

June 2024



CASCADES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE

**DEACON OF THE
MONTH**

Nancy Bisbee

FISH FOOD

Rice & Other Grains




SOLVE THE RIDDLES

How does dad take
his coffee?

When does a joke
become a dad joke?

Stumped?
See page 5 for the
answers.

As you enjoy reading this
month's Bell, try to
find the hidden cross. 

THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

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"You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbors and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons and daughters of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." From Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:43-45

Thank you to everyone who dedicated time and input during our study on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. We've learned so much through books, articles, videos, conversations with rabbis and Palestinian Muslims from Gaza, and one another's experiences in Israel. I truly believe that one of the greatest things that we can do as Christians is to seek a faith that tries to understand issues from all aspects. Only then can we begin to forge a proper theology and ask, so what would God want us to do in response?

To help answer that question, I'll share one of my favorite books that was recommended by a class attendee who had read it for their book club. The book is called, *The Lemon Tree*, by Sandy Tolan. *The Lemon Tree* tells the true story of two displaced families, Palestinian Arab Muslims and Jewish immigrants, both of whom come to inhabit the same house in al-Ramla, Palestine which is now part of Israel. The Palestinian family built the home and was forcibly displaced from it when Israel became a nation in 1948. The Jewish family resettled this home in the newly formed Israel after escaping the horrors of the Holocaust in Bulgaria during World War II.

The stories weave together when two people from the families develop an uncommon friendship. While they struggle to reconcile each other's common claim to the house, they learn more about the common trials that each faced. Both felt persecuted. Both felt displaced from their homes. Both strongly desired to live in peace in a land that they both loved. But how?

It was not until they both began listening to one another and seeing themselves in the other's shoes that their hearts began to melt. A mutual solution for the use of the property would eventually be developed that would foster peaceful relations between future generations of Israelis and Palestinians. No spoiler alert here. Read the book for yourself.

But the more we learned, the more I kept coming back to the question, "What would Jesus have us to believe and do?" Throughout the gospels, Jesus was constantly challenged by the religious authorities and teachers of the law in order to trap him to say something against the Roman occupiers of the land. But Jesus never took sides. He never took the bait. Instead, he always forged a different way through it. A higher path.

The words of Jesus quoted above tell us exactly what Jesus would have us to believe and do as his followers. Jesus' way of approaching this conflict is not about taking sides or figuring out who is right and who is wrong, but of loving the people on both sides of the conflict, Israelis and Palestinians. It is about joining God in prayer lamenting the fact that the land God created, peopled, and loves deeply is not experiencing the Shalom for which it was created. It is about finding a third way, a different way, that leads to peace.

Continued on Page 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I wonder how this lesson might also help us in America as we head into another potentially divisive election season. You see the enemy of this world has co-opted many of us to believe that our battle is against those who oppose our beliefs in how our country ought to be run. But the Bible tells us that our struggle is not against one another "but against the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12 Indeed, we as Americans are on the same team.

So I invite you join me in being a people of prayer who pray not only for peace in the Middle East, but also within our borders. May we follow Jesus' lead in loving our enemies and praying for those who wish us harm. Only then will we be able to find the middle passage through our common struggles.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

WOMEN'S TEA HIGHLIGHTS

On Saturday May 11, 2024, approximately 80 women from Cascades enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea put on by the men of Cascades. Thank you to everyone who helped out to make this such a special event. Here are some highlights.



daily Devotions



Abiding in God's Love

| | |
|--------|---------------|
| June 1 | 1 John 5:1-6 |
| June 2 | Acts 10:44-48 |
| June 3 | Psalm 98 |
| June 4 | Psalm 98 |

Glimmers of Hope

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| June 5 | Acts 1:1, 15-17, 21-26 |
| June 6 | John 17:6-19 |
| June 7 | John 17:6-19 |
| June 8 | 1 John 5:9-13 |
| June 9 | Luke 24:44-53 |
| June 10 | Psalm 1 |
| June 11 | Psalm 47 |

An Experience of Pentecost

| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| June 12 | John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 |
| June 13 | John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 |
| June 14 | John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 |
| June 15 | Ezekiel 37:1-14 |
| June 16 | Ezekiel 37:1-14 |
| June 17 | Acts 2:1-21 |
| June 18 | Acts 2:1-21 |

Our Call to Worship

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| June 19 | Isaiah 6:1-8 |
| June 20 | Isaiah 6:1-8 |
| June 21 | Isaiah 6:1-8 |
| June 22 | Isaiah 6:1-8 |
| June 23 | Isaiah 6:1-8 |
| June 24 | Isaiah 6:1-8 |
| June 25 | Isaiah 6:1-8 |
| June 26 | Isaiah 6:1-8 |

