



Technology Corner

Remember when technology meant getting your teenage children or grandchildren to set the clock on your VCR? (OK. For some of you that may have been just yesterday. I get that.) But for most of us, we've come a long way from when technology was seen as being nice to have, to being at a disadvantage if we don't have it. With things like computers, cell phones, tablets, Bluetooth, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Zoom and something else coming down the wire every other day, technology has woven itself deep into the fabric of who we are. There's no escaping it. We've especially seen this in how we've used it during the current COVID crisis. We watch church on-line and connect with family and friends over Facebook. If you have a doctor appointment, it just might be a Zoom call. And shopping; it comes in a truck after you've ordered it from your iPad. (And for the record, Adam and Eve did not have the first Apple) But probably most important is we see technology as a way our church can bring people together, support ministry and advance His Kingdom. And if you or someone you know in our church family needs a little help either getting up to speed or even just off the ground with technology needs, we would love to come along side and provide support where we can. Watch for more to come as we develop and roll out this new technology ministry. Technology is another avenue in ministry and we aim to drive it. Now, about that clock on the VCR.



Financial Update

For the month of November, the average weekly giving was \$5,681. We have had a slight increase in the ending balances in several funds.

- This month, through compassion funds, we have been able to help:
- a couple with a gas card so they could get to a medical appointment out of town;
 - provided a hotel room for a mission-minded individual who was traveling through the area and contracted COVID.



Leadership Team Envisioning Great Possibilities

When the angel proclaimed "glad tidings of a great joy," it was the announcement of a real and tangible entrance of God into our daily lives through the birth of our Lord. As we enter this new year, we live with the very real presence of God among us, and he loves every one of us with a great, immeasurable love. We are citizens of his great, unshakeable kingdom.

For the church, we see brighter times as surely as the days are getting longer. You have received news that we will consider adding Marco Griffith as Associate Pastor of Youth in a special congregational meeting at 7:00 PM on January 12th. Marco and his new bride, Rachel (Anderson) are two outstanding young adults who grew up in this church, and are now ready to bring their ministry gifts home. Marco did a year of youth ministry internship here before accepting his current position, and we are excited about what he could bring.

We have set February 7th as the day of our Annual Meeting, and at that meeting we will approve a budget for 2021, will elect three replacements to our leadership team, will receive the first draft of two proposed changes to our by-laws (to be voted on later in the year), will hear reports on the year past, and will receive a clear vision for the year ahead.

The year ahead, by the way, is filled with great possibilities. Pastor Seth is putting together a circle of ministry leaders who will work with their teams on a vision for "making disciples" at all levels of our ministry. These ministry leaders, representing seven key areas, will meet regularly to coordinate a unified strategy for our congregation's ministry success. While they focus on a shared disciple-making ministry, our Leadership Team will give administrative and tangible support to their efforts.

In other business, we joyfully received Pastor Seth's news that he will begin classes at George Fox (Portland) Seminary this spring. It is an outstanding seminary, and Pastor Seth's further education will be supported financially and with other necessary allowances which were spelled out as a condition of our call to him. We will richly benefit from his growth, which because of its part time nature, will take place over the next six or seven years.

We are gracefully moving through the difficult days of COVID-19, and are looking forward to what the year brings with vaccinations and the subsequent opening up of our lives. Through all of this, the word remains true: "Behold I bring you glad tidings of a great joy . . . a Savior is born."

Alan Johnson, Chair



Updates from our Worship Arts Director

Hi Church! These past few months of transitioning into the Interim Worship Arts Director position have been absolutely wonderful. Thank you all for making me feel so loved and welcomed! It is such a blessing to be a part of this church community.

As 2021 rolls in, I would love to see our worship teams expand! We always need more musicians and singers, so if this is something that you find of interest, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. It has been such a delight being able to connect and grow with the current worship team volunteers, and I can't wait for more people to hop on board. We will be introducing some new songs this year, as well as some more creative ways to be involved with the worship on Sundays. Be on the lookout for the different opportunities that will become available in these coming months!

