



CASCADES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE CHURCH BELL

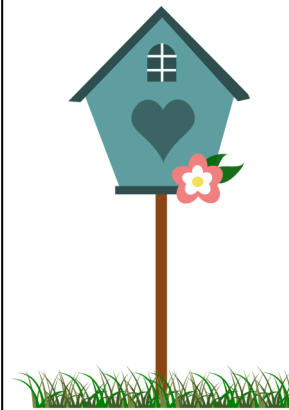
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MARCH

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Anne Wiley




SOLVE THE RIDDLES

Why don't you iron four-leaf clovers?

With winter's chill I say goodbye, beneath the sun I come alive. What am I?

Stumped?
See page 5 for the answers.

As you enjoy reading the Newsletter try to find the hidden cross somewhere in the newsletter. It looks like this. 

"If my people, who are called by my name, would humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

The context for this scripture is set just as Solomon completed construction of the Lord's temple and the royal palace, when the Lord appeared to Solomon with this demand. Before the temple could be used for God's purposes and as God's holy dwelling, some repentance had to take place. Once again, God's people had fallen short of God's intentions.

That is the story of humanity. Though we are each created in God's image, we are a broken and sinful people who constantly fall short of God's intentions. And that sin has real implications for our relationships with God, with each other, within ourselves, and with all of creation.

Lent in our liturgical season is the 40 days leading up to Easter when we humbly acknowledge our brokenness and the impact it has on us, upon God, and ultimately upon Jesus. Isaiah 53:6 says, "We all like sheep have gone astray and each have gone to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Sin required sacrifice and Jesus willingly paid the price with his life once and for all so that we could be healed.

But acknowledging our sin takes humility. It takes prayer and seeking God's face. It takes owning up to our failings. It takes living with the consequences of our decisions. And it takes turning from our wicked ways. Then and only then will God listen to our prayers and begin to heal us from the inside out.

I don't know about you, but in this day and age, it is all too easy to focus on other people's sin. Selfishness, arrogance, greed, and simple lack of respect for human dignity seem to run the course of our daily news. It's so hard to hear that it is easy to get overwhelmed and burdened with sadness. But unfortunately it can also be a distraction from focusing on my own sin sick soul and how desperately I need a savior to save me from my own wicked ways.

In Luke 18, Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector who both went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee prayed: "God I thank you that I am not like other men - robbers, evildoers, adulterers - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get." The tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner." Jesus said, "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

So my hope and prayer this Lenten season would be that we, who call ourselves by Jesus' name, would do some serious house cleaning. Let us not focus on the sins of others, but beat our breast in humble repentance to God. Then and only then, one by one, will God hear our prayers and begin to heal our broken land.

Your fellow tax collector,

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor



SUNDAY WORSHIP
9am Sunday School All Ages
10:15am Worship Service

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
March 2 at 9am

TOP OF THE HILL POTLUCK
March 16 at 11:30am

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY
March 15 at 8am

NEW MEMBERS CELEBRATION
Saturday, March 29 at 9am

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT) - NEW MEMBERS CELEBRATION

Have you been attending Cascades Presbyterian Church and wanting to learn more about how to become a member? If so, please join us on Saturday March 29, 2025 from 9am to noon for a new members information event. We will begin with breakfast with the elders where you will learn more about what makes us tick and how we do things around here. Then on Sunday March 30, 2025 we will welcome our new members before the congregation during the worship service and have an all church celebration luncheon immediately following worship. Child care will be available on Saturday for all who might need it. Please let us know if you will plan to attend. Come, Be Fed, Be Sent as part of Cascades' church family.

FLOWERS OF REMEMBRANCE

We are launching a new initiative called "Flowers for Remembrance". Anyone may bring a bouquet of flowers to Sunday Service to remember and thank God for a loved one, an anniversary, a birthday, or any special event that has occurred in their life. The bouquet will be placed on the small table in front of the pulpit. We will also list your name and the name of whom you are remembering in the Sunday bulletin for the day. In order for the remembrance information to appear in the bulletin, however, we need you to use the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. If more than one person would like to remember someone on a day, we will make arrangements to display the additional bouquet in the sanctuary. If you choose to participate we ask that you:

- Bring the flowers in some type of container with water. We would prefer to not have loose flowers laid on the table.
- Come to the service a few minutes early before the start of the prelude in order to place the bouquet on the table. The Ushers will be able to assist you in bouquet placement.
- Select flowers that have minimal scent.

