



EXALT

EQUIP

ENGAGE

Sunday Worship
Adult Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Worship: 10 a.m. (in person or
www.woodlandpresbyterian.
org/worship)

756 Park Street
Woodland, WA 98674
360-225-8941



WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

Happenings



✠ From the Pastor's Desk ✠

DETHATCHING

¹⁰ *“Go up through her vine rows and destroy, but make not a full end; strip away her branches, for they are not the LORD’s.”* Jeremiah 5:10 (ESV)

I do it every year, and every year as I complete the job and look over the results, I feel a bit of remorse. It looks terrible right now, and I wonder if it will ever improve. The process of dethatching the lawn is a healthy process, so I am told. But from the looks of things right now – only a week after the aggressive deed was done – I still am unconvinced that I should have done it (if you can relate more to pruning your rose bushes, you may insert that analogy for the dethatching one – I go through the same “pruning remorse” every time I cut the rose bushes back in the early spring). It may take several weeks and some tender loving lawn care, but eventually, if proper attention is paid to the post-dethatching process, I am assured by the experts that the lawn will indeed grow back stronger and healthier than before.

Most of you can relate to that example because you no doubt have much more experience than I do.

I am relatively new to the serious and meticulous care for a lawn and garden. Therefore, because of my lack of experience, my doubts about recovery from an aggressive dethatching of the lawn or pruning of bushes and trees is understandable. My cries of “Honey, I think I killed your roses!” are well founded if one looks at only the immediate results. And yet, a reassuring little voice in my head says to me, “Just wait a few months and you will see.”

The same is true of our spiritual lives and the spiritual health of the Church. Jesus said as much when He speaks of pruning the spiritual pruning process in John 15:1-2: *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”* I’m sure that we often play the armchair quarterback gardener when we look at the pruning that God does and we say, “Lord, it looks like you might have gone a bit too far and you might

have even killed it!” It is always very presumptuous for us to criticize the Master Gardener, and yet we do it every time we complain to Him and try to suggest how He might do it better.

Most of you have heard me say that I believe this year of pandemic and civil unrest in our country has been positive for God’s people and for Christ’ Church. Certainly, it has involved a lot of pain and loss that none of us would have ever wanted or wish upon anyone. Some in our church family have suffered greatly in the last year due to COVID and its many affects. Yet, when it comes to spiritual pruning and dethatching, it is producing some very hopeful and positive results. Personally, I have seen some things that I have been needing to change in my life come about as a result of the trials of the past year. God continues to help me put aside a lot of those things in my life I once thought so important, and He has.....

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May 2021 Sermons

- 2 – The Martyr’s Cry Rev. 6:9-11
- 9 – Face to Face with the Lamb Rev. 6:12-17
- 16 – Sealed and Delivered Rev. 7:1-8
- 23 – Never in Doubt Rev. 7:9-17
- 30 – The Sound of Silence Rev. 8:1-13



CAROLYN FORD

The LORD says, “I am making a new earth and new heavens. The events of the past will be completely forgotten.” Is. 65:17 (TEV)

Do the events of the past ever pop into your mind, bringing negative emotions that diminish your hope? What a precious promise God has given us in Isaiah 65:17!

Our publisher for the Kafa Bibles wrote on March 10, “From my point of view, the situation is impossible.” From a human perspective, he was right; but, God Himself has assured us that Nothing is impossible with Him.

On March 31, the shipping manager promised to check whether they could send the document required for clearing the Kafa Bibles. My spirits soared. The next morning, our publisher reminded me that it was illegal to send the document. My spirits plunged. Then I said, “Wait a minute! Is my hope in what the shipping company does? Or is my hope in the Lord? His Spirit does not soar and plunge.” I brought my focus back to the Lord Jesus, and my hope was restored. That afternoon, the clearing agent informed us that the Bibles had been released. Praise God! He carries out His purpose despite human obstinance and official red tape.

As soon as the Bibles reach the Kafa area, a date will be set for the dedication, hopefully in May. I want to attend, if possible. There are two concerns: Covid is hitting Ethiopia very hard just now; I am told hospitals are full and short on equipment and oxygen to treat all the Covid patients. Elections are scheduled for early June, and unrest may increase as the time draws closer. Please pray for God’s perfect will regarding the timing of the dedication, and my attendance.

Matt and Kochito finished recording the Kafa Bible in March. Matt is working hard to complete the editing. We would like to have the audio Kafa Bible available on micro-SD cards at the dedication.

During the last full week of March, Matt and I participated in an online course for building Scripture Apps. This is completely outside my area of expertise; but, Matt and I came away excited about the potential of this program.

Please pray for rain in Ethiopia, healing from Covid, peace between ethnic groups, and much spiritual fruit as the Bible becomes available to the Kafa people in their heart language.

With thanks for your partnership,
Carolyn Ford

...continued from the ‘Pastor’s Desk’ on page 1

helped me to see what truly is valuable. Learning to use my time in more productive ways, making adjustments to my priorities in life, learning to not be so concerned with controlling everything, while at the same time, being a little better at intentional preparation. The same can be said about our church. God’s pruning process in this past year may initially be painful and look devastating; and yet, I believe our church has been stripped of some unnecessary “branches” that have positioned us to produce more fruit or grow much healthier.

