

# The Mustard Seed

Open Door Congregational Church

Deer Park, Washington

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



## “Like-Minded”

*“... make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”* ~ Philippians 2:2 (NASB)

As the events of the past few months have unfolded and I’ve watched people disagree and fight about everything, I thought this would be a great opportunity to talk about divisiveness and being divided on things... again. Then I thought maybe not. But when I jumped in my vehicle two days in a row and the first thing I heard on the radio - from two different preachers - focused on this very topic, I realized that maybe God had something He wanted me to say on the subject. So here goes...

I’ve heard all the rhetoric, from pastors and priests, from Christians and non-Christians. You can’t vote for Trump if you’re a Christian because he’s a terrible person. Or, you cannot be a Christian and vote Democrat because then you support abortion. Those with absolutely no knowledge of the faith tell us that we should’ve voted for Bernie because Jesus was a socialist. I hate to break it to everyone, but God isn’t a registered voter. Too often, we make the things of the world much more important than they actually are. And our petty politics are undoubtedly a thing of the world and a corruption of the gift of government that God has given us. So as Christians, we should not let our views on politics (or anything else in the world) prevent us from loving one another in Christ.

We also take the Apostle Paul’s exhortations to be of a “like mind” (which is found in several places) to mean that we have to think alike about everything - faith included. When we take this view that we all have to think the same way about everything, we find church leaders who dictate that everyone must believe the same way about all matters of faith or they have to leave the church. We also find Christians who will not engage with others because they hold differing views. The problem is that many of the matters in question are not about salvation, but are based on things that are unclear to us in Scripture and are not focused on salvation. In my mind, that is not an appropriate understanding of what God is telling us. Whether it’s politics, or faith, or anything, we must put our differences behind us to focus on the only thing that matters - that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

*Accept anyone who is weak in faith, but don’t argue about doubtful issues.”*

~ Romans 14:1 (HCSB)

We read in several places, including Romans 14, that we are not to argue about “doubtful issues.” In other places, Paul tells us not to argue about eating meat, about Sabbath days, about fasting, about anything that isn’t Christ. Why would he do that? Because Christ is the only essential thing we have to agree on. If we all believe that our salvation comes in Christ alone, that He died on the cross for our sins, that in Him we are made righteous before God, that we are saved by grace - then everything else is secondary. In Christ, everything we do will lift one another up. Everything we do will be to draw people to Him. When the Holy Spirit leads us, we can put the doubtful issues of the faith and of the world in their proper place and come together to share the love of God and the peace of Christ with everyone.

For the record... if God were a registered voter, He would be a Libertarian. He wouldn’t waste resources and He would let everyone make their own choices - and deal with the results of their choices.

In Christ, *Pastor Jim*

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## Outreach Committee

A huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers who come and help every week to distribute food! We could not do this without all of you and it is amazing how many people are there to help serve every week. Our numbers are growing for the people coming to get food, showing the need is getting even greater. So proud to be a part of this amazing church!! Thanks again. AND.... We can always use some more volunteers so we don’t burn people out! Let Karen Luiten or any Outreach member know if you can help! [krluiten@gmail.com](mailto:krluiten@gmail.com) or call 509-276-2212.

And just for fun....What are Seniors worth anyway?

Remember, old folks are worth a fortune, with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last, and a few changes have come into my life since then. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old gal. I am seeing five gentlemen everyday. As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me to get out of bed. Then I go see John. Then, Charlie Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Itis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn’t like to stay in one place very long so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day, I’m really tired and glad to go to bed with Ben Gay. What a life!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking about the “Hereafter”. I told him “Oh I do, all the time! No matter where I am, in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen or down in the basement I ask myself “What am I here after?”

