



Message from the Pastor

Spiritually

Part One

Many folks have the idea that spirituality has to do with mystics and desert fathers, or monks secluded in a monastery apart from everyday life. There are others who believe that spirituality is another way to talk about one's faith in God and life in the church. And finally, there are those who think spirituality is associated with New Age ideas of religion and has no place in a serious discussion of Christianity. Spirituality does include mysticism and seclusion, and it does reflect our faith in God and our life in the church. It also has to do with how we see God, and where we feel close to God. As far as "new age" goes, spiritual practices date back to the early church fathers. There has been a resurgence of interest in spiritual practices in the past ten or so years, and that includes many who reject formal religion altogether; but I want to set them aside for the moment and just have a conversation about how and where we might see God in our everyday lives. I want to explore where we might connect with God, where we might be most aware of God's presence in the world.

In San Jose, before seminary, I chaired a committee in the presbytery that was responsible for the "theology, the worship, and the spirituality" of the presbytery and its life together. Someone once asked me to define that. I replied that theology is what we believe about God, worship is where we honor and praise God, and spirituality is our relationship with God. Our spirituality is our everyday encounters with the Holy. Often we have no problem on Sunday mornings feeling God's presence, but for some, it's not that easy the rest of the week. But God is present in all that we do, and that is what we will explore together. For instance, sitting on the deck in the sun as I write this, I can sense God all around me. From the delicate tinkling of my wind chimes to the cacophony of bird songs, from the cars driving past on street to the sound of the wind rustling through the trees....I *know* God is here! But what will happen when I put this pen down and go back inside to work? Will I be able to feel God's presence as strongly doing my dishes?

"Spiritual Literacy, Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life" authored by Frederick and Mary Ann Brussat; addresses this problem of experiencing God in the ordinary things of life. The introduction begins, "life is a sacred adventure. Every day we encounter signs that

point to the active presence of the Spirit in the world around us. Spiritual literacy is the ability to read the signs written in the texts of our own experiences. Whether viewed as a gift from God or a skill to be cultivated, this facility enables us to discern and decipher a world full of meaning." God is never apart from us, sometimes we separate from God, but God is always with us. We all can encounter God in our everyday lives. We will continue next month as we will look at the "Basic Alphabet of Spiritual Literacy." In the meantime, look around you as you work or play. Look for the ways and the places that you can see God in your everyday lives."

Deacons News

The Deacons would like to go out to lunch about three times a year instead of the normal monthly pot-luck. If you have input about this, please contact one of the Deacons. This month, **September 24th** instead of a pot-luck we will meet at Abbeys Pizza for lunch and visiting after church. (Everybody pays for their own lunch.) Abby's has a variety of food available including a salad bar, pizzas, chicken and sandwiches.

Operation Christmas Child

The year goes by so quickly and it is time again for gathering and purchasing the last-minute items for the shoe-boxes. Right now the most needed item is **pencil sharpeners**. Pencils aren't any good if you can't sharpen them. Other items still in need are:

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Crayons | Scissors | Spiral notebooks | Tooth brushes |
| Hair brushes | Wash cloths | Soap | Large sized socks |

Mark your calendar for the packing party on the last Sunday in October, the 29th, after church. That is always a fun day of sharing. Also, for that day, prepare to bring a personal note and a photo of yourself to include in the boxes that you pack. The children enjoy knowing that they are special and that a real person was thinking of them and praying for them as each box was put together.

Our church will once again be a drop-off location and National Collection Week is November 13-20.

Peace & Global Witness Offering: Blessed are the peacemakers

The Peace Offering is taken from September 3 through World Communion Sunday, October 1st. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Our congregation uses 25% of this Offering for local peace programs and for the past two years we have donated the money to the Myrtle Creek Police Department for their child Safety Education Program. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. - “Peace at all times in all ways” 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Francis Belcher – On March 8th our church had a goodbye lunch for Francis. After the loss of her husband, Francis moved from Myrtle Creek to live closer to her children. She attended our church faithfully and will be missed.





Generation Hoppers - On Saturday, July 22nd the Generation Hoppers entertained at our church. This was a return visit as last year they were on the labrenth. The group includes: Lacy Antonio, Carol Hall and Ron Coperhaven and they sing songs from the past that we all can remember and sing along with. I surely hope they will return again next year.

Prayers of Healing for Our Congregation Members

Almighty Lord, Cover this your child with your sovereign hand, bring restoration and healing to their bodies. In Jesus name, Amen.

Please keep our friends in your prayers. Special prayers for:

Sharon Scherer, Duane, Wanda and Judy Brooks, Sue Hilton, Marilyn West and all those that are in need at this time.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

September

- Myra Wade – 10
- Joanie & Darrell anniversary – 10
- Delores Everhart – 14
- Marilyn West – 19

October

- Ken and Melanie Roan anniversary - 7
- Lloyd Sheilds - 8
- Jean Snyder - 15
- Melanie Raon – 18



Carol Williams joined our church on August 16, 2015 (Linda Gregg joined on the same day) and in July 2017 she left us to live closer to her son in Arizona. She will be missed and we wish her well.

MISSIONS:

Roseburg Rescue Mission

Summer Rescue

Hot weather can be very dangerous to the homeless. They are exposed to the intense elements as they work and travel. Extreme heat can cause dehydration even heat exhaustion. The Mission is an oasis of services, offering hope in a parched landscape of options. There is no vacation time for the homeless, no reprieve from their situation or striving to overcome it. Their conditions remain for some unknown time. Homeless men, women and children need to be rescued. They need prepared meals, clothing, showers and safe shelter. Summer is also a time of working on projects. We have roof repairs, painting and other remodeling to do. And summer is a difficult season on our finances. Without your help, we could not provide all the services available. Please take a moment and consider those less fortunate.

