

A Publication of the Port Orchard Church of Christ

January 2, 2022

Unless You Become Like Children

"Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'" (Matt. 19:13-14)

Attendance is down in churches all across America. Midweek services have especially been affected by the post-pandemic slump, but there are some bright spots. On Wednesday, we had a significant amount of children who were excited to be at worship. Most of the kids were from our congregation, but not all of them. Two of them were visitors.

Several weeks ago, a sixth-grader showed up because he wanted to help with our food ministry. He found that other kids were helping and so rather than serve and leave, he asked his mother if he could stay for Bible class. Since then, he has shown up every Wednesday. Last night, his four-and-a-half-year-old brother came with him. He loved it! I sat in front of them as we sang. They shared a hymnal and followed along. They smiled and were joyful the entire evening. After they got home, their mom texted to say what a great time they had at church.

The kids did not notice how many people were or were not there. They did not notice whether people were wearing masks or not. They were not worried about other things they had to do. They were glad to be there. They were eager to worship God. They enjoyed getting to be with friends and making new ones. Their presence was a blessing to all of us.

As adults, our lives get messy. We're busy. We're exhausted. We may become frustrated or upset. We may get our feelings hurt. We may feel ashamed. We might become preoccupied with other things, other loves, other obligations. If only we could be like little children. If only we could recognize the joy of every opportunity we get to worship God. If only we could be fully present to those around us and treasure the blessing of Christian friendship. If only we could once again delight in those things which are lasting.

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'" (Matt. 18:1-3)

Acts

Bible Class

Led by Trent Herbert

It took a bit to get through the gospel of Luke, but we made it! I have been blessed by the study and hope others were as well. We took the book and looked at the context, historical background, and the many characters to gain a better understanding of the Lord we serve. We start our next study in January, and we will dig into Luke's second volume, Acts. I hope that you will join us as we study the early church and men and woman that worked so hard and gave so much for the Church.

Our Prayer List

- Pray for Bonnie's nephew Gary who is waiting a Cardiac Abrasion. He is currently hospitalized as the stabilize him for this procedure. Pray for Gary, his wife Marci and the medical team that is working with Gary.
- René Powless' mom passed away in her sleep early Wednesday morning. Please pray for René and her sister, Kay.
- Linda Fry, who is getting appointments set up to treat her medical issues.
- Bob McDaniel family. They have possibly been exposed to a family member who has tested positive for Covid. He would like a little divine intervention for the entire McDaniel family who will be withdrawing from church for a period of time.
- Pray for Bonnie's nephew's girlfriend, who is expecting their first child in March. She has tested positive for Covid.
- Pray also for Bonnie's daughter, Penny and Jennifer McKenzie and Morgan Wright, who will be returning from a California vacation on Friday. Pray for their safe travels and good health.
- Please lift up Margaret Meyers (who used to live in one of the duplexes). She has been taken by ambulance to St Anthony's. Please also lift up her family. Her heart failure is getting worse so they are just going to keep her comfortable at the nursing home.
- David Bedford is being cared for in a rehab facility following his three strokes.
- Praise to God that things are getting settled for Cindiann and George Bradburn.
- Carol Henry Smith's son Steve treatment for his cancer.
- Pray for Bonnie's son-in-law Tony, who will have a procedure to hopefully input a stent where there is a blockage. Pray for the medical team who is treating him and for Penny as she awaits the outcome.
- The Sunday school class is preparing to help with needs for the homeless. If you have a heart to help or ideas, please contact Laura Fry.
- Sharon McDaniel continuing to work with the doctors to ease her discomfort.
- Our medical personnel and also first responders and all they are dealing with because of the problems associated with Covid.
- Our nation and leaders. Port Orchard Church of Christ and our deacons, our leadership team and brothers and sisters.
- Pray for those who experience feelings of anxiety, stress and even depression around Christmas time.
- Praise to God for all he provides to care for our needs.

POCOC Web Site

(<http://pococ.weebly.com>)

- Weekly Bulletin – Click on Bulletin & Newsletters
- Current Order of Worship – Click on Bulletin & Newsletters
- Current newsletters from Trent Herbert, Tristen Herbert and Roy Merritt.
 - – Click on Bulletin & Newsletters
- Live stream of worship services on YouTube Channel – Previous recordings, too: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAkOYw7JOR9ZIQ then click on the video. Please subscribe to be notified when new videos post or when we go live.
- Pre-Covid audio sermons are also still online – Click on Teachings
- Current Event Calendar – Click on News & Events

Sunday Worship for December 26, 2021 (10:30 am – 12:00 – noon) (Children will be dismissed after communion for Children’s Church) Watch live stream or after our worship time: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAkOYw7JOR9ZIQ				
Speaker: Trent Herbert	Singing: Jon Powless	Scripture: Trent Herbert	Prayer: Bob McDaniel	Communion: Darrell Fry
9:30am Adult Class: Auditorium James Greer / Jim Snead / Trent Herbert		Children Class: Downstairs Combined Class		
Call Laura Fry or the Church Office (360-876-2604) for Zoom Meeting ID				
Luke Class (Zoom) Sundays: 6:00 – 7:00 pm		Prayer Meeting (Zoom) Wednesdays: 5:00 pm		
Men’s Fellowship Downstairs Fellowship Room Tuesday, 10:00 am		Ladies Prayer Group (Zoom) Tuesdays: 10:00 am		

Communion and Tithes & Offerings

We are once again meeting inside the building, but we are still not passing trays row by row. Be sure to pick up your communion supplies as you enter the auditorium. It contains both the juice and the bread. The collection box for your tithes & offerings is also available at the entrance to the auditorium. However, the other options are still available:

- 1) The collection box will be in the foyer at the entrance to the auditorium.
- 2) 2) Online bill-pay with your bank or credit union. Your bank will mail your check for you.
- 3) 3) Mail your tithe/offering check directly to the Church address. We have a lock mailbox.

Port Orchard Church of Christ 4135 Carr Lane SE Port Orchard, WA 98366 360-876-2604 - churchpococ@gmail.com	December 26, 2021 Tithes & Offerings – \$ 2,700.00
	If you have any questions, please give me a call. God bless you. Gary Chasteen (cell) 360-731-4104

Happy Birthday!

December: Jake Orser – 31, Randy VanLeuven - 31

January: Mark David - 2, Michell Herbert – 4, Pat Woodrow – 9, Landra Reinke – 12, Isaiah Zepf – 13, Karen Taylor – 18, Caleb Smith – 23, Tammy White – 29, Myron David – 30