For more information contact Laura Livingston, Worship Arts Elder



DANCING WITH THE DAFFODILS

English Poet William Wordsworth wrote a poem called "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" in which he describes a beautiful bucolic scene of hills and vales, with daffodils that "flutter and dance in the breeze." It's one of my wife's favorites which she shared a love for with a dear late friend. It was also a poem that was printed in one the first Bell newsletters we read before accepting the call to come to Cascades. As spring awakens around our grounds, you will notice many daffodils dancing in the breeze. These were originally planted in various locations by late members Bertha Olsen and Elizabeth Stout and later transplanted in 2013 with construction of our new sanctuary. So when we come to church and see the daffodils dancing in the breeze, may we think fondly of those who have gone on ahead of us into glory and consider them as little waves hello from heaven.



"For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils."



CELEBRATION OF LIFE—GORDON ZENK

Gordon K. Zenk, 89, died at home in Vancouver, Washington on the morning of January 16, 2025. His gentle spirit left us quietly and peacefully. Gordon's kindness and spirit of generosity touched many lives. He will be forever loved and missed by all who had the opportunity to know him. A memorial celebrating Gordon's life will be held on March 12, 11:00 AM, at Cascades Presbyterian Church.

Throughout his life Gordon believed in supporting worthwhile socially responsible non-profit organizations. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you please consider making a contribution to your favorite charity.

REFUGEE, ASYLUM SEEKERS, AND IMMIGRANTS

In light of recent immigration events, you may wonder what is Cascades doing to seek the peace, justice and well being of vulnerable immigrant people in our community? While we aim to abide by current state and federal laws, we also feel compelled to walk alongside vulnerable people who are most at risk. Advocating on behalf of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants is familiar territory for the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. In fact, the PCUSA website is filled with extremely helpful resources such as immigration legal services, developing family plans should someone be suddenly taken into custody by ICE agents, knowing one's rights when faced with immigration officials on church property, advocacy and accompaniment, sanctuary, etc. Because of this, we have shared these resources with various groups in our community such as local school district Family Community Resource Coordinators (FCRCs) as well as several immigrant churches who are not part of a larger denomination.

The question begs however, what can you do to help? Of course, we can and must write to our local, state, and federal politicians to share our opinions on immigration issues. But most importantly we can pray. Prayer is the arm of God who moves people. As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6, the battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the evil powers at work in this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. We can pray that God's good and just kingdom comes to earth as it is in heaven. We can pray for the pastors of immigrant churches and their members who are dealing with paralyzing fear and misinformation. We can pray for the undocumented innocent children who go to school each day not knowing which of their family members will remain when they get home. We can pray for educators who must educate in these environments. We can pray for the hearts of governmental leaders to be softened toward refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented immigrants. And we can pray that we all would approach this difficult and complex issue with compassion and empathy for those affected, knowing that at one time we too were immigrants, documented or not, in this great land which we now call home.

FEBRUARY SESSIONS

Pastor Chris opened with devotions on Philemon 4 and the Importance of Remembering. Hosted two guests from a local immigrant church who shared their real experiences with regards to current immigration events facing our community and how we can pray for them. Provided updates on tree trimming and church signage repairs. Heard plans to increase lighting in church parking lot. Approved \$3,000 Benevolence Board grant request for Greater Clark County Rotary Foundation for the Dorman Holcomb Service Above Self Award Sponsorship. Moved to solicit funds from the congregation to purchase additional Glory to God hymnals. Discussed roles of Usher and Security Personnel Volunteers during worship. Desire to see Sweetheart Banquet returned at some point. New members retreat set for March 29, 2025. Desire to set up a 24-hour prayer vigil during Lent. Pastor Chris shared what he has been learning about immigrant rights webinars hosted by the Presbytery of the Cascades. Overall felt called to pray for people who were injured or sick and those who were living in fear due to immigration issues.

