

“Forgiveness”

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” ~ 1 John 1:9 (HCSB)

We talk about forgiveness quite a bit. I think I’ve even written about it here before. Christians are expected to extend forgiveness to others (whether we think they deserve it or not), yet we don’t always understand what it is that we are actually discussing. In psychology, forgiveness is generally explained as a conscious and deliberate decision to let go of feelings of resentment toward a person (or people) who has (have) caused you some form of harm (emotional or physical). Forgiveness is not condoning or excusing someone else’s negative actions, nor does it remove any repercussions that stem from their actions toward you.

Why would I want to forgive someone anyway? From a non-religious standpoint, forgiveness allows me to let go of the anger that I carry toward others for things they’ve done. Extending forgiveness allows me to live my life unburdened by the resentment that I carry towards other people for things they have done. People who forgive others tend to live emotionally healthier lives.

In other words, modern psychology tells us that God was right. It tells us that God knows what He is doing when He commands us to love one another and to forgive one another. Because God wants us to share in the abundance of life, He has told us the steps we can take to make our lives more enjoyable. Sharing grace and forgiveness with others leads to happier and healthier people.

One aspect of forgiveness that we often do not talk about is the ability to forgive ourselves. We really cannot extend forgiveness to others if we cannot forgive ourselves for the hurts that we have caused others (and ourselves). We really cannot forgive ourselves if we do not accept that God has forgiven us completely.

In the verse above (1 John 1:9), we are told that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and will forgive us our sins. If we accept that the Bible is the Word of God, then we accept this statement as fact. When we confess our sins to God (this does include repenting), God will forgive us. On the cross, Christ paid the price for our sins... all of them - past, present, and future. If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have confessed and repented. You are forgiven. So why don’t you let it go? Stop carrying around the guilt for sins from 20 years ago - or even from last week. Give it to God and let Him

deal with it. As a child of God, you are promised the peace of Christ. Accept God’s offer of peace. Welcome the Holy Spirit into your life and let God be in charge.

If you still cannot let it go, maybe you need to make amends with the person you sinned against. Reach out in love and faith and let the healing power of God work in your life. No matter what happens, know that in Christ you have the forgiveness of your sins and that they will not be held against you come judgment day. Trust God... you are forgiven and made new. Once you accept that, you will begin to enjoy true peace.

In Christ, *Pastor Jim*

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Fellowship Committee

Welcome to November! Fellowship Committee will certainly miss having us all gather together to enjoy our Annual Baked Potato and Dessert Auction this November...but it is only a temporary postponement. We are looking forward to a possible Spring scheduling of the Dessert Auction so keep those recipes handy!

We are so pleased with all the activities happening at our Church. During these very different times our Church has found multiple ways to have fellowship and share God’s words. We are grateful for all you wonderful Open Door family and friends who so willingly volunteer and give your support to make all this possible. We are blessed to have a beautiful Church and facilities to share with our community. Pastor Jim, Pastor Matt and the committees of the church are doing so much to keep us all connected in fellowship with God and one another. We have much to be thankful for always, but it is especially poignant and meaningful this time of year and 2020 in particular.

Fellowship Committee wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Birthdays

Nov 1	Gloria Dennison	Nov 20	Steve Lauzon
Nov 7	Allen Edwards		Cindy Reece
	Brian Pierce	Nov 24	Dane Lindh
Nov 10	Garry Blew	Nov 25	Meg Parker
Nov 11	Jay Lindh	Nov 27	Carlyle Holtan
Nov 12	Jackie Bratcher		Bianca Lauzon
Nov 14	Rick Luiten	Nov 28	Cindy George
Nov 16	Lisa Coe	Nov 29	Valerie Johnson
Nov 19	Dave Fietz	Nov 30	Vickie Holtan

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. ~ Psalm 90:12

Pastor Matt Report

Has a whole month seriously gone by since I last wrote one of these? It gives a whole new meaning to "...a thousand years is like a day"! Plus, given the current "Winter Wonderland" state of things, I'm not so sure we haven't jumped forward in time a couple months...anyways, I've got some good stuff to update you all on, beginning with youth ministry!

