

October 2007

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Sunday Schedule

9:45am
Hymn Sing

10:00am
Worship

11:15am
Fellowship

11:30-12:30pm
Varying Activities

October is Peacemaking Month at Springwater



October 7th: Join us in welcoming a special guest speaker: he survived the holocaust and wants to share his story. Bring a sack lunch: we'll eat together, hear our guest's story, and discuss peace and peacemaking. There will be a special activity for children and childcare for preschoolers.

October 14th: Explore Jesus' life and ministry of peacemaking. Bring a sack lunch, we'll eat together in the grange as we contemplate how Jesus shares God's love and ways he was a peacemaker during his life on earth. There will be a special activity for children and childcare for preschoolers.

October 21st: Join us in welcoming Stasia van Buskirk. She will help us share our faith journey as a stepping stone to peacemaking. Bring a sack lunch, we'll eat at the grange and also enjoy a special "stepping stone" activity. There will be a special activity for children and childcare for preschoolers.

October 28th: We will dedicate our peacemaking activities, wrap up the silent auction and share a potluck in the grange. No childcare provided.



Birthdays This Month

October

- 5 Addy Bashaw
- 5 Daphne Fisher
- 12 Brenley Babikoff
- 19 Kurrin Bashaw
- 24 Lloyd Olson
- 24 Connie Ryan
- 27 Cortlan Souders
- 28 Jean McCloskey

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

The thing about being human is that we all pretty much have to follow the same rules.

God makes no exceptions in loving and offering salvation. It's free and available for everyone.

It is a strange and counter-intuitive thing, but when people's lives fall apart, the first thing that stops is coming to church. At precisely the time when they would most benefit from being surrounded by a loving community, they stop coming.

Perhaps because I am generally healthy, I find myself feeling peeved when medical personnel start conversations by saying, "For a woman of your age. . ." What follows is almost always some lame age-related excuse for why I'm facing physical challenges I never used to have to face.

Maybe this kind of conversation just *seems* more annoying because of all those young people now practicing medicine. Or maybe I'm just reluctant to admit to having the same limitations as the rest of the human race.

No Exceptions

The thing about being human is that we all pretty much have to follow the same rules. When catastrophe hits, most of us are shocked. I can't tell you the number of times people have confided to me, "I thought an exception had been made in my case."

When a loved one dies, when the diagnosis is terrible, when life falls apart, those closest to the situation experience the most shock. "I thought an exception had been made for me." Other teens get ugly with their parents, but *not mine!* Other aging parents are demanding, irrational, difficult, but *not mine!* Other families have problems with alcohol, but *not mine!* Other marriages experience infidelity, but *not mine!* Other people go bankrupt, but *not me!* Other people get cancer or MS or depression, but *not me!*

Believe it or not, knowing there are no exceptions is good news.

And That's the Good News

At least when it comes to God and redemption.

The Church has been called a hospital for sinners. Our "disease" might have been called "sin" in times past, but today that "sin" is just as likely to be hurt or betrayal or abandonment or distrust. And it could just as easily be on the receiving end as the giving end. No one gets out of this life without experiencing at least some of that.

And **God makes no exceptions** in loving and offering salvation. It's free and available for everyone.

Help Is On the Way

The Church is no place for people who "have it all together." It is a great disservice to tell others to check their troubles at the door of the church. Or to not bother coming if they are hurting. Or to ignore it when they are absent for an extended period of time.

It is a strange and counter-intuitive thing, but when people's lives fall apart, the first thing that stops is coming to church. At precisely the time when they would most benefit from being surrounded by a loving

If you notice someone hasn't been at church for awhile, drop them a note in the mail saying you miss them. And sign your name. Don't sign it, "Your friends at Springwater," take credit for being the wonderful person you are in writing a note!

community, they stop coming. Why? I've never been able to figure that out. Embarrassment? (No one else has this problem.) Fear? (People wouldn't like me if they knew what kind of trouble I'm having.) Delusion? (I can keep people from finding out what a mess I'm in.)

Presumably it helps to be told "**the church is a hospital for sinners.**" But that's pretty abstract. Humans are concrete beings, and we need something more substantial than ideas, if we're going to make changes.