Please continue to pray for all of our worship team volunteers. That they will continue to love and be passionate about serving through music and that we all will keep the Lord at the focus of it all. The more we experience God in our personal lives, the more it's expressed in our worship. It is evident that the Lord is moving through our musical worship, and I am excited to see what He has in store for our church in 2021!

Blessings,
Tess

Monday Night Prayer Meeting

Join others each Monday night at 6:30pm on a Zoom call for a time of prayer. (You will receive an email link to follow.)



My Pledge



I pledge allegiance to the Lord
The Creator of our nation
And to His Son who died for us,
That we might have salvation.
He gave His life upon the cross
To save us all from sin.
I pledge my heart unto the Lord,
For His love dwells within.
I'll sing and pray, live by His Word
My life I'll live for Him.
This is my pledge to Him.
This is my pledge to Him.

Ruth Vacura



Mission's Update

Following are snippets from a few of our missionaries that we support. Please pray for them as God brings them to mind.

Peter and Anna Kim-Taiwan- They are thankful to be settled in Taiwan and the children are adjusting well. Peter is working with the Taiwan Covenant Church.

Gene & Inga Whitehead-Sweden- They are teaching and disciplining 15 students at their school. They also have devotions with their co-workers at the school. Please pray for extra monthly funds and a year-end donation.

Jerry Skifstad- He has had COVID along with his family. Pray for his new grandchild born December 22.

Karl & Indigo Nelson- Indigo had been in China and left the day before China closed the borders in March. Her ministry is encouraging Chinese believers by phone. They are living in Kansas.

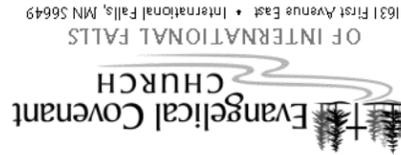
Lorraine Green-Africa- Her traveling has been curtailed by COVID, but she has stayed in contact with her colleagues by Zoom. She is thankful for good internet service in South Africa. She is training her replacement and will retire in 2021.



New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ MATTHEW		▶ PSALMS	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-17	▶ ACTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	▶ GENESIS
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:18-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:12-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 2:13-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-8
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:22-47	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-11
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 3:13-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-14
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-17
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:12-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:23-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-20
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:18-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-23
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:17-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 24
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:13-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-26
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:21-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:1-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 27-28
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:33-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:39-60	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 29-30
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 31
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:16-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:26-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 32-33
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:25-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 34-35
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:20-43	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 36
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:15-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 18:1-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 37-38
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:24-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 18:25-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 39-40
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:14-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 41
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:23-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:19-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 42-43
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 44-45
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:14-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 22:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 46-47
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:27-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:26-52	<input type="checkbox"/> 22:12-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 48
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 23	<input type="checkbox"/> 49
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-21		<input type="checkbox"/> 50

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In This Edition...

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- People to Celebrate
- Celebrate Recovery
- Grief Share



A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth . . .

After my first cup of coffee, one of the first things I do in the morning is put in my contact lenses. There is nothing pleasant about poking my fingers around my eyeballs, but if I don't go through with it then I won't see things clearly. There is an old expression that says, "hindsight is 20/20." It means that you can see things more clearly when you have gone through an event or situation than you could before you went through it. For many of us this last year is one we would like to forget, but even though we couldn't see it at the time God was up to something. The question is - were we paying attention? In this newsletter article you will see some of the things God was up to in our church in 2020, and the things He is up to in the new year. As we seek to follow His lead, Hebrews 12.2 tells us how to see things clearly in 2021 by:

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

It is through prayer that we fix our eyes on Jesus to see clearly and have 20/20 vision in the new year. For this reason the month of January is going to have a focus on prayer. I am asking all who can to commit to prayer for the month of January. Our Monday night prayer gathering is going to be on Zoom so that our church family in Canada and those who can't meet in person can join. On Wednesdays we are going to have live stream worship and prayer on Facebook and YouTube. If you want to join but need help with the technology, contact the church office and we will help you. If this still doesn't work for you, find another way to begin the year in prayer, such as scheduling one night a week for you to pray as an individual or family for this upcoming year.

