
Port Orchard Church of Christ

Where

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lifted, Jesus is Lived

Responding to God Right Now, by Tiffany Rousseau

Did you know that the “altar call” was a practice made popular by American Methodist preachers in the 1800s to determine who responded to hearing the gospel with joy? It’s true.

“Anglican churches featured an altar in front of the communion table, and ministers often encouraged parishioners to come to the altar if they needed prayer or encouragement. Methodist preachers inherited this tradition but changed its purpose, calling rather those "under conviction" to come forward to the altar. In 1801, for example, itinerant Methodist preacher Peter Cartwright told women at a camp meeting that if they promised "to pray to God for religion," they might take a seat at the altar. Cartwright further accused parents who discouraged their children from "going to the altar" of hindering their salvation.” - *Christianity Today*

Recently, I’ve heard members of our congregation wonder why we don’t ask for an altar call on a regular basis. I don’t doubt that people are asking out of curiosity or out of conviction, but I question the reason.

Why is it some of us desire an altar call? It’s not something Paul practices in the bible. It’s not something Jesus asks us to do. If one of us feels led to follow Christ or respond to the message, what does an altar call do for us that the Holy Spirit cannot?

I went to a church that had an altar call every week and I went to a church that asked you to respond individually during the praise that followed the sermon. Whatever way we respond to the Holy Spirit after hearing a teaching on Sunday is up to us, not to the preacher, to initiate. If the Holy Spirit is burning inside you, stand up and say something. Sunday gathering is not a time for restricting the spirit, it’s a time to listen to it and follow its lead.

I know that Cody and James have done what God has led them to do each Sunday because these men are servants of the Most High King, men who have given their lives to serve God however he calls them. They are offering their very best and teaching with humble and contemplative hearts. Each week they encourage us to listen to their message, hear God’s lesson for ourselves in it, and to respond. They always offer a way to respond and the front of the church is always open for you to respond to.

But so is the back. So is the prayer room. Outside in nature is great too. New people, older people, family, friends, and all are invited to respond to Christ’s call in their lives each Sunday, with or without an “altar call.”

Meditate on this this week and consider what is holding you back from responding to God RIGHT NOW. Identify what it is within you restricting your forward momentum as a follower of Jesus, pray that God removes that spiritual hurdle, and step.

Church Staff:

Cody Rousseau 360.801.8059

Deacons:

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Brad Orser 360.874.8184
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Welcome Guests

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

We seek here 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 their

names 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.

Cody Rousseau

Save the Dates!

Saturday 2/27 Spaghetti Dinner/
Gala

Tuesday 3/1 Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday 3/2 Youth Group

Saturday 3/5 Deacons Meeting

Sunday 3/6 Congregational Meeting

Port Orchard News and Events

Pulpit Preview— Galatians 6: Doing Good for All

This week we will be discussing the final chapter in Galatians. As Paul closes his letter he talks about our job as practical Christians to help one and other in our fight to become more like Christ.

Happy Birthdays!

The shortest month is upon us! With it's arrival we have many brothers and sisters to celebrate! As we go through this month and begin our march towards an early spring let's celebrate the birthdays of our family members!

2— Virginia Martin; Virginia Chapman; Israel Cormier. 5— Tammy Avery. 7— Laura Gerard; Chris Hill. 8— Carla Duffy. 9— Melvin Byrd; Terri Hall; DeLoris Lawler. 10— Ken Avery. 14— Jennifer Delay. 15— Katrina Coley. 17— Lara Chavez. 18— Rachel Karn. 19— Betty Widman. 20— Jason Hall.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals Needed

Bonnie Mitchell, along with Pene Hammock and Judy Van Lueven will be coordinating the temporary providing of meals on occasions when they are requested. Upon receiving the request, we will coordinate with the family to ascertain their needs — length of time, dietary restrictions etc. Once this has been determined through various means of communication we will contact the families here at POCOC for those who would like to participate with providing the meals.

Serving Feb. 28, 2016 :

Prayer Leader:	Wayne Hammock	Communion Prep:	Rousseau
Scripture Reader:	Cody Rousseau	Communion Cleanup:	Hill
Offering Thoughts:	Darrell Fry	Praise Team:	TBD
Communion Meditation:	Ken Avery		
Servers:	D. Lawrence & Dan Gross		
Ushers:	J. Bickle & W. Hammock		
Greeters:	Karen Taylor & Lori Sanders	Sunday School & LG Helper:	Tammy Avery
Nursery Attendants:	Kerri S.	Fellowship Team:	Donuts— Connie Switzer
Sound:	D. Sanders		Coffee— Ray Switzer
Slides/Lighting:	Lisa Bratcher		Cleanup— Connie Switzer



There are some of you who want to always provide a meal, some who choose not to and some who would like to do so occasionally. Please email me if you fall in any of those categories and I will make a list which will be confidential.

This is a great ministry and can be an opportunity to serve others. If you have any questions, please be sure and call:

Bonnie Mitchell 360-895-0453 (h) 360-265-3266 (c)
Pene Hammock 360-871-9678
Judy Van Lueven 360-692-0361

Cormier Shower

There will be a baby shower for Deja Cormier on March 6th at 3PM. The event is planned to be hosted the home of Lila Mason and there will be a group gift! If you would like to donate for the gift then please talk to Lisa Bratcher or Carla Duffy. If you want to help plan or run the event, or if you have questions, please contact Sha'lon Pyke.

Spaghetti Dinner and Gala

Empower the women and children suffering in sexual slavery. Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world with nearly 27 million victims, half of which are minors. Dress-up and support Rescue Freedom International, a Seattle-based charity providing safe-homes to human trafficking victims. Enjoy an evening of live music, food, friends, and activism! \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids under 13. Dress is formal. Live music and dessert included! The event is scheduled for February 27 at 5:00PM. It will be held at the church building! Please RSVP with Eloise Gerard or via the Facebook page asap!

Nursery and Communion

Thank you to all who served in the nursery and preparing and cleaning up communion this year!

Are you gifted with little kids? Would you like to serve somehow but don't know where to start? We have just the place for you! We need for more people to sign up for doing the nursery and communion prep/clean-up for 2016. Both of these jobs are very important for our Sunday services, so if you feel like you are willing and able, please sign up in the foyer for the next opportunity on our community board. Don't know what these different serving opportunities require? Just see Cody Rousseau after church and he'll walk you through them.

Our Prayer List

Healing for the following family members:

Gary Chasteen, Barbara Byrd, Rick Valasco, Bonnie Mitchell, Lucille Lowe, DJ Magneson, and Les Lewis and any others we are not aware of being ill.

Prayer for Deja and Rodney Cormier and for Deja's pregnancy.

Pray for members who are homebound and unable to worship and fellowship with us.

Prayers for our nation

Prayers for our church as we begin a new journey with the Growth groups and curriculum.

Prayers for Cody, our deacons and the many ministries of our church.

February 21, 2016

Worship: 81

Class: 36

Offering: \$2,095.94

Goal: \$3,437.50

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Places To Serve in Sunday Worship

If you would like to be involved in some way with the worship service on Sundays during the service, in the Children's Bible Hour, or want to join/host a small group or bible study, please contact the office with an email and get put into the rotation!

Also, if you are interested in preaching, please contact James Greer or Cody Rousseau and they will schedule you for a Sunday. We would love to hear from more members of our congregation on Sunday sharing God's word.

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