

# The Mustard Seed

Open Door Congregational Church  
Deer Park, Washington  
July 2020

*If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,  
nothing shall be impossible unto you.  
Matthew 17:20*



## “Keep Looking Out For One Another”

*“Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

~ Philippians 2:3-4 (HCSB)

We have gone through a lot these past few months. The pandemic (COVID-19) has disrupted just about everything that we had considered to be normal - our families, our work, our community, and our church. I would like to say that we will get back to where we were before all of this; however, I don't see us getting back to that at any point in the near future. As the number of cases increases, the likelihood of moving to the next phase of opening gets pushed further and further into the future.

I would encourage everyone to look at the positive things that have come out of this shutdown. We have been forced to look at new ways to reach out to people. Because of the initial limitations, our livestream was our primary means to communicate. Thankfully, we had a functioning system in place that allowed us to take advantage of the internet for our services. We also have a praise team that was willing to step in and lead all music for several weeks - which kept things going. We have expanded our services to include drive-in (on FM) as well as restarting limited in-person services. We are able to send out audio CDs with the services recorded so that people can listen. These things will all continue - even when we have no restrictions in place. Our Outreach has been busy caring for people and surprising people (May Day baskets for example) to remind them of our love in Christ. I've seen people come together to make things happen - not only looking out for themselves but looking out for others. All of this has forced us to rethink how we approach ministry - and that is good for us.

With the current situation, the newest requirement is for everyone to wear a mask when in public. There are exceptions written into the rules for medical and other reasons. There is currently a lot of discussion (debate) about the effectiveness of wearing a mask. Everyone has a doctor or a scientist they can quote to support their own preference. Here is my take - as a Christian, if there is even a 5% chance that my wearing a mask may keep someone



## Pastor Jim (Continued)

else from getting sick, wouldn't I want to do that - for their sake? If I love my sisters and brothers in this congregation more than I love me, my temporary discomfort is a small price to pay for their potential safety. This is what Paul is talking about when he says to look out for the interests of others.

Out of respect for the concerns of others in this congregation, I will wear a mask during personal interactions with people but will remove the mask for the service (so that people can understand what I'm saying). Likewise, I would ask anyone who is up front and leading by singing, playing music, reading, or speaking to remove their mask so that they can be understood by others. The important thing here is to respect the concerns and views of others while at the same time coming together for a meaningful (and understandable) worship service.

We will get through this - together, united in Christ. Put Him first in all things, and everything else will come in line.

In Christ,

*Pastor Jim*

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Offering  
Total  May 2020  
Offering \$ 12,359.00

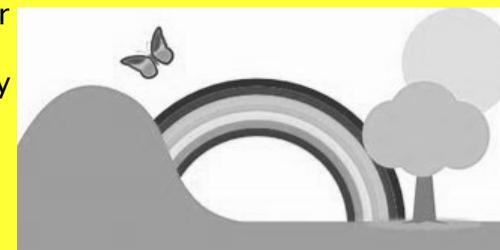
## Thoughts from Fellowship “Service Before Self”

Greetings, hope you all have been enjoying our super green summer. What can I say, the weeds are very happy this year. On behalf of the Fellowship Committee I am saying that we miss our time together with nice treats and a good cup of coffee. I would like to see if we may be able to have some sort of a “walk by” fellowship out on the lawn when weather permits. Last week following a rainstorm, I looked out to my front yard and saw a rainbow's end right in the middle of my apple tree. I did not however find the pot of gold!

Hope you all enjoyed your holiday weekend.

Remember It takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow.

*Karen T.*



## Worship Committee

In accordance with state Phase 1 and 2 requirements, The Open Door Congregational Church has developed a COVID-19 Exposure Control, Mitigation, and Recovery Plan that includes the wearing of face masks, application of disinfectant, symptom monitoring, and practice of physical distancing, and applies to all attending worship services. Furthermore, effective Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee, and Secretary of Health John Wiesman have established a statewide mandatory face covering order for Washington state.

Some people wonder “why” they should wear face masks. After all, they do not feel ill. The answer is found in **1 Corinthians 16:14**: “Do everything in love.”

People wear face masks for the safety of others. It is an act of love - wearing a mask does not infringe on civil liberties, it does not show weakness. Wearing a mask may be uncomfortable, it may make your nose itch and face sweat, it prevents seeing facial expressions and hearing voices clearly, it fogs up glasses, and despite all of our sacrifices, it reminds us the pandemic has not gone away.

Yet, wearing a mask in combination with physical distancing, hand hygiene, and other preventive strategies is worth the effort if it can prevent the spread of COVID-19. After all, the mask is on our face, and not on Scriptures, the glory of our salvation, or on our heart.

