



First Presbyterian Church

950 N. Boones Ferry Road

PO Box 333

Woodburn, OR 97071

May 2015 Newsletter

First Presbyterian

Church of Woodburn

Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

Followed by fellowship time at 11:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Peter Blank

Organist/Music Director: Debra A. Huddleston

Secretary: Laura Harryman

Office phone (503) 981-9121

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Website: www.firstpreswoodburn.org

Faith Academy

is coming in June.

“Christians are made, not born,”

Tertuliam said many years ago.

Following Jesus is not something that

comes naturally, and not without

time and training. During each wor-

ship service Pastor Peter will focus on

one essential area of the Christian


faith for young members of the con-

gregation in a 13-week series.



May 2015

S M T W Th F S

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| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Lay reader: Sally Klein Greeters: Chris Smith and Evelyn Balogh SOUP LUNCH | | | Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage Choir Practice 6:00 p.m. | | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Lay reader: Julie Moore Greeters: Nancy Hankins and Bill Anderson  | | | Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage Choir Practice 6:00 p.m. | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| Lay reader: Johanna Samson Greeters: Roberta Campbell and Evelyn White FOOD BANK SUNDAY | | SESSION MEETING 6:00 p.m. | Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage Choir Practice 6:00 p.m. | | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Lay reader: Lucien Klein Greeters: Sally Klein and Fran Welch | | | Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage Choir Practice 6:00 p.m. | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | |
| Lay reader: Harley Piper Greeters: Lucien and Sally Klein | | | | | | |

Dear Friends,

I am continuing on the subject of resiliency that I introduced last month. We live in the time in-between or the now but not yet. What I mean by that is that we live after Jesus physically lived on this earth and before he physically returns again. Bible scholars have called this the in-between time when God's kingdom is both *now* and *not yet*. Remember Jesus' words when he said "The Kingdom of God is near" and "the Kingdom is at hand." He is speaking of the *now-ness* of God's kingdom. Remember Jesus also said, "when you come into the kingdom."



The first way to cultivate resilience is to recalibrate our imaginations that profound difficulty is a natural part of life. All of us face troubles. We are better when we face our troubles. As the singer/songwriter Randy Stonehill penned:

"Troubles, troubles - everyone has them, you know,
Troubles, troubles - don't they come falling like snow?
Now, don't you lose hope in the harder times, never lose sight of your dreams,
Troubles are shadows, they're never as large as they seem."

As the Apostle Paul wrote, "tribulation brings about perseverance...proven character, hope" (Rom. 5:4).

The second way to cultivate resilience is to form sites of hopefulness in the midst of despair. This is the "now" of Christian knowledge of the world. We are told that the present things face will pass away, giving way to a better day. "In Christ, you are a new creation, the old has passed away. Behold, new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17). This is the hope we cling to, the promise in which we remind each other. In Alcoholics Anonymous each day is participants' "first day." In Bible studies and prayer groups, we plant, water and cultivate seeds of hope.

The third way to cultivate resilience is to understand we do it together. As Americans we often think in terms of "going it alone" or "doing things on our own". The Christian community is founded on hope. It's very existence testifies to the fact of getting back up again is written in its DNA. And this hope we extend to each other whenever we are together ("Wherever two or more are gathered...there I am in the midst of them" Matt. 18:20). "For all of our troubles, we're older and wiser today" (Randy Stonehill). Be resilient, my friend.

Warmly,

Pastor Peter

Pastor Peter J. Blank

Deaths

Bob Halle—April 28th, 2015

*"Blessed are they who die in the Lord,
they will rest from their labors and their
works do follow them" Rev. 14:13*

The earthquake in Nepal has left destruction. We can help.
Pray. Act. Give

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

presbyterianmission.org

Mercy Corps: mercycorp.org

Doctors Without Borders: doctorswithoutborders.org

The bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall has more information.

April 21st Session Meeting Highlights

- It was moved seconded and passed to appoint Julie Moore and Mark Sterling to the Support and Endowment Committee. The three members at large are Roberta Campbell through December 31, 2017; Christine Smith through December 31, 2016; and Harley Piper through December 31, 2015
- Pastor Peter recommended not hosting a community garden this year. There isn't an organizer or committed labor.
- Copier – we are nearing the end of our contract with Toshiba copier and Ultrex Business solutions. Pastor Peter is looking for new contracts.
- Pastor Peter asked Session "What can I do for you? As a pastor, as a church leader, to live your Christian life." Comments included Adult study, either bible study or topical study; Bible/scripture; by fall have something in place for kids; and special projects or music that relates to spirituality.
- Session stated appreciation for what Pastor Peter is already doing; responding to texts or emails promptly; relating well to kids; they like the sermons and presence in the pulpit.
- Walt Mangerich reported that they are still trying to find someone to give a second bid for the roof.
- Several yards of bark dust were donated and the weeds have been sprayed.
- Thermostats are programmable – sanctuary is on M-F when no one is there.
- Trees on property have limbs are broken – maybe a clean up day can be planned.
- Easter breakfast was served before the Easter service. Oven French toast & bacon were enjoyed.
- Concert – van wouldn't start so had drivers take personal vehicles to the last Canby concert. The concert was very good. The next concert is May 15th. Bill Anderson talked to Gene Sherrell who can take the van down to Case Automotive
- Joanne paid \$10 to boost our Facebook posts.
- Joanne signed up for a leadership retreat at Menucha on older adults ministry

- We are asking folks to update their information and will use the information to create a new directory.
- Johanna sends cards out letting folks know we are praying for them. Pastor Peter will follow up with a visit.
- Communion was served to 53 on Easter, April 5, 2015. 15 lilies were ordered for Easter. We are continuing to prepare gluten free bread but will use regular bread with some gluten available.
- Joanne is going to get information on plants that we can use for the south side of church.
- Next Meeting Date: May 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to play a recital at your church. Here is your share (\$32.50) of the freewill offering.

Sincerely,

Christopher Wicks

Lois Koval would like to thank everyone for their attention and cards during her recent illness.

Happy Birthday

2 - Betty Winfree

10 - Teddy Gunderson

10 - Joanne Hanson

17 - Charlie Moore

18 - Patti Burlingham

24 - Bill Anderson

Let Johanna know if you do not see your birthday listed.