On October 1st we had our youth worship one-month check-in, and received two excellent suggestions from the youth regarding our format. First, they suggested splitting up the worship songs instead of frontloading all of them; it's nice to begin and end with worship. Secondly, students noted how much they missed doing Bible discussions in the Lighthouse and feeling more connected to each other. It's hard to feel connected when we're spread out in the sanctuary and mostly looking at the back of each others' heads, so the last couple Thursdays we have been spread out in a circle downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. It's been great! Student engagement in our Gospel of John discussions has been much better, and we feel more like a unified group. Furthermore, by time of publication we will have completed our first youth activity outside of Thursday youth worship! It was supposed to be a hike, but October's snowpocalypse made the trail, shall we say...less hospitable. In lieu, we are gathering (Or will have gathered? I struggle with this concept of writing about events that haven't happened as if they have happened) on October 31 at 10am at the church for ultimate frisbee, hot chocolate, apple cider, popcorn and devotional/prayer time, and It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown! A holiday classic, indeed.

Discipleship group is also continuing apace. We settled on watching one episode each week of the 10-part Truth Project series "Does God Exist?" and exploring the logical and scientific arguments for belief in a Creator. Our discipleship students are all 1-2 years away from high-school graduation, and our goal is to strengthen their faith to withstand challenges that often come in post-secondary education settings, and to be a better witness to Christ for anyone who might see science as a roadblock to faith in God. So far, it's been interesting and helpful to explore the major worldviews that encompass the various types of faith traditions (including Atheism) of the world, as well as the strong case for Theism over the alternatives of Pantheism, Naturalism/Materialism, and soon Deism.

In other areas of consummate associate pastorism (not a real word, but I'll use it anyway), I've also been talking with Gary and Darna of the Evangelism Committee about a potential ministry we as a church could get involved in beginning next year. We are very much early in the conversation, so Jim or I will let you know more at a later date, depending on how everything goes. Finally, I'm thankful to the church Council for, after careful consideration, agreeing to bring me on as a permanent staff member at ODCC. The short amount of time I have had to work and build relationships with Jim, Eileen, the youth, and many of you has been awesome, and I'm so thankful to our Lord that I get to continue in this work of pursuing the mission of our church. Thank you everyone: with God, the best is yet to come!

Pastor Matt

Moderator Message by Bob Arnold

Our church activities continue to grow even during this period where activities by many churches have been curtailed to minimize the potential negative impact of COVID 19. Amazingly our church has done well during this period thanks due to the efforts of our pastors and the many members that have eagerly stepped up to the challenge. Our church finances seem to be in good order with giving keeping up with our budget needs.

The community needs for supplemental food are being addressed with the weekly Monday giving of 100's of boxes of food made available from Second Harvest. Karen Luiten has been organizing this program with amazing support from church members. We are also participating in the support of the Bite2Go program at Arcadia elementary. Many kids have food support during the week at school. These kids often do not have any food support for the weekends. The Bite2Go program endeavors to provide supplemental non-perishable food from Second Harvest for these kids on the weekends. Vickie has agreed to haul this food to the school each Friday. This food support comes from Second Harvest at a cost of \$5 per weekend per child, \$180 per year or \$400 per month for 10 months. We as a church have committed to providing support for 20 kids for the year. More than \$1000 has already been committed by church members for this program. If you wish to participate simply earmark any giving you wish to the Bite2Go program.

We also provide support from our church endowment funds to the three food banks in the area: The Greenhouse in Deer Park, and the North County Food Bank in Elk and Loon Lake Food Bank. This year the amounts given to each was \$900.

I would encourage all to participate in our weekly Sunday service. We still have environmentally safe seating available! A new service at 1PM Sunday exists without singing to further minimize the possibility of any COVID 19 transmission. Internet service works well for those who have a good high speed internet connection. For those who don't, the FM radio connection in our parking lot at 90.7 on the FM dial works very well.

Bob and Donna Syron are having continuous medical challenges. Please continue your prayers for them.

Happy Tuesday

It's time to restart our Tuesday afternoon crafting group. Bring your project to the Fellowship Hall every second and fourth Tuesday at 1 pm. We will socially distance, wear masks and have a good gab fest as we crochet, knit, embroider, etc together. Happy Tuesday will be happy again!