## Associate Pastor Report

Happy fall everyone! Fall happens to be my favorite season: some sunny days that are warm but not unbearably hot, sipping black tea while listening to the rain, that invigorating chill in the wind that usually arrives mid-to-late October, the beautiful shades of red, orange and yellow, and pumpkin-flavored everything (yes, I am that guy). Moving on: my last Mustard Seed report was specific to youth ministry, but since, as associate pastor, I get to have my fingers in multiple pies, Pastor Jim suggested that from now I give the monthly highlights from my various church-related endeavors. Without further ado, on to youth ministry!

We now have four youth worship meetings under our belts, and I'm pleased overall with how things have gone. It's been a little tricky coordinating our musical worship (scheduling practice time and trying not to burn out our musicians), as well as optimizing our time studying and discussing the Gospel of John, since those first 28 verses or so are pretty packed with theological meaning! I was also belated in leading the students in an icebreaker, or get-to-know-one-another activity, which we just did last Thursday. Learning about Jesus is very important, but connecting with each other and knowing one another better is important too! This Thursday, (Oct 1) we will have a "one-month check-in" to review our purpose in having youth worship, and reflect on how well we are creating a safe and fun space where we help each other grow closer to Jesus. I'm also excited that a smaller number of students will be joining me 1.5 hours before our 7pm youth worship to begin a discipleship group! We have a number of options for how to focus our time together, so we'll begin our time by exploring each option and deciding which activity God would have us engage in first. Stay tuned!

Getting our youth engaged again was and is a huge priority, so that has been where I've focused most of my time. That being said, Pastor Jim and I have regular conversations about God's heart for our church, and how we can continue to connect with folks and get them involved again in the midst of Covid's challenges. For my part, I've also enjoyed driving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest food truck when needed for our Monday food distribution, sitting in on an Outreach Committee meeting (they've got some great activities planned!), and participating in Trustee and Council Meetings. Furthermore, I hope to soon connect with the Christian Education and Evangelism committees and offer them any support I can in their endeavors to serve the church's mission. I'm not quite two months in, so I still have much to learn concerning how best to execute my responsibilities here, and many more great people to meet. I'm excited to see what God has next!

*Associate Pastor Matt*

Offering  
Total



August 2020

Offering \$ 12,395.00

E-Script 66.47

"The Chosen" Video series will be played in our sanctuary Sunday's at 3 pm beginning October 11.

## Ladies Guild by Coleen Wood

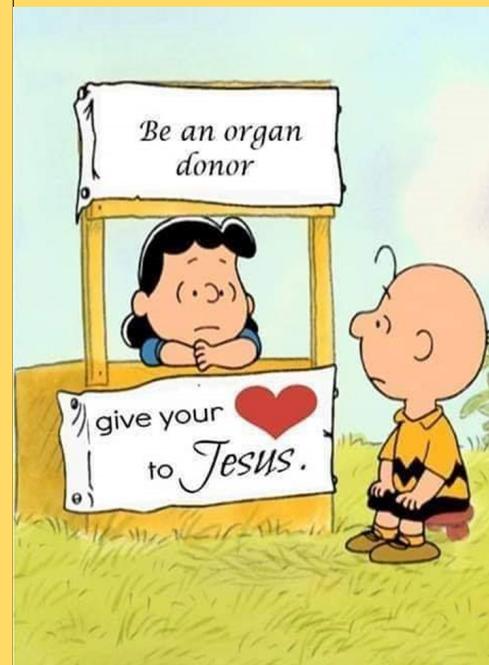
October? What happened to summer? It sure got away from us. Sadly we all know what happened to summer. I know the children in my neighborhood would rather have been in school during the spring months. As for summer, no lake trips, no fun parks and no trips to see grandparents. However, everyone is still healthy.

Like it or not fall is here. Autumn is a beautiful time of year. Reminds me of a lazy day. The trees and bushes are showing off their myriad of colors. GOD has quite the pallet of colors to choose from. Have you ever looked at a red and gold sunset and thought to yourself, if I could paint that? We were reminded on the weather report last evening that we had our first snowfall this time last year. So enjoy this colorful and warm Indian Summer. It doesn't last that long.

