



# Port Orchard Church of Christ

• Jesus is Lord • Jesus is Lifted • Jesus is Lived •

## The Gift of Love

God gave the ultimate gift of Love when he chose Mary to give birth to his only son (Matthew 1:18-25), this gift was not only for Mary, but for all mankind in the world.

For God himself is LOVE, (1John 4:8), and he loved us so much that he sacrificed his only son for the sins of mankind. (! Peter 3:18)

Now that is the ULTIMATE gift of LOVE!!!!

So if you ask me what does Christmas mean to me, I will tell you, it is not the gift giving, rather it is the gifts of time, love, and sharing of each others lives, as Jesus did!

I am a Navy Brat, so we didn't have the traditional Christmas of spending it with our extended family, because we moved around a lot and never lived close to our relatives.

But what we did do was invite others to spend Christmas with us in our home. Sometimes these were people we barely knew, who later became like family, and always they were people who like us, would not have anyone to share the holiday with, and would otherwise spend it alone, if not for opening our hearts and home to them. And this is something we still do today. You see, it is a gift of the heart, gift of time, gift of sharing ourselves,

a gift of LOVE!

BUT, it does not just happen on Christmas day, no, it does not stop there. It is a gift that keeps on giving, and we do it throughout the year.

God did not just love us on Christmas day or Resurrection day... he loves us everyday... and in return we should show him our love daily. He should be our first love. We should know him intimately.

How do we do this? By spending alone time with him. My alone time is always from 5am to 6am. I pray, have my devotional, and ask him to guide me for the day. I ask him to keep my ears and eyes wide open, so I may hear his whisper in my ear, and look for the opportunities he puts before me. I do bible journaling. It keeps me in tune with my first love.

One of my favorite songs is The Mountain song.  
CHORUS: The greatest friend you will ever find is on a lonely mountain, the highest high you will ever reach is when you kneel to pray, the brightest light you ever see is when you close your eyes, Oh Lord, you are my first love, at last I realize.

*(Continues on Back Page.)*

### Church Staff:

Kelli Keagle..... 757.389.1382

Port Orchard, WA 98366  
360.876.2604  
churchpococ@gmail.com  
www.pococ.weebly.com

### Deacons:

Gary Chasteen..... 360.895.4143  
Gene Gerard..... 360.876.4612  
Troy Hill..... 360.674.7181  
Brad Orser ..... 360.874.8184

# Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to visit Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, we would like to extend to you a warm welcome. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, we pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek to worship God like the first century church did, with a sense of awe and with a fear of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of

your abilities. If you have any specific needs, we have a ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for names of the ministry staff and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

## Save the Dates!

**Friday 12/21** *Game Night & "Used Elephant" Exchange*  
**CANCELLED**

**Wednes 12/26** *Pray, Pray, Pray*  
**6:00-7:00pm**

**Saturday 01/05** *Deacons Meeting*  
**8:00am**

**Sunday 01/06** *Congregational Meeting*  
**After Services**

**Sunday 01/13** *Potluck*  
**After Services**

**Serving December 23, 2018:**

## Port Orchard News and Events

### Sunday Preview

We will be having a Special Service this Sunday which begins at 10:45. We hope to see you here!

### Happy Birthday!

**December--**Cornell Stull-01, Nikole Karn-03, LaDonna Latham-03, Tristen Herbert-05, Sarah Benjamin-08, Elizabeth Herbert-08, Kelli Keagle-12, Jedidiah Herbert-17, Bonnie Mitchell-18, Darlene Woodrow-24, Wayne Hammock-25, Gary White-28, Jake Orser-31, Randy vanLeuven-31.

**January--**Pat Woodrow-09, Landra Reinke-12, Isaiah Zepf-13, Runell Mason-16, Karen Taylor-18, Forest Gerard-24, Michelle Herbert-24, Tammy White-29.

### Last Sunday

Darrell Fry shared a sermon with us last Sunday. If you missed his message, please visit the church website at [pococ.weebly.com](http://pococ.weebly.com) to listen.

