for things to change and not really experiencing or feeling the full weight of our circumstances. And I think that's probably a natural part of how God made us to help us cope with these types of things.

But then I remind myself that I always need to keep coming back to truth, especially in a time and world where truth seems hard to come by. I need to remind myself that, even if this is our new normal, even if our lives don't go 'back' to whatever they were before April and tragedy continues to happen on top of tragedy...(\*deep breath)...I can keep going. I need to remember that all of those experiences are happening above the surface, in the atmosphere, so to speak. Because the ground, the foundation, for me always has to be the same. And my feet are squarely placed on solid ground.

Psalm 18.2 says, "The Lord is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer. My God is my rock – I take refuge in him!" And in Matthew 7, Jesus tells us to build our lives on the solid foundation of putting his words into practice. And so, even if my emotions aren't sure what's going on and my mind can't comprehend the situation and circumstances, and especially when I ask, 'what's next?' I know that my feet don't need to be shaken. My feet stand strong on a foundation as old as time, as long as I remember my God, his promises and the hope I have in him...and takes steps to follow after him.

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://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).

## Community Worship Service

On **Sunday, September 20th at 10:30** am we will be hosting our annual Community Worship Service in the side yard at the church. Lawn chairs or simply pulling your vehicle up to the church is encouraged and social distancing and masks are strongly advised. All other services will be cancelled that day.

## Ministerial Music Festival

The ministerial alliance is hosting a music festival with local groups playing and singing, food being sold and free games for kids of all ages on **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> following our Community Worship Service**. State regulations of masks and social distancing are strongly advised, but feel free to bring your lawn chairs or just pull your vehicle up and enjoy an afternoon of music, food and fun.

We are still looking for an act or two who would be interested in playing or singing at this event. If your or someone you know would like to bless us with their talents, please contact Matthew.

## August Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
<b>Aug 6</b>	\$919.00	\$36,828.95	\$42,601.28
<b>Aug 13</b>	\$1,352.00	\$38,180.95	\$43,932.57
<b>Aug 20</b>	\$1,215.00	\$39,395.95	\$45,263.86
<b>Aug 27</b>	\$1,196.00	\$40,591.95	\$46,595.15
<b>Aug 30</b>	\$1,412.00	\$42,003.95	\$47,926.44
<b>Totals</b>	\$6,094.00		

## Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – colostomy blockage  
 Tammy Bowman – stage 4 kidney failure, heart & breathing issues  
 Jenny Farr – sudden, severe cancer  
 Danny France – continued health issues  
 Linda Goodin – heart surgery  
 Todd Hamm – cancer treatments  
 Mark Hendricks – shoulder/accident recovery  
 Durinda Hulett – called to help with fires  
 Norma Powell – nursing home  
 Zack Prater (Marion T's son) – neck surgery  
 Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver  
 Judy Windsor – hospice  
 Unrest in our communities  
 Teachers, admins, students and others starting school

**Condolences:**  
 Jenny Hendricks family  
 Corrick boys' family  
 Estyl McCombs 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:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sun, Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>  | 6:00 pm Board Meeting   |
| Tues, Sept 15 <sup>th</sup> | 6:30 pm Man Up Meeting  |
| Sun, Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>  | 10:30 am Community Worship Service in our side yard                                     |
| Sun, Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>  | Music Festival with local bands, food, games for kids, starting after Community Service |



# Astoria Christian Church

Be Strong and  
courageous. DO NOT  
BE AFRAID or  
terrified because  
FOR THE Lord YOUR God  
goes with you; HE WILL  
NEVER leave you  
we foresake you.

— Deuteronomy 31:6 —