

Finally, some rain.

I know that most of us, especially our farmers, have been looking forward to some rain and it was nice to finally get at least a little bit. And though at least one of the rainstorms came with a fair amount of damage to our area (down trees, power outages, etc) the rain was more than welcome at this point.

And most of us were somewhat patient about the rain, right? I mean for most of us it didn't get to the point where we had too much hardship from the lack of moisture. A few of us might have been anxious or even fairly nervous, but for the most part, we knew that the rain would eventually come, right? And even if we got to the point that we wondered if it would ever rain again, or when it finally did rain maybe it'd be too late for our crops or our gardens, but even then, what could we do? And I think that's really the point when it comes to patience sometimes. We get to the point where we consider our options and we realize there's really not much we can do. And while I'm a huge proponent of personal responsibility and making sure we take care of what we can and should take care of, there are so many things that simply are out of our control. There are so many aspects of the world around us that we simply cannot do anything about.

And this is especially true when it comes to other people. We have little-to-no control over what other people will do, even though we try our hardest to get them to do what we want. Even our children ultimately are going to do what they want to do, and we learn that more and more as they get older. No amount of punishment or reward will ultimately get your

child to do everything you want all of the time. And when we can't get people to do what they want, it's often frustrating and annoying, and it causes problems in our relationships for sure, but when it comes to nature or something larger than us we tend to have a different response. Sure we'll get frustrated and annoyed when it doesn't rain or it's too hot or cold or something, but we realize pretty quickly we can't do much about the weather. And so, often, we find ways to accept our circumstances and deal with it. We understand that we can't control the rain or the temperature or other aspects of nature and so we find ways to accept them for what they are. And I think there's something powerful about that acceptance. And though I'm not one to give up quickly or easily, I do realize when something's a lost cause, too. And getting it to rain when I want it to *is* ultimately a lost cause. And so what does this have to do with following Jesus? Probably a lot, but what sticks out to me in this is acceptance of something beyond our control can cause us to a couple different things. It can cause us to resign ourselves to our circumstances and just 'grin and bear it'. It can cause us to whine and complain and grumble about our plight. Or, and hopefully this is us, it can cause us to turn to the one who can control these things and trust in his providence and will.

And that's really what patience is: trusting that God has this in control and will provide for us what we need.

And when Paul writes to us about the salvation that God provides to us through Jesus, and the hope that brings into our lives, he calls us to wait for it in patience. He writes, "*For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is*

not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8.24-25)

And so, I pray that we can wait patiently for more rain, for our crops to grow, for our children to return, for a job to come, for our lives to calm down, for healing in our bodies and our hearts, and for whatever else we might be wanting. And as we wait, I pray we draw closer and closer to Him.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Baby Bottle Boomerang

If you have a bottle yet, please return it ASAP so we can get it back to the Pregnancy Center; even if it's empty, they'd like it back. Thanks!

Camp Requests

Matthew is heading to camp on July 16th-21st for Junior week of camp and is looking for donations of treats for our faulty (cupcakes, cookies, Little Debbies, Gatorade, etc). These are helpful encouragements for those who serve at camp and a great way to support them.

We could also use plush Angry Bird toys if anyone has something similar to the image below. We'll be using them for a game and will get them back to you.



Peoria Chiefs Game

Grace Bible is going to the Peoria Chiefs game on Saturday, August 5th. Tickets are \$10 apiece. Let Matthew know if you would like a ticket.

Prayer List

Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver
Rhonda Barfield - seizures
Bill Danner – continued healing, dialysis
Jody Dean – treatments
Karen Fredrick – in hospital, not well
Mike Grater – cancer
Eric Hamm - leukemia
Cynde Ketterman – continued healing/strength
Clyde Prater-cancer, experimental treatments
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
Becky Watson – cancer treatments, stem cell
Debbie Opp – chemo treatment

Praise:

Letha Stambaugh- cataract surgery went well

Condolences:

Danny Jones family

June Financials

Date	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
June 4th	\$745.00	\$21,765.80	\$25,145.21
June 11th	\$636.00	\$22,401.80	\$26,238.48
June 18th	\$2,433.00	\$24,834.80	\$27,331.75
June 25th	\$836.00	\$25,670.80	\$28,425.02

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You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

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

Sunday School10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.*

*meets during the school year

Events:

Sun. July 9th-

Board Meeting @6pm

Tues. July 11th-

Man Up @6:30pm

Thurs. July 13th-

Ladies Fellowship @6pm

Mon. July 17th-

Camp Fellowship, Summum
@6pm

Sun. July 30th-

Worship & Prayer @ 6 pm

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



Astoria Christian Church

“Jesus said to her. ‘...whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.

The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’”

John 4:13-14

