Keeping the Faith

Keeping the faith in these hard times isn’t as difficult as it might seem. Yes, these are challenging times and we’re all under a lot of stress but somehow keeping the faith in good times and in hard times works in a backwards sort of way. It might be counter intuitive but keeping the faith in hard times seems to come easier than keeping the faith in good times.

Keeping the faith in good times should be easy enough, yet in good times, when things are going our way, we tend to forget our faith and forget to be grateful. It seems counter intuitive but we see it over and over again in history. When times are good, people tend to assume times will always be good and that they deserve the good times and the good life is taken for granted. The Bible is filled with story after story about how people forgot God when times were good and they just sort of “partied on” leaving God and their faith out of their daily lives.

One would think that it would be much harder to keep the faith and remember God in bad times but somehow that’s not the way it works. The Bible is also filled with story after story about how in hard times, the people came back to God, counted their blessings, and relied on God all the more. So, it is with us as well.

When times are hard, like now, we tend to remember God more, call on God more and become more thankful and appreciative for what we have. It’s that way with me and I suspect most of you too. It’s been a hard year, for sure. The past year has been filled with lots of challenges, changes we didn’t ask for or want and losses that cut deep into our heart. But, when I think of all the people I’ve loved and lost I’m not bitter but rather thankful that they were in my life at all. When I think of how we haven’t been able to gather in person in church this past year I’m not happy about it, but I’m thankful for all the ways our members and friends have kept in contact, continued to pray for one another and be faithful with their gifts of finances and prayers. I’ve seen your faith and it’s inspiring.

Life is about perspective. We can count our losses and remain stuck in them or we can count our blessings and move on to new life and new blessings. We can remain mired in grief or anger or negative thinking and life will pretty much play out just like we feel it. Or, we can be thankful, count our blessings and live with renewed hope and faith. It’s all a matter of choice isn’t it? Yes, I think it is.

May you be filled with hope, with joy, with belief in the goodness of man and may the future be exactly as you see it to be. Keeping the faith, remaining rooted in God and being hopeful is your choice. What choices do you want to make? Your choice, your life!
NEWS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER LIST

Please let us know if you know of someone who is sick or is a shut-in. Thank you.

Michael Lastre – Keep in your prayers.

Dolores Wachtman – Keep in your prayers.

Wauneta Wine – Please keep Wauneta and Jim in your prayers.

Al Abraham – Recovering at daughter’s home in Kansas. Call the church office if you would like Al’s address while in Kansas.

Edwina Meheaux – Recovering well. Still at daughter’s home. Please keep in your prayers and call the office if you would like to send a card at her temporary address.

If you would like to send cards, please call office for address.

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1   Eleanor Peebles
3   John Small
5   Roberto Lopez
6   Norm & Pat Laine
10  Linda Vincent
16  Gorretti Mugatha
18  Mason Chance
21  Christopher Lastre
27  Jane Small
31  Patricia Kruhm
31  Michael Lynn

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Worship Services On Line!!!!

Worship remains online at www.aspenhillcc.org, then click on the green “Videos” Tab. Choose the date of the Service you want to watch and be sure to click the thumbs-up icon and make any nice comments you want to. Comments help drive our visibility to others up. Share the links for our weekly worship with your friends and neighbors!
NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

FELLOWSHIP…Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance
The Virtual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was so much fun and it was such a joy to see folks reconnect with one another, show off their pancake suppers, joke and laugh with one another and learn more about Shrove Tuesday and Lent. Thank you Amy and Dr. Chance for making it possible. If you missed it, you really missed a good time.

PROPERTY…Jeff Price
Greetings from the Property Ministry. The weather has been on a tear lately but the snow teams are one step ahead of the storms. A big “Thank You” to those who keep the sidewalks cleared. The Church staff continue to keep the Church clean and safe for the day “in person “ worshipping resumes. Stay Tuned!

