



THE WESTSIDER

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Created for community

Visit our website:
www.westsidecofc.net



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We hope you enjoy this issue of **The Westsider**. In an effort to keep administrative costs at a minimum, you will have access to this monthly publication the week prior to the first Sunday of each month on our website. If you do not have, or use, a computer we will mail it to your home. There will be a limited number of issues printed and available at the church building.

Items for the newsletter are due in the office the fourth Thursday of the month for the following month's publication. Please email: office@westsidecofc.net.

Sunday Assembly Times
Bible Class: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Office Hours:
Monday & Tuesday 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Wednesday & Thursday 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Friday—Office Closed

November 2017



WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Westsider

From Aaron's Desk

His face popped up seemingly out of nowhere and chills ran down my spine, by breath was short at just a picture of his face. Right on my Facebook newsfeed under the "you might be friends with" section was the face of my first childhood bully.

Decades have passed, but the facial features are burned into the deepest part of me and I immediately recognized his eyes. I was in the 3rd grade and he was in the 5th. He would always pick the seat on the bus directly behind me and torment me on the way to and home from school. At lunch he would throw food at me and call me names quiet enough so that no teacher could hear. I was too afraid or too ashamed or too something to actually tell anyone about it, but one night I couldn't keep it inside any longer and cried in my father's arms as I told him what had been happening.

Many people I know have similar stories of being bullied and many have

been shaped profoundly by these experiences and carry the aftermath all the way into adulthood. The mere name or sight of a past tormentor can lead us back to those same feelings — decades after the events took place.



I've lived long enough now to realize that my bully likely didn't learn his behavior on his own, one or more people had tormented him most likely in his own life. I intellectually know that his acts of aggression were likely in some way a call for help or a lashing out from his own pain. I can reflect on times when I was the tormentor, years later, and the odd feeling that

comes from being one who bullies others. I know all of this, and yet the sight of him still brings me to a place of fear and helplessness.

As we've been thinking about reconciliation at Westside I've been pondering my first bully and wonder what it might look like to reconcile with him. I don't even know if he would remember me or what he used to do, I could well have been a blip on his bully screen (he was well known to bully many others). And I don't know what reconciliation would look like after so many years.

We've noticed that God, when approaching reconciliation, doesn't begin with a problem, but with possibility. Jesus never gives up on people, because he truly believes

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From Aaron's Desk . . .

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that reconciliation is a possibility, redemption is an option. Too often we see reconciliation, with God and with humans, as being too difficult or even impossible.

The first step, it seems, is to see the world as possibility rather than problems or dead ends. It's easy to draw dramatic conclusions when we think about and face bullies, rather than wonder if there's a possibility of peace

around the corner once we lean in and believe that reconciliation might be possible.

I don't know if an attempt at reconciliation with a bully who I have seen in 30 years is worth it, but I am convicted that I need to change my attitude and mindset to believe that it is possible. I want to be the sort of person who mimics God's vision for creation and lives in possibility of reconcili-

ation with all. Just in changing that mindset, perhaps my posture towards others can begin to soften as I live in less fear and more hope and promise of the wholeness God has intended and plans for us all.

Peace,
Aaron

The History of Thanksgiving



later, the Mayflower crossed Massachusetts Bay where the Pilgrims, as they are now commonly known, began the work of establishing a village at Plymouth.

Throughout that first brutal winter,

most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from an Abenaki Indian who greeted them in English. Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe

who had been kidnapped by an English sea captain and sold into slavery before escaping to London and returning to his homeland on an exploratory expedition. Squanto taught the Pilgrims, weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He also helped the settlers forge an alliance with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which would endure for more than 50 years.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving," the festival lasted for three days.

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November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Backpacks delivery Family Group/potluck 6:30 pm	2 ←---Teen Girls' NCO 9 am—12:30 pm	3 Retreat at Camp	4 Yamhill----- Daylight Saving Time Ends— turn clocks back 1 hour
5 ←---Aaron out of All Church Potluck	6 Town----- Women's Bible Study 7 pm NCO 3-5 & 7-8:30 pm	7 ----- Home Schoolers 9-noon Boy Scouts 7-9 pm	8 ----- Family Group/potluck 6:30 pm NCO 3-5 & 7-8:30	9 -----→ Backpacks delivery NCO 9 am—12:30 pm	10	11 Veterans' Day
12	13 Boy Scouts 7-9 pm NCO 3-5 & 7-8:30 pm	14 Home Schoolers 9-noon Boy Scouts 7-9 pm	15 6:30 pm Potluck, Pack boxes for Operation Xmas Child Boy Scouts 7-9 pm NCO 3-5 & 7-8:30	16 NCO 9 am—12:30 pm	17	18
19 Menlo Drive Clean Up & Leaf Drop	20 Women's Bible Study 7 pm NCO 3-5 & 7-8:30 pm	21 Home Schoolers 9-noon Backpacks delivery Boy Scouts 7-9 pm	22 NCO 3-5 & 7-8:30	23 Thanksgiving Day NCO 9 am—12:30 pm	24	25
26	27 NCO 3-5 & 7-8:30 pm	28 Home Schoolers 9-noon Boy Scouts 7-9 pm	29 Family Group/potluck 6:30 pm NCO 3-5 & 7-8:30	30 NCO 9 am—12:30 pm		Building in use Offsite event Information Church Event

