



Communion Sept 3

Bible Study



Sept 7 - Men 9am
Women 11am



Session Meets
Sept 11 6pm



Sept 24

The Gleaner - September 2023

If you say, you've never heard God speak to you...

Then you need to **read**. You need to be reading God's word, all of it. The Bible is a record of God speaking to people and his dealings with people. If you've never read the Bible from cover to cover, if you only treasure certain verses out of 66 books, then you will never know the voice of God, nor hear him speak to you. It is essential for people who want to hear God speak to listen in by reading God's word, learning to recognize his voice, getting to know him better and in knowing him better, to better serve God and his Kingdom.

Perhaps you're one of those who thinks that as a Christian, the Old Testament is irrelevant and passé? (I know no one at TPC would think this!) But just for the sake of argument, the Old Testament was the only BIBLE that Jesus and his early followers had. I shudder every time I hear a Christian say that when Jesus came he abolished the Law of Moses, that the Old Testament is about judgment and the New about grace and that after all, Jesus preached love and forgiveness, right, so why do we need that old stuff? Jesus himself said that he came not to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it, and that not even the smallest bit of the Law would pass away.

Obviously, I'm being a bit hyperbolic, but seriously, the ENTIRE Bible is God's Word, not just the bits we agree with. The ENTIRE Bible tells the story of God's plan of Redemption from start to finish. I cannot imagine not having the Old Testament and only the New. In order to be truly well-rounded Christians we need to be well-rounded Bible readers and students. We need to be taught to appreciate every single book of the Bible, to learn how they interconnect and how they move the story of redemption forward.

To that end, our men's and women's studies this coming year (and probably beyond into the next year) will be the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible. We will be using the Bible Project as a resource to get a broad overview of each book, with a short discussion following, starting with Genesis on September 7th. We've had some experience of using this amazing resource in our studies of Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon. I believe this will be an exciting year of exploration, and am looking forward to diving in next week. Plan on being there, and invite your friends!

Pastor Tony

A little more about the amazing resource The Bible Project....

BibleProject is a nonprofit, crowdfunded organization that produces 100% free Bible videos, podcasts, articles, classes, and educational Bible resources to help make the biblical story accessible to everyone everywhere.

From page one to the final word, we believe the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus. This diverse collection of ancient books overflows with wisdom for our modern world. As we let the biblical story speak for itself, we believe the message of Jesus will transform individuals and entire communities.

Many people have misunderstood the Bible as a collection of inspirational quotes or a divine instruction manual dropped from Heaven. Most of us gravitate toward sections we enjoy while avoiding parts that are confusing or even disturbing.

Our Bible resources help people experience the Bible in a way that is approachable, engaging, and transformative. We do this by showcasing the literary art of the Scriptures and tracing biblical themes from beginning to end. Rather than taking the stance of a specific tradition or denomination, we create materials to elevate the Bible for all people and draw our eyes to its unified message.

And they have another brand new project for an interactive Bible Study that is independent and can be tailored to an individual called YouVersion and can be found at <https://www.bible.com/app>

It's a great resource. We appreciate that we have a pastor who is leading us to learn more Bible.

Social Media Update

First of all another grateful thank you to Pastor Tony for his filing in for me this summer. It gave me a little breathing room and I put that time to good use learning more of what our new Website can do. I will explain more in a bit. Mostly we are about we were at the start of summer though we did pick up two more followers, lost one. Facebook gets a bad rep, but there are good things too like being able to keep people aware when Toledo Neighbors will be open, blood drives and special occasions. Also we get to share gifts like the week opera singers showed up and sang for us. What a surprise! And potlucks too, shoebox events, and don't forget our services that are viewed by more people than are in our church on Sunday. We keep up with the Stanfields as they recently returned from Africa.

Facebook: 164 Followers

Instagram: 70 Followers

Thanks to Kathy for posting the Psalm devotional on Facebook along with the beautiful music that accompanies each day's selection.

Website: Some additional photos added in the Events section, along with PayPal so that anyone can donate as they like to projects like the window restoration. Now we are concentrating on the bell tower.

I have heard favorable reports on the morning devotionals. I like to read them first thing before the day starts and while it is still quiet, and then have prayer time. Thank you, Tana

Thank you all of you as well for your support. The peace and grace of Christ be with each one. Chris

***There are at least seven words in Hebrew that express different aspects of gratitude to Yahweh and these are listed below.**

1 Barak - to kneel or bless as in Psalm 103:1

2 Yadah - worship in gratitude with extended hands Psalm 9:1

3 Todah - confession or testimony of what Yahweh has done Psalm 26:7

4 Zamar - to sing or make music Psalm 30:12

5 Shabach - loud tone or triumphant shout Psalm 63:3

6 Hallel - "Hallel Yahweh" Psalm 113:3

7 Tehillah - to praise Psalm 40:3

*From YouVersion a daily devotional, brought by the people of the Bible Project.

