



Spirit of Faith

Pastor Jim Deal
Faith Presbyterian Church
Of East Wenatchee
April 2021 News Letter

....to inspire and challenge believers to seek deeper ways of serving Our Lord, to motivate all people to follow Jesus Christ, and to nurture one another.

A season of Resurrection and Hope

As we begin April 2021, there are signs of hope everywhere. The days are lengthening. Lawns are greening up, and flowers and plants are growing. More and more people are getting vaccinated, with news that everyone in the State of Washington over the age of 16 will be eligible for the vaccine by the middle of this month!

Yet what brings hope to the hearts of Christians everywhere is the Day of Resurrection, or Easter. On this special day, we celebrate Christ's victory over death and the grave, and the gift of eternal life we have through Him.

This year, we are celebrating Easter with one worship service at 10:00am on Easter Sunday, April 4th. Although we would like to offer our usual Easter breakfast in our fellowship hall before the service, state regulations will not yet permit the serving of food inside of churches. We also decided not to have a sunrise Easter service this year, although we may do so in future years.

On a pastoral note, I have just begun to resume pastoral calling upon individuals in our congregation. Since I have been vaccinated, and have been invited into a few homes, it now seems safe for me to do so. I know many of you have missed my pastoral visits. I do hope that hospital visitation, and visits to assisted living, rehab, and other care facilities will be fully opened up soon. (I know that some limited visitation is now allowed, under certain circumstances).

In what is certainly a hopeful sign, we are now allowed to sing in church! It was so hard when the state forbid congregations from singing in church! Fortunately, that has now been reversed. We are allowed to sing, although masks are required. Let us pray for the day when we will be able to sing without masks in our beloved sanctuary!

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The way in which our world is “becoming more normal, but isn’t back to normal yet” mimics our Christian walk. Christ’s resurrection is the once-and-for-all victory over the power of sin. Through Jesus, we have total victory over sin. Yet in spite of Christ’s triumph, we still struggle with sin in our lives. We are not so hopeless as we were without Christ, but the victory will not be complete until we reach the gates of heaven. Thus, the Christian life is about “already, but not yet.” Already victorious over sin, but not quite yet.

My hope and prayer for you, and our church, and our world is that the hope of the resurrection will become more and more evident. May Christ’s victory over the forces of evil and death continue to inspire us, now and always! Have a blessed Easter season!

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Jim

Financial Update

March 27, 2021

I am writing to provide an update on our church finances. It goes without saying that 2020 was a unique year, and this too was the case for the church finances. Tithing and offering income during the first two months of last year started slow, lagging \$3,036 or 12% behind budget by the end of February 2020. Then in March 2020 income slowed even more as restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic required a temporary end to in-person worship. By the end of March the church was \$6,197 or 16% behind budget. But God is good and we were blessed with the congregation’s response to the deficit. By the end of April 2020 the entire shortfall was erased! The generosity did not stop there as giving remained strong throughout the rest of the year. In fact we finished the year with a record \$175,387 in annual giving, up \$19,257 or 12% from what was budgeted! After netting income with expenses the 2020 year finished with a \$34,760 operating cash surplus. Adding this to our opening cash reserve balance of \$23,395, we ended the year with a \$58,155 operating cash reserve. This is the equivalent of 4.5 months operating cash.

For 2021 we received pledges totaling \$124,460 an increase over the \$120,680 pledged in 2020. Through mid-March we have received \$47,592 in tithing and offerings which is tracking 40% above budgeted income of \$33,954! At this point based on pledges and estimated expenses we don’t foresee needing to dip into reserves in 2021 and could very well have another surplus year.

Thank you for your continued financial support of the church and its ministries.

Sincerely,

Josh Weldy

Elder, Finance and Administration

Scholarships Available

Faith Presbyterian Church is reminding vocational, college or university students of the availability of scholarships from the Hussey Scholarship Fund for the upcoming school year this fall. The scholarship fund was established by church members, Chuck and Alice Hussey, fourteen years ago for assisting young adults who are affiliated with our church in their pursuit of higher education. Over \$116,000 has been received by 31 students since the inception of the scholarship fund. Once again this spring, scholarships are offered to students affiliated with the Faith Presbyterian Church who are graduating seniors or others pursuing or continuing their higher education. What a wonderful opportunity for our young adults! And what generosity and foresight of Chuck and Alice Hussey!

Applicants should have the following additional qualifications:

- 3.0 GPA for high school; 2.5 GPA for college students preferred
- School and community involvement
- Leadership skills

All applicants will be considered

Scholarship applications are due at the church no later than April 15th. This news brief is intended to provide a "heads up" and reminder to pick up the brochure and application in the narthex of the church in the near future. And students are reminded to be certain to give those individuals writing references for the application a minimum of three weeks. ALL portions of the application must be received by the due date to qualify for consideration. If you have questions or would like an electronic copy of the application, please contact Pat Malone at 884-6349 or by email at patmalone2@frontier.com.

April Birthdays

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Tom Raese</i> | <i>April 03</i> |
| <i>Julie McLean</i> | <i>April 06</i> |
| <i>Carole Lee Walk</i> | <i>April 06</i> |
| <i>Shannon Weldy</i> | <i>April 07</i> |
| <i>Fred Deal</i> | <i>April 18</i> |



April Anniversary

*Martin & Angela
Dial*

April 14





2021

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| | | | | | |
| | | | 9:30 a Women's Bible Study | 1 Maundy Thursday | 2 Good Friday |
| | | | | | 3 Passover Ends 10am Easter Egg Hunt |
| 4 Easter Sunday 10am Worship Service | 5 Spring Vacation begins (Eastmont School District) | 6 Pastor Jim Leaves on vacation | 7 9:30 a Women's Bible Study | 8 | 9 |
| | | | | | 10 |
| 11 Guest Preacher Mark Kolander 10am Worship Service Pastor Jim Returns from vacation | 12 | 13 | 14 9:30 a Women's Bible Study | 15 6pm Session Meeting by zoom | 16 |
| | | | | | 17 |
| 18 10am Worship Service 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting | 19 | 20 | 21 9:30 a Women's Bible Study | 22 | 23 |
| | | | | | 24 |
| 25 Palm Sunday 10am Worship Service | 26 | 27 9:30 Board of Deacons | 28 9:30 a Women's Bible Study | 29 6pm Session Meeting by zoom | 30 Arbor Day |
| | | | | | |