



# Peace Progress

Editor, Kay Glathar

March 2016

## A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying our walk through the book of Job this season of Lent. It has been even more special as we have partnered with Shepherd of the Valley and Immanuel in our study together. I am very thankful that although Job includes great suffering, personal hardship, and loss, the story of Job ends with this great statement of hope: "I know that my redeemer lives!"

Please come and invite your friends to Peace for a joyful celebration on Easter day—our worship begins at 10 am with the Easter egg hunt to begin approximately at 12:15. To close out our season of Lent and usher in a great time of celebration we will be singing the famous Easter hymn "I Know that My Redeemer Lives".

In the meantime, there are some very down to earth, practical techniques that we can use to assist people who are experiencing intense suffering. What can we do? The suggestions below are points made by Reed Lessing (professor at the Concordia Seminary) that I think are quite helpful:

**Show up.** Our instincts often are to stand on the sidelines and let things go their natural way. We may think that we do not really have anything profound to say or contribute. In fact it would be better if we just show up and remain silent. I once heard someone explain ministry this way, "Ministry is 90 percent presence."

Consider the friends of Job. It was excellent when they showed up to console Job. It was a disaster when they started speaking and offering explanations for what was happening in his life.

**Share their pain.** This does not mean that we compare our situation to theirs. I remember when a relative passed away and one of my friends tried to

console me this way, "Jeremy, when my father passed away, it took me about six months to be over the loss. Just hold on and you will get over your loss too." This wasn't very helpful. To console by comparing does not work. Every person's situation is different. And everyone grieves in different ways.

Consider Job once again. Job needed a shoulder to cry. The opposite happens. When Job's friends visit they make the suggestion that he should have suffered more (Job 11:6)! They would have done better if they simply dropped off a note sharing their concern.

**Take the initiative.** Lessing explains:

When you have a friend who's in shock, you take the initiative. Don't say, "Call me if you need anything." That's not helpful to somebody in shock. Because now they've got to work to get your help. Don't even say, "How can I help?" Because when somebody's in shock, they haven't the slightest idea how we can help. When somebody's in shock they are numb. They are paralyzed.....What you do want to do is give people options. Say, "I'd like to bring you dinner, will Wednesday or Thursday night work best? Call them and say, "I'm going to the store, what can I pick up for you?"

Make Easter a special time this year. Yes.....we are going to sing great words of praise as we celebrate what Jesus has done for us! Yes, we will gather for ham and all the fixings. We can also make Easter special by just being a good friend to someone that needs us.

I look forward to our celebration together!



Keep looking up,  
*Pastor J*



## Preparing for Worship

Scripture lessons for March:

**March 6:**

Isaiah 12:1-6;  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**March 20:**

Deuteronomy 32:36-39  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 23:1-56

**March 13:**

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Philippians 3:8-14  
Luke 20:9-20

**March 27:**

Job 19:23-26  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26

### Preparing for Mid-Week Services (Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, too)

**March 2:**

Read Job 38:1-11. Job and his friends were curved in on themselves. How do these verses broaden their horizon? How do they give you perspective?

**March 9:**

Read Job 14:1-14. It is part of our sinful nature to look for hope in all the wrong places. How do you self-medicate when you are hurting?

**March 16:**

Read Job 23:1-17. Job 23:10 states, "When he had tested me, I will come forth as gold." Why does God test his people? What is your current test?

**March 24 (Maundy Thursday):**

Read Job 41:20-34. Who is Leviathan? Who has authority and power over this huge monster? How does this victory over evil relate to the Lord's Supper?

**March 25 (Good Friday):**

Read Job 42:7-9. Why is Job's restoration linked to his forgiveness of others? How is your restoration connected to your forgiveness toward people who have hurt you?

## Ladies Guild Highlights

The women of Peace are very busy fulfilling their mission of developing friendships, spreading the gospel and giving to community projects. We have joyfully decided to give a \$200.00 scholarship to any of our youth who want to attend Camp Lutherwood. Applications for the scholarship can be obtained from Pastor Jeremy or Kay Glathar. We also are supporting the missionary team of Jordan and Jamie Heater as they are called to bring the Gospel to Muslims in Chad or Somalia.

We are in the midst of planning a catered women's spring luncheon on May 14. More details on this are forthcoming. If you would like to help with the luncheon, please contact Sally Stouder.



We also have a Lefse class on February 29. The class may be full, but you can contact Betty Iverson if you want to be on the list. Last but not least, we will be having a final fundraiser for Feed My Starving Children in April. This will be a baked potato bar with all the trimmings. Bob and Kay Glathar will be chairing this worthwhile project. The cost will be a free-will offering with our goal will being \$500.00.

*Peggy Krueger, Ladies Guild President*

## Looking Ahead

- There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall on April 8th from 1:00PM to 6:00PM. See Ellen Holroyd to sign up to donate blood or volunteer to help.
- The first Saturday in March, March 5th, is another Men's breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee at 8:00AM and breakfast at 8:15. The discussion topic is yet to be determined.
- There will be a baked potato bar as a fundraiser for Feed My Starving Children on April 17th immediately following worship.



## Why Do We Do That?

Each month we are dedicating space in our newsletter to explore the reasons why we do certain things in our worship. This week, I would like to share with you the reason why we confess our sins—this part of the service is called “confession”, sometimes we call it, “being open to God”.

Let me begin by saying that it would be quite awkward NOT having confession in a Christian worship service. Why do I say that? The Christian Church from its very inception has taught that confession—admitting our sins and sinful condition—is the primary way to express our need for Jesus, our Savior. Without the confession of sins, a worship could be inspirational.....it could be uplifting.....it could be intellectually stimulating, but it would likely miss the point.

We must admit that we need a Savior. Above all else, worship should make this clear.