Attitude of Gratitude

Earl W Pearl November 2022
Submitted by Sandy B

When things go wrong and fall apart, I
check my attitude
Regardless of the mess I'm in,
I show God gratitude.

Since many go through so much more, I
really can't complain
I sometimes know their circumstances,
yet never know their pain

It's not as though I thank the Lord
whenever I have strife
It's more about my thankfulness despite
what hurts in life.

The attitude of gratitude is how
I choose to be
And even though it may get worse, the
Lord keeps blessing me

The car may break,
the dog may puke,
I may overdraw my bank
My spouse may scream,
the roof may leak,
but still the Lord I thank.

Pastor Tony contact:

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Session Members

Tom - Treasurer

Gary - Property Diane -

Outreach Pauli - Mission

Ernie - Worship

Chris - Social Media

September Celebrations

Anniversaries - none?

Birthdays

Joyce A. 9/1

Alex G. 9/8

Wayne 9/13

Jackie 9/25

Don M. 9/16

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Recipient

Arrow shows location of Roatan

Due to severe anatomical defects, Michele Rankin was told by doctors that her newborn daughter would not live through the night. Immediately after birth, the newborn was rushed to surgery but doctors still gave little or no hope for survival. But Michele knew about God and His healing power. She named her little daughter "Lashon" which means 'GOD IS MERCIFUL'. Like Hannah, Michele prayed "If you give her back to me, I will give her to you". God heard and answered the anguished mother's prayer and Lashon is now a thriving 21 year old. Michele dedicated Lashon to God.

At the age of 14, Lashon attended an O.C.C. outreach event at her church. The community consists of mostly boathouses built on stilts where canals serve as streets and boats as the main transportation mode.

"I came to church and was so excited when I realized that I was going to receive a gift" Lashon said. "My favorite color is purple and inside my shoebox was a purple shirt. It made me so happy. That shoebox changed my life." The Greatest Gift booklet made the biggest impression. The booklet explained the Gospel in a child friendly way, helping her to realize how much God loved her. She eagerly signed up for the 12 week discipleship program THE GREATEST JOURNEY where she gave her heart to the Lord. The program also inspired her to help other children come to know Jesus Christ.

After graduating from the program, Lashon started sharing the Bible stories she had recently learned with other children. It was long before she started reaching Sunday School and now teaches THE GREATEST JOURNEY to children in her neighborhood. God has blessed her faithfulness and the efforts of others who have boldly proclaimed the Gospel in the area. Now, the kids who used to be out drinking and partying are attending church and have accepted the Lord through THE GREATEST JOURNEY. Her younger brother and sister have also accepted Jesus through the discipleship program.

Recently O.C.C. returned to Lashon's church and she helped distribute the shoebox gifts to children in need. "I loved the joy of seeing the boys and girls get their shoeboxes. But mostly I love seeing them learn about the Greatest Gift of all, Jesus Christ.

" A shoebox can change someone's life, just like it did for me. One Gift can turn a child's life around and introduce them to Jesus. If I didn't have God, I would have nothing. I wouldn't even be alive. God is my everything." Well said, Lashon

Operation Christmas Child will distribute 350,000 shoebox gifts in Honduras this year. Pray that The Greatest Gift and The Greatest Journey will have a huge impact on the hundreds of children in Honduras.

Honduras has a population of over 9 million. Ninety percent of the population are Mestizos [mixed European and American descent]. Forty six percent are Roman Catholic and forty one percent are Protestant.

In many areas of the world, communities long to educate their children but have no school buildings. Samaritan's Purse is investing in young minds and earning a hearing for the Gospel by constructing quality schools. Since 2007, Samaritan's Purse has built 46 schools in Cambodia and many other vulnerable communities in Burkina Faso, Vietnam and South Sudan. As they build schools, they partner with local churches who are faithfully sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their residents. Example- every teacher in one new school in Cambodia has now become a believer and so are 30 students. New O.C.C. distribution sites?? Only God knows. Sandy B

Helping our Community

We don't have a lot of homeless from what I understand, in Toledo, but they are in our area and I suspect the population is growing. Fall is fast approaching and that means rain and cooler temperatures. *Andrew is able to meet people where they are and offer help.*

If we can help with anything that will make a person without resources a little more comfortable, let's do so. The need is always there for socks, tarps, food in flip top cans, toiletries, clean underwear & sleeping bags.

Put them in Andrew's basket and he will do the rest. Thank you for your help and generosity.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
Psalm 33:22.

