



OCUMC Newsletter

September 24, 2020

Dear friends and family of OCUMC:

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot...` Ecc 3:1-2

After the windstorm several Monday's ago, we still have piles of leaves and branches in our yard. We've filled up our brown container every week with debris, but it will take several more weeks of garbage pick-up to haul it all way. I want to tell all of the other trees to take their time in letting go of the rest of the leaves, "Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!" But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close. And it's time to rake again.



Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don't stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn't hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it. God's Word reminds us to:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32

Allowing His Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need.

By being willing to shun practices such as bitterness and anger.

By asking God to help us let go of the guilt from the past. "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:18-19

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other "decayed leaves" you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this season, our prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God and those around you.

See you in virtual church this Sunday!

Pastor Mike



October Birthdays

BENISCHEK, STEPHANIE	10/03
BENSON, PETER	10/04
SCHLOSSER, NANCY	10/05
CRAWFORD, MICHAEL	10/08
CRUIKSHANK, THOMAS	10/12
WENINGER, GAIL	10/14
CRUIKSHANK, RUBY	10/15
HEMPHILL, KARLA	10/16
RUSSELL, LESTER (DEKE)	10/17
BUTTOLPH, VERN	10/19
CRUIKSHANK, MICHELLE	10/19
BENSON, JEREMY	10/22
BENSON, NATHAN	10/22
QUEVEDO, SONIA	10/23
BEASLEY, DENISE	10/26

Just be — and be still

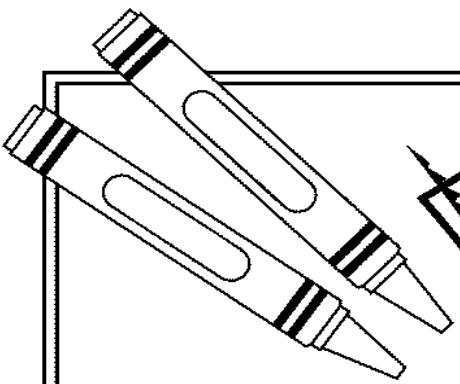
Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: “I am a human being, not a human doing. It’s okay to just be sometimes.” Many of us get anxious if we think we’re not doing enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it’s not a waste of time to just be: “To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving … is what the world needs most.”

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus’ spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and “do.” Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

It’s sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just be. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God’s presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. “In quietness and trust is your strength” (Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann





PUZZLE

A PLANTING Parable

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.

WORD BANK: sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water
 2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant
 3. To plant
 4. Sharp part of a plant
 5. What is harvested
 6. To dry up and shrivel
 7. Person who plants
 8. The earth a plant grows in

"But the 2 falling on good 8 refers to

someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a _____, yielding a
hundred, sixty or thirty times what was _____ n.”

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

Answer: root, seed, sow, thorn, crop, wither, farmer, soil; seed, soil, crop, sow

ACCEPTING DONATION THROUGH SEPTEMBER



Father's Heart

September Backpack Drive



Father's Heart Street Ministry is collecting gently used and new backpacks this month. Durable **ADULT** sizes only. Backpacks are essential for those navigating homelessness. You need a secure way to keep your belongings with you to appointments, to job interviews, and wherever you travel by bus, bike or walking.

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



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



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



Here is how you can help. If you wish to purchase shoes, or have items needed by 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