Pray for those who are facing a bleak winter. Their lives have been turned upside down because of fires and floods and lost jobs. Get down on your knees and thank GOD for what you have. Maybe not what you want, but what you have and need. We have a roof over our head and food in the fridge. Thank you to Second Harvest for helping those who need help with the food, a place they never could have imagined they would be.

*GOD puts each fresh morning, each new chance of life,  
into our hands as a gift to see what we will do with it.*

Author unknown



## Scholarship Committee

We are so happy to announce that we will be showing a "getting to know" video made by our 2020 Scholarship recipients at a church service in the near future. We would have loved to have them come in person but, you know, social distancing. They will be mailed their checks as soon as all verifications are returned.

It is such a blessing our church gets to give these scholarships. Thanks to you all for your support! The Drumheller Scholarship is funded by the generosity of an investment by Betty Drumheller. The General Scholarship is funded by our congregation. If you are ever so inclined, you may give at any time, just note it is for the General Scholarship fund. No pressure, just a bug in your ear!

**From death to life:** 1 Chronicles 16:11-12 seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.<sup>12</sup> Remember his marvelous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth; **Romans 8:38-39** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup>Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **John 5:24** **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.** **John 11:25-26** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.** When we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He gave us His only begotten Son to die for us, we're saying that we trust HIS WORD and that we know and accept that HE would never lie to us. This trust is the beginning of faith and faith brings us from death and damnation to eternal life in Jesus. Jesus makes it perfectly clear throughout the Scriptures that HE is the **ONLY WAY to eternal life**, that HE is the door (the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE) and that HE is our mediator/counselor between us and our Father in Heaven. Now nothing can separate us from God because Jesus died for us! **Matthew 22:32** **I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.** **Mark 12:27** **He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.** **Luke 20:38** **for he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.** Abraham, Isaac and Jacob physically died thousands of years before Jesus Christ, but Jesus tells us that they are alive...WHY? Because they believed God's promise of salvation. **John 3:16** **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

### **Trustees**

In the midst of the COVID disruptions, it remains difficult for us to meet in any normal fashion. We continue to be active with the church maintenance projects (hopefully those chandeliers will be clean and reinstalled shortly) and are still exploring options to modify and enlarge our facilities. Until next month ... *Jeff*

### **Birthdays**

Oct 4	Linda Fietz	Oct 18	Doug George
Oct 5	Mike Sardinia	Oct 19	Dian Miller
Oct 14	Brian Coe	Oct 23	Gale Philpott
	Elaine Linders	Oct 24	Don Stevens
Oct 16	Clint Janson	Oct 28	Karen Luiten

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

### **Worship Committee**

*Genesis 8:22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*

God's plan will never cease. Sometimes we forget this and feel frustration, desperation and fear as our expectations change and our carefully crafted plans are torn up, tossed in the air and flutter slowly to the floor.

In challenging times, remember that God is in control; look for blessings, opportunities, faith, and grace. Of course, one consistent blessing we have is our wonderful worship services at the Open Door Congregation Church. An additional Sunday service will be added beginning October 4<sup>th</sup> for COVID-19 "high-risk" individuals. The service will begin 1:00 pm with a limit of 20 or fewer people in attendance; masks will be required and there will be no singing scheduled during this service.

*1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."*

Those tattered pieces on the floor hold a powerful message, if we will just put our man-made plans aside, and look at them closely for God's message.

### **Fellowship Committee**

Greetings from the Fellowship Committee. We miss you. We have not had any meetings in a very long time. Shortly it will be time again to get our annual reports ready. In a couple of months the Nominating Committee will be hard at work recruiting. Being optimistic we have recently purchased supplies for the return of our gatherings.

Sadly we will not be able to have our Annual Baked Potato Feed and Dessert Auction, guess it will save us a few unwanted pounds. At least you will have a lot of time to be creative for your kitchen work of art in 2021.