For those dedicated to the cause, if someone is not wearing a mask, remember to show love, recognize, and support people’s needs without judgment. As Pastor Jim has said in Sunday School “the Christian view is to look outward (to others) and upward (to God) rather than downward (to the world) and inward (to self).” Yes, do everything in love!

## Scholarship Committee

Our committee is eagerly awaiting the arrival of Drumheller and General Scholarship applications by July 31.

If you know someone who is qualified for these funds, please make sure they know how to get an application.

Drumheller is for college or university juniors or seniors majoring in music or political science.

Our General Scholarship is for students affiliated with the Open Door and attending either college, university, trade school or certification program.



## Outreach Committee

Church service is back in the sanctuary!! Yeah!! While it was great to have the opportunity to watch services online in our bathrobes, with a cup of coffee, nothing compares to sitting in the pews, seeing others (at least their eyes over the top of masks :) hearing the sermon, and experiencing church service in person. Sometimes, thought processes and social skills can get a bit rusty when we are separated from each other for so long. It is wonderful to get together again, reach out to friends and neighbors, hash things over, and even talk of things other than COVID.

Outreach has been working on a couple things to connect us all as we begin to open up our world again. The first is establishing an Open Door Church Community page on Facebook where we can all share and post upcoming events and communicate with each other. Another exciting item in the works is a women’s bible study. Audrie Miller will be leading this study based on the book, “The Road to Emmaus”. Pastor Jim has already ordered the books and other accompanying materials. This will begin sometime in August. Look for updates in next month’s Mustard Seed.

So, as we begin to gather together again, perhaps we have learned a couple things during this stay-at-home experience. I found a couple of good quotes on the internet, which exemplify my personal takeaway from this COVID craziness;

“REMEMBER THAT FEAR AND ANXIETY CAN BE CONTAGIOUS,  
BUT SO CAN KINDNESS, LOVE, AND HOPE.” *Author unknown*

“AS THE WORLD RETURNS TO NORMAL, WE MIGHT WANT TO DECIDE  
WHICH PARTS OF NORMAL WE WANT TO RETURN TO” *Author unknown*

And finally, my favorite;

“TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART  
AND DO NOT LEAN ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.  
IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM  
AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.”  
*Proverbs 3:5-6*

This goofy cartoon made me laugh.  
Hope you enjoy it too : )

*Cindy George*



## **Haiti Mission Letter** by Gene Gentry

This past month I have been considering the difficulty of our Haitian brothers and sisters because of political unrest and now the coronavirus pandemic. In January four of us were able to go and accomplish our tasks of teaching the Haitian team how to safely vaccinate cattle for anthrax while using safety protocols to protect themselves. We were also able to teach Haitians to be primary teachers in the English camps. Since that time safety issues because of political unrest, limited food supply for a team project like the English camp, and a stage four travel restriction which stops people from flying in and out of Haiti has resulted in the canceling the July English camp. The situation and restrictions in Haiti only make life more difficult for Haitians.

A couple of weeks ago several of the team met together to pray and discuss ministry in Haiti. Early in the meeting Dr. Mike made a statement something like this, "In Haiti lockdown is not just annoying, it means people are starving." Early during the shutdown in Haiti people could not even go to the store to buy food. Besides restrictions I can think of several reasons for that. Even now as it has been for quite a while, markets are open two times a week.

A few months ago a leader in the English department said 90% of the goods are brought in from the States. Often family members working in the states (Florida and New York) buy things and ship them to family in Haiti. There are still limited supplies. Transportation is very difficult and prices are very high. The markets are still open two days a week.

After prayer and a follow up phone call to Robert, the Dean of Agriculture we decided to keep the livestock treatment program going but we will continue to cover expenses for now. Pray with us that Holy Spirit will heal some ill feelings among the team.

During the phone contact, Robert asked "if in the long term a poultry project could be developed?" Several years ago a plan was proposed between the church development committee and the Department of Agriculture. Very little has been done on that project. It is interesting to me it was brought up now with the introduction, "in the long term...". It is a good idea, we have encouraged it, but it will take considerable updating, planning and coordination for re-implementation. For the near future we suggested that rather than doing experimental plots for practicum, students do vegetable production gardens instead.

In closing I asked that you pray for the Dean, Robert, as he is under considerable pressure in the current situation in Haiti. Robert has been ill but is considerably better now. Please continue to pray for God's guidance in planning and implementation of any project. Please pray for those of us who are directly trying to encourage our Haitian brothers and sisters in these difficult times to encourage with guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our ways may not necessarily be God's ways we do our best to demonstrate his love.



## **Ladies Guild** by Coleen Wood

As we all know the past few months have been a real bummer.

