



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER MESSENGER 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

The Bible says “Consider it pure joy when you face trials of various kinds” (James 1:2). I confess that I did not consider it “pure joy” when it reached 120 this past summer. Nor did I consider it “pure joy” when the smoke filled air entered my lungs. If anything brings joy with the onset of fall it is the clear skies and moderate temperatures -- not the trials. But the words of James continue to ring in my ears.

As last year, the fall brings lots of questions. A year ago, we had begun to taste pre-pandemic life, but the taste was short-lived. Many hoped and prayed for a vaccine. Now we have a vaccine, but the virus does not always respect it. We continue to struggle in our differences of opinion over masks, mandates, and now vaccines. The church is not immune to any of these struggles. How can we consider all this “pure joy?” It is “pure joy” not because the trials bring pleasure, but because God goes with us through the trials. It is “pure joy” not because the trials make us happy, but because the trials make us holy. God never intended that his people feel happy. That is not the goal of the Christian life, nor is it the goal of the church. No, God’s intention is that we be made more holy -- more godlike in our lives. And this, well, this always involves suffering and trials.

We do not like this message, but it is the way God has always worked. The Lord wants to shape us into people with deep roots. He wants to shape us into people who reflect Christ to the world -- loving God single-heartedly and single-mindedly with all our strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. God does not call us to prove that he answers prayer or to conquer earthly trials or to put a smile on our faces. God calls us so that we might stand as living monuments to God’s grace in the midst of our trials. It is through the trials that God’s grace and glory shine forth in our lives to those in the world. Such a witness will prove powerful in a world trying to cope with suffering. While many will try to escape suffering and others deny suffering, God’s people embrace suffering, knowing that it is a temporary predicament preparing us for a far greater weight of glory.

So, when trials come into your life, know that the Lord is with you, know that as you face them in his grace you will witness to his grace and glory, know that he will use them to shape you and shape us a congregation into his image bearers.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave



PREACHING NOTES

Martin Luther once quipped that the book of James is a “right strawy epistle.” It disappointed the great Reformer that James makes little mention of Jesus Christ, grace, or justification by faith. True enough. What concerned James was a *living faith -- a faith that takes risks, a faith that follows in obedience, a faith that bleeds and breathes. James did not want to see the Word of God implanted, yet wither away -- he wanted to see a harvest tenfold. What does such a harvest look like? What does such a living faith look like? You’ll have to read James to find out. May the Lord bring about such a harvest in our own lives, as we submit ourselves to his Word and pray for revival.*

Oct. 3 James 2:14-26 Faith that Works

Oct 10 James 3:1-12 Watch Your Tongue

Oct 17 James 3:13-18 Wisdom from Above

Oct 24 James 4:1-12 With Whom Are You Friends?

Oct 31 James 4:13-5:6 What Is Your Life?

FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons oversees the Matthew 25 fund. This is a fund set up years ago with the specific mandate of Matthew 25:35-37....” For I was hungry and you gave me food, for I was thirsty and I gave you drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” If you know of someone within the church family or in your circle of friends and neighbors that may be in crisis and have a need, please contact a Deacon or the church office. There is a simple form for the individual to fill out. This is a ministry of the church that others may not know about so if you have any questions, contact Dave the Pastor or a Deacon.



SESSION SUMMARY

Pastor David opened the meeting with prayer and a reading of Philippians 2: 1-5. These verses talk about working in Christian unity and toward looking out for others. Verse 2, “then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.” Verse 4, “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Session, with legal advice from Chris Moore, is submitting a tweaked proposal to Catholic Charities of Spokane for possible sale of our old youth/ preschool building.

Before any sale of church property could be completed, a vote of the congregation would be required. Of course, Session will be communicating with the congregation about ongoing progress and details.

Over the past two months, Session has had many opportunities to address our collective concerns about the COVID 19 pandemic and the impact the rising number of cases of the Delta variant has had on our community. Additionally, with the new school year beginning and our Kingdom Kids classes starting, there has been more scrutiny because of the Governor’s mandate that all preschool and school facilities ensure COVID 19 safety, with vaccine mandates and increased scrutiny of safety protocols and personal protection.