Outreach Committee

Outreach sends Fall Greetings to all! A big THANK YOU to all the wonderful people who show up and help every Monday with the food distribution! We couldn't do it without you!

Church Bulletin Bloopers:

During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J. F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit. 😊

Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary. 😊 (lucky Eileen!)

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance. 😊

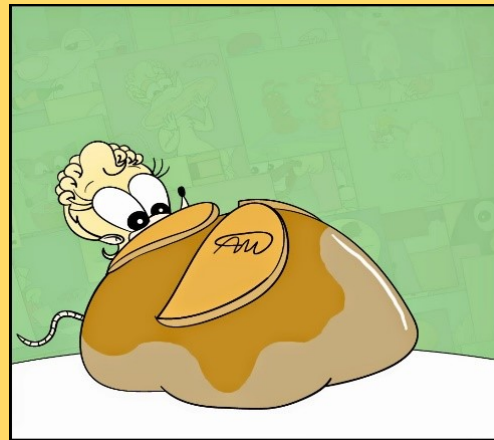
The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict. 😊

The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals. 😊

Church sign: Jesus Saves!.....Safeway sign across the street: Safeway saves you more! 😊

A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in honor of his wife. 😊

Order your Outreach Committee Apple Dumpling Fund-raiser by simply signing up on the board in the Foyer. We will take orders until Nov. 15th and they can be paid for and picked up at church on Nov. 22nd.



Anniversaries

Nov 13	Pete & Judy Coffin
Nov 17	Richard & Becky Balka
Nov 22	Ken & June Lee

Christian Ed Committee

 By Darna Michie

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the **blood of Jesus Christ** his Son cleanseth us from all sin. **Colossians 1: 20** And, having made peace through the **blood of his cross**, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. **Ephesians 1:7** In whom **we have redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **Hebrews 11:6** But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. When we become believers, we are now citizens of the Kingdom of God! Our faith has saved us, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us and we are no longer citizens of this world! We lean on the truths found in Scripture and we listen to the Spirit as it works inside of us...read the following Scripture and let it sink in.

Luke 17: 20-21 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, **The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:**²¹ **Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.** Yes! He will be bringing His Kingdom back to earth, it says so in Revelation, that those who are followers and believers of Christ, both dead and alive shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye and we'll return to earth with Jesus so that the earth and its inhabitants can be judged and then the earth will be handed back to Heavenly Father by His Son. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we express knowledge that we know that our Father's Kingdom is coming. We the children of God are His Kingdom! Because we are cloaked in the righteousness of His son Jesus, HIS Will...will be done on this earth as it is in Heaven. The earth will be renewed and we'll once again have the privilege of walking, talking and communing in harmony with our Father in Heaven. **Mark 1:15** And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. **Romans 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. This verse tells us why it's so important to share the Gospels and the Kingdom of God with our fellowman while there's still time. **1 Peter 1:8-9** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:⁹ Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. It's just a fact that the Holy Spirit comes to dwell inside you when you become a follower of Jesus and His Spirit gives us His Wisdom and His Revelation as we read and study His WORD! We then rejoice in the knowledge that He LOVES us! In the "Old Testament", before the "New Testament" or covenant was revealed by Jesus to His disciples, the children of God recognized that a Savior would come someday and we would live forever in the Kingdom.

Psalms 28:7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Verse 6 of Psalm 23 cherishes the knowledge that those who trust in the Lord will dwell in HIS house forever!



Grab your work gloves, shovels, rakes, leaf blowers (and preferably, no snow shovels) and come join the Trustees Saturday November 14 at 9 am for our annual fall church yard cleanup. Many hands make light work :)

Scholarship Committee

Hello, Open Door Congregation. All the excitement for the Scholarship Committee is winding down. This scholarship season has been an adventure for us, just like everything else we have all had to deal with in 2020. However, using technology we were able to have remote meetings and group email conversations, and in the end we gave out two Betty Drumheller Scholarships and one General Scholarship. The turnout of applicants this year was fantastic, we had multiple candidates for each scholarship, which is a testament that this ministry is needed for our church family and community. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank you, the congregation, for all the giving you have done to make the General Scholarship possible, this scholarship is given and awarded by you, the church body. If God ever puts it in on your heart to give to this ministry, we would love the opportunity, how great would it be, to be able to give out more scholarships or be able to give out a greater amount to our students? The Scholarship Committee feels that this ministry is a great way to sow Christ into the lives of our church attendees and community members and make the financial burden of attending college just a little bit easier. Thank you for all your support.