Our normal lives have been turned upside down. What has happened and so fast has changed every aspect of our daily lives. Staying home all of the time has really been upsetting to the way we live. Most people have made the best of a bad situation though. We have done a lot of yard work, reading and some starting new projects. However all of the recommendations do keep us safer. We do have to go to the store though, even if we can't always find what we need.

I have heard people say that these rules are not necessary, but they haven't experienced the affect of the virus, and hopefully they don't. We should all be comforted that our families are not ill, in the hospital fighting for their lives.

Coming back to church was a big day for me. Even though it is a small group, we are in the sanctuary with others singing and praying together.

So keep wearing those face masks. Stay home--Stay safe--Stay in prayer!

*Faith makes all things possible.....love makes all things easy.*

Dwight L. Moody

## **Trustees**

As Trustees, we met again in June ... some of us in person at the church (at extreme distances, of course) and some online thru the wonders of Zoom.

We again discussed the maintenance schedule at the church and the lawn care tasks are being checked off the list with seed and fertilizer applications.

IF YOU ACT NOW .. you can secure a few of the choice remaining dates on the lawn mowing schedule ... but call quickly as it is a thrill-a-minute and they're going fast!

The church chandeliers that were internally shorting out have been rewired and should be ready to reinstall shortly. Their return will be welcome! They are, allegedly, the first fixtures installed when this "electricity stuff" was becoming all the rage and they replaced the oil lamps! Great history and it will be nice to have them back!

Due to the additional steps required to even partially reopen the sanctuary for services, the workload of the "greeters" has increased substantially. If you would be willing to lend a hand with the greeting duties (handing out bulletins, mask, hand sanitizer, etc ... oh, and saying Hello and WELCOME! ... let us know. We would appreciate the help, for sure!

*Jeff*

## **Birthdays**

Jul 2	Richard Balka
Jul 3	Everett Miller
Jul 5	Lee Bratcher
	Bonne Ahrens
Jul 14	Elaine Maurer
Jul 18	Burgess Wood
Jul 19	Larry Harris
Jul 28	Jim Hallgarth
Jul 30	Vince Janson

*Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain  
a heart of wisdom.*

## Christian Education

By Darna Michie

All Scriptures KJV. **When the world is falling apart all around you, keep your focus on God and he will hold you up!** Isaiah 41:10-13 Fear thou not; for ***I am with thee***: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: ***I will strengthen thee***; yea, ***I will help thee***; yea, ***I will uphold*** thee with the right hand of my righteousness.<sup>11</sup> Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.<sup>12</sup> Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.<sup>13</sup> For ***I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.***

No matter what's going on around us, God is with His children, taking care of us. When we asked His son, Jesus the Messiah – Yeshua Hamaschiach (Hebrew) into our lives as our Savior, we were adopted into His family and we belong to HIM and HE wants us to trust HIM to take care of us! **Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?** When things go wrong in this life, we have a tendency to focus on ourselves, to allow the pain to envelope us and this inward focus takes us away from God and our eyes away from the promise of eternity with Jesus. Do you truly trust him with everything in your life

no matter how big or small? **Matthew 10:29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.**<sup>30</sup> **But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.**<sup>31</sup> **Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.** We go to church on Sunday, we read our Bibles and we pray. Yes, these are all the outward signs of being a Christian, a follower of Jesus, but what's on the outside doesn't mean anything to God, it's what's on the inside, it's what's on your mind and in your heart that He cares about. It's how we Love God and how we treat our fellow man. **Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.** When met by a task, either larger or small, do you say: "I can handle it on my own, I don't need any help"? God wants us to ask him for His help and because he numbers the hairs on our heads, why would He think anything we need is of no importance to Him? **Psalms 91:14-15** Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will ***I deliver him: I will set him on high***, because he hath known my name.<sup>15</sup> He shall call upon me, and ***I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.*** Keep this in mind when you experience pain and disappointment: **Colossians 3:1** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Remember when Jonah was swallowed by the whale, he was desolate until he focused on the Lord. **Jonah 2:7** →

## Christian Ed (continued)

When my soul fainted within me ***I remembered the Lord***: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. We're all human, so now and then, we'll become so wrapped up in the flesh that we'll forget to turn to God. Sometimes we have to become like Jonah; find ourselves in a dark place and recognize that in order to see the light, we have to give it ALL to God and keep looking forward, not backwards. Yesterday is gone forever and today may be All we have, so we must make the most of it.