Prayer Leader: Special Service

Scripture Reader: Special Service

Offering Thoughts: Special Service

Communion Meditation: Special Service

Servers: Brandon Z & Rodney C

Ushers: Rick Velasco & Dan Gross

Greeters: DeLoris Lawler & Kelli Keagle

Prayer Partners: Ken & Tammy Avery

Sound: Dale Sanders

Slides/Lighting: Isaac Benjamin

Communion Prep: Barbara Chasteen

Communion Cleanup: Rick Velasco

Song Leader: Special Service

Children's 9:30 Teacher: Deja Cormier/Laura Fry

Youth Worship: Deja Cormier/Tammy Avery

Preaching: Special Service

## Game Night & “Used Elephant” Exchange **CANCELLED**

### **Sunday Night Class**

The Sunday night *Draw the Circle* Class is in the process of searching for new material for a starting date of January 6, 2019. We would like your input--so if you are interested in joining this class, please come on December 23, 2018 and let your wishes be known about the new material. This class has been a great bonding and uplifting experience for all who have attended during the 40 Day prayer challenge.

*Blessings,  
Darrell, Bob, Ken  
Facilitators*

### **IJM Fundraiser**

There are spider ornaments on a tree in the foyer. Please leave a donation for IJM in the piggy bank and take home a spider. Suggested donation is \$1. The kids and tweens made these spiders as a fundraiser for IJM. Some of the spiders were sold at the sale last weekend where tweens made \$98 for IJM. Also, pick up a Christmas Spider legend card to go with your ornament!

There are other ornaments and items also available for donation in the foyer now!

### **Memory Verse & Daily Bible Reading**

A new schedule of memory verses was dispersed last Sunday. Please contact Bonnie to get the new listing if you need it.

## **Our Prayer List**

### **Healing:**

Carol Johnson, Kerri vanWyck, Chapmans, Dale Sanders

### **Encouragement:**

Caleb Smith, Those Affected by Tornado, All Children Participating in the new Memory Verse/Bible Reading program, All Church Family Members, Family Caregivers, Tiny Village Team

### **Traveling:**

Whites  
Students/Families travelling for holidays

**Praise:** Our First Responders, Those Helping to Clean Up and Restore

### **Other:**

For those who fear the possible Tiny Cabin Village.

Our families, nation, President Trump and leaders.

Our ministries, Deacons & Congregation.

**December 16, 2018**

Worship: 81

Class: --

Offering: \$2,655.31

(Continued from Front Page.)

94:19, Philippians 4:7, Philippians 2:1-2, John 15:11)

Secondly, We give of ourselves and our time to the people around us and to those we love and those who are in need. We walk, talk and LOVE like Jesus!

As we draw close to each other, we help each other draw closer to God.

Let's not just think of God and our savior on Christmas and Easter.

But I challenge you to know your Savior intimately on a daily basis. Know his whisper. Know his calling to you.

If you do, I think you will be amazed that when you delight yourself in the Lord, he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:5) I know I am amazed!!!

When you spend precious time with him and give him that gift of time and love, he will return it with even more gifts of LOVE, Pure Joy, and Peace. (Romans 5:1-5, Psalm

Merry Christmas and May you all have a blessed 2019!!!!!!

-Tammy White

## Message from Our Teachers

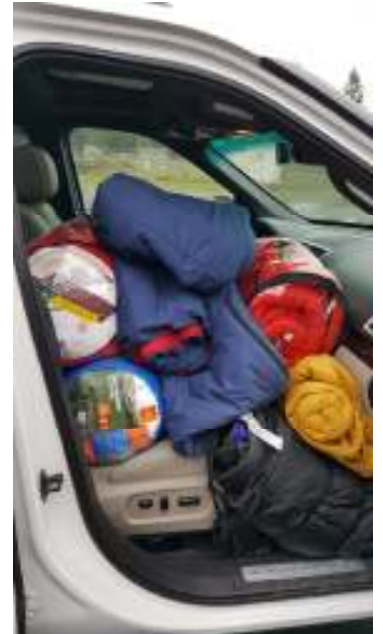
**Our** Bible class young people are excited to invite the "whole congregation" to participate with them in gathering items to help those less fortunate stay warm this winter!

We have made a plan to gather **new** heavy duty warm socks for men, women and children!

However after contacting Helpline today there is so much more; yes they need socks to give away but **they tell us that they have no heavy coats, no water-proof jackets, no tents, no sleeping bags and they desperately need all of those things. Gently used or new!**

We had an amazing outpouring from our congregation to help keep people warm this year! Good job Bible school team!

We had 13 sleeping bags, 14 large white bags of socks and clothing, 2 big boxes of socks and shoes, and 3 extra large black bags of coats and warm clothing donated so far!! It could barely fit in the car.



Thank you all who have given. Let's keep it up. Let's keep blessing people by keeping them warm this winter!