

Blessed ASSURANCE

OCUMC Newsletter

July 30, 2020

Dear friends and family of OCUMC:

Sometimes in these trying times, I find myself humming a few hymns just to keep my attitude up. I was singing "Blessed Assurance" just the other day. It comes from an American writer of not only American, but a writer of 8,000 Gospel songs and hymns during their lifetime. Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) was our prolific hymn writer. Along with Charles Wesley, she has quite a few songs in our hymnal. Blessed Assurance is one, Pass Me Not O Blessed Savior is another of my favorites...and Tell Me the Stories of Jesus....and Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross...and To God Be the Glory...and so on. She also wrote 1,000 nonreligious songs, and had four books of poetry and two bestselling autobiographies published. Two! She did live till she was 95 - so she had a lot of time on her hands.

But Yippi-skippi, she wrote a lot of hymns. What's the big deal? First, she was female. Do you know how many female hymn writers we have from the 1800's? Neither do I. She was born in 1820 - same year as Susan B Anthony. Women's rights didn't really exist. Fanny entered into the man's world of being a church leader. OK, she bridged that gap. Second, when she was six weeks old, she got an infection in her eye, and the doctor gave her a mustard paste to relieve the discharge. What it did was blind her for life. She was blind from six weeks old to her death. She was handicapped. Had to go to a school for the blind. As a girl. She would become a teacher at that school for over a decade. She wasn't supposed to amount to anything! Nobody would have thought that she would have gotten an education, let alone be proficient in literature, get married - which she did, let alone inspire a generation! She also had to write hymns under a different name, because some places wouldn't accept her writings, or allow so many hymns from one person to be published. They were that good and popular. She met with Presidents, worked with the abolitionists. In her later life, she and her husband lived with the poor and destitute, such as in the Bowery in New York - working to end extreme poverty.



At 53, she wrote Blessed Assurance. She was visiting a friend, Phoebe Knapp, the wife of Joseph Knapp, the founder the Met Life Insurance. Phoebe played a melody on the piano and asked Fanny, "Here is a new hymn tune I have written? What does it say to you?" On a whim and a prayer, Fanny responded, "It says 'Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine'". And they sat down and finished it out.

So a blind gal from other side of streets wrote these words: "Perfect Submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight. Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love." By a blind gal.

One pastor commented to her, mentioned her affliction. She responded that on some days, she was happy to be sightless. "You see," she explained, "When I get to Heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my savior."

We chose to walk by faith, not by sight. With the words of a sightless woman sharing with us the visions of what will someday be.

Keep walking by faith, OCUMC, we will get through these days!

Pastor Mike

Mission Possibilities for YOU

While we are all striving to do our best in difficult times there are those around us who are struggling. Our Mission Team is promoting 3 possibilities which would allow those of us who can to share our resources and help provide for others.

Shoe Drive with Love, INC.

- Men's size 14 & 15
- Women's size 9.5
- Kid's shoe size 5 to 13.5
- Girl's size 11 and 12



A Father's Heart street ministry in Oregon City

- Men's & Women's T-shirts
- Jeans (38x32, 30x32, 28x32)
- Shorts
- Walking shoes (new or gently used)
- Disposable masks or homemade fabric masks
- Socks and underwear must be new
- Bottled water is always a need
- All clothing items must be new or gently used and laundered
- They post specific needs on their facebook page as they come up



Oregon City "lunch lady"

- Bread
- Chunky peanut butter
- Jam (raspberry or strawberry preferred)
- Individual chip bags (Costco)
- Apples, bananas or grapes
- Cookies
- Sandwich bags
- Brown lunch bags.



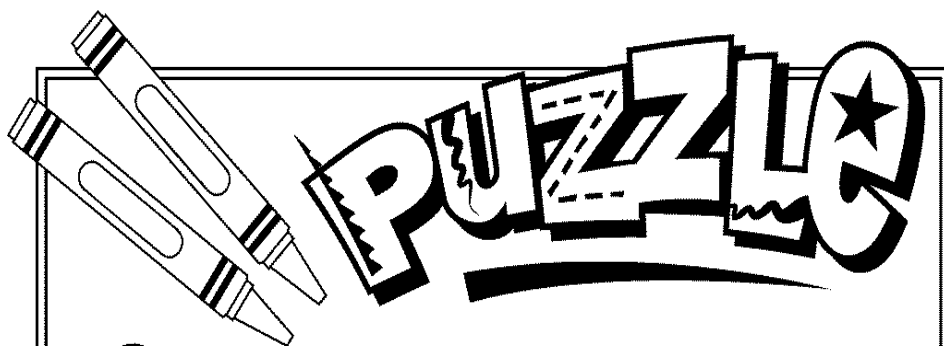
Here is how you can help. If you wish to purchase shoes, or have items needed by A Father's Heart or the OC lunch lady you can bring items to the church. Donation hours are 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday-Thursday. If you would prefer to donate financially please mark your donation with the mission you wish to support. The monies collected will be used to purchase needed items for the mission you select. If you have questions you can contact Jane Myers 503-656-0117 or Chris Larson 503-655-4080.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I needed clothes and you clothed me Matt 25:35-36a



Birthdays

WHITEHEAD, VINCENT	08/02
WOOD, GAYE	08/04
RUSSELL, JOY	08/05
O'SHEA, HUNTER	08/07
BENISCHEK, MIKE	08/09
STREIGHT, WAYNE	08/09
MARGESON, SANDEE	08/10
PALMER, CHRISTA	08/10
JOHNSON, SHARI	08/11
FERGUSON, DICK	08/13
SMITH, MIKE	08/13
MAGEE, KATHRYN	08/14
SPAINHOWER, KATHY	08/16
WARD, GAIL	08/18
CRONRATH, ARLEN	08/20
NORRIS, ALICE	08/26
QUEVEDO, MELISSA	08/26
BENSON, DAN	08/27
EVANS, DENISE	08/29
SPRAGUE, RACHEL	08/29
ENGEL, DAWN	08/31
RANEY, GEORGE	08/31



Compete for the crown



The apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running a race for an imperishable crown.



Directions: From the starting line through the finish line, circle every third letter. Then place the circled letters in order in the blanks below to complete 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, NIV.

START

ctrejasucphelnpomrxkibvztaejargiusonycce
iqsatexympsakogmzsjeeubtneyehapidmrfo
tegrbuanpicdnofihmneygjocsxrdpoetwkin

FINISH

"Do you not know that in a _____ all the runners run,
but only one gets the _____? _____ in such a way
as to get the prize. Everyone who _____ in
the _____ goes into strict _____.
They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do
it to get a _____ that will last forever."

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25, NIV

Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown