

A Publication of the Port Orchard Church of Christ • April 26, 2020

Easter Isn't Over

As I look ahead to my sermon text for Sunday (Acts 1:1-14), I'm reminded of the need to not rush past Easter.

Our tradition has never focused much on the liturgical calendar, but we are in the season of Easter. That's correct, Easter is a season. We live in light of the resurrection. The tomb is still empty, and this time of year teaches us to live in light of the resurrection.

This was a challenge to the apostles in the days following the resurrection. We know this by looking at the questions they ask the risen Jesus.

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" - Acts 1:6 NIV

Restoration is a beautiful idea, but the resurrection isn't about restoration. It's about transformation. The apostles were hoping for a restoration of an old system, but Jesus was focused on a transformation of his followers on the resurrection side of the cross. Rather than living in the shadow of the grave, we live in the light of the resurrection!

Restoration is about preserving the old. Resurrection is about being transformed into something new. So how do we live in a season of resurrection? Perhaps we begin living as the new creation that God intends us to be in Christ. Paul summarizes our mission this way.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NIV

"...we might become the righteousness of God." Notice the transformation language? God doesn't want to restore the old, he wants us to become a new creation.

As ambassadors of Christ we call people forward into the new, but we ourselves must first be living as new creatures. We don't live in the past, we don't operate in our old thinking, we don't stay stuck in the pain and shame of past wrongs. We are made new, and we walk forward in that newness of life. This week I encourage you to live in light of the resurrection. Leave your past in the past, and move forward as a new creation, transformed by the hope of the empty tomb. He is risen! And that truth is what makes new creation possible in our lives.

Matthew Stidham, Eastside Church of Christ, Snyder, Texas

Don't forget to check out the message on YouTube from Ken Avery and also from the Hooper Children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UotXwJ-q6mg&feature=share>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnT7r-Wx_ILmtGzXcE8cFug

May we help?

With so many of us sheltering in our homes as best we can, life and it's needs go on, such as trips for food, medications, etc, etc. A young man in our congregation is offering his time to make grocery and pharmacy pickups and deliver them to your front porch. His time and expenses are being covered by a local businessman/member of our church so there is absolutely NO charge to you for this service. Take advantage of it and stay safe! Just like Jesus, the debt has already been paid!

Here's how it works:

If you have needs, do one of the following:

Phone or text: (253) 380 4806 (Lorri Celletti) or, Email: mlcell@wavecable.com (Michael/Lorri Celletti)

Give your name and contact info, list of items needed, prescription pickup info etc.

Your items will be delivered to your front porch with a phone call to let you know they have arrived. Your receipt will be left in an envelope, then you can forward a check to the address on the envelope or call the above number to arrange payment when convenient.

There will be no personal contact between you and the person making the delivery. We want to keep everyone as safe as possible! If you should need financial assistance in procuring the items you need, please let us know. The goal is making sure everyone's needs are met until God conquers this virus. In the mean time, God bless all of you and stay safe!

P.S. You may also call (253) 223 9095 (Bob McDaniel) If you have questions or are unable to get through on above contact info.

Information for Seniors

(Ken or Bob please pass this information on to the gal at the Warming Center, Please.)

Any senior 60 + is eligible for this program . If interested and would like to get these meals please call the Meals on Wheels Kitsap Office. If you want to ask me about it, I will be happy to talk to you . If you know of anyone who can use this please pass the information along.

This is for those seniors who are not homebound. Suggestion donation is \$3.00 a meal . If you unable to pay - that's ok.

Bonnie 360-265-3266

Meals on Wheels To Go Program - Community dining clients now may pick up five (5) frozen meals one day a week. Meal pick-up remains the same -- 11:45 am to 12:15 pm -- at the sites and day of the week listed below no later than 2:00 pm one working day before pick-up. New seniors in need who qualify should call the office to apply.

MONDAY	Burley Community Hall, 14853 Burley Avenue SE, Burley Pinewood Manor Apartments, 280 Sylvan Way, East Bremerton
TUESDAY:	Conifer Ridge Apartments, 1721 Fircrest Dr. SE, Port Orchard
THURSDAY:	Silverdale United Methodist Church, 9982 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale Bainbridge Senior Center, 370 Brien Dr. SE, Bainbridge Island

New Office Hours - We are shifting to a Monday through Thursday work week. Phones are staffed from 9:00am to 3:00pm on those days. Please call **360-377-8511** or toll-free at **888-877-8511** if you need to reach us.

We welcome your tax-deductible contributions to ensure that providing healthy, nourishing meals to vulnerable seniors who rely on our services remains uninterrupted. Donations are gratefully [accepted online by clicking here](#) or by mail at 2817 Wheaton Way, Suite 208, Bremerton, WA 98310

Our Prayer List

- Stimulus money received by a member has been donated to help someone who would be unable to pay their rent due to the current situation.
If you know of anyone who could use this blessing, please let Bonnie Mitchell know and she will pass it along.
- Please lift up Mark Riordan to our powerful and merciful GOD - details are already known to our Creator - Much thanks and love
- Brittany (Gary & Tammy White's daughter) is a nurse and she has volunteered to go help out the hospital in New Jersey for a month. She leaves this Monday. and comes back on May 23rd. Pray for her safe travels. Safety while she is there. and that she will stay healthy and not get the virus. Pray for Gary and Tammy and their family also.
- Daniel Tillman is recovering from brain surgery.
- Steve Smith is undergoing chemotherapy.
- Ashley (Ariana's mother) is recovering from pneumonia.
- Pray for our school children who will do online schooling for the rest of this school year. Pray for the children whose parents don't have the facilities to let their children do the online schooling.
- Pray especially for those families for whom domestic violence is common and very likely is increased during this time. We don't know their names or who they are, but God does.
- Pray for encouragement to all those who are tirelessly working to deal with the Covid-19 virus. Prayers that God will guide them.
- Continue to pray for our Deacons, Leadership Team, Our church family, Our missions, Families, Our nation and its leaders.
- Shirley Deford and Rick Velasco's Uncle Jack and Cousin Laurie for healing
- George who has Lou Gherig's for his health and safety
- Wayne Hammock and the passing of his nephew
- Whitney, granddaughter of the Byrd's for safety as a nurse dealing with treating patients with Covid-19
- Karen Taylor's friend, Virginia Latham recovering from surgery for a broken jaw
- Greg and Sandi Warner as they wait completion of the renovation of their home
- Greg and Sandi Warner for their son Michael to get court ordered medication to help his healing

Note: If you have a prayer request or an update, please contact Bonnie Mitchell at mitbem0519@gmail.com

Bonnie received the following on our FB page and felt it was good to put out this information as some may be supporting this great work.

Hello from Orphan's Lifeline International!

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, we have been contacted by many individuals from the Church family who are concerned about the orphan children we all care for around the world. A lot of you give through your church and therefore, do not receive a newsletter. For those of you in that situation, the best way to keep up on current news from the homes is through Facebook or by signing up for our newsletter.

Our main Facebook page is : <https://www.facebook.com/OrphansLifeline/>

This page will provide general updates and news. For news and updates specific to a children's home that you provide for, use the navigation (list) on the left side of this page and click on "Groups." There you can look for the home you support and ask to join that private group.

If you are not on Facebook and wish to receive our newsletter, just click

here: <https://www.orphanlifeline.org/>

This is our website and at the bottom of the page is a form to sign up for the newsletter.

In the meantime, we want you to know that all of the children are safe and being cared for! None of the children or caregivers have the virus and while the situation in these countries is very difficult right now, we are working hard to keep the children safe and healthy!)

Secondly, we simply want to let you know that we are all praying for you. We pray that you stay safe and healthy and that God continues to bless each and every one of you! These are difficult times for us all, but we know that God is faithful and as Christians we have nothing to fear.

Thank you for all that you do and thanks for helping us get this important information out to individuals who are helpers of the orphans!

In Christ,

Tim Murphy

Orphan's Lifetime International Kalispell MT

Happy Birthday!