In the best interest of “loving our neighbor” and caring for our church family, Session has strongly encouraged everyone that serves in our ministry to be vaccinated. In respecting the fact that not all have chosen to do so, we have also authorized that all members of staff, irrespective of vaccination status, be tested weekly at the church’s expense, if they are to have contact with congregation or participants in the ministry during that upcoming week. The reason we provided that exclusion is that there are the occasional weeks when some of our staff will be working entirely from home and not be face to face with members, fellow staff, or participants in their ministry.

We will continue to monitor this situation for the next 6 months and adjust our testing requirements as guided by our experts in Public Health and direction from Presbytery. We are asking that all people continue to practice good social hygiene, social distance, hand washing and mask wearing so that all can attend worship and ministry confidently and safely.

We appreciate your support and prayers for all through this most challenging time.

Session - September 20, 2021



Family Promise

of Lewis Clark Valley



Fall Fundraising Event!

2 Gonzaga Ticket Packages!

Fabulous Seahawks New Year's Weekend Package!

McCall Condo Stay!

1/2 Grass Fed Beef!

Large Flat Top Grill!

6 Different Golf Packages!

Gift Cards from: Happy Day, Perfection Tire, Deranlear's, Steiner's and more!

Hello Friends,

Fall is on its way and we are gearing up for our annual fundraising event! We would like to invite you to join us for our first ever Online Silent Auction! This will be a unique opportunity for you to support Family Promise and purchase some amazing items. The auction will run for a week October 7-14, so you will have plenty of opportunity to bid on your favorite items. All proceeds from this event will support Family Promise of Lewis Clark Valley. Registration for the event will be accessible a week before the auction. Registration links will be available on our website and Facebook page. You can also type the links listed below into your personal computer browser or your cell phone. Once you have filled out the registration and entered a credit card you are set to bid when the auction begins at 8:00 am on the 7th. If you need help with registration or have any questions don't hesitate to call us at 208-798-3349.

We so appreciate your consistent support of our program. It has been a challenging year but we are doing great and getting ready for a busy fall. We have just hired Angela Porter as our new Case Manager/Office Administrator. Some of you might remember her. Angela graduated from our program years ago and she is very excited to join our team. Our Social Worker Mariajose McCarley has accepted a job working for the state. She did a fabulous job for us and will be greatly missed. We moved a family into a home a couple of weeks ago. We have a family in the Transition Program and the Diaper Bank is busy. There are many families that will be needing help this fall and we are doing our best to ready to serve.

Your support enables us to do what we do! Every child deserves a home and we want to do all we can to help valley families. Thank you for partnering with us!

Steve Thomas - Executive Director

Personal Computer Link:
bit.ly/3IEA6Ss

Cell Phone Link:
bit.ly/3nPP5eJ



ABS - Adult Bible Study
 CASA - Social Services Training Program
 GOM- Grumpy Old Men Bible Study
 PEO - Philanthropic Educational Organization
 SS - Sunday School
 SW - Sunday Worship

October 2021



<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
					<u>1</u> 7a.m.-GOM	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> 10 a.m. SW & SS Communion	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> PEO	<u>7</u> 10a.m.-ABS	<u>8</u> 7a.m.-GOM 7p.m.-Al Anon	<u>9</u> 7a.m.-Second Sat.
<u>10</u> 10 a.m. SW & SS	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> 10a.m.-ABS	<u>15</u> 7a.m.-GOM 7p.m.-Al Anon	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> 10 a.m. SW & SS	<u>18</u> 2:30pm-CASA 6:30p.m.-Session	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> 10a.m.-ABS	<u>22</u> 7a.m.-GOM 7p.m.-Al Anon	<u>23</u> Myrtle DeTray Service
<u>24</u> 10 a.m. SW & SS	<u>25</u> 6p.m.-Deacons	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 10a.m.-ABS	<u>29</u> 7a.m.-GOM 7p.m.-Al Anon	<u>30</u>
<u>31</u> 10 a.m. SW & SS						

*Happy
 Birthday*

Joanne Poe 03

Sally Briney 03

Christi Vallandigham 07

Evelyn Profitt 08

Jeremiah Webster 18



CJ Knutson 18

Alyssa Hopkins 21

Joseph Auer 23

Don Poe 24

Judy James 29

Robin McPeak 29