Food Service and Evangelism

The Roseburg Rescue Mission exists for the purpose of evangelizing homeless men, women and children. We provide meals, clothing, shelter and programs for the privilege of preaching the Gospel. We have not been called to do good works, but to preach. To only retrieve a person of the streets is not the rescue work of salvation. Rescue is evangelism with accompanying social service.

Government programs and secular foundations prohibit “proselytizing”, which means to try to convert a person to one's religion. For Christians, it means no “evangelizing”, the preaching of the Gospel to convert to Christianity. A few years ago, we were given the ultimatum to sign a contract swearing that we would not provide Bibles, Bible tracts, chapel services, prayer, or a Word of encouragement in order to continue to receive government food. We declined. That agreement would have been contrary to our identity. So we receive no government food and no donated food from the local food bank. We only needed to change our source of food, not

our purpose. Individuals, organizations and businesses provide our food, and the rest is purchased. It is more appropriate for a church to have a food box program, inviting recipients to their church, than for a mission to have that program, ending our evangelism.

We only needed to change our source of food, not our purpose. The Roseburg Rescue Mission is a mission field to the homeless in our community. Last year, men, women and children averaged receiving 269 meals and 117 chapel services or Bible studies every day. Three prepared meals are served each day of the year at both our downtown facility in Roseburg and at Samaritan Inn. There is no qualifying application, no requirement to be living here, no working for meals, no charge, no use of food stamps. It takes a great deal of food to maintain these two commercial kitchens, feeding the hungry and homeless of our community. - *Thank you from Lynn Antis, Executive Director.*

Update on Dave and Melissa Raube

We have a lot to share about the ministry and our time in Papua New Guinea.



Who is the new person in our family?

One of the unique things about Ukarumpa International School (UIS) is that, depending on the needs of the student body, it facilitates an MTS (Mother Tongue Studies) program for students for whom English is not their first language. Currently, our community has several Dutch families and Carlijn Roest has volunteered to take a break from her medical studies in The Netherlands and teach Dutch MTS to the Dutch family children. We have enjoyed sharing our home and lives with her since Christmas. She will be going back to The Netherlands in mid-June.

Big Changes- Temporary Medical Leave

A significant change for our family is that we have begun to make plans to leave PNG for a one year medical leave, beginning this July. During a routine check-up with the dentist, we were shocked to learn that our youngest daughter Mariah, has some serious dental problems which will require orthodontics. At this point, we still have a lot of uncertainty about WHERE we will settle down for a year and the best way to move forward with the orthodontist recommendations. Please pray with us regarding these decisions.

Family – what are the kids doing now?

- Our oldest, **Luke**, has made some life changes and has moved to California and is working at the Marriot Hotel.
- **Tim** is in the US Marines, and will be deployed to the Pacific region.
- **Micah** is serving as a military police, "MP" in the Army in Georgia.
- **Mark** is currently living and working in Lynchburg, VA, although contemplating moving back to the West Coast for flight school.



Join with us as we celebrate the graduation from Ukarumpa International High School of our “delight”, **Naomi Raube**. She plans to study Fine Arts and Graphic Design. Her desire is to use her skills to touch people artistically and to “use my art as a Christian testimony to unbelievers.”

March Birthdays



Duane Brooks is 90



Judy Brooks shares March Birthday

April Birthdays



John with Donna



Elizabeth Hamann, John Hunter, Linda Gregg

May Birthdays



Jason Hunter & Pastor Linda



Wanda Brooks



JoAnne Johnson



June – Judy Watkins



July: Sharon Scherer, Bill West, Sue Hilton

Reasons for Hope



Sometimes it seems like the darkest hour is right before the dawn. Here are 5 things we can learn from our Blessed Saviour on the cross.

Always Hope

The worst storms can sometimes be a precursor to a major victory in your life. Don't be trapped by your present circumstances. Keep your eyes on God and He will bring you through.

Always Cry Out

Calling out to God when we're in one of life's pits is a must. We spend so much time making our case known to others when we're in a crisis, but God is the only Person who can deliver us.

Always Love

Jesus knew that His time in earthly form was coming to an end. Even in the midst of pain and agony He demonstrated love when He turned to John and Mary and said, "Woman, here is your son"... and to John, "Here is your mother."

Always Forgive

Even when people are mean, disrespectful and use you spitefully, God always expects His children to shine like stars among darkness. There is great freedom and lightness of life in forgiveness if we will only humble.

Always Expect A Positive Ending

When Jesus was on the cross talking to the repentant thief, He declared that they would be together in Paradise. Although Jesus was enduring one of the most painful moments in history, He knew that in the end God had eternal life in store for Him.

Session Members:

John Hunter
Ken Roan
Lloyd Sheilds
Todd Snyder
Judy Watkins
Melanie Roan, Secretary
Pastor Linda Pflugfelder

Deacons:

Joanie Bangs
Darrell Bangs
Linda Gregg
Melody Lietzau
Sharon Scherer

A Touch of Humor

- I needed some supplies from a Sunday School cupboard that was seldom used and was secured with a lock. I didn't know the combination, but our clergyman offered to give it a try. Father Jack placed his fingers on the lock's dial and raised his eyes heavenward for a moment. Then he confidently spun the dial and opened the lock. Seeing how impressed I was with this demonstration of faith, he smiled and confided, "The numbers are written on the ceiling."

- A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it." After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut." The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samsom had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair!", to which his father replied, "Yes, you're right, and they also WALKED every where they went!"