April: Lori Sanders – 28

May: Isaac Benjamin – 2, Gary Chasteen – 3, John Bickle – 5, Julia Karn – 17, Barbara Chasteen – 25, Levi Herbert – 26, Gene Gerard – 28, Sarah Hill - 31

Worship @ Home

Links for Church Bulletins, Sermons, & Worship

Bob McDaniel has a short Easter 2020 message for all to see on You Tube.

It is also posted on the POCOC Facebook page.

Here is the link;

<https://youtu.be/JzPRq2gJXkU>

May this be a very Happy and Blessed Easter for you.

Port Orchard Church of Christ:

<http://pococ.weebly.com/weekly-church-bulletins.html>

<http://pococ.weebly.com/teachings.html>

Central Kitsap Church of Christ:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ckcocorg1/featured>

Bellevue Church of Christ:

<https://www.bellevuechurchofchrist.org/resources/sermonsbulletins>

Lakeview Church of Christ:

<https://www.lakeviewchurchofchrist.church/bulletins-2020/>

<https://www.lakeviewchurchofchrist.church/media/sermons/>

Puyallup Church of Christ:

<http://puyallupcofc.org/audio.html>

Max Lucado also publishes an “Online Church” on Facebook. This is a collection of videos of some of his weekly sermons. https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=518183309102665&external_log_id=cc2ff9cd_e8e2930b32b0c5e8f56c3750&q=max%20lucado

The Acappella Company:

<https://acappella.org/>

Acappella Praise & Harmony:

<https://acappella.org/praise-and-harmony/>

Tithes and Offerings

Several members have asked how to give their tithe to the Lord during this time. There are three options that allow me to enter your information in for tax purposes.

1) If you use on-line bill pay with your bank or credit union, set up a payee for Port Orchard Church of Christ. Your bank will mail your check for you. Other members have been doing this and it works well.

April 19, 2020 – Tithes & Offerings - \$2,539.64
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2) Mail tithe check to the Church. We have a lock mail box.

3) Or drop the check in an envelope into our mailbox out front of the building.

Church Address:

Port Orchard Church of Christ
4135 Carr Lane SE
Port Orchard, Wa. 98366

Any questions, please give me a call. God bless you, Gary Chasteen - (cell) 360 731-4104

Roy Merritt Update

Hello, Friends!

Thanks for your interest in our work here.

And thanks for your gifts toward the new pickup.

We have reached \$3,400, almost 10% of the way to the goal.

I know these are tough times in the USA. So we are especially grateful for your gifts.

We have the Covid-19 virus here too, but nothing like as bad as you have it in USA, Today's report is 70 cases and three deaths. So far the only confirmed cases are in Lusaka and Kafue, a large town near Lusaka.

So . . .

we are hoping we can sort of get back to normal by the end of May.

Right now Americans coming must stay in quarantine for at least two weeks after they arrive before they can move around the country like everyone else. And that restriction might still be in effect come August.

And if that is what happens, it will definitely have an effect on our plans for Westreach medical mission into the Luampa district this coming August.

One way or the other we hope to be able to have our usual Westreach Medical campaign in early August -- and if American medical folk can't come, I hope we can still manage to have a smaller version of the campaign using people from here.

* * *

Another issue is that our Namwianga Mission duty free license expires at the end of June.

I HOPE the government will renew the license immediately, but I am scared they might say they need more money to deal with Covid-19 and decide not to renew it.

SO . . . (gulp!)

So it would really be super if we could buy the vehicle and have it cleared duty free before the end of June.

That means we need the \$35,000 by mid-June-- to give us a couple weeks to take care of the paperwork -- to pay for the vehicle and take care of all the duty-free red tape before the license expires.

We still need another \$31,600 to do this.

Please help if you can!

THANK YOU! - THANK YOU!

Please make your check out to College Church of Christ,
. . . and on the memo line write "*new Isuzu pickup*"
then send it to the lady who manages our funds for
the College Church:

Wanda Spears,
1207 Pioneer Road,
Searcy, Arkansas 72143

AND PLEASE STAY SAFE!!!!!!!