I have realized more than ever that we can find fellowship in some unexpected places. I know there has been wonderful fellowship in the Ladies Bible Study Group, the men are starting to meet again. We restocked the coffee supply. We have had fun fellowship helping with the Outreach Committee /Second Harvest sponsorship of Free Food Mondays in our church parking lot. During this odd time, fellowship can be just taking time to pick up the phone and check on one another, don't miss the opportunity to let someone know you care.

I can imagine that we may have a chance to fellowship with one another, raking the fallen leaves and tidying the church grounds for fall clean up. In the meantime, enjoy the weather we are having and the people who may cross our paths.

*A sweet friendship refreshes the soul. Proverbs 27:9*



**The Gospel Inspires Change: 2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**From darkness to light: John 1:1-5** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup>*In him was life; and the life was the light of men.* <sup>5</sup>*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.* When we consider and think about the time that Jesus the Messiah – Yeshua Hamaschiach walked this earth, all of His miracles, His teachings about love and forgiveness; according to **John 21:25** And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if they were written one by one, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written. It's difficult for us as Christians to comprehend that as he died on the cross for us and after all he'd done and said, that there were people on this earth still walking in darkness. Much to my sorrow, there are so many people today who walk in darkness; some of these people actually prefer the darkness. However, there are others who haven't heard the message proclaimed to them in such a way as to wake them up and make them desire with all of their heart to walk in the "LIGHT". **John 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

**John 12:35** Then Jesus said unto them, **Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.** Without light, the entire world would quickly die as the bitter cold would encompass us... the planet as we know it would no longer exist. If you don't have Jesus in your heart and in your mind, you're walking in darkness and there's nothing truly good in your life; the new car, the new house, the growing 401K, the evening out of dining, dancing and drinking are but a futile search for what is really good and it can't be found in things or places of this earth. **James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of **lights**, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Jesus – Yeshua is that GOOD and PERFECT gift who came to this earth to die for our sins and save us because HE LOVES us...and to be honest, I'm not 100% certain that I fathom that kind of love. He truly is the Light, His love warms us and protects us from the evil one. The light that Jesus gives us is the light that exposes our sins and wakes us up to the fact that we need a Savior. His death on the cross to attain forgiveness from Heavenly Father for our sins lit the path to our salvation. Through faith, love and repentance we walk in His light and **HIS LIGHT is eternal life!** **John 17:3** *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.* When you become a follower of Jesus, you walk from the darkness into the "LIGHT". You are changed forever! Everything you do is for the "Glory of God" and every thought you have is for the "Glory of God."

Many years ago, a small village hugged the hills of northern Haiti. In that village lived a little boy named Max who was active and curious. He was one of five children. When it was time for him to go to grade school, he was fortunate because the school was only a couple second walk from his house. As he grew older, he had to change schools because the local elementary school did not have all of the classes that he needed.

Then it was time for high school. In Haiti, school usually costs money, so Max's mom had to find a school that was not too expensive. The school she found for Max held classes in the morning. There was a university in the town, so in the afternoons, he would go to the university for an English class.

After high school, Max was fortunate enough to attend the university in his village. He was majoring in agriculture. After his first three years at the university, Max's uncle became ill. Where they live, a family member or friend needs to stay with the person who is ill in order to take care of them. Max knew that family was important and so he urged his mother to go take care of his uncle. Max had to quit school because his mother needed that money to help pay for his uncle's care. Fortunately, his uncle recovered and came home. Unfortunately, a short while later, his uncle got sick again and had to go back to the hospital. This time he was really sick and had to stay in the hospital for two months. And every day cost money. At the end of those two months, his uncle came home, but he died that night.

Max was sad. He loved his uncle and he loved his mother. Now his uncle was gone. He also was sad because all the money that he had hoped to use for school was gone. Max looked for work. He found that his English helped him get jobs. He could translate for people. He could do jobs that worked with Americans. He could also explore ideas because of his English. That helped him to talk with people and to find other activities that he could do to raise money. Max started a smoothie business on the university campus. He sells smoothies to students and faculty.

