

The Astoria Christian

Vol. 43 No. 9 September 4, 2019

The Astoria Christian (USPS 352-870) is published monthly by Astoria Christian Church, 219 W. State St, PO Box 677, Astoria, IL 61501. Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, IL.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astoria Christian, PO Box 677, Astoria, IL 61501

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.

September Events:

Sun, Sept 8 th	4:00 pm Galilean Service
Sun, Sept 8 th	6:00 pm Board Meeting
Tues, Sept 10 th	6:30 pm Man Up
Sat, Sept 14 th	~1:00 pm Ministerial 'Gospel Sing' at Homecoming features Phil Stacey
Sun, Sept 15 th	10:30 am Community Worship Service at the Town Square (no service or Sunday School at the church)
Mon, Sept 16 th	6:00 pm Camp Fellowship @ Berean
Wed, Sept 18 th	5:00 pm Family Night Kickoff
Sun, Sept 22 nd	4:30 pm Youth Committee Meeting
Wed, Sept 25 th	6:00 pm Family Night resumes
Sun, Sept 29 th	Youth Offering
Sun, Sept 29 th	6:30 pm Community Prayer Meeting @ Cafe



Astoria Christian Church



FAMILY NIGHT KICKOFF

Wednesday, September 18th
5:00 to 7:00 pm

Join us for a **FREE** meal, games, **INFLATABLES** and tasty treats!

Sometimes, just sometimes, we get something positive from social media.

I realize that sounds terribly cynical and says a bit about me, but in so many ways we put down Facebook and Twitter because of its negativity and the damage it causes to relationships and communities. And in many ways it deserves that reputation. And I understand why many adults chose to ignore it entirely and even vow to never participate in it. But sometimes, too, we throw the baby out with the bathwater. We decide that we want to avoid the negative so much that we fail to look for the positive. We fail to see the value in something because we only focus on the dirt and the grime. And that's unfortunate. It really is, because we can miss out on so much good in life, even on Facebook, if we fail to participate and fail to look for the value in it.

I am usually the type of person who, once I commit to something I want to see it through. Whether that's finishing a book or a movie or it's a job or relationship. And sometimes that can be a fault. I've seen the ends of way too many bad movies, hoping that it'll turn around at some point.

But I've tried to be one who looks for the redemptive value in things. And what I mean is that I want to find something positive, something valuable, something even godly in everything. And even in bad movies or books, there is usually something worthwhile in it.

But what I've also found is that I tend to approach relationships and people more that way, too. When I was younger, I was very judgmental and even rude to 'those people'. And

'those people' might be different for you than for me, but I think we all have individuals in our life who we just don't connect with and maybe just don't understand. And I thought very highly of myself and looked down with contempt and judgement on those who weren't like me.

I've found I don't think that way as much anymore. Sure there are still people who irk me and are difficult for me to get along with, but in the end, I know that each person has redemptive value. Each person has something godly about them. And it may not be because of how they act or behave, but I understand more and more that each person was made in God's image, reflecting him and therefore deserving respect and care.

Tim Keller said it well in *The Reason for God* when he wrote:

"The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone."

I pray that we can be both humble and confident, not feeling superior to anyone but not having to prove anything either. And viewing others the same way. And whether you join Facebook or not, I pray that we always look for the positive in life and especially for the positive, even godly, in others.

That, to me, is the basis of loving others and loving God well.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Family Night Kickoff

Family Night returns for another great year! We will be hosting our Kickoff on Wednesday, September 18th from 5:00 to 7:00pm. We have FREE food and treats, INFLATABLES, face painting, ring toss, cornhole and even karaoke! This is an event for the entire family! We will resume regularly scheduled events the following Wednesday, September 26th from 6:00 to 7:30pm. We will have age-appropriate classes for everyone. Please plan now to participate!

Homecoming Concert & Service

Astoria's Homecoming is set for **Saturday, September 14th** and the Ministerial Alliance is bringing in a fresh face for our 'Gospel Hour' in the afternoon. **Phil Stacey** from American Idol will be sharing his talents with us that afternoon and we hope you'll plan to attend. He might sound a bit different from some previous musicians, but it should still be a great time! Also, we will meet together as a Christian community for our **Unity Service on Sunday, Sept 15th in the Square** (there will be no service or Sunday School at the church).

August Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Aug 4	\$1,224.01	\$38,506.34	\$41,269.99
Aug 11	\$928.00	\$39,434.34	\$42,601.28
Aug 18	\$1,568.50	\$41,002.84	\$43,932.57
Aug 25	\$1,441.00	\$42,443.84	\$45,263.86
Totals	\$5,161.51		

Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer spreading
Allen Brown (Ashley G's sister-in-law's dad) – open heart surgery went well
Tammy Bowman – stage 4 kidney failure
Cory Chockley – infection in leg
Katy Jo Dean – moved out of ICU, recovering slowly
Mary Ellen Farwell – moved to The Elms
Todd Hamm – cancer treatments
Lori Rodriguez – pain, needs hip replacement
Brandi Rudd – ending treatments
Stanley Stambaugh – cancer treatments
The Thiner family
Marissa (Letha Stambaugh's friend) – cancer
Hailey (14 y/o friend of Carlocks) – cancer
Condolences:
Bruce Mercer family
Family of Mary Geiman (Gilbert Geiman's wife)
Praises:
Bobby Blickenstaff – cancer removed & kidney functioning well
Sharon Jones – biopsy on spot clear

Sunday School

As a new season starts up again, this is a great time to connect or reconnect with Sunday School at 10:30am on Sundays. We have classes for everyone and the opportunity to not only share thoughts and learn together, but to grow as a community of believers. We encourage you to come check it out soon.

Also, we would love for others to step in and help in various roles, from teaching regularly to subbing for teachers. We also are looking for someone to be our Superintendent. This involves checking on curriculum, taking attendance and some other details. Please let Matthew know if you'd be interested in helping in any way.