PCUSA FILES LAWSUIT TO PROTECT IT'S SANCTUARY STATUS

On February 11, 2025, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. was one of twenty-six petitioners (including the Episcopal Church, Methodist Church, Mennonite Church, Churches of Christ, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Brethren Church, Friends General Council, Disciples of Christ Church, Unitarian Universalist Church, several Rabbinical Societies, and other regional councils of churches) who filed suit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement stating that recent and abrupt changes in policy permitting the free search of sacred spaces for ICE arrests violates our constitutional right to free and unhindered worship.

This suit mentions common core beliefs that "Every human being, regardless of birthplace, is a child of God worthy of dignity, care, and love. Welcoming the stranger, or immigrant, is thus a central precept of their faith practices." In fact, the "The Torah lays out this tenet 36 times, more than any other teaching: "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34). In the Gospels, Jesus Christ not only echoes this command, but self-identifies with the stranger: "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). Plaintiffs' religious scripture, teaching, and traditions offer clear, repeated, and irrefutable unanimity on their obligation to embrace, serve, and defend the refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants in their midst without regard to documentation or legal status.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS



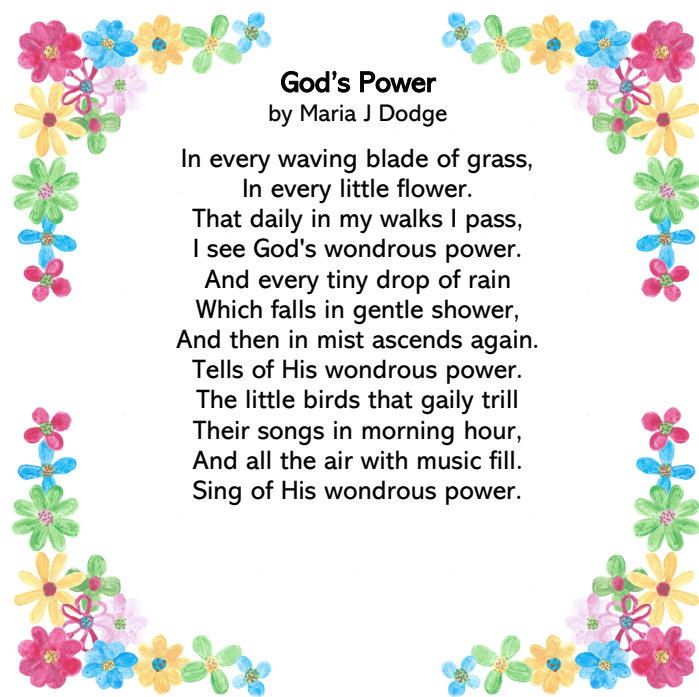
Muki & Jana Ibrahim
 She, born in Longview, WA, and raised in Winlock, WA, got her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Washington State University, followed by her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Concordia University in Portland, specializing in English language learning. After her first job with McDonalds, she later loved working as a nanny, and also was employed as assistant office manager in an architect's office in Hazel Dell. She currently teaches first and second graders virtually at Heights Campus with Vancouver Public Schools, and also meets in person twice a week with all grades of middle school students.

He was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, but, because of instability caused by civil war, his parents desired better education opportunities for his sisters and him, and moved to the USA. Raised in Aloha, OR, he got his bachelor's degree in community health education from Portland State University while employed at a car upholstery shop. He later served as a Safeway courtesy clerk, then worked in sales for Macy's, Best Buy, and Columbia Sportswear. Currently a financial analyst, he works from home, employed by Providence.

Muki Ibrahim and Jana Kandoll met "by chance" in Longview in the summer of 2013 when she was getting a cello repaired while he was next door at a job interview. Noticing his automobile, a Nissan 240SX, a vehicle familiar to her because her family races such cars, they talked, then went on their first date to a Greek restaurant.

