



MARINERS NEWS

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Written by Pastor Rebecca Collison

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you and develops well-formed maturity in you.

Romans 12:1-2 MSG

When one thinks of November, our minds turn to Thanksgiving. Especially when the air turns cooler, one thinks of the Norman Rockwell image of a family gathered around the table ready to dive into the perfectly cooked turkey and scrumptious side dishes. However, this year, the entire month of November reminds me of laundry. Let me explain.

In collecting the laundry from various rooms in the house, it reminds me that our faith is lived out in various rooms of our life: where we eat, sleep, play, and work. Rooms where we gather with others and rooms where we spend time alone. Laundry from different rooms in the house means we have a roof over our heads, a place to belong. For this, we have a reason to give thanks.

When laundry is collected, I take a moment and examine the stains for what they are and what they mean. A grass stain on my jeans came from getting outside to play with my grandchildren and kneeling on the ground to pull unsightly weeds. The spot of chocolate came from sharing an ice cream cone with my husband at Vanderwende's and laughing about

something funny we had heard. The sweaty t-shirt of Glenn's makes me think of his physical labor in all kinds of weather that, while yielding a paycheck, goes to benefit those who don't even know his name. And then there are spots from our days that are extra dirty, needing some extra detergent and grace to come clean.

In November, we are surrounded by the garments of life - reminders of those who have gone onto glory on All Saints Day, uniforms of soldiers on Veterans Day who serve to protect our country, aprons spattered with efforts of trying to provide an offering of food on Thanksgiving, and mud-covered football jerseys reminding us that we all have a goal to reach.

Dirty laundry isn't a forever destination; it is part of the journey in this life as we know, grow, and go in preparation for our heavenly home. For dirty laundry, stains, and all we accumulate along the way, we have a reason to give thanks.

My sons would often play a pickup game of football in the yard while dinner was being prepared - often with me reminding them to "wash those hands" before coming to the table. Even with dirt on our hands and our clothes, God loves us and calls us His own, and

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Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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through his Son, doesn't leave us as we are, but washes us clean - if we are willing to come to him. And the final result - the laundry is all cleaned up. A few wrinkles here or there and a few stubborn stains remind us we are working toward Christian perfection but have not arrived yet. See, doing the laundry starts all over again and again and again. Because we are all a work in progress that God never gives up on, and for that we have reason to give thanks.

So as you count your pieces of dirty clothes and linens throughout this month, remember to give thanks for the laundry - the fabric that makes up our lives... the people, the places, the challenges, and the celebrations that have been encountered in our sleeping, eating, going to work and walking around life, and place it before God as an offering of thanks (re. Rom. 12:1-2).

Because when we come together in mercy we don't deserve, the grace we can't earn, and forgiveness that is a gift, we bear witness to God's love which extends beyond the dinner table and the turkey.

*Blessings,
Pastor Becky*

THE HOPE CENTER

By Dennis Rader



Mariners Trustee's approval of a new policy for the use of the gymnasium was finalized last month and has already led to new groups utilizing our beautiful facilities. We are striving to achieve our goal of full utilization of the Hope Center which will include worship, exercise, youth activities, fundraising, fellowship, and outside non-profits benefiting from the use of our facility.

You can find the following groups currently in our Hope Center: Tuning Up the Temple, Zumba, Men's Bible Study, Raising Cane, CRASH Youth, Enrichment of Hope After School Program, Feed My Sheep, Pickleball, Men's Basketball, Boy/Girl/Cub Scouts, and many others. And you can always find our Family and Youth Director, Tiffany Kelley, working in and around her office in the Hope Center.

Future articles will feature individual groups and how you can become involved in any or all the activities hosted at our Hope Center. As we enter Advent and the Christmas season, we will be hosting other events in the Hope Center that are too large for our Fellowship Hall. As we grow, we will expand into the Hope Center and into our community. If you have ideas of events or activities that you believe would benefit our church, our members, or our community please contact our Operations Manager who will work with you to schedule your activity.





