

# 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, Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm Family Night
Sat, Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am All Church <b>Cleanup</b> (lunch provided)
Sun, Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm Board Meeting
Tues, Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm <b>Man Up</b>
Wed, Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm Family Night
Sun, Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am Packing <b>OCC Shoe Boxes</b>
Wed, Nov 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm Family Night <b>Thanksgiving Potluck &amp; Celebration</b>
Sun, Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 pm <b>Youth Committee</b> Meeting
Sun, Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm Community <b>Thanksgiving Service</b> @ Summum Christian Church
Sun, Nov 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm Hanging the Greens
Wed, Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>	NO FAMILY NIGHT



# Astoria Christian Church

*Thanking God  
after he answers a prayer is gratitude.  
Thanking him in advance is  
Faith...*

## *Be careful what you pray for...*

because you might get more than you bargained for. We spend a fair amount of time talking about and emphasizing prayer, and all of us probably have some form of prayer life. But often prayer becomes a secondary or assumed activity, right? Regularly we say we'll pray for someone or we put a name on our prayer list, but does prayer really happen? Do we actually specifically pray for that person? And if we do, is it authentic and specific? And I am speaking to myself with some of these questions, because I struggle to make sure I purposefully and authentically pray at times, but I've found that when I do, often things happen that I don't expect.

And this is speaking more specifically about prayers that impact me personally rather than praying for those on our prayer list, but I've found that when I pray, things change. And it's not often that the circumstances or the situation changes so much as I change. Or at least my heart, mind and emotions change.

Henri Nouwen writes, "Christians mention one another in prayers and in so doing bring help and even salvation to those for whom they pray." And he adds this important point, "Prayer allows us to lead into the center of our hearts not only those who love us but also those who hate us. This is possible only when we are willing to make our enemies part of ourselves and thus convert them first of all in our own hearts." (*You Are Beloved*, 153)

I understand Nouwen as saying that if we're going to pray, something happens in our hearts, at the center of our being. And what, and who, we pray for can certainly change the circumstances and the situation (as God miraculously works) but more importantly (I believe) our centers are changed

toward what we're praying for.

What I mean, especially in terms of praying for others, is that it's easy to pray for loved ones because they are already in our hearts. It's much more difficult to pray for an enemy or someone who hates us because prayer brings them into our hearts (at least it should). And so, if we're going to pray for our enemies (which Jesus clearly instructs in Matt 5.44) it means they will need to enter into our hearts. They will be at the center of our lives. And when we start to do that, it starts to change us. And whether that's people or situations or circumstances, if we're truly praying intimately and personally about it, our hearts should be changed toward it. And we should see them or it more and more from God's perspective.

And so, I want to challenge us. If we're praying and our hearts aren't being changed in it, we might consider evaluating our prayers or our attitude. And if we're not praying, especially for those we hate or dislike, then I pray we open our hearts to what God wants to do in us through it.

Serving Him and you,  
Matthew

## *October Financials*

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Oct 6	\$1,770.36	\$49,226.13	\$53,251.60
Oct 13	\$716.30	\$49,942.43	\$54,582.89
Oct 20	\$1,115.82	\$51,058.25	\$55,914.18
Oct 27	\$1,706.00	\$52,764.25	\$57,245.47
Totals	\$5,308.48		

## *All Church Work Day*

We are planning a church work day for Saturday, **November 9th starting at 8am**. We hope to be done around noon and will have a lunch provided. Below is a list of the current tasks we'd like to complete. If you're interested in helping or have a suggested job, please let a board member know. Clean and possibly paint nursery, install shelf in classroom, clean/update front garden, put dirt around foundation of church and parsonage, light painting around baptistery, check musty smell at bottom of stairs, run wires for sound system, clean kitchen area/ovens.

## *Blood Drive Coordinator*

Currently our church hosts 2 blood drives each year, in June and December. This is a meaningful ministry that provides a vital resource to our friends and neighbors.

Our previous coordinator has decided to pass the role on to someone else and we are looking for someone for that role. The primary responsibility is helping coordinate people to give, and getting people scheduled. The other main responsibility is being available on the Saturdays of the drive to make sure the doors are open and the team can access the basement.

Please let Matthew know if you have questions or interest in this position.

**Also, if you're interested in donating, our next drive is December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Matthew or the church office to schedule an appointment.**

## *Prayer List*

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer spreading  
Tammy Bowman – stage 4 kidney failure  
Dorcees – stuck in U.S., waiting to return to Haiti  
Egleton house fire  
Jenny Farr – sudden, severe cancer  
Samantha Hackman – health & recovery  
Todd Hamm – cancer treatments  
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver  
Ellen Stevens – upcoming procedure  
The Thiner family  
Ryan White – stroke recovery  
Marissa (Letha Stambaugh's friend) – cancer  
Hailey (14 y/o friend of Carlocks) – cancer  
**Condolences:**  
Stanley Stambaugh family

## *Christmas Concert*

ACC invites you to a Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** which will include trios with flute, harp and cello. There will also be guest vocalists singing songs of the season. Performers include Tony Roberts, Jarod Hazzard, Katie McLuckie, Bethany Pothoff, Kosuke Uchikawa and Madeline Wood.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

