



EXALT

EQUIP

ENGAGE

Sunday Worship
Worship: 10 a.m. (in person or
www.woodlandpresbyterian.org)

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



WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

Happenings



✠ From the Pastor's Desk ✠

A HOLY PASSION

The whole life of Christ was a continual passion; others die martyrs, but Christ was born a martyr. He found a Golgotha (where he was crucified) even in Bethlehem, where he was born; for to his tenderness then, the straws were almost as sharp as the thorns after, and the manger as uneasy at first as his cross at last. His birth and his death were but one continual act, and his Christmas Day and his Good Friday are but the evening and morning of one and the same day. John Donne

I am always excited when the Holy Spirit reveals something new to me in the Word of God. Some time ago, when I was reading the Gospel of Luke, I came across a passage that I have read a hundred times previously: Jesus was twelve years old, and his family had just finished a trip to Jerusalem. They began their journey home, and after a day of traveling, it was discovered that Jesus was not in their caravan. They returned to Jerusalem and searched for three days until they finally found him. Joseph and Mary found him in the temple, instructing the Temple teachers who were amazed at his understanding and answers.

His parents, understandably upset with their son, asked him how he could have worried them as he did. Jesus responded with these words: "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49). One little word caught my attention – "had". The statement had never impressed me until this particular time when God's Spirit directed my thoughts to that word.

Read the verse again, and pay close attention to that word. What is Jesus saying by using the word "had"? He could have responded in another way: "Didn't you know that I enjoy being in my Father's house?" or "Didn't you know that I prefer to be in my Father's house?"

The word Jesus used is one that denotes absolute and unwavering commitment. For Jesus, being in the Father's house was involved a holy zeal. We see this same kind of commitment displayed later in His life when Luke writes, "Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). Going to Jerusalem to die on the cross was something Jesus *had* to do, because it was the will of His Father. Jesus speaks of this holy compulsion when he


declares, "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." (John 4:34)

Years ago, there lived a missionary named Jonathan Goforth who served in China for forty-five years. The service was difficult as the Goforth family faced many challenges and heartaches (only six of their eleven children survived to adulthood). In his final years of service in China, because of his advanced age, it was decided that his mission work was turned over to the United Church of Canada. He was now separated from his life's labor in China, caring for his wife, Rosalind, weak with illness. Two semi-invalid, lady missionaries and a young man who did not know the languages accompanied them. Closed doors and nothing but difficulties surrounded him - perhaps this was the time to return to Canada and retire. But at seventy years of age, when most of his missionary peers had retired or died, Goforth set out for a new field to preach the name of Christ where it had not yet been preached. Goforth tried to enter five different fields in Manchuria. Every door was closed, but his

...continued from page 1

faith remained steadfast. Then came a call to northwest Manchuria, and another miracle of modern missions took place. In a few short years almost two thousand people came to Christ through his ministry-- after all doors had seemed shut. What kept Jonathan Goforth pursuing this mission? He *had* to minister to the people in Manchuria. That is holy zeal for the Lord. That is an example of calling.

I do have moments when I sense that kind of deep passion and call in my life - I must follow the Lord! However, I have not reached this kind of consistent commitment in my walk with Christ. All of us who have trusted in the Lord ought to desire to grow in this grace of obedience so that our greatest need in life is to serve the Lord. When our Christian lives are transformed to the point when our worship, prayer, stewardship, our service, study, and caring are no longer a burden or duty but rather an irresistible passion - something that we *have* to do - because in those disciplines, we draw closer to the Lord. This is what Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, founder of the Moravian Church, experienced as he exclaimed, "I have one passion only: It is he! It is he!" We can have a zealous passion for the things we do, but that passion will always fall short and leave us empty in the end. What we truly need is a holy passion and zeal...for Him!

In God's Grace, Pastor Kevin 



**Men's Breakfast
Saturday, March 22
at 9 a.m.
WPC Fellowship Hall
Calling All Men!**

Join us for a wonderful man-sized breakfast and great fellowship time.

Paul Bricknell, the Executive Director of the Cowlitz County Chaplaincy, will be joining us and speaking about the chaplaincy. Come and learn how this dedicated group of volunteers serve our area First Responders with emotional, relational, and spiritual support.

Sign-up at the Welcome Center!
Invite a friend to join you!

This is a free event. A freewill offering for the Cowlitz County Chaplaincy will be received.



Save the Date

...For These Upcoming Events!

- Men's Breakfast, March 22, 9 a.m.
- Christ in the Passover, Seder Meal April 4, 5 p.m.
- Good Friday Choir & Bells Cantata, April 18, 7 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, Breakfast & Service, April 20
- Ladies Tea, May 17, 1-3 p.m.
- Rummage Sale, August 15-16
- Men's Dinner, October 4, 5:30 p.m.
- Shining Star Bazaar, November (TBA)



Mike & Tammy EPCWO Missionaries

Prayer is the life-blood of missions. God calls, sustains, and rewards prayer. As you know, for missionaries to be successful, we must pray for them.

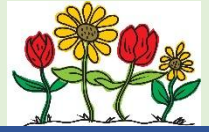
Mike and Tammy are missionaries working in Southeast Asia supported by EPCWO through churches like ours. Their goal is to "for the Glory of God, seeing all peoples worshipping and following Christ."



They are asking for prayer in the following areas: To seek God's will for their team goals for the year, develop relationships with new neighbors, boldly and faithfully share the Gospel, and for new partnerships that are forming this year.

Please include Mike and Tammy in your daily devotional/prayer time as they face many challenges. Your prayers of encouragement will bless them and help grow the Kingdom of God.