**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
WHO SERVE REGULARLY
IN OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES**

In the Nursery: Jill Taylor, Diane Greene, and Gabriella Bendistis

In ARMOR: Judy Burgo, Lee Joy Workman, and Barbara "Mimi" Robets

In CRASH Youth (Sunday Evenings): Missy Woomer, Keith Woomer, AJ Kelley, Gary Ringold,
Rob Wilkerson, and Kristie VanZee.

If you feel led to help with these ministries on Sundays, please contact:

Jessica King (Nursery) jking121307@yahoo.com

Michelle Christopher (ARMOR) kidschurch@marinersbethel.org

or Tiffany Kelley (Family Ministries and CRASH Youth) familyandyouth@marinersbethel.org

HOLY LAND MISSION ITEMS FOR SALE ~ SUNDAY, NOV. 26

George Ghanem, a Christian from Bethlehem - The Holy Land, will be at Mariners Bethel GMC on Sunday, Nov. 26. A volunteer with the Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative (HLCS) from Bethlehem, he visits churches, providing information about the Christians of the Holy Land. Ghanem brings their handmade olivewood and mother-of-pearl religious articles from the Holy Land, with the proceeds going to help Christian families living in the Holy Land. We had the pleasure of Mariners hosting his presentation in 2008 at Mariners Bethel UMC when Rev. Al Taylor was the senior pastor. The Church Council has approved the sharing of this mission and ministry again.

About 70% of the Christian community in the Holy Land depends upon tourism for their living. Due to the ongoing conflict, and the 12-yard wall built around Bethlehem, the recent coronavirus condition, and now the war in Israel, tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land. This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income. Ghanem reports that in the last century, the Christian population of the Holy Land was 30%, today it is less than 1% of the entire population. If it continues like this, he notes, in a few years, "we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites."

The mission of the Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative based in Bethlehem is to help these Christian families survive and stay in their homeland. Ghanem noted, "As we contact you on behalf of those many Christian families who have now become a minority in their homeland, we are sure that you are well aware of their difficulties and want to help. Indeed, your support is crucial."

Ghanem will be available on Sunday, Nov. 26, in the Fellowship Hall after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services to share information about Christians in the Holy Land and to sell their handiwork including handmade beautiful olive wood articles (Nativity sets, candle holders, ornaments, religious figures, crosses, etc.) in order to send the revenues back to the families in Bethlehem.

FEED MY SHEEP



The FMS lunch will not be served Thanksgiving week. We will be preparing the meals to send out to families on Wednesday, Nov. 22. You may help pack these meals by coming to the church between 7:30-8 AM on Tuesday, Nov. 21. Call Gail Lewis @ 443-614-1493 if you are able to deliver meals on Nov. 22. Also turkeys may be donated. Thanks for considering helping those in need.

MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS)

Don't let the name fool you! In fact, MOPS serves ALL moms - no matter what age your "little one" is. MOPS is a group for moms (or any female guardian) to gather and support each other on this journey of motherhood. MOPS has been around for 45 years and is available in 68 countries. MOPS International encourages and equips moms of young children to realize their potential as mothers, women, and leaders, in relationship with Jesus, and in partnership with their local church. Mariner's MOPS group meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the church building and is in need of volunteers! Primarily, we need help in the nursery watching the children. If you would like more information on how to get involved, either as a mom or a volunteer (or both!) contact Tiffany Kelley and familyandyouth@marinersbethel.org



VETERANS DAY - OBSERVED NOVEMBER 12

A military footstone recently arrived at our cemetery for the late **Stan "Doc" Taylor** - Buz Taylor's Dad. He had served in the Army during WW2, including earning two Bronze Stars for his service as a medic during the Battle of the Bulge. For reasons unknown, he was never given the stone that most in his position received. So Buz had the footstone made and delivered here. As a tangible way to remember all who served, **a brief remembrance and prayer time will be held at Stan's graveside, following the 11 AM service on Nov. 12.** All are welcome to come and to lift up the names of other veterans so their sacrifice will never be forgotten, and that we will continue to stand together as a nation under God and as a church grounded in Christ.