What's a body to do?

Springwater people are caring, but sometimes we don't know what to do or say. Here are some suggestions. If you notice someone hasn't been at church for awhile, drop them a note in the mail saying you miss them. And sign your name. Don't sign it, "Your friends at Springwater," take credit for being the wonderful person you are in writing a note! That way, when you follow up with a phone call, they'll know it was you who cared enough to notice their absence.

Offer to accompany them back to church. Invite them out to lunch afterwards. Be honest (but spare the details!) about your own times of trouble. Especially if the church community was helpful in your turning it around.

These are little things, but they could make all the difference in the world to someone. And these little things are truly "being the church" for each other.

See you in church.



LECTIONARY READINGS

October 7 (World Communion Sunday, Peacemaking Offering dedicated): Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10; Psalm 137

October 14 (An Abundant Life: Healing): Luke 17:11-19; Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12

October 21 (An Abundant Life; Stasia Van Buskirk preaching): 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8; Psalm 119:97-104

October 28 (An Abundant Life: Remembering; communion): Joel 2:23-32; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-28; Psalm 65





Food Needs:

Nutritious, shelf-stable, packaged food:

- Canned veggies, fruits & meats
- Flour, Oats
- Soup
- Macaroni and cheese
- Nonfat dry milk
- Pasta
- Nuts
- Cooking oils

Protein:

Dry beans, peanut butter & meat
Cheese is also high in protein and makes a tasty addition to many meals.

Healthy breakfast foods:

Children who are hungry have more difficulty learning.
Cereal, Pancake mix, Nonfat dry milk, Breakfast bars

Seasonal needs:

Bottled water is often a critical need during forest-fire season.

We especially value fresh produce during damp winters and springs. We always need cereals. But oatmeal is especially nice on cold mornings.

OREGON FOOD BANK

. . . Because no one should ever be hungry

Cars. Clothing. Toys. And food. Recalls now affect virtually every industry, including the **Oregon Food Bank Network**. Stew and chili usually top the list of OFB’s most-wanted foods, because they are high-protein, shelf-stable foods. But last month, due to a nationwide recall of 90 products from a food-processing plant in Georgia, OFB asked agencies and their clients to return the recalled food. The recall was challenging because OFB received the product through various avenues: U.S. Department of Agriculture, food drives and wholesale purchase. OFB isolated all recalled product in its warehouse. Drivers picked up recalled food from regional food banks throughout the state and staff and volunteers examined every item collected through food drives. OFB collected 105,000 pounds of recalled chili and has already returned two-and-a-half truckloads of product to the manufacturer.

The recall was just one piece of bad news. U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities dropped 300,000 pounds in the past two months. And industry food donations are down 1.1-million pounds in comparison to the same period last year due to a strong agricultural market. “All of this means that OFB has a big gap to fill and needs your support more than ever to help people in need”.

How to help:

Donating food from your cupboard? Visit www.oregonfoodbank.org for a list of recalled items to avoid. Contact our local Estacada Food Bank or ask at church. Bring food donations to church - we will deliver them for you!

An Abundant Life

When we remember there is “more than enough” for everyone—and act on that belief—we are, indeed, peacemaking.

As we celebrate Peacemaking Month this year, we’ve chosen a theme which builds on this year’s Vacation Church School curriculum, Sowing Seeds for Peace. As the children learned that big, new word, “**ABUNDANCE**” we learned that it meant “more than enough.” In our VCS Bible story, a little boy shares his measly little lunch—five loaves, two fish—

with thousands of people. Thousands of hungry people eat, and there is “**more than enough.**”

That’s the basis of Christian peacemaking: that we worship a God who provides for us, and provides **more than enough**. When we remember there is “more than enough” for everyone—and **act on that belief**—we are, indeed, peacemaking.

Sabbatical Grant



Springwater has been notified by the Lilly Endowment that our grant request of \$36,863 has been approved. In May, our congregation applied for funding through the clergy renewal program to fund a sabbatical next summer for both Pastor Eileen and the congregation.

