

The Lamplighter

A Newsletter of **Community Presbyterian Church**
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Growing In Christ & Loving One Another



JULY/AUGUST 2020

A Spiritual and Ethical Approach to Systemic Racism and the Pandemic

While I was participating in a Black Lives Matter protest in Prineville in June, I connected with a group of Young Adult Christians who were there as White Allies to the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) organizers and protesters demonstrating their voice for justice in their hometown. One young woman held a sign that read, "This would be a great time to ask yourself WWJD?". I commented on it appreciatively. When she was set to depart two hours later she gave it to me and said she would gladly make another. I hope to march with her again soon with our matching signs!

To be disciples of Jesus in any era is to live out a prayerfully discerned response to the question, "What would Jesus do in this situation if he were encountering what I am facing in my own life?" As Christians, we find our spiritual and ethical approach to life in the teaching and example of Jesus of Nazareth, fully divine and fully human in how he lived faithfully in the midst of the crises of his day.

So, how would a well-placed WWJD approach shape how we live this summer in the midst of the overlapping events of the Covid-19 pandemic and the movement for racial justice. I humbly offer the following guideposts for our spiritual and ethical reflection:

- **TRUTH:** Jesus: "The reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (John 18:37) In regards to the current virus and the historic and current legacy of systemic racism, may we pursue truth. That means listening to the scientists in regards to how the virus spreads and living in response to that truth. That means listening to the experiences of BIPOC friends and strangers to better understand racism today and learning the history of white supremacy and systemic racism in our country and our state. Then we need to speak truth with those around us who may be speaking mistruths. The truth might be inconvenient and sometimes deeply uncomfortable. That's okay. We need the truth.
- **HUMILITY & CONFESSION:** "The three most important virtues are humility, humility, and humility." (St. Bernard of Clairvaux) Simply choosing to follow Jesus with our lives requires humility as it is allowing Jesus to lead our words and actions. Humility is a necessary predecessor to confession. We who identify as white have practiced confessing our role in systems of racial injustice in this country and we will continue to do so. Those of us active in the protest movement are committed to following the lead of BIPOC organizers and de-centering our whiteness as we stand in solidarity with those who have been on the receiving end of racism. This takes humility and is a humbling experience.
- **OTHERS FOCUSED:** "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." (Mark 10:45) With the pandemic, we are faced with constant small ethical decisions about wearing masks, staying physically distanced, passing up travel, and more. We as Christians have a core ethical conviction about prioritizing the well-being of others over our own convenience. We make small sacrifices about our comfort so others can stay healthy and alive! In regards to systemic racism, we who identify as White need to work hard to get past our own blinders to listen and learn from others. We, as Jesus people, have an ethical conviction to stand up for politics and policies that are best for people who are suffering and struggling even if it is not our first choice. What if voting became a way to express what is best for others, not ourselves?

I hope it is helpful to share these thoughts. I hope they stir reflection and conversations. I invite any in the congregation who are struggling with how to live as Christians in the midst of the Pandemic and in response to this movement for racial justice to conversation. Let's walk forward together.

In Christ, Rev. Andrew Hoeksema

Listen. Lament. Love. **28 Day Challenge** **Beginning July 1**

The Social Issues Group invites all of CPC to join in a 28 day challenge called "Listen. Lament. Love." This online media program features Black voices in articles, books, quizzes, and podcasts that may open our eyes to how racism has influenced our minds and communities. We will LISTEN to and LEARN from the voices of Black people, LAMENT our complacency and complicity in racial injustice, then LOVE our learning into action. Each day's segment offers a journal prompt to record your personal interaction and details will follow on how to interact with other CPC members about the study.

The program was created by Bend First Presbyterian and Rev. Kally Elliott who have agreed to share it with us.

Please join us for this meditative study beginning Wednesday, **July 1**. If you would like to preview the material and learn more, click [here](#). If you want to participate, [download the material](#) and notify Connie Stoaks at chahs@rocketmail.com or 503-816-1591 (to ensure inclusion in online group discussions).

July 5 Outdoor Worship At CPC

Starting Sunday, **July 5** and as weather allows we will be holding worship outdoors on Taylor Field at 10:00 am. Please let us know you are coming [here](#).

