

*What's most important?* I wrote several weeks ago in my Argus article about my schedule with football and how it felt like it pulled me away from time with my kids. And as important as that time with my kids is, I know football also pulled me away from other things as well. And I'm not criticizing football or any other sport, or any of the millions of other things we can spend our time doing, but the last few weeks and even months have really tested my schedule and made me really consider what was most important.

And we know that family and loved ones should be toward the top our list, right? Spending purposeful time with those closest to us should really take a priority. But we also know our time with God should even be above that, too. Connecting with him as a heavenly Father is essential to our lives and our growth as Jesus followers.

But then there is a mess of things that can take time in our lives after those. Work and leisure and recreation and hobbies and caring for our homes and possessions and pets all take time of our lives. But then we have any number of clubs or committees or groups that we can participate in, each one seeking more and more of our time to help out.

And they can all be valuable and worthwhile, right? I thoroughly have enjoyed my time helping on the Homecoming Committee this year and plan to help as much as I'm able in the future. However, as important as supporting our local community in that way is and as enjoyable as it can be, I have to set limits on my involvement because I have other priorities in life, too.

And my point is this: how purposeful are we about how we spend our time? Let's assume we are very good at having personal time with God

and we have good quality and quantity time with our families (which might be a big assumption). Where does the rest of our time go? We have jobs, right, so that's a big part of it, but then we have free time that we fill with any number of things. And there's so many valuable and worthwhile ways we can spend it. But are we purposeful about that time?

It's easy to agree to help whenever anyone asks. In fact, some of us may have issues with setting those limits. And I pray that you're active and involved in various groups or committees that can help our community and our world. But I also pray that, as followers of Jesus, we haven't forgotten that one of our primary roles to play in this world is *"Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28.19-20, GNT) Jesus makes it pretty clear that a top priority in our lives, how we spend our time, is sharing this Good News about who Jesus is and what he's done. And Christmas is a perfect season to do that.

But the easiest way to do that is through serving at the local church. Finding ways to support and participate in what the church is doing is a significant part of letting others know about who Jesus is, what he's done and what he continues to do in our world. And so, my prayer this Christmas season is that amidst the priorities we have in life, we always remember that telling others about Jesus is essential.

Serving Him and you,  
Matthew

## *OCC Shoe Boxes*

Thank you to everyone who helped fill shoe boxes this year. We were able to pack 42 this year! That means 42 more kids around the world will be blessed by our efforts.

## *High School Youth Group*

There is a new youth group for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade meeting on Wednesday nights (December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>) from 6:30-7:30pm. We plan to continue into the New Year as well. There's a meal followed by a lesson each night. Contact Matthew with questions.

## *Community Services*

We have our annual Christmas Carol Sing on **December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. This services help us come together during this festive season in order to remember the reason for the season. This will be held at the **United Methodist Church**. Plan now to attend and bring a special number (music, poem, rap) to share.

## *Thanksgiving/Christmas All Church Meal*

We will be having an all church meal on **Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** to celebrate the holiday season. We will coordinate the meal in the coming weeks and let you know what to bring. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

## *Christmas Eve Service*

On **Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm** we will be hosting a Christmas Eve Service to help focus our minds on what it means for Jesus to come into our world. Please join us for this intimate and meaningful service.

## *Prayer List*

Jeff Benifield – health issues  
Bobby Blickenstaff – cancer returned  
Tammy Bowman – kidney failure, not well  
Addison Briggs – SxS accident, bruised  
Bill Danner – recovering from pneumonia  
Betty Davis (Joe S's mom) – stroke recovery  
Kyle Easley – heart issues  
Charlotte Elliott – seizure concerns  
Haiti – earthquake, tropical storm, government unrest (Blessing Hearts mission)  
Sandra Howell – shoulder surgery recovery  
Gary Hulett – heart failure  
Chris Klitz – accident, broken bones/bruised  
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver  
Zach Rogers – procedure in December  
Todd Stambaugh – stage 4 glioblastoma, updated treatment options  
Tammy Wilson – recovering from Covid

### **Condolences:**

Peg Davis family  
Bill Harris family

## *November Financials*

	<b>Weekly Actual</b>	<b>Yearly Actual</b>	<b>Yearly Budget</b>
<b>Nov 7th</b>	\$1,755.00	\$44,921.32	\$59,908.05
<b>Nov 14th</b>	\$1,609.99	\$46,531.31	\$61,239.34
<b>Nov 21st</b>	\$2,146.00	\$48,677.31	\$62,570.63
<b>Nov 28th</b>	\$875.00	\$49,552.31	\$63,901.92

# 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:

Wed, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 15<sup>th</sup>-Youth Group  
6:30-7:30

Sat, Dec. 4th -Blood Drive 7am-11pm

Sun, Dec. 5th- Christmas Carol sing @ UMC  
6pm

Sun, Dec. 12th-All Church Supper 6pm

Fri, Dec. 24th- Christmas Eve Service 5pm

Sun, Dec.26th -Worship & Praise @ Old  
Oak Ridge Cafe 6-7pm

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

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



# Astoria Christian Church

