

We give ourselves a whole lot of grace,

right? I mean, we know ourselves, we like ourselves, we understand our reasoning for our choices and, so, when we make a poor choice or a bad decision, we forgive ourselves quite readily. Granted, yes, there are times we will beat ourselves up for something, but, overall, we often allow ourselves a large amount of grace.

And I think that's natural, even good. If we didn't have a fair amount of grace for ourselves, I think we'd have a hard time living with some of our choices. In fact, I think there would be even more anxiety, worry and depression in our world if we didn't offer ourselves a fair amount of grace. But that's the thing. When we're generous with ourselves, are we equally generous with those around us? I mean, if we're willing to forgive ourselves and move on from our poor choices and sins, do we offer the same to those around us. To our employees? To our employer? To our kids? To our parents? To our spouse? To our neighbors? Often times it's so easy to look at that other person as the one at fault. We can easily see their failings and their shortcomings and even their sin and we can't seem to forgive them. We can't seem to extend them grace. We can't seem to move on. It's like what Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7. First, he begins by telling us not to judge, which is ultimately impossible, so he clarifies what he means when he says, "Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye? How dare you say to your brother, 'Please, let me take that speck out of your eye,' when you have a log in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (GNT)

His wording is vivid, shocking, ludicrous, and possibly even humorous to his original audience. The image of having a log in our eye is almost

harsh. Jesus reminds us that we all have sin and have made bad decisions in our life. When we feel or think that we don't or that we've stopped sinning, there are probably two things happening. First, we are lying to ourselves. Second, we aren't actually doing *anything at all*, which in itself is actually a sin. And when we think we are without sin our log is probably much bigger than we realize. But that's the point. We are often blinded to our own sin and shortcomings and so we then focus on other people's sin and shortcomings. And even when we see our own sin, we tend to minimize it and make it less important, especially compared to the sins of others.

And Jesus is telling us it's really more important to worry about ourselves first. He's saying to be humble enough to receive correction. But also, be humble enough to not criticize every little thing, either. He says to see as clearly as possible your own sin and shortcoming before you run off and try to 'fix' other people.

And when we can find the balance between giving ourselves grace as well as grace for those near to us, then we can have the best relationships. When we're humble enough to admit our mistakes and hear correction from others, as well as forgive others their sins and shortcomings (even when they don't see them or admit them) we can draw closer to those around us.

God offers enough grace for each and every single one of us, no matter how messed up we are or how much of a mess we've made. Jesus reminds us that grace is not just for you, but it's

for all of his children. I pray we can join him in that way of thinking.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

OCC Shoe Boxes

If you still have a shoe box, please return them as soon as possible. They will be taken down to the drop off location the week of **November 14th**.

Thank you!

High School Youth Group

There is a new youth group for 9th-12th grade meeting on Wednesday nights (November 3rd, 10th, and 17th) from 6:30-7:30pm. We may continue after Thanksgiving depending upon the interest level. There's a meal followed by a lesson each night. Contact Matthew with questions.

Hanging the Greens

Sunday, November 28th at 4:00pm will be a time for decorating our church for the Christmas season. This is always a fun evening of community and service. We encourage any and everyone to be involved. Following the decorating, everyone is welcome to the **Old Oak Ridge Cafe for Worship and Prayer at 6:00pm.**

Community Services

We have a couple annual services coming up on **November 21st** (Community Thanksgiving Service) and **December 5th** (Christmas Carol Sing), both at **6:00pm**. These services help us come together during this festive season in order to remember the reason for the season. Both services are also at the **United Methodist Church**. Plan now to attend and bring a special number (music, poem, rap) for our Christmas Carol Sing on December 5th.

Prayer List

Gage Baldry (Margaret M's great nephew)-ICU with high blood sugar
Bobby Blickenstaff – liver cancer returned
Tammy Bowman – kidney failure, blood clots
Jean Crossman - travel
Kyle Easley – heart issues
Charlotte Elliott – seizure concerns
Bob Greene – Parkinson's
Haiti – earthquake, tropical storm, government unrest (Blessing Hearts mission)
Gary Hulet – heart failure
Pauline Hahn (Margaret M's friend)-fall, recovery
Glenna Parry-fall, fractured jaw
Drew Prater – chronic bronchitis/Covid
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
Zach Rogers – procedure in December
Suzanne Snow – strokes, recovery
Todd Stambaugh – stage 4 glioblastoma, updated treatment options

Praise:

Kim Rogers – cancer free

Condolences:

Judy Windsor family

Liz Stimler family

Garth Cripe family

October Financials

	Weekly	Yearly	Yearly
	Actual	Actual	Budget
Oct 3rd	\$2,210.00	\$39,709.32	\$53,251.60
Oct 10th	\$1,560.00	\$41,269.32	\$54,582.89
Oct 17th	\$685.00	\$41,954.32	\$55,914.18
Oct 24th	\$585.00	\$42,539.32	\$57,245.47
Oct 31st	\$627.00	\$43,166.32	\$58,576.76

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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:

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 10 & 17th-Youth Group @ 6:30 pm

Saturday, Nov. 6th-Trivia Night @ Woodland Church 6-7

Tuesday, Nov. 9th-Man Up @ 6:30 pm

Sunday, Nov. 14th-Board Meeting @ 6 pm

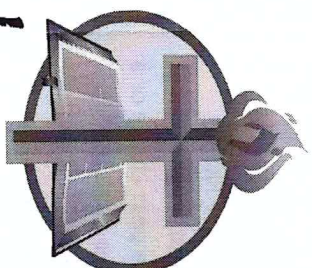
Sunday, Nov. 21st-Community Thanksgiving Service @ 6 pm United Methodist Church

Sunday, Nov. 28th-Hanging the Greens @ 4-5 pm

Sunday, Nov. 28th-Worship & Praise @ 6 pm

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

Give Thanks


Astoria Christian Church