Speak, Lord, Your Servant is Listening

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| June 27 | 1 Samuel 3:1-10 |
| June 28 | 1 Samuel 3:1-10 |
| June 29 | 1 Samuel 3:1-10 |
| June 30 | 1 Samuel 3:1-10 |
| June 31 | 1 Samuel 3:1-10 |



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Born in Austin, TX, but at the age of six months he moved to Albuquerque, NM, where he enjoyed the warm weather, home schooling, and field trips, such as to Sandia Peak, with other home-schooled kids, including his three older sisters and twin brother. With the addition of another brother and another sister, his family eventually moved to the Vancouver area and found their church home at Cascades, where we appreciate all of them. Sam Hartrim-Lowe serves us in many ways, from mowing the lawn to playing drums with the praise team. As have all of his siblings, he first learned piano, then gravitated to percussion instruments because he enjoys the rhythm and sees it as a creative outlet and a stress reliever. He also plays drums in his home school co-op.



Sam's involvement with 4-H and his caring for animals on the family farm helped teach him responsibility and contributed to his growth as a dependable young man. His week finds him doing barn chores, school studies, 20 hours employed at Wilco, perhaps house sitting or delivering goats to Oregon City, or restoring the '84 Camaro he purchased with a 4-H buddy.

Even though they may have differing interests and personalities, Sam, twin brother Seth, and younger brother Harrison are very close and always have each other's back. As Sam recently prepared for his annual 4-H "Know Your Government" journey to Olympia, pitted against a boy from Washougal, with only one to be chosen as Clark County's candidate for governor, Sam says it didn't hurt that his friends and two brothers all had a vote! Clad in Uncle Sam garb for his debate against others candidates from around the state, prepared by his team of peers, he opined on subjects such as shoplifting and underage vaping. Of 15 candidates, he finished in the top five, but probably was rated third!

Grateful for the role models at Cascades, he will never forget his time with multi-talented Dorman Holcomb and their bird feeder project, his time well spent working with Bob McKusick, nor his faithful prayer partner, Pastor Chris. But it is greeter Art Derbyshire who puts a smile on his face as he walks into church after an exhausting week!

With his senior year approaching this fall, Sam hopes to slow down, have fun, and enjoy life as he plans his future. Preferring manual labor to books, he will consider trade school, college, or business opportunities. Eventually he sees himself with a family of his own and property with animals. We all can pray for this busy, level-headed young man and the decisions he will be making.

Submitted by Bill Honey, Elder

MAY SESSION NOTES

Devotions provided by Josh Krane who read from a book from Frederick Beuchner. Talked about the importance of remembrance and how God uses our memories to lead us into the future. Treasurer reported that pledges and loose offering income are on track with budget as are most areas of spending. Noticing utilities and custodial supplies are more than we expected. Considering installing fencing on back of property to prevent ATVs from ruining grass and parking lot speed bumps to prevent turning donuts which disturb neighbors. Chris and Heather participated in Presbytery wide Church Safety and Security forum. Both felt very good about Cascades' preparedness. Approved 4H community teaching garden installation near playground to be coordinated with Buildings and Grounds crew. Discussed possible Service of Lament during the Holiday season and use of outdoor sanctuary for summer worship night. Reported on Nominating Committee work and prep work for Pastor Chris' trip to Spain. Approved facility use for Cascades Poetry Writing Group to start with new poet laureate Susan Dingle on the first Saturday of June. Overall, we feel that God has been very actively at work behind the scenes in some wonderful ways. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT SERMON SERIES

Last summer, I did a really wonderful sermon series called “Members in the Spotlight.” It was fashioned after David Letterman’s Netflix series, “My Next Guest” and was a way to get to know people in the congregation. Everyone LOVED it as did I!

During the Sunday service, just before the sermon, I invited the interviewee up on stage with me and asked them a few questions about their faith journeys, what they did throughout their weeks career wise, how what we do on Sunday mornings informs the way they live throughout the week, and about the scriptures they selected for that Sunday and why. The Member in the Spotlight also chose one of the worship songs for us to sing in worship. I look forward to getting to know these special people with you over the summer!

Pastor Chris



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES ON THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

While we have concluded our Adult Christian Education Class on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, many people were not able to participate who might have wanted to. The following are resources that we drew from which I highly recommend for your own summer reading.