Outreach Outlook

Autumn is around the corner and personally I'm looking forward to sweaters, hot cocoa and falling leaves. It was a beautiful summer filled with fun activities and stunning weather. As we head into the cooler months new opportunities to reach our community will arise. Maybe it's a Facebook post you see that seems like something we could participate in, or a newsletter you receive that sparks an idea. Please forward them to dianembassett3@gmail.com for consideration.

On the horizon for the coming months:

*Special coffee hour (or potluck) for the dedication of the Stained Glass Window Restoration Project donor plaque. This will be to thank everyone who donated to this massive project.

*Watch for our ad in the Lewis County News-appearing the first Friday of every month. The ads are nice sized and make great bulletin board posts if you cut them out.

*Banners for Bible studies will be going back up now that summer hiatus is ending.

*Special holiday event TBD

In Christ, Diane :)

Treasurer's Report August 2023

Remember how I said last month that an amateur treasurer can become confused when encountering a professional bookkeeper? Remember that? That's still true but I have some numbers to give you that seem a little more realistic.

August income, through congregational giving and rental income, was \$5,389.82 and expenses for the month were \$3,625.05 leaving a net income of \$1,764.77

Year to date income was \$54,895.44 while YTD expenses were \$52,080.97.

Here's where the report will look a bit different. Bookkeeper Jess tells me that (not her words) the expense of the window restoration **has** to come from somewhere. It's an expense. That expense was offset by money from memorial funds and from fundraising efforts but there is a balance that has to come from somewhere. So it came from the maintenance and supply budget item. Sorry, Gary!

That being said, our net income for 2023 as of the end of August is \$2,814.47 All for now and in Christ,
Tom Hill

RAIN OR SHINE

Steering
you towards

*Health &
Wellness*

Valley View Health Center & Toledo Neighbors

Health & Wellness Fair

9/09/2023 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: 5516 Jackson Hwy. Chehalis WA

Children Dental Screening
Full plate Living "Nutrition Class"
Car Seat Education • Face Painting

*Free plate of food for the
first 50 people to register at the event*


vvhc.org


toledoneighbors.org

Covid-19, MPOX, CVP childhood vaccines offered by Department of Health

SEPTEMBER

A road like brown ribbon,
A sky that is blue
A forest of green with that sky
peeping through.
Asters deep purple,
A grasshopper's call –
Today, it is Summer
Tomorrow is Fall!

-Edwina Hume Fallis

From Georgia

Conversation between Adam and Eve must have been difficult at times.
They had no one to talk about.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023.

Mission Report

Summer is almost over. The leaves are turning color and some have started to fall. What a beautiful summer we have had. There has been so much to be thankful for in our Community. Each town in our area has had a festival with parades, there has been musical venues like Pickerfest in Winlock and the Mount Saint Helen's Bluegrass in Toledo and most recently the Threshing Bee. The Winlock/Vader Food Bank and Toledo Neighbors continue to feed our community.

Toledo Neighbors TNP

Currently TNP is relying on produce grown locally, the bounty being shared by home gardeners. The meeting room has been organized. The restroom is now in service. New freezers are in place in the pantry area. Community support for the program is strong. Volunteers work along side board members every weekend to provide for those in need. A number of our congregation have been working at the Hall. Last Sunday we served over 90 people. I was surprised that there are less community members using this service than in the spring. I pray that people are doing better and no longer in need.

Toledo Learning Garden

Toledo Learning Garden had their ribbon cutting celebration and social on August 26th at the Elementary School. Brooke Sellards Acosta and her team have been working with children and the community to grow food. Now they have a green house to help expand the growing season. They have a facebook page and volunteers are welcome to help with weeding, planting, and harvesting during the work parties. Excess food is taken to Toledo Neighbor's to share with the community.



Toledo Community Foundation

The school pantries are stocked and ready for the start of the school year. School supplies clothing and shoes have been made available to students in need. The foundation is doing so much for our children in Toledo. They have a facebook page where you can see what they have been up to.

Winlock/Vader Food Bank

RyLee and her team continue to service Winlock and Vader with energy and compassion. Rowdy Rooster is a meeting place in Winlock that provides needed funds for the Food Bank and Pantry. The entrance to the Food Bank has metal racks where fresh produce is staged through out the week. Community members are able to pop by and take what they need. They can be followed on facebook.

Hagar's Community Church

hagarscommunitychurch.com

Good things are happening at Hagar's Community Church (a ministry of the Olympia Presbytery). The church came into being in 2016. It was born to provide worship opportunities for women incarcerated at the Washington Corrections Center for

Women in Gig Harbour. There have been a number of ministers, complications due to covid, and prison administration that has made it difficult to have services within the prison. There were no worship services held inside the prison between December 2021 and March 2023. Deanna Gemmer became an ordained minister on June 24,2023. She has taken on the challenge on ministering in this church. Finally in August Deanna was able to hold a worship service with communion using their beautiful new cup and plate. For the full article please go to their website.