MARCH 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 11:00 a.m. Prayer Walk
2 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>Communion</i>	3 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 11 a.m. C.E. Mtg	4	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Comm. Mtg 6:15 p.m. Lenten Meal Service	6 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Missions Mtg 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	7 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	8 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
9 1st SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	10 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	11 1:30 p.m. Game Day Glass Chapel 7:00 p.m. Session & Deacons Mtgs	12 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 6:15 p.m. Lenten Meal Service	13 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	14 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	15
16 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	17 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 	18	19 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 6:15 p.m. Lenten Meal Service	20 <i>Spring Begins</i>  10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	21 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	22 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Crafts
23 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	24 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class	25	26 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 6:15 p.m. Lenten Meal Service	27 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	28 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class 10 a.m. Fellowship Comm. Mtg	29
30 4th SUNDAY OF LENT 9:00 a.m. Adult S.S. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	31 10:00 a.m. S.A.I.L. Class					

Financial Report: Summary

FINANCIAL POSITION	JANUARY 2025	DECEMBER 2024
Total Assets	\$225,848.99	\$231,013.89
Total Liabilities	-\$1,200.00	-\$555.00
Total Net Assets	\$227,048.99	\$231,568.89
Liabilities & Net Assets	\$225,848.99	\$231,013.89

Deacons Fund

The Deacons Fund is used to help church members and community members with one time or ongoing expenses that they are having trouble meeting financially. Each month, we give out at least a \$1250 a month to those in need. In order to keep meeting those needs, we are reminding you of our Deacons Fund and asking if you are able to do so, to consider making a donation to the deacons fund on our Communion Sunday.
Thank you.

March Prayer Families

Week of...

March 2	Darlene Glaus Joyce Sixberry
March 9	Jim Gola Jerry Silvers
March 16	Donna Gosney Donald Shipler
March 23	Chuck & Patty Graybill Al & Connie Sandblast
March 30	Linda Green LaVerna Ruckman



March Sermons

- 2 – *No Time to Pack*
Mark 6:7-13
- 9 – *Making a Wish and Blowing Out the Candles*, Mark 6:14-30
- 16 – *More Than Enough*
Mark 6:31-44
- 23 – *Not Seeing What is Right in Front of You*, Mark 6:45-56
- 30 – *Not Playing by the Rules*
Mark 7:1-13



March Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 6 Richard Long
- 8 Brian Sukkari
- 14 Jim & Marilyn Miller
- 15 Richard Benney
- 17 Jason & Sarah Wolk
- 19 Marilyn Miller
- 21 Joe Bozorth
- 22 John & Cynthia Svensson
- 31 Dale Boon

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

Celebration of Life

Saturday, March 22

Mickey Bersch's Celebration of Life is going to be Saturday, March 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Pizza Pete's in Ridgefield, WA.

It's a casual 'get-together.'

Several people from our church may remember Mickey as a faithful volunteer for our youth groups.



From...Carolyn Ford, Missionary

From her February 2025 Letter...

The Lord gave me a new life verse for my 77th birthday:

*“Praise the Lord! Let all that I am praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord as long as I live.
I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath.”* Psalm 146:1-2 (NLT)

Over the past several months we have experienced more illness and death among our retirement village residents than usual. Some are discouraged, because they are no longer able to be active in the ministries they once had. Others need extra help with shopping or transportation. I do what I can to help, and there are those who help me with things like transportation for my eye injections and computer/internet issues. This all requires time and uses energy. Watching others struggle with depression due to declining health, I have determined to focus on God’s goodness and to praise Him from my heart rather than grieve over frustrations due to aging. One of these frustrations is the slow progress of work on my memoirs. I am into 2018. Please continue to pray for right priorities and that I will rest in the LORD and praise Him for the strength He gives me.

I had mentioned in my last letter that the Tsara New Testament was to be recorded soon. However, one of the Tsara Christians who was reading through the translated draft asked to discuss some choices of wording with the translation team. This resulted in revisions that took until early February to complete. Also, a Wycliffe linguist from Germany has been working with the Tsara translation team to improve their orthography and promote literacy. She suggested they mark some tones to make it easier for the readers when they do the audio recording. That is almost finished. Please continue to pray for a quality recording.

Praise God that Matt completed the consultant check of Mark’s Gospel into the Muhir dialect, spoken on the edge of the Gurage area, where I was first involved in Bible translation. The diligence and commitment of the Muhir translators encouraged him greatly.

Some of you have experienced loss over the past few months due to weather, fires, accidents, or illness. I pray that you, also, will experience the LORD’s comfort and grace. He is always worthy of our praise! Thank you for your continued partnership in His Kingdom work.

Let all that I am praise Him!

Carolyn Ford

Carolyn.ford@sim.org; www.carolynford.org; 1218 Dahomey St, Sebring, FL 33875

To support my ongoing ministry, give online at: simusa.org/give/ Type my name into the box marked “Select Designation,” click on Carolyn Ford – **Ministry**. OR send a check made payable to SIM USA with designation “for Carolyn Ford – **Ministry** Account #19489” to:
SIM USA; 14830 Choate Circle; Charlotte NC 28273



MARCH 2025

Happenings

Seder Meal

Seder Meal with Chosen People
Friday, April 4, 5 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 18, 7 p.m.
Choir Cantata with Bells

Walking Together with Jesus to the Cross

"The Seven Last Words of Jesus"

LENTEN MEAL SERVICES

Wednesdays, from March 5 through April 16

Dinner at 6:15 p.m., Prayer & Worship at 7:00 p.m.



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