OUTREACH…Connie Spoon
Thank you to all who contributed to our “Week of Compassion” (WOC) Special Offering. Thank you to Jane and John for speaking on the 21st and 28th. The Souper Bowl was different this year, but we still brought in 381 cans of soup. Many thanks to Lisa Price who delivered the soup to Manna. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause. The food pantry remains fully stocked for anyone in need.

WORSHIP…Carol Knott
We are again in the Lenten season. This is the period of about six weeks before Easter. How do we observe it? It is a time to be thoughtful and quiet. A time to be more prayerful which is sorely needed. It is a good time to think of giving and not just giving up some pleasurable things. Join us however we are able to have our worship services. Palm Sunday is March 28th and Easter on April 4th. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

STEWARDSHIP…John Small
Please take note of the mulch sale we will be conducting again this year.
Details:
$6 per bag - 3 cubic feet of hardwood shredded mulch
Orders need to be placed by Sunday, March 7, 2021.
Jeff Price 301-525-2856 Jprice853@gmail.com
Church Directory
Please make sure the church office has your correct contact information. (Address, Phone number, Email, and Birthday). Our records are not up to date as we still receive return address notices. If you are in contact with another church member who has moved, or their address information has changed, please remind them to update the church.

Highlights From The Board Meeting
The Board met via Zoom on February 10. Among the items discussed and actions taken are:

• Tentative date for the Leaders’ Retreat is March 20th. Final date will be decided at the March 10th meeting
• The computer that operates the electronic door system was replaced.
• Agreed that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Lent will have to be different this year. The challenges will be interesting and we’ll have the invitation to explore together how things will be different as we come back together.
• Heard Reports from the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Ministry Chairs, Elders & Deacons, and other leaders.
• Received, with appreciation for all the extra work Dr. Chance has put in, the Pastor’s Report.
• Discussed the financial challenges that lie ahead as we do our best in these times of Covid 19 restrictions and burdens.
• Discussed and set a timeline for possibly reopening for in person worship in March or April.
• Agreed to conduct our Annual Mulch Sale. Jeff Price will coordinate the program.
• Committed to having a Church Fair in early Fall.
• Prayed for God’s continued guidance in these challenging times.

Elders and Deacons Meeting...February 7th via Zoom.
The St. Paul’s Breakfast Meeting for Elders and Deacons was held via Zoom on February 7. Prayers were provided for folks on the Shut In and Sick List, and plans were discussed for the Lenten Season. The next breakfast will be on March 7 and will probably be via Zoom too. An in-person training session will be held prior to reopening the church, in order to train Elders and Deacons in the new procedures once we reopen.

Mulch Sale Fundraiser
It is never too early to plan for Spring. I am pleased to announce our annual mulch sale will be held in March. In addition to the funds we raise on behalf of the church, this event is a great time of fellowship.

Please see Jeff or Lisa Price if you are interested in helping.
The success of our mulch sale will help our Church continue to provide the wonderful services and outreach to the community. It also helps with funding other projects around the church. I want to thank everyone in advance for making this a successful day.

Details:
$6 per bag - 3 cubic feet of hardwood shredded mulch
Orders need to be placed by Sunday, March 7, 2021.
Jeff Price 301-525-2856 Jprice853@gmail.com
Thank you so very much for your prayers during my recent surgery and ongoing recovery. I think you know, how very powerful I feel the value of prayers from church members and friends are.

Sincerely,

Linda Groome

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Submit Your Articles, Updates, & Information we might like to include in future Newsletters to Karen for possible inclusion in the future.

Please keep your giving up both faithfully an regularly. These are challenging times. The church has continued to provide wonderful ministry throughout the year and we need you to keep bringing your offerings in. Even keeping our budget to absolute minimum increases our expenses will exceed our income and we need each other to be faithful.

You can drop your offerings by the office...

Mail your offerings in...  OR

Give “On Line”...

Worship is online at www.aspenhillcc.org, then click on the green “Videos” Tab. Be sure to click the thumbs-up icon and make any nice comments you want to. Comments help drive our visibility to others up. Share the links for our weekly worship with your friends and neighbors.