- Alan Dershowitz. *The Case for Israel*. Written by a professor at the Harvard Law School and from a pro-Israel perspective, this reads more like a law brief. Each chapter begins with an accusation against Israel, followed by the accuser’s rational, the reality, and finally Dershowitz’s proof for his defense.
- Jimmy Carter. *Palestine. Peace not Apartheid*. President Jimmy Carter dedicated his presidency and many years following advocating for peace in the Middle East. As a Sunday school teacher until he was in his 90’s, Carter has a heart for the biblical story of Israel and the God behind it. Carter gives a thorough perspective of all the peace initiatives, the players, and what seems to be in the way.
- Noa Tishby, *Israel, A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*. Recommended by the local rabbi at Kol Ami Congregation near Cascades. As an Israeli actress and activist, Noa reflects ordinary Israeli people who desperately long for peace and yet are able to look critically at their government’s policies that have at times hindered the peace process. Noa weaves her family’s rich story into Israel’s complex and twisted history. It reads part biography, part history, and part politics.
- Rashid Khalidi, *The Hundred Years’ War on Palestine, A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917-2017*. This book was recommended by Dr. Khan a member of the Islamic Society of SW Washington who came to speak to our class. This book brings the Palestinian voice in to the conversation and is next on my reading list.
- Sandy Tolan, *The Lemon Tree*. This is a historical fiction book based on research and stories from two actual families who lived in the same house in al-Ramla Palestine during different eras. The house was built by a Muslim Palestinian family before 1948 when Israel became a nation and then re-inhabited by Jewish immigrants after the Palestinian owners were forcible displaced. The story is about two very different people develop an uncommon friendship as they try to reconcile “ownership” of the land on which they both dwelled. This is an incredible picture into extreme challenges of two similarly displaced people face to reconcile what they call home.
- Walter Brueggemann, *Chosen? Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. In this very short book, Brueggemann address the main questions people have with regards to what the Bible says about this ongoing debate. There is also a question-and-answer section with Walter Brueggemann, a glossary of terms, a study guide, and guidelines for respectful dialogue.
- Mike Cospers, “The Aftermath of Kearaza, The Troubling Ideology that Led to the Horrors of October 7,” in *Christianity Today*, March 2024 Edition, 32-43. *Promised Land* is a limited series podcast exploring the moral, spiritual, and political challenges presented by the Israel-Hamas War. Host Mike Cospers takes listeners with him to locations across the U.S. Israel, and Palestine, bringing you into the homes, lives, and stories of people for whom this conflict is their every day experience. You can find the podcast on Spotify.



CALENDAR

| | | |
|---------|---------|--|
| June 2 | 10:15am | Worship Service |
| June 3 | 12:30pm | Bowling Fellowship |
| June 4 | 7:00pm | Deacons Meeting |
| June 5 | 12:30pm | Bowling Fellowship |
| | 6:30pm | Youth Group |
| | 6:30pm | Worship Team |
| June 6 | 1:30pm | Giving Hands Ministry |
| | 7:30pm | Junior Symphony Concert |
| June 9 | 10:15am | Worship Service |
| June 10 | 12:30pm | Bowling Fellowship |
| June 12 | 12:30pm | Bowling Fellowship |
| | 6:30pm | Worship Team |
| June 13 | 1:30pm | Giving Hands Ministry |
| June 15 | 5:30pm | Family Game Night |
| June 16 | 10:15am | Worship Service |
| | 11:30am | Congregational Meeting (to elect church officers) |
| June 17 | 12:30pm | Bowling Fellowship |
| June 19 | 12:30pm | Bowling Fellowship |
| | 6:30pm | Worship Team |
| June 20 | 1:30pm | Giving Hands Ministry |
| June 23 | 10:15am | Worship Service |
| June 24 | 12:30pm | Bowling Fellowship |
| June 26 | 12:30pm | Bowling Fellowship |
| | 6:30pm | Worship Team |
| June 27 | 1:30pm | Giving Hands Ministry |
| June 30 | 10:15am | Worship Service |

BIRTHDAYS

Brenna Beck
Michelle Drexler
Madelyn Hartrim-Lowe
Ward Holcomb
Renee Lacombe
Sherry McKusick
Maddy Montovino
Dian Poujade
Judy Scovil

ANNIVERSARIES

Art & Claudia Derbyshire

*Don't see your name here?
Contact the office to be added to the
Birthday & Anniversary List!*

APRIL FINANCES

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Income | \$31,081.04 |
| Expenses | \$24,065.61 |
| Total | \$ 7,015.43 |

Year to Date 2024
(\$ 1,057.93)



Answer: 1. Very, very seriously! 2. When it becomes apparent!



CASCADES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



Happy Father's Day

JUNIOR SYMPHONY OF
VANCOUVER CONCERT
June 6 @ 7:30pm

FAMILY GAME NIGHT
June 15 @ 5:30pm

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
June 16 Following Worship
To Elect New Church Officers

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:15am