Soul Sisters

Women of the church gathering together to discuss life while we uplift and encourage one another in today's world.

We will hold an open house on November 14, 2020 from 9:00 - 11:00 am at the Lighthouse. Bring your ideas, wants, needs, and cares. Relax and enjoy a cuppa with the ladies!

Evangelism Committee By Darna Michie

With less than 2 months until Christmas Season and a time recognized for giving (which in my mind the season of giving should be year round), you may be interested in a program named "Operation Christmas Child".

What is Operation Christmas Child?

The Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts-filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift—filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

This is a project that the Evangelism Committee is considering presenting as a worldwide outreach mission for our church beginning in 2021, however in the meantime, here's how you can help now if you wish to make a difference in the life of a child. I've also included a little history of the program.

Participants who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanpurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 178 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 160 countries and territories.

In 2020, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 11 million children in countries like Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda and Ukraine. More than 10.5 million shoebox gifts were collected worldwide in 2019, with more than 8.9 million collected in the U.S.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. Samaritan's Purse currently works in more than 100 countries to provide aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine.

Delivered into the hands of children through local churches within their own country, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God's love.

Since 2009, more than 23 million children who have received a shoebox gift have participated in The Greatest Journey—a 12-lesson discipleship program. Children learn from trained, local volunteers what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with friends and family.

Offering Total	September 2020
	Offering \$ 13,205.00 E-Script 38.30

"The Chosen" Video series is played in our sanctuary Sunday's

Worship Committee

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34

November is an excellent time to give thanks to the Lord and others. Of course, any day is a good day to thank a veteran, however it is especially important on Veteran's Day, November 11th. So, with hearts filled with respect, honor, and gratitude, we thank the brave men and women for their sacrifices and service to our country. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

November is also a time when people traditionally spend a lot of resources on planning, shopping, preparing, and participating in Thanksgiving activities. However, this year everything is more complicated with the unwanted ingredient of COVID-19. Let us all say "no thank you" to that dish.

The Worship Committee wishes everyone a blessed November and wonderful Thanksgiving!



Ladies Guild by Coleen Wood

November is what I call a transition month. It isn't fall and isn't winter. Fall is a beautiful colorful time. It is my favorite time of year. The trees put on a show, gold, red and yellow. Then out come the rakes to gather them up. Maybe that is why we call it fall! You leave to go somewhere and wonder, sweater or coat. Start with a sweater, but in the car is a coat, gloves and hat. You just might be glad you have them.

We look forward to Thanksgiving, a time for family gathering. However this year may be a little different. We may not be able to have a table with our usual family members in attendance because of all the virus warnings out there. We have to be aware and safe.

This month is also a 'giving thanks' month. We give thanks every day for what we have, our health, family and home, the love we have for one another. The love we feel from God and for God.

*Always find time for the things that make
you feel happy to be alive.*

author unknown

Haiti Mission Letter by Gene Gentry

In August I wrote about a proposed poultry project program which is in process of being developed at the Northern Haiti Christian University. Since that time Max (September article) has updated the proposed budget for the poultry equipment, house, feed, chicks, and other items necessary to get started. In 2016 Mike and I proposed starting small and getting experience and seeing how things come together before implementing a larger production. This is even more important now.

Haiti purchases meat and eggs from the Dominican Republic on the same island. Chicken and eggs are expensive, and the supply is limited. The original proposition was with the church development committee. That did not get started but plans developed to work with the University. A couple of years ago the University laid a foundation and poured about a third of the floor.

The goals of the project are threefold:

- Provide practical experience for agricultural students studying animal production.
- Learn and share with others useful information about resources available for a successful project.
- Provide chicken for the University and the surrounding community at reasonable costs.

Eventually, provide opportunity for people in Upper Limbe to start their own poultry projects both for food and income to support their families.