**Philippians 3:13-14** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, <sup>14</sup>I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. As believers we will triumph! In the Book of Romans, Paul asks: If God is for us, who can be against us? **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

### Anniversaries

Jul 1	Phil Wise & Robbie Paul
July 4	Matt & Jessica Varang
Jul 16	Jim & Carol Hallgarth
July 17	Eldon & Amelia Palmer
Jul 29	Bob & Sharon Arnold
July 30	Mike & Teri Sardinia

## Evangelism Committee

Scriptures HCSB. God doesn't just want to exist in us...He wants to live in us! He designed us for His Glory! This is why in the beginning He created us and why He died for us in the form of Jesus the Messiah – Yeshua Hamaschiach (Hebrew). When He died for us, He sent His Spirit to dwell in those who believe He is the Son of God and who are obedient to God. 1 Corinthians 14:15 So it is written: The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. John 3:16 "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. John 14:15 If you love Me, you will keep My commands.

Jesus asked in Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things I say?" Then in Verses Luke 6:47-49 He follows up with the parable of two foundations. Is your foundation on sinking sand? Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven. Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

When we choose Jesus as our Savior, and the more we want and allow Christ to fill us day by day, we become like Him. The more our words, actions, and countenance will express Him. When He lives in us and through us ALL of our virtues will be a reflection of Christ; Our love and our compassion, our kindness and forbearance will be His because we can have none of these qualities without Him. This is what God really wants.

## Lectionary

## The Season Ahead

July 5 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalm 45:10-17  
Romans 7:15-25  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jul 12 Genesis 25:19-34  
Psalm 119:105-112  
Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Jul 19 Genesis 28:10-19  
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24  
Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jul 26 Genesis 29:15-28  
Psalm 105:1-11, 45  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

July 4 Independence Day

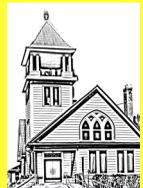


July Council meeting cancelled

July 25 Settlers' Day

July 28 Mustard Seed articles due

July 31 Scholarship Applications due



Open Door Congregational  
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## -Daily Lectionary- July 2020

*These lectionary readings are from A Daily Lectionary-Scripture readings for Every Day based on the New Common Lectionary. Please share this resource with members of your church. \*The readings listed for Sundays are included but not part of the daily lectionary cycle.*

July 1	Psalm 47	Isaiah 51:1-3	Matthew 11:20-24
July 2	Psalm 45:10-17	Genesis 25:19-27	Romans 7:1-6
July 3	Psalm 45:10-17	Genesis 27:1-17	Romans 7:7-20
July 4	Psalm 45:10-17	Genesis 27:18-29	Luke 10:21-24
July 5	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
	Psalm 45:10-17		
July 6	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Genesis 27:30-46	Romans 1:18-25
July 7	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Genesis 29:1-14	Romans 3:1-8
July 8	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Genesis 29:31-35	John 13:1-17
July 9	Psalm 119:105-112	Exodus 3:1-6	Romans 2:12-16
July 10	Psalm 119:105-112	Deuteronomy 32:1-10	Romans 15:14-21
July 11	Psalm 119:105-112	Isaiah 2:1-4	John 12:44-50
July 12	Genesis 25:19-34	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
	Psalm 119:105-112		
July 13	Psalm 142	Micah 1:1-5	1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
July 14	Psalm 142	Jeremiah 49:7-11	Ephesians 4:17- 5:2
July 15	Psalm 142	Obadiah 15-21	Matthew 13:10-17
July 16	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Isaiah 44:1-5	Hebrews 2:1-9
July 17	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Ezekiel 39:21-29	Hebrews 6:13-20
July 18	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Exodus 14:9-25	Matthew 7:15-20
July 19	Genesis 28:10-19a	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24		
July 20	Psalm 139:13-18	Genesis 32:3-21	Revelation 14:12-20
July 21	Psalm 139:13-18	Genesis 33:1-17	Galatians 4:21—5:1
July 22	Psalm 139:13-18	Genesis 35:16-29	Matthew 12:15-21
July 23	Psalm 105:1-11, 45b	Genesis 29:1-8	1 Corinthians 4:14-20
July 24	Psalm 105:1-11, 45b	Genesis 29:9-14	Acts 7:44-53
July 25	Psalm 105:1-11, 45b	Genesis 29:31 - 30:24	Matthew 12:38-42
July 26	Genesis 29:15-28	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
	Psalm 105:1-11, 45b		
July 27	Psalm 65:8-13	Genesis 30:25-36	James 3:13-18
July 28	Psalm 65:8-13	Genesis 30:37-43	Ephesians 6:10-18
July 29	Psalm 65:8-13	Genesis 46:2 - 47:12	Mark 4:30-34
July 30	Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Isaiah 14:1-2	Philippians 4:10-15
July 31	Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Isaiah 41:8-10	Romans 9:6-13