Jesus, Lord, we take our eyes off of our circumstances and we focus on you. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the things that You want. Show us Your ways, Oh Lord. Guide us in Your truth and teach us, for You are our God and Savior. In Your name we pray, Amen.

Mercy, peace & love be yours in abundance.
Pastor Seth

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jan 2 -- Connie Magnuson
 Jan 3 -- Debbie Griffith
 -- Maria Vollom
 -- Jim & Nancy Johnson
 Jan 4 -- Edna Anderson
 Jan 6 -- Nick Anderson
 Jan 7 -- Lori Dobbs
 -- John Morrison
 Jan 9 -- Andy Hedlund
 Jan 10 -- Derek Dowty
 -- Phyllis Holm
 -- Theodore Kostiuik
 Jan 11 -- Reece Averill
 -- Brooks Bilben
 -- Rebecca Holm
 -- Sharon Zika
 Jan 12 -- Erika Hufnagle
 Jan 13 -- Adriana Christianson
 -- Elaine Story
 Jan 14 -- Jacob Hufnagle
 Jan 15 -- Lizzie Veert
 Jan 18 -- Pete Anderson
 -- Laurie Hedlund
 -- Jess Schrock
 Jan 19 -- Asher Belanger
 -- Cathy Blankman
 Jan 20 -- Mary Hogan
 Jan 23 -- Alex Belanger
 -- Janice Sneller
 Jan 24 -- Nadia Hultstrand
 -- Anthony Veert
 Jan 25 -- Lila Wood
 Jan 27 -- Marlan Herivel
 -- Alexa Kellin
 -- Judy Larrabee
 Jan 28 -- Sharon Bilben
 Jan 29 -- Jacob Clarity
 -- Judy Lofgren
 -- Chrissy Morrison
 -- Gene Pierce
 Jan 30 -- Mike LaBlanc
 -- Jenny Ohlquist
 Jan 31 -- Delayne Hollis

The entire church family is invited
 to attend a
Special Congregational Meeting
 on Tuesday, January 12
 7 pm
 We will be voting to extend a call to an
 Associate Pastor of Youth



It isn't too late to join Covenant Kids, but you must pre-register! The meals & lessons will resume on Wednesday, January 6.

To register your kids for the at-home program, go to

www.ifallscovenant.org/covkids/. We are helping families eat together, learn together and play together!

At 5pm, drive through the church parking lot to pick up your take-home meals and at-home activity kits. At 6pm, join us for music, Bible stories, and more when our weekly program will be posted to our website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. It will be prerecorded, so you and your kids can watch at any time that fits your schedule. Then, open your at-home activity kits for crafts, games, and more fun activities to do together with your kids.



Recipe Corner

Creamy Vegetable Soup

5 TBSP butter, separated
 1 TBSP olive oil

1 C EACH diced carrots, celery & yellow onion
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 4 C baby red or gold potatoes; bite-sized pieces
 1 1/2 tsp Italian seasoning
 3 C chicken broth
 2 C broccoli florets; finely chopped
 1 C corn
 1/4 C + 2 TBSP flour
 3 C milk
 1/2 C heavy whipping cream
 3/4 tsp EACH: salt & pepper
 2 C sharp cheddar cheese

In a large pot over medium heat, melt 1 TBSP butter & add 1 TBSP olive oil. Add the diced carrots, celery, & onion and sauté 5-7 minutes. Add garlic & sauté 30 seconds more. Stir in the potatoes, seasoning, & broth. Bring to a boil; reduce heat, cover & cook for 15-20 minutes or until the veggies are crisp tender. Stir in broccoli & corn and cook for 2-3 minutes until tender & warmed. Meanwhile, melt 4 TBSP butter in a saucepan. Stir in flour & whisk constantly 1 minute. Slowly pour in milk while whisking. Cook stirring constantly until mixture begins to boil & thicken; add cream. Add to the soup when veggies are tender. Season with salt & pepper. Lower heat and add the shredded cheese. Cook until cheese is melted. Enjoy!