You may be asking, "Why do this now?" It was during the summer, in July, when I was told by the Dean of Agriculture that Max was interested in helping get the project restarted. The president of the University, Pastor Dona, had been very encouraging, in previous years but the original writer or the first proposal did not step up to do the project. When I heard of this possibility, during the Covid 19 pandemic, I called Pastor Dona and asked if this was an appropriate time to move ahead. He replied, "Now is the time to move ahead." I then asked Max to update the 2016 proposal's estimate with appropriate changes. I now have additional input and have discussed essentials with the US Helping Haitians Agriculture team and recommend moving ahead.

I would appreciate your prayers for the future of the "Helping Haitians" mission. Even though we are not taking teams in now because Covid 19 and political problems, the animal treatment program continues, the Video Chat Club continues to function (We could use US volunteers to pair up with Haitians), and we continue to search for better ways to communicate.

Based on Max's adjusted budget, inflation, and unexpected startup expenses I estimate the need for \$4,000 to get the basic project implemented. If you feel led to support the poultry project, the veterinary program, the English program or the program in general checks can be made to "Helping Haitians" and given to Gail Brown, Gene Gentry or mailed or left at the Open Door Church office.



-Daily Lectionary- November 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.*

Nov. 1	Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12
Nov. 2	Psalm 128	Joshua 4:1-24	1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Nov. 3	Psalm 128	Joshua 6:1-16, 20	Acts 13:1-12
Nov. 4	Psalm 128	Joshua 10:12-14	Matthew 15:1-9
Nov. 5	Psalm 78:1-7	Joshua 5:10-12	Revelation 8:6 - 9:12
Nov. 6	Psalm 78:1-7	Joshua 8:30-35	Revelation 9:13-21
Nov. 7	Psalm 78:1-7	Joshua 20:1-9	Matthew 24:1-14
Nov. 8	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Nov. 9	Psalm 78	Joshua 24:25-33	1 Corinthians 14:20-25
Nov. 10	Psalm 78	Nehemiah 8:1-12	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Nov. 11	Psalm 78	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Matthew 24:29-35
Nov. 12	Psalm 123	Judges 2:6-15	Revelation 16:1-7
Nov. 13	Psalm 123	Judges 2:16-23	Revelation 16:8-21
Nov. 14	Psalm 123	Judges 5:1-12	Matthew 12:43-45
Nov. 15	Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
Nov. 16	Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18	Judges 4:8-24	Romans 2:1-11
Nov. 17	Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18	Exodus 2:1-10	1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
Nov. 18	Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18	Esther 7:1-10	Matthew 24:45-51
Nov. 19	Psalm 100	Genesis 48:15-22	Revelation 14:1-11
Nov. 20	Psalm 100	Isaiah 40:1-11	Revelation 22:1-9
Nov. 21	Psalm 100	Ezekiel 34:25-31	Matthew 12:46-50
Nov. 22	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
Nov. 23	Psalm 28	Numbers 27:15-23	2 Timothy 2:8-13
Nov. 24	Psalm 28	Zechariah 11:4-17	Revelation 19:1-9
Nov. 25	Psalm 28	Jeremiah 31:10-14	John 5:19-40
Nov. 26	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Zechariah 13:1-9	Revelation 14:6-13
Nov. 27	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Zechariah 14:1-9	1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
Nov. 28	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Micah 2:1-13	Matthew 24:15-31
Nov. 29	Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Nov. 30	Psalm 79	Micah 4:1-5	Revelation 15:1-8

Lectionary

Nov. 1	Joshua 3:7-17	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12
Nov. 8	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Psalm 78:1-7
	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Nov. 15	Judges 4:1-7	Psalm 123
	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
Nov. 22	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 100
	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
Nov. 29	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37

The Season Ahead

Sundays at 3 pm
"The Chosen" video series
Mondays 3 pm
Second Harvest Food Bank food
distribution at the Open Door Church
Monday's at 6:00 pm
and Tuesday's at 10:00 am
Women's Bible Study at the Lighthouse
2nd & 4th Tuesday's Crafting Group 1 pm
Wednesday's at 6:30 pm
Adult Bible Study
Thursday 's at 7 pm
Youth Worship Service
Friday's at 9 am Men's Group
Nov 7 Men's Breakfast
Nov 14 Soul Sister at the Lighthouse
Church Yard Cleanup



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