The best part about our confession time at church is that God does not delay with His forgiveness. God does not expect us to clean up our ways and then forgiveness can be granted. God does not want us to live with guilt wondering whether we have been forgiven. The immediate response to our confession in worship is ALWAYS God’s forgiveness.

Consider the promise found in I John, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” When we confess our sins, I would like you to think that we are doing nothing more than living out what this Bible passage says.



I am so thankful we confess our sins each week—I wouldn’t want to do it any other way. I am so thankful to have a Savior who rescues.

*Pastor*

## Habitat for Humanity Invite

Dear friends at Peace,



Happy New Year! Everyone here at Benton Habitat for Humanity is excited about 2016 because this year marks our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of bringing people together to make decent homes achievable for everyone in our community. We will be celebrating this landmark year at our annual Hope Builder Breakfast on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 am. The breakfast will be held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ on West Hills Road in Corvallis.

We are reaching out because we need your help to make this an amazing year!

We have ambitious plans for 2016, including breaking ground on our first ultra energy efficient home for a low-income family. Our goal for this event is to raise \$25,000 in honor of the 25 years that Benton Habitat has been building in our community. Help us make this possible!

If you would like to attend, please contact your pastor—Pastor Lucke—as he will be serving as a table host for the event. Thank you for all you do for Benton Habitat for Humanity and thank you for considering this opportunity.

In gratitude,  
*Jenna Baker*  
Habitat for Humanity

## Attendance and Grace of Giving

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
1/24/2015	116	Offering	\$1,768
1/31/2015	129	Offering	\$3,063
2/07/2016	114	Offering	\$2,724
2/14/2016	101	Offering	\$3,108



## Church Cleanup

Time for our annual church cleanup day as we prepare for Holy Week. Cleanup begins at 8:00AM on March 12th. The church will be cleaned inside and out. The Fellowship Hall and kitchen need to be completed by 11:00AM as they will be rented out at noon. The Sanctuary and outside can continue in the afternoon if needed. Remember, many hands make little work! We need many volunteers to help care for our church home. Come for the day or just for an hour. We can use lots of help. Thank you!



## Can You Help?

There are a number of ways you can help with Holy Week preparations. The following is a list of items needed:

- ◆ Easter lilies have adorned our altar on Easter Sunday in the past. If you can bring one on Easter morning or before, please put in the kitchen and Carole Gutbrod will arrange them.
- ◆ Cut flowers are needed on Good Friday or by noon on Saturday for the outside cross. There will be buckets available outside the church to leave your flowers. Jerry and Joyce Holroyd will decorate the cross with them.
- ◆ Plastic filled eggs are needed for the Easter egg hunt after the service on Sunday. They can be filled with candy, stickers, money, etc. Please leave them on the counter in the old kitchen.
- ◆ Finger foods for Easter Sunday Fellowship are requested. There are generally extra guests on that day and is nice to have finger foods hosts can get home to be with their families.



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## Holy Week Reminders

As Holy Week approaches here are some reminders of events:



- ✝ Maundy Thursday Service—7:00PM
- ✝ Good Friday Service—7:00PM
- ✝ Sunrise Service at College United Methodist Church in Philomath—7:00AM
- ✝ Easter Sunday Service **10:00AM** (No Sunday school or adult class)
- ✝ Easter Egg Hunt for children after the Sunday service at 12:15. Children will meet in the Fellowship Hall by the piano for instructions from Mike Schwartz before going outside.

## The Value of a Smile

A smile is nature's best antidote for discouragement. It brings rest to the weary, sunshine to those who are sad, and hope to those who are hopeless and defeated.

A smile is so valuable that it can't be bought, begged, borrowed, or taken away against your will. You have to be willing to give a smile away before it can do anyone else any good.

So if someone is too tired or grumpy to flash you a smile, let him have one of yours anyway. Nobody needs a smile as much as the person who has none to give.



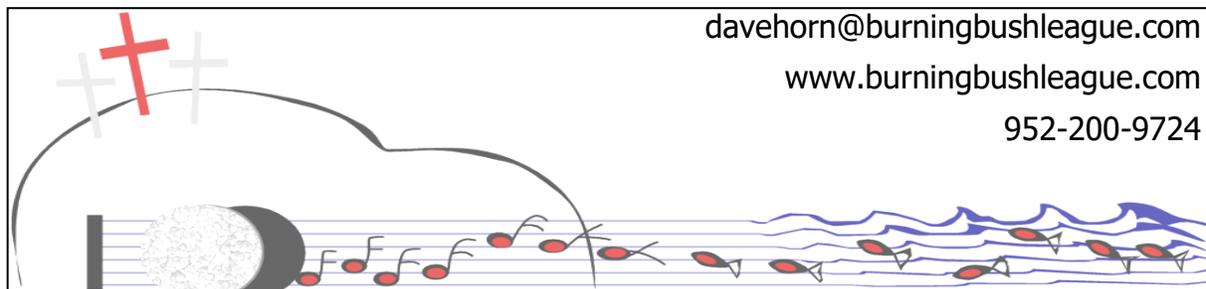


I am a Lutheran pastor, singer/songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist who proclaims the Gospel in music and story.

I have served parishes in North Dakota, Alaska and Minnesota, and spent three years as a US Navy Chaplain on active duty in the Pacific.

Since 2008 my wife, Sabra, and I have lived full-time on the road calling our 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer home. Our mission is twofold to serve as a resource with others in their ministries and present original music throughout the service that will direct your attention to the riches of the Gospel through lyrics that teach and music that brings peace.

We invite you to come to Peace Lutheran Church in Philomath on Palm Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. You can support this ministry with your donation today and by purchasing CD's of original music, some of which you will hear in the worship.



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