

Time is such a commodity these days, right?

I mean we are all so busy or so tired that it's difficult to find time for a lot of things we *should* do, much less simply *want* to do. If you have kids or grandkids doing a sport or a school play or in dance they're already filling nights pretty quickly. And then if you want to attend other community events or meetings, our time simply gets filled up. And then after racing around all week, and working a full-time job, we still have chores that need to be done at home. And if we get all that done, there are always larger projects that we'd like to finish, too, but usually by then, we just want to crash. And depending upon how long we've been running this race, we might just stay crashed for a long period of time, right? And I'm in the season of life where the race is just picking up speed. And overall, it's been manageable, though I am seriously considering investing in a more comfortable bleacher seat. But I can appreciate the limited amount of time we have to help out, too. Especially if you're at a season like I am with multiple kids or grandkids in various sports or activities throughout the week. And so, more and more, our time needs to be allocated to what is most important in life and we need to be purposeful about what we use our time for. I was sent a message this week asking how we can get more volunteers for a community program that I help with. And honestly, I didn't have any immediate answers. But then I got to thinking that we should find a way to *punish* those who didn't help (sounds like an idea from a parent, right?!) But then I realized that probably wasn't the best approach. So I thought maybe can we reward people who help. And money (paying people) became the first answer I came up with. And we could probably make something work, where we financially reward people for their help. But, to me,

this highlights a much deeper issue in our culture today.

I think, in the past, because we weren't so busy running around, we were able to fill the needs of our communities better. Sure there were less options available, but we also seemed to have more people participate in what was offered. And not just participants but volunteers who helped. But what I think was probably more important was priorities were better established and people understood that they needed to play their role to make things work. And though life is busier now, we still need to do the same thing. We need to make sure we're participating in such a ways as to play our part and to fill our role. And I don't know that I can define your role for you, though I'd be willing to help you if you'd like, I know that we all have a role to fill.

And I'm not asking for more volunteers at the church, though that'd be lovely if you're interested. What I am saying is that we're all a part of a community and you are here for a reason. God wants to use you and me in our community to make it better, to bring his kingdom into it more fully, and reveal his love more deeply. So I challenge you to find your role, using the gifts and passions God gave you, to love your community (especially the Astoria Christian Church community) so that more and more God's kingdom is present in our lives. Serving Him and you, Matthew

Community Youth Meeting

We are still moving forward with some community youth events and our next meeting on **Sunday, April 19th** at the church. Please come with thoughts and ideas to share with the group as well as an open mind.

Summer Dates

I know it seems early, but I wanted to get some dates for this summer out now. Community VBS will be **June 1-5 from 9:00 – 11:30 am**. Also, the Ministerial will be hosting a Day Camp the week of **July 27-31st** at Camp Emmanuel. Our church will be in charge of cooking for one of those days and we could use volunteers, throughout the week, too. Lastly, Matthew is a co-dean of Junior 1 at Camp LaMoine again this year, and those dates are **July 5-10** for grades 5th-6th if anyone wants to come out and hang out with us for that week. Please keep those dates in mind and in **prayer**.

Easter

Since we moved into our Lenten season last week, Easter is just around the corner. Please keep the weekend services planned in mind as you celebrate. **Friday, April 10th at 6pm** is the Community Good Friday event which will include a drama from the end of Jesus' life. We will also have a **unique Sunrise Service at 7am on April 12th** followed by **breakfast at 8am** and then our **Resurrection Service at 9am**. We will NOT have Sunday School on Easter morning.

Mobile Food Pantry

On **Saturday, May 2nd at 10:00 am** we will be hosting a mobile food pantry at the firehouse. This is an event sponsored by River Bend Foodbank and DOT foods. We will need some volunteers to come help distribute the food, but we also need to make sure people come to participate. If we have enough interest and need, this could become a regular event for Astoria. Contact Matthew with more questions.

Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer spreading
Kelly Lund-Bollinger - surgery
Tammy Bowman – stage 4 kidney failure
Jenny Farr – sudden, severe cancer
Tim Graham – home, more tests
Todd Hamm – cancer treatments
Marilyn Hendricks – congestive heart failure
Margaret Miller - tests
Bob Mummert – health concerns
Glenna Parry – fall
Wesley Prytherch – infant with CHD
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
Audrey Rogers – gall bladder surgery
Jenny Stambaugh (Jones' friend) – hospitalized, heart trouble
Steve Trone – wedding & shoulder surgery
The Thiner family
Marissa (Letha Stambaugh's friend) – cancer
Praises:
Betty Clemens – sudden recovery, rehab at Elms
Condolences:
Sandra Yocum family
Robert Belville family
Carolyn Stevens family

February Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Feb-02	\$ 1,232.00	\$ 4,803.00	\$6,656.45
Feb-09	\$ 1,864.00	\$ 6,667.00	\$7,987.74
Feb-16	\$ 943.00	\$ 7,610.00	\$9,319.03
Feb-23	\$ 1,768.50	\$ 9,378.50	\$10,650.32
Totals	\$ 5,807.50		

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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, March 1 st	2:00pm Community Good Friday Practice
Sun, March 1 st	6:00pm Lenten Community Service @ UMC
Wed, March 4 th	6:00pm Family Night
Sun, March 8 th	2:00pm Community Good Friday Practice
Sun, March 8 th	6:00pm Board Meeting
Tues, March 10 th	6:30pm Man Up
Wed, March 11 th	6:00pm Family Night
Thurs, March 12 th	6:00pm Camp LaMoine Kickoff Meeting
Sun, March 15 th	2:00pm Community Good Friday Practice
Mon, March 16 th	6:00pm Camp Fellowship @ Central Christian Church in Browning
Wed, March 18 th	6:00pm Family Night
Sun, March 22 nd	2:00pm Community Good Friday Practice
Wed, March 25 th	6:00pm Family Night
Sat, March 28 th	6:00pm Cowboy Church @ Central in Browning
Sun, March 29 th	Youth Offering
Sun, March 29 th	2:00pm Community Good Friday Practice
Sun, March 29 th	6:30pm Community Prayer Meeting



An Irish Prayer:

May God give you, For every storm, A rainbow,
For every tear, A smile,
For every care, A promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, A sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.