Details:

- Outdoor Worship Service on Taylor Field at CPC
- Live stream will be continued but will be adapted to outdoor worship.
- All who consider themselves a vulnerable population due to age or underlying condition, please stay home.
- Significant precautions will be taken to minimize the risk of infection.
- All attendees are asked and strongly encouraged to wear face coverings (masks).
- Social Distancing will be practiced.
- Please bring your own chairs and/or blankets.
- No nursery will be offered, but we will provide outdoor Sunday School for ages 3-10. (starting Sunday, **July 12**)
- We will need returning and new volunteers to make outdoor worship a success. [Let us know if you are interested](#).

Notes From Session



Session plans on an outdoor worship service Sunday **July 5**. We strongly recommend face coverings, and to refrain from singing loudly. Session looks forward to resuming worship together, while maintaining safe physical distance from one another.

Session also agreed to partner with First Presbyterian Church in Bend in a 28 day challenge to "Listen, Lament and Love" as a way of beginning to remove racism from our midst. Please join us this **July 1 through July 28**.

Session accepted a bequest from the estate of Earl Thompson for \$90,000.00. Session invested this money in anticipation of using it for ministries starting next year.

Please continue to keep church open despite the closed doors by contacting others (email or phone calls), praying for others and keeping yourselves safe.

Steve Cross,
Clerk of Session

CPC Office Hours Update

Office Hours: 10:00 am - 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm by appointment only.

Monday-Thursday

Please call us during our office hours to make an appointment to come in.

Music Ministries

Director, Karen Sipes



Happy Summer! It is bittersweet, the time when choir would usually be gratefully going into a less rigorous schedule, with Wednesday night rehearsals over for the summer, and some members taking a summer hiatus. Just like the end of the school year, summer's approach is a bit anticlimactic. However, with summer's approach, we will have sunny days to brighten everything considerably.

With summer, we begin what we hope will be an exciting time of outdoor worship. After months of not seeing so many beloved faces on Sunday when we are doing music for the livestreams, we look forward to seeing as many of you as can safely worship with us in person! With summer, and outdoor worship, we have an opportunity to even sing together, distanced of course.

I have enjoyed some lovely Zoom gatherings with some of the choir and will continue scheduling those. It is wonderful to see each other, to talk, laugh and pray together.

I have appreciated greatly the letters, emails, and notes of encouragement from congregation members of the music we do on Sundays. Yvonne, Luke and I all consider it an honor and blessing to be able to continue making music, and we feel your spirits and presence with us each week. We will continue to be mindful of everyone worshipping at home with us as we move forward. You remain in our hearts.

As we move forward, finding ways to make music together will be a challenge. We will be doing some creative work to enable us to make music together in very different ways than we are used to, but I look forward to the challenge and in continuing our music ministry.

Enjoy the sunshine, and I look forward to seeing each of you when the time comes.

Blessings,
Karen Sipes

Quilters Quips



The CPC Quilters will have their first outside sew and tell time on **July 2 at 10:00 am**. We are gathering to share what we have been doing during the pandemic.

We will also use this gathering time to get supplies from the quilt room for additional projects. Our future is still unclear but we are all looking forward to a time when we can gather together to sew on projects for the warmth and comfort of those in need.

Summer Quilt Camp Update: For now our annual summer quilt camp has been postponed until it is safe to gather together, eat together, and work together. Sooner I hope, but longer if needed to stay safe.

Becky Dennis,
Quilter

Earl and Thelma Thompson

Earl and Thelma were devoted members from CPC's past. Earl was a retired military aviator, a helicopter pilot. Thelma was a nurse, using her skills to help her church and her community. Together they built a sailboat on their Redmond property and spent many days of bliss sailing in Puget Sound. They learned about estate planning, and while still healthy and flourishing, this couple made the decision to bequeath, upon both their deaths, a portion of their estate to CPC.

We all have the opportunity to do this as a way of ensuring the health, growth and Christian outreach of future generations; members we will never meet, who will not know our names, but who will share our faith, our love and our heritage with Community Presbyterian Church.

This month Session was able to accept Earl and Thelma Thompson's very generous bequest to the church they loved at its June 2020 meeting.

Steve Cross,
Clerk of Session

Hello Youth and Families!

We are back together for youth group! Join us on **Sunday afternoons from 4:00 pm-5:30 pm** on Taylor field at the church. As of now, we will not be serving food due to the pandemic. I would love to see you and enjoy the beautiful summer weather together. Please be in contact if there is anything that I can help you with, and enjoy these summer months! Blessings to everyone.

