

The Weaver

Mar/Apr - 2016



“Being a congregation of growing believers, God calls us, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to be a continuing Christian influence of grace, peace and joy and to offer God’s salvation, healing and hope to our community.”

Discipleship:
Becoming More Like
CHRIST
EPHESIANS 2:10



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2016

During March we will be receiving the America For Christ Offering as our mission outreach for the month. This offering is used to enhance and support ministries across the USA - our Wings to Reading program has benefited from this in past years — and our Stepping Stones Pre-K has received a Matthew 25 grant for scholarships. Envelopes are provided each week in our Bulletins. Thank you for your support of our American Baptist Home Mission Society.



Our April Mission Offering will be designated to pay down the principal on our Mortgage. We took it out to pay for new windows and siding. Every little bit on the principal helps us along the way and maybe we can get it paid off earlier. We reap the benefits of this project in lower energy bills each month!

“Help, God—the bottom has fallen out of my life! Master, hear my cry for help! Listen hard! Open your ears! Listen to my cry for mercies.” Ps. 130:1-2 (The Message)

Eugene Peterson has hit it on the head. The Psalmist's cry may inbe our cry over these days. Cancer returns, stock markets fall, hospital visits become too frequent, children are, well children even though old enough to know better, aging parents demand our attention, death invades our circle, a local woman goes missing and is found dead (in our town) and the list seems to go on and on and on—hospitals and schools are now being bombed in Syria and it is an election year. Yes, the words of the Psalmist echo in our prayers, *“Help, God—the bottom has fallen out of my life.”* The Psalmist echoes our thoughts, *“My life’s on the line before God, my Lord, waiting and watching till morning, waiting and watching till morning”* (v.5b-6, The Message).

I imagine this might have been the thoughts of many of disciples on Saturday, the day after Good Friday. Those on the rodd to Emmaus told Jesus, *“...but we had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel”* (Luke 24:21). The bottom had fallen out of their lives. Their faith was being challenged not only with Jesus’ death but now there was a rumor, resurrection. The women had come with a story—they were returning to Emmaus lost in thought. The other disciples were hiding, afraid — the world, their world had had its bottom fall out. What are they to do? What are we to do? Each day seems to bring more discouraging or bad news.

The Psalmist though remembers God and even as his world falls apart around him he prays — *“O Israel, wait and watch for God—with God’s arrival comes love, with God’s arrival comes generous redemption. No about about it—he’ll redeem Israel, buy back Israel from captivity to sin”* (v. 7-8, The Message). His focus turns from what was happening to him at the moment to that day when God comes — he could not have imagined Easter and Resurrection. The great out-pouring of God’s love and generous redemption. The Psalmist’s faith was that God will come — God will redeem. He simply had learned to wait for God, *“I pray to God—my life a prayer—and wait for what he’ll say and do”* (v. 5-6, The Message).

Did you get what God’s arrival brings? **Love! Generous Redemption!** Even centuries before Christ and resurrection redemption the Psalmist knew that God was more about love than the world wanted to acknowledge. I wonder why the last place love seems to be found today is in the Church, the body of Christ to the world. We have become judgmental, finger pointing, hating of those who are different - yes, we will love those who are like us but don’t be different. Hate speech coming from presidential candidates who clamor for the “evangelical” vote - and the “evangelicals” they are speaking to applaud and shout. Where is the love? The generous redemption that came with Christ?

We celebrate resurrection - we celebrate that God loved us - we celebrate our salvation and then we fail to love as we have been loved. We would rather shut people out then open the door and bring them in. Easter was the opening of a door, a door that no one ever expected to be open to all - to us. Jesus went to the cross not because he called for war but because he called for love. He died that we all might become One through his love. Easter/ Resurrection was the demonstration of that love, God’s love — WOW!

On Resurrection Sunday, March 27 (11 a.m.) we will again combine with the congregation of Young Nak in worship. What do an American Baptist and a Korean Presbyterian congregation have in common? **Love.** The love that says when God comes, love comes and loves unites us as one.