Jana says, "I was out for a walk in our neighborhood and was going to bring Adri to (Cascades') playground. I saw Art (Derbyshire) and asked if a sermon was going on at that time. He said yes and offered to wheel Adri in for me to the sanctuary and helped me get situated. Everyone was so welcoming and kind. I had gotten out of practice of attending church regularly so when not attending my home church of Castle Rock Apostolic Lutheran church where I grew up, I love having the option to attend such a great church right in our own neighborhood! I then told Muki about it and he started joining me." She and Muki enjoy Chris' messages and the acceptance of the members. Adri, who continues to charm us all, enjoys "the babies!" This delightful family will add a baby daughter in April. Their home also includes Theo, an orange tabby cat, and six fish named, Alby, Camo, Slimy, Mustard, Peterbilt, and Yamaha.

They have immediate family in Kalama and Hillsboro. Muki and Jana have enjoyed travel together to Bermuda and Mexico, and, separately, have both been to Europe to see family and friends, while Jana also has visited China and Brazil. If you are in the neighborhood, you might catch Muki working on his car and motorcycle, and see Jana enjoying time outdoors. We are so grateful to have this family as a part of us!



God's Power
 by Maria J Dodge

In every waving blade of grass,
 In every little flower.
 That daily in my walks I pass,
 I see God's wondrous power.
 And every tiny drop of rain
 Which falls in gentle shower,
 And then in mist ascends again.
 Tells of His wondrous power.
 The little birds that gaily trill
 Their songs in morning hour,
 And all the air with music fill.
 Sing of His wondrous power.



JANUARY FINANCES

Income \$22,985.00
 Expenses \$25,006.00
 Total \$ 2,021.00

Year to Date 2024
 (\$ 2021.00)

Answer:
 1. Because you don't want to press your luck!
 2. Spring

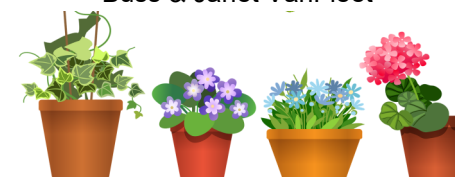


MARCH CALENDAR

Mar 1	2:00pm	BUNCO
Mar 2	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Mar 3	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Mar 4	7:00pm	Deacons Meeting
Mar 5	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Mar 6	1:00pm	Safety Meeting
	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Mar 9	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Mar 10	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Mar 11	7:00pm	Session Meeting
Mar 12	11:00am	Gordon Zenk Memorial Service
	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Mar 13	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Mar 15	8:00am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study Fellowship
Mar 16	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
	12:00pm	Top of the Hill Potluck
Mar 17	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Mar 19	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Mar 20	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Mar 22	6:00pm	Jr Symphony Concert
Mar 23	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Mar 24	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Mar 26	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Mar 27	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Mar 29	9:00am	New Member's Retreat
Mar 30	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Mar 31	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Jordan Montovino | Fred & Dian Poujade |
| Marily Groover | Drew & Susan Kenney |
| Samuel Hartrim-Lowe | Buss & Janet VanFleet |
| Seth Hartrim-Lowe | |
| Jeanne Robbins | |
| Cordell Beck | |
| Jared Beck | |



daily Devotions



Beyond the Veil

Mar 1 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Ritual for Remembering

Mar 2 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Mar 3 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Mar 4 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Mar 5 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
 Mar 6 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Mar 7 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Mar 8 Deuteronomy 26:1-11

What Do I Have to be Afraid Of?

Mar 9 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
 Mar 10 Psalm 27:1-7
 Mar 11 Psalm 27:8-14
 Mar 12 Philippians 3:17-21
 Mar 13 Philippians 3:21-4:1
 Mar 14 Luke 13:31-35
 Mar 15 Luke 9:28-36

God's Invitation

Mar 16 Isaiah 55:1-9
 Mar 17 Isaiah 55:1-9
 Mar 18 Isaiah 55:1-9
 Mar 19 Psalm 63:1-8
 Mar 20 Psalm 63:1-8
 Mar 21 Psalm 63:1-8
 Mar 22 Psalm 63:1-8

God Makes Old Things New

Mar 23 Joshua 5:9-12
 Mar 24 Psalm 32:1-4 (5-11)
 Mar 25 Psalm 32:1-4 (5-11)
 Mar 26 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Mar 27 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Mar 28 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
 Mar 29 Psalm 126

Righteousness in Christ

Mar 30 Philippians 3:4b-14
 Mar 31 John 12:1-8