Kelsey Stealey
Youth Director
541-604-1119

Thank you all for the contributions of cans and bottles that have been donated for the youth group. In May \$100.00 was collected!

There are three ways to give cans and bottles to the youth group at CPC.

- 1) Drop them off at the north end of the church near the basement door.
- 2) Drop off at Walt and Norrie Taylor's home at 1849 SW Canyon Drive (leave on the north side of the house on the sidewalk)
- 3) Call 541-548-4472 and they will come and pick them up at your location.

Thank you for your continued support of the CPC youth and their activities



Parking Lot Sale 2020 Cancelled

The Parking Lot Sale (previously scheduled for September 10-12) benefiting our church to church relationship with the Kisauni Parrish in Mombasa Kenya, has been cancelled.

Our Parking Lot Sale Team felt this is the safest decision for our congregation and the community.

The Team is hopeful to raise funds through alternative sources to help meet the children's school feeding and girl's hygiene programs. We will communicate those alternatives this fall and invite the congregation to participate in supporting the funding of this partnership at that time.

We appreciate the support of our congregation through their volunteer efforts and by providing items for the sale. Our hope is that the Parking Lot Sale will return in 2021.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our Kisauni partnership.

A Thank You From Geri Gunderson

I am feeling much better and would like to thank the Deacons for the cards and phone calls I have received. Also thank you for the cross I received at Easter, it is beautiful and very precious to me.

Thank you,
Geri Gunderson



Thank you to **Everyone** who came to the Canyon Clean Up. We started at the Spud Bowl and worked our way South. We found everything from an old antique bottle that wasn't broken to a swimming pool and an odd-looking painting. Lots to clean up, glad we did it.

Brian Leutshaft,
Mission Team



September Newsletter Due Date

The next Lamplighter deadline is Thursday, **August 20**. Articles turned in after the deadline may not be published and all articles are subject to editing. Whenever possible, announcements and articles for publication should be sent via email to: tammy@redmondcp.org.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/01 Linda Romani Braund
 7/02 Karen Sipes
 7/04 John Duff
 7/07 Shirley St. Hilaire
 7/08 Craig Dennis
 7/9 Randy Harano
 7/12 George Noyes
 7/14 Brenda Parrott
 7/15 Bill Graves
 Bill LaBore
 7/17 Tom Edgerton
 Ruth McCrea
 7/18 John Eskeldson
 7/21 Jerry Thackery
 Tince Timm
 7/22 Eden Gasper
 Kayley Holcomb
 Linda Pinkston
 7/24 Gloria Riggs
 7/25 Tom Bull
 7/28 Tom Touchon
 7/30 Spike Biggers
 Jan Jacobs


JULY
Deacon of the Month

Luann Johnson

AUGUST
Deacon of the Month
 Ron Terry

JULY
ANNIVERSARIES

7/2 Kent & Elaine Blyler
 7/11 Bill Creach & Cheryl Adams
 7/14 Gary & Sharon Lynch
 Gene & Bonnie Schmidt
 7/15 John & Lois Seitter
 7/22 Larry & Mary Stadler
 7/24 Dennis & Karen Lisius
 7/25 Truman & Hannah Grandey
 Joe & Jeanne Kosanovic


AUGUST
ANNIVERSARIES

8/03 Andrew & Holly Hoeksema
 Terry & Mary Ann Schliep
 8/05 Ed & Judy McKinney
 8/09 Bob & Ginny Weeber
 8/08 Gary & Nancy Patterson
 8/10 John & Lena Land
 Jack & Carol Nelson
 Roger & Barbara Palmer
 8/17 Ron & Nancy Terry
 8/18 Spike & Marge Biggers
 8/19 Bob & Judy Vancil
 8/20 Ken & Paula Kerfoot
 Mike & Chris Slabaugh
 8/26 Dave & Diane Putnam

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/02 Mary Lou Hall
 8/04 Roger Palmer
 8/06 Adi Leutschaft
 8/07 Penny Hetherington
 8/14 Eli Gasper
 Linda Shaw
 8/15 Barbara Whitaker
 Diane Wilson
 8/16 Ben King
 8/19 Sharon Outcalt
 8/20 Owen Huckle
 Kelsey Stealey
 Roland White
 8/21 Pat Porter
 8/22 Hannah Grandey
 Bob Vancil
 8/25 Kent Blyler
 8/26 Liz Nygren
 8/28 Aletha Smith
 8/30 Paula Kerfoot
 Anna Land
 Rose Land