The funds will cover costs associated with a three-month program of “Bringing Creativity to Faith.” Pastor Eileen’s costs for travel and study will be covered, an interim sabbatical pastor will be engaged, and three artist-in-residence programs will be offered to the congregation.

Pastor Eileen will spend up to a month at Grunewald Guild in Leavenworth, Washington in conversation with faculty about visual expression of faith. Another month will be spent in Mendocino, California, studying with liturgical artist Nancy Chinn. The final month, integrating her experiences and learnings, will be spent in the Midwest at her family’s cabin. Inter-woven with these experiences will be time with Portland-area artist and spiritual director, Melanie Joy Weidner.

Meanwhile, the congregation will benefit from the experience of three artists-in-residence. These residencies will be open to area congregations. Artist and spiritual director Melanie Joy Weidner will work with individuals and groups to express their faith journeys through art. Father Jim Galluzzo will work with the worship and labyrinth groups to create sacred context through gesture and space. Kathleen Brown, a liturgical artist, will work with our liturgical arts group.

The Reverend Dr. Jim Belt will provide pastoral care and leadership. Familiar to our congregation as a guest preacher, Pastor Belt will work with session to balance rest and congregational refreshment.

In preparation for all of this, the Pastor’s Sabbatical Support Committee has invited all interested members of the congregation to participate in reading a book by Julia Cameron, *The Artist’s Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*.

Do you need to be an artist to participate? No. The book provides a supportive small group experience for opening one spiritually to different ways of thinking about creativity. This group convenes for the first time following worship on November 4.

If you are interested in participating in this small group opportunity, please contact Carol Sturman at 503/631-8258 so we can order you a book.



A Good Read

Are you one of the many people who have taken advantage of the books Pastor Eileen has been putting out on the fellowship hall table? Rest assured, she is delighted and thrilled at the tremendous response to those reading suggestions. Most of the books offered there are from her **personal library**. Feel free to check out as many books as you wish, but **please be considerate**. Return the books as soon as possible so that others may enjoy them.



A Christian's Life

The children's time during Peacemaking Month will examine the teachings of an 18th-century theologian who wrote that the Christian's life should be:

- *Light as a feather
- *Flexible as water
- *Simple as a child
- *Active as a ball

This advice isn't only for children, although it will be interpreted for them. The pastor invites you to explore how you can express these metaphors in a concrete way in your life.

FUND RAISER

SILENT AUCTION

October is the month for our silent action to be held October 14, 21 and 28. This will provide you with three Sunday's to bid on the auction items. October 28 will end with a potluck after church during which final bidding will be held. We are still looking for items to auction, so if you have something for the auction please contact Peter Sturman or Don MacKinnon.

Some of the items donated so far are a Bible, Portrait Drawing, Light House painting, Mince meat pies, Picnic Basket, Day back pack, Teas for Two, Winter feed the animals kit and Home decor boys. Remember the money raised from the auction goes into the supplemental budget to support a youth mission project, sabbatical leave, and theological education fund for new pastors.

“Rather than requesting financial contributions to ‘pay the bills,’ or ‘support the budget,’ New Consecration Sunday asks people to grow spiritually by giving a percentage of their income to the Lord’s work through their congregations,” said Miller in his book, “New Consecration Sunday.”

Your Session:

Don MacKinnon
Peter Sturman
Kevin Kirby
Bob Wilson
Renate Jeppeson
Eileen Parfrey-moderator

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church’s mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation’s session has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, “What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?” During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church’s missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitations to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and session. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Don MacKinnon, Clerk of Session

Peacemaking Month At Springwater Presbyterian Church

Abundant Life: Making Peace by Sharing

Join Springwater Presbyterian Church after worship on October 7, 14, 21, and 28th* from 11:30 to 12:30 for an exploration of peace and peacemaking: what it is, God's call -- Jesus' life of peacemaking -- witnessing to Christ through peacemaking.

There will be activities for all ages. Bring a sack lunch and study God's and Christ's words on peace and peacemaking.

*The session on October 28th will be a short wrap-up prior to the silent auction and potluck.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

. . . Mother Teresa

You are a pathway To Peace!

Springwater Presbyterian Church

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Forward & Address Correction