Plan Ahead—Christmas is coming!



One of Westside's traditional programs is the annual Christmas "shoebox" filling. Working with Samaritan's Purse, each year we have provided nearly 100 boxes filled with small gifts for children around the world.

As you go about beginning your holiday shopping, be thinking about Operation Christmas Child as well. If you can pick up one or two items — pencils, pens, erasers, crayons, small pads of paper, etc. — you can put them in the box in the lobby so we will be well-prepared to fill the shoeboxes on Wednesday night, Nov. 15.

We will start with a potluck at 6:30 and then fill the shoeboxes with small gifts including the "pillow case dresses" made by several of our women.

A list of suggested items is located in the church lobby. We especially need more pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons, bar soap, small stuffed animals, toothbrushes & covers, combs/brushes, and small toys.

With Gratitude in Your Hearts Sing . . .



At the age of 22, Ray Palmer graduated from Yale University (where he and Oliver Wendell Holmes were classmates) and after five years of teaching in two schools for young ladies, became the

minister of the Central Congregational Church in Bath, Maine. After 15 years there, he was transferred to the First Congregational Church in Albany, New York, where he served for another 16 years. He then became the Corresponding Secretary of the American Congregational Union, a position he held until 1878 when he resigned due to a nervous affliction that occasionally caused him to stumble while walking.

Even in "retirement," however, he continued to serve his local church as the pastor in charge of visiting the members. He and his wife, the former Ann Ward, celebrated over 50 years of marriage before her death in 1886. His death followed a year later.

Palmer was the author of several books and volumes of poetry and hymns. However, it is one particular hymn that he is best known for. It was early in his career, shortly after graduating from Yale and while teaching in a private school for young ladies. It was his habit to occasionally express in poetic form his heart-felt emotions. On this occasion, he related that there was no thought of writing words for any person to see, least of all as a hymn for Christian worship.

Quietly, as moved by his own feelings of need, he composed six stanzas and tucked them away in a notebook he carried with him at all times. A year or two later, he happened to meet Lowell Mason on a street in Boston. Mason, a prolific composer and author of hymns, asked if Palmer had any hymns he

could include in a new hymnal Mason was working on at the time. They stepped into a nearby store and Palmer showed him the poem in his little notebook. Mason made a quick copy of it and later at home, he composed a tune suitable for the words.

When they next met a few days later, Mason said to him, "Mr. Palmer, you may live many years and do many good things, but I think you will be best known to posterity as the author of 'My Faith Looks Up to Thee.'"

Today Palmer's hymn is among the most familiar in evangelical churches in America and England.

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour Divine:
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine.

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my Guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Saviour, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul.

Bonnie Miller

History of Thanksgiving ...

(continued from page 2)

During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress designated one or more days of thanksgiving a year, and in 1789 George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the national government of the United States. In 1827, a noted magazine editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, launched a campaign to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. For 36 years, she published numerous editorials and sent scores of letters to governors, senators, presidents and other politicians. Abraham Lincoln finally heeded her request in 1863, in a proclamation entreating all Americans to ask God to "commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife" and to "heal the wounds of the nation." He scheduled Thanksgiving for the final Thursday in November, and it was celebrated on that day every year until 1939, when Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the holiday up a week in an attempt to spur retail sales during the Great Depression. Roosevelt's plan, known derisively as Franksgiving, was met with passionate opposition, and in 1941 the president reluctantly signed a bill making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November.