Let me be very clear: I am in no way saying that we have arrived or are even close. God is doing the work of renewal, and it involves us continuing to examine our ways before the Lord, saying, “*Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*” (Psalm 139:23-24, ESV). The late Eugene Peterson has called this growing process as a “*long obedience in the same direction.*” Hopefully, during this past year, our eyes have been opened to how desperately our “spiritual lawn” needs dethatching and our dependent cry will continue to go forth to the One who can and will do His work of restoration. And as we stand staring at the immediate results from God’s pruning, we must listen to the reassuring voice of the Expert Landscaper who is continually reminding us, “*Be still and know that I am God.*”

In God’s Grace,
Pastor Kevin



MAY 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 12 p.m. C.E. Mtg 3:00 p.m. Worship Mtg 4:30 p.m. Christianity Explored Course	3 6:45 p.m. Vision Team Mtg	4 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	5 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	6 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	7 4 p.m. Stewardship Mtg	8
9 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 	10	11 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Missions Mtg 7:00 p.m. Deacons & Sessions Mtgs	12 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	13 EPC World Outreach 4 p.m. Missions Workshop 7 p.m. Presbytery Women's Link (virtual)	14 EPC Presbytery Mtg (Virtual)	15
16 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 4:30 p.m. Christianity Explored Course	17 6:45 p.m. OIT/Vision Team Mtg	18 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	19 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	20	21	22
23 PENTECOST SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	24 <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	25 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Membership Care Mtg	26 12:00 p.m. Prayer in Sanctuary	27	28	29
30 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	31  <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>					

Financial Report: Operating Budget

<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Beginning Balance	-1,409.09	-15,478.43
Receipts	17,555.10	20,454.00
Disbursements	<u>23,324.80</u>	<u>25,860.27</u>
Ending Balance	(7,178.79)	(20,884.70)
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance		
Receipts	55,519.10	49,382.00
Disbursements	<u>62,697.89</u>	<u>70,266.70</u>
Ending Balance	(7,178.79)	(20,884.70)

Financial Report: Invested Funds

<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Receipts	11,933.53	39,198.15
Disbursements	<u>3,147.21</u>	<u>7,053.20</u>
Year to Date		
Beginning Balance	234,891.03	301,828.02
Receipts	23,098.08	59,810.53
Disbursements	<u>68,241.67</u>	<u>65,155.47</u>
Ending Balance	189,747.44	296,483.08
NET FUNDS	182,568.65	275,598.38

Collecting Shoebox Items



January-Hats, Gloves, Scarves

February-Accessories (sunglasses, watches, hair items, jewelry)

March-Quality Crafts (pillow cases, tote bags...)

April-Stuffed animals

May-Hygiene items (washcloths, soap, toothbrushes, comb, hairbrush, deodorant)

June-Toys

July-Clothing items (socks, shoes, t-shirts, dresses...)

August-School supplies

September-Games

October-Letter & photo

November-\$9 Donation for postage

December-Prayer

Creation-Wide Praise Chorus

“All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing!” These words — just one paraphrase of a text by St. Francis of Assisi — seem a fitting description of springtime, when leaves and flowers pop out afresh, birdsong is heard again and hibernating animals emerge from dens and burrows, many with new babies in tow.

Psalm 148 may have served as inspiration for Francis, calling not only “young men and women alike, old and young together” (v. 12, NRSV), but also animals and birds, wind and water, mountains and trees, to praise the Lord. James L. Mays writes: “We human beings ... should recognize that we are in the list with all the creation and creatures as creature and creation ourselves. We are in our obligation to praise no different from and no more than all the rest.”

When you head outside on a bright spring day, notice what praise looks like in nonhuman form and how it sounds from nonhuman voices. How can we best join “all creatures of our God and King” in worship?

—Heidi Hyland Mann

-From May 2021 *TheNewsletterNewsletter*-



May Birthdays & Anniversaries



May

7 Liz Hover
 11..... Cindy Leach
 12 Jason Snider
 15 Donna Gosney
 20 Sarah Lail
 20 Janet Oyer
 22..... Lucille Rothfus
 25..... Melinda McTaggart
 26 Hime Tsugawa
 29..... Thom Mattison
 31 Jan Stenberg

The people listed in the Birthday and Anniversary list are members of WPC

Mike & Stephanie Kuhn, Missionaries

“Greetings, friends in Woodland! Steph and I are grateful for your concern and prayers for us.

Here are a few items that concern us over the next weeks.

As we feel the Covid cloud beginning to lift, opportunities for travel and ministry are becoming frequent.

Mike spoke recently in Memphis, TN and Ephrata WA.

Pray for good fruit and deepening partnership with churches, please.

We praise God that Mike's book *Finding Hagar* is in the last phases of publication in Arabic. Please pray for communication with the publisher and also that the book will help Arab people understand and embrace the blessing of God given through Hagar, but especially through Christ, the seed of Abraham.

We're also grateful that Langham Partnership (UK) has agreed to publish Mike's book, titled *In Quest of the Rock: Peter's Transformative Journey with Jesus*. The book is about spiritual formation, specifically, how Jesus formed Peter spiritually. It weaves together a lot of the lessons learned in walking with Muslim background believers and some of the courses I taught in Lebanon. Please pray for a good publishing and editing process and that the book will bear fruit to God's glory.

ITEN's partnership with Sudan is moving forward. It is due to launch in early April. Pray for recruiting the right students, good communication between me and our Sudanese partner, and God's hand of blessing on this training course.

Stephanie is now working part-time at a local "Title 1" school. The school is largely international. Steph thoroughly enjoys helping kids in their reading to bring them up to the level of their class. She has just started, so your prayers are valuable to her.

Finally, check out a blog piece Mike wrote about mission in the Middle East at <https://abtslebanon.org/2021/03/11/rethinking-christian-mission-witness-in-the-middle-east/>. It will give you an idea of the values we try to implement as we serve in the Middle East.”



ShoeBox Help Needed

If you'd like to learn how to direct the organization of WPC's Christmas Child Shoebox donations, please contact Juanita MacMahon.

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