A **GENEROUS REDEMPTION** indeed.

GOD
is
LOVE



Alleluia
He is
Risen



Fellowship Opportunities at FBC and Around the Region & other stuff!

ABW Annual Meeting - April 22-24, 2016 to be held at the Red Lion Hotel, Hanford House, Richland, WA.

Bible Study Leaders: Evelyn Anderson, Rev. Jennifer Ikoma-Motozko, Gane' Bourgeois

Mission Speaker: Rev. Carol Sutton

Pastor-in Residence: Rev. Dr. Judy Gay

AB Girls Leader: Rev. Minidi Welton-Mitchell

Registration forms and other information is posted on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Registration deadline is **March 31, 2016**.

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship - Thursday, March 24, 2016 - It is our opportunity to host this event this year. Good Shepherd Baptist and Young Nak will be joining us for this time of fellowship and worship. We will begin with dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Memorial Service - Norma Stromberg - will be held at noon on Saturday, March 26 here at FBC/MLT.

Prayer Fellowship Luncheons: Thursday, *March 10* and Thursday, *April 14* at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Soup and Sandwiches are provided (donations accepted by not necessary). Plan on joining us as we gather for this time of fellowship and prayer each month.

Value Village Fund Raiser - Stepping Stones would like to thank all of those who brought items for our Value Village Fund raiser. The clothing raised the most money - we were able to raise **\$107**. for our scholarship program. We will do it again! But not too soon.

Wings Supporters: If you happen to shop at Roger's Market (closing 2/29), get pizza from Little Caesar's or Papa John's (in MLT), or the McDonald's in Shoreline - ask for the manager and thank them for their support of our Wing's to Reading program. These establishments donate food items to help us give a nutritious lunch to the students. It is appreciated by the students and volunteers — a big THANK YOU is in order.



Spring Forward. Remember the extra hour of sleep you got last fall? Well, here it goes - We spring forward into **Daylight Savings Time** on Sunday, March 13 — Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to be on Saturday night.

A tentative date for our Congregational Meeting is for **Saturday, April 16**, at noon in the Parlor. We will begin with a covered dish luncheon. This is a time for us to share together as a congregation in doing some of the "business" items we need and to listen to and learn from one another. We hope you will join us.

Bank Change: Over the last half of 2015 we have been in the process of changing from USBank (too many extra fees) to the Christian Community Credit Union. Their fees are less, their interest rates higher and they give to missions. Last year CCCU gave \$240,000 to missions (International Ministries, college & seminary scholarships, disaster relief, Christian camps and Christian ministry members). Since 1994 they have given over \$4.5 million to mission and ministry projects. We are proud to a member of CCCU.

World Day of Prayer, 10 a.m. March 5 at Maplewood Presbyterian Church in Edmonds

First Baptist Church
22800 56th Avenue W
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
(425) 778-2046

- The Weaver is published monthly
- www.firstbaptist-mtlkterr.org
- email: firstbaptistmlt@gmail.com
- The Rev. Dennis N. Plourde, pastor
- FBC is also home to WINGS to Reading and Stepping Stones Pre-K —(425) 778-3642
- Our worship is at 10:30 a.m. with a children's program at 11 a.m. - and a fellowship and an Adult Discussion time follows our Worship.
- All are invited to join us.

First Class Mail - Return Service Requested

Sermons for March 2016

March 6- Worship/Communion
Jer. 5:9-12; 2 Cor. 5:16-21
Reconciling our Calling

March 13
Ps. 126; John 12:1-8
Misunderstood Actions

March 20 - Palm Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Luke 19:28-40
The Lord Needs It

March 24 - Maundy Thursday
Dinner and Worship

March 27 - EASTER-11 a.m. Worship
Pastor Philip from Young Nak preaching

Sermons for April 2016

April 3- Worship/Communion
Psalm 150; John 20:19-31
Unless I See...

April 10
Psalm 30; John 21:1-14
Come

April 17
Psalm 23; Rev. 7:9-17
And God Will...

April 24
Psalm 148; John 13:31-35
Still Not Believed