Adapted from
www.history.com

Coming Events

November

- 1—Backpacks delivery
- 2-4—Teen Girls' Retreat at Yamhill
- 4—Daylight Saving Times Ends—Turn clocks back one hour tonight
- 5—Church potluck
- 6—Women's Bible Study
- 9—Backpacks delivery
- 15—Pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, 6:30 potluck, 7:00 packing
- 19—Menlo Drive clean up and leaf drop-off



Extended Prayer List

~Those with health concerns~

Janice Ator
Jasper Bawcom
Linda Bisett
Joyce Farguharson (Melinda Coleman's sister)
Janet Maples
Jim Maples
Jon Morgan
Ben Snodgrass
Helen Urban
Jennie (Carolyn Mentzer's niece)

~Family and Friends battling cancer~

Lauren Ray (friend of Christy family)
Margo (Ray Martus' sister)
Stephen Berry (Greenlee Family Group)
Gay Stroud (Loretta Stroud's daughter)
Betty Call (Janet Maples' aunt)
Mary Ellen Taylor (Josh VanderZanden's grand-mother)
Kendra Hornbostel (friend of the Ators)
Patti (mother of Linda Zagorski's sister-in-law)
Arnold Holloway (friend of Kathy Skelton)

~Those who have lost loved ones~

Rebecca Dickerson (Rebecca's brother)
Martha Khoury (Martha's aunt)
Annette Elder (Annette's grandfather)
Jay Schneider (Jay's mother)
 Family of **Kelly Coburn**
 Family of **LaVelle Stanley**
Kim Wingfield (Kim's mother)
Nader Khoury (Nader's father and mother)
Sue Bowman (Sue's mother)
Mel Winters (Mel's father and grand-mother)

~College Students~

Julia Khoury-Valentine
Riley Toll
Robert Towell

~Those with special needs~

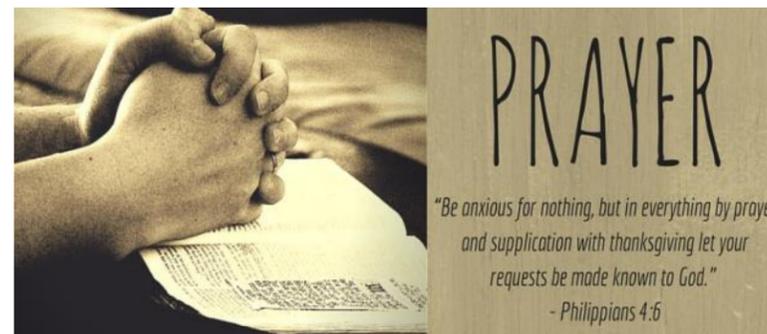
Jim & Janet Maples
Kayla VanderZanden
Rebecca Dickerson
Annette Elder
Brittnie, Mark Wingfield's niece

~Shepherds~

Bob Greenlee
Ray Martus

~Staff and Volunteers~

Aaron Metcalf
Bonnie Miller
Linda Coburn



November Service Opportunities

Communion Prep

Williams family

Slides

11/5 Jay Schneider

11/12 Juanita Martus

11/19 Bonnie Miller

11/26 Bonnie Miller

Sound

Amy Schneider

Matt Buckingham

Chelan Metcalf

Juanita Martus

Contribution Counters

Kim Toll, Dale Winters

Communion Servers

Linda Zagorski, Jevon Williams, Kim Toll, Larry Morgan, Stephen Mentzer
 Miles Metcalf, Jasper Bawcom, Bob Greenlee, Nader Khoury, Ray Martus
 Mel Winters, Robert Bristol, Matt Buckingham, Jay Schneider, Josh Stump
 Kim Toll, Jevon Williams, Miles Metcalf, Linda Zagorski, Stephen Mentzer

October Income

\$12,350.90



MENLO DRIVE CLEAN-UP

Sunday, Nov. 19, the Westside church will pitch in to keep our neighborhood clean and tidy. About three or four times per year we have committed to spend a few minutes in safety vests and gloves holding trash bags as we walk along the side of the street where we meet, picking up any trash that has been left there.

It only takes a few minutes, immediately following our morning worship assembly. See Penny Pierce to volunteer.

November Celebrations

Birthdays

Nov. 2 Jessica Brower
 Nov. 2 Jim Maples
 Nov. 11 Sue Bowman
 Nov. 13 Ella Metcalf
 Nov. 14 David Busey
 Nov. 16 Robert Bristol
 Nov. 16 Trina Vorderbrueggen
 Nov. 19 Larry Morgan

Anniversaries

Nov. 7 Jevon & Sarah Williams
 Nov. 16 Chris & Trina Vorderbrueggen
 Nov. 23 Bill & Melinda Coleman
 Nov. 25 Mark & Kim Wingfield