Max also fell in love. He married the love of his life and had a little baby girl. He continues to look for ways to make money so that he can take care of them. He also would like to finish his degree at the university.

When Max talks of the video chat club between Haitian students and Americans, he says, "My partner, Brady, is a good man. He explained things to me and helped me learn. He spoke to my family as well and so they got to meet him. The video chat helps me with my English. Without English, I would not survive with all the problems that are going on."

The video chat program pairs an American with a Haitian student and they chat, usually once a week, via video. Most of the students use Facebook messenger or WhatsApp. If you are interested in chatting, please contact Janeen Graham (509) 462-2948 or [drinkcoffee@comcast.net](mailto:drinkcoffee@comcast.net). If you are interested in helping to write programs for this weekly chat, please let Janeen know as well. Even a once a month contribution would be helpful.



**-Daily Lectionary-  
October 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.*

Oct. 1	Psalm 19	Exodus 23:1-9	Colossians 2:16-23	
Oct. 2	Psalm 19	Exodus 23:14-19	Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a	
Oct. 3	Psalm 19	Exodus 23:10-13	John 7:40-52	
Oct. 4	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46	Psalm 19
Oct. 5	Psalm 119:49-56	Deuteronomy 5:1-21	1 Peter 2:4-10	
Oct. 6	Psalm 119:49-56	Deuteronomy 5:22 - 6:32	Corinthians 5:17-21	
Oct. 7	Psalm 119:49-56	Deuteronomy 6:10-25	John 11:45-57	
Oct. 8	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	Exodus 24:1-81	Peter 5:1-5, 12-15	
Oct. 9	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	Exodus 24:9-11	James 4:4-10	
Oct. 10	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	Exodus 24:12-18	Mark 2:18-22	
Oct. 11	Exodus 32:1-14	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Oct. 12	Psalm 97	Exodus 32:15-35	Jude 17-25	
Oct. 13	Psalm 97	Exodus 33:1-6	Philippians 3:13 - 4:1	
Oct. 14	Psalm 97	2 Kings 17:7-20	John 6:25-35	
Oct. 15	Psalm 99	Exodus 33:7-11	3 John 9-12	
Oct. 16	Psalm 99	Exodus 31:1-11	1 Peter 5:1-5	
Oct. 17	Psalm 99	Exodus 39:32-43	Matthew 14:1-12	
Oct. 18	Exodus 33:12-23	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22	Psalm 99
Oct. 19	Psalm 63:1-8	Exodus 40:34-38	Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20	
Oct. 20	Psalm 63:1-8	Numbers 12:1-9	Revelation 18:21-24	
Oct. 21	Psalm 63:1-8	Numbers 13:1-2, 17 - 14:9	Matthew 17:22-27	
Oct. 22	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	Deuteronomy 31:14-22	Titus 1:5-16	
Oct. 23	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	Deuteronomy 32:1-14, 18	Titus 2:7-8, 11-15	
Oct. 24	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	Deuteronomy 32:44-47	John 5:39-47	
Oct. 25	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Oct. 26	Psalm 119:41-48	Numbers 33:38-39	James 2:8-13	
Oct. 27	Psalm 119:41-48	Exodus 34:29-35	James 2:14-26	
Oct. 28	Psalm 119:41-48	Deuteronomy 26:16 - 27:7	Matthew 19:16-22	
Oct. 29	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	Joshua 1:1-11	Romans 2:17-29	
Oct. 30	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	Joshua 2:1-14	2 Peter 2:1-3	
Oct. 31	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	Joshua 2:15-24	Matthew 23:13-28	

**Lectionary**

- Oct 4 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46
- Oct 11 Exodus 32:1-14  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14
- Oct 18 Exodus 33:12-23  
Psalm 99  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22
- Oct 25 Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46

**The Season Ahead**

- Sundays at 3 pm  
"The Chosen" video series
- Mondays 3-4 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
- 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



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