Bring in a photo of yourself or your loved ones who have served in the military. The office will be glad to scan your photos so you may keep the original. They will be displayed in the lobby.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS - WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15 AT 9:30 AM

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. This two-hour seminar can help prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future. Register online at Church Center or call the church office to sign up.

CRASH YOUTH ~ HOMEMADE THANKSGIVING PIES



3 delicious flavors available: Pumpkin (regular or gluten-free) (\$14), Apple Crumb (\$17), or Pecan (\$17). Order by Sunday, November 19 in the church lobby.

Pick up on Wednesday, November 22 @ the Hope Center from 9 AM - 1 PM.

ARMOR KIDS CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION PRACTICE SCHEDULE

"BACK TO THE MANGER"

Sunday, Nov. 5 - 1-3 PM (Sanctuary)

Sunday, Nov. 26 - 1-3 PM (Sanctuary)

Sunday, Nov. 12 - NO PRACTICE

Sunday, Dec. 3 - 3-6 PM (Sanctuary)

Sunday, Nov. 19 - 1-3 PM (Sanctuary)

Sunday, Dec. 10 - 10:30-11:30 (ARMOR Room)

DRESS REHEARSAL:

Saturday, Dec, 16th 10 AM - 2 PM (Sanctuary) (ALL KIDS - Lunch will be provided)

Sunday, December 17th - SHOW NIGHT at 4 PM in the Sanctuary



WOMEN CENTRAL

In addition to completing the study "Fierce" by Jennifer Cowart, Women Central (WC) joined Dorcas Circle to support the "Putting Prayer to Action" group in Kentucky that assists children and adults in Appalachia. We are also supporting the need locally by providing families in our area with socks, underwear, and clothing during the holidays.

Members of WC were in action at "Trunk or Treat" preparing and serving hot dogs to those attending the function.

"Perfect Love" by Lisa Harper has been chosen for our spring study. Watch the church news for registration information beginning in early 2024. All women at Mariners are welcome to join the group and all are encouraged to bring a friend.

MARINERS BETHEL WOMEN

On Monday, November 13, Mariners Bethel Women will share their favorite holiday recipes that will be assembled into a mini cookbook, and made available at their December meeting. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall from 1-3:00 PM. All women are welcome to attend.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Tuesday, November 14, we are beginning a new study called "Advent" by Derwin Gray, which will take us through the end of the year. All men are invited. We meet every Tuesday morning in the Hope Center at 9:00 AM.

MEN'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On Saturday, November 11, at 7:30 AM, all men are invited to enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast, followed by viewing Tony Evans video series on "The Power in the Names of The Holy Spirit." We meet the second Saturday of every month.



CELEBRATIONS



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1 - Kathleen Deganich, Lisa Moeller
11/4 - Janet Beresh
11/6 - Alexander "Sandy" Smyth
11/12 - Priscilla Scott
11/13 - Wayne Cannon, Tyler Hickman
11/15 - Alison Rubendall
11/16 - Dawn Ciccanti

11/17 - Buz Taylor
11/18 - Kelsey Murray, Tiffany Lynch
11/20 - Anlynn Ayres
11/21 - Jennica Kwiecien, Sharon Palmer
11/25 - Bob Beresh
11/27 - Bobbi Brown
11/28 - Charles Hudson, Sr., E.F. Quillen
11/30 - Marla Mooney

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/1 - Michael & Kim Sasada
11/3 - James & Janet Freeman

11/6 - Sandy & Lori Smyth



WORSHIP: BEHIND THE SCENES

By Christel Grandell

Have you ever given thought to how things 'just happen' visually, virtually, and audibly in our worship services? What takes place behind the scenes in tech to bring worship to life in today's technical world? Well, let me introduce the 4 tasks that are needed to operate the technical part of Sunday worship at full capacity with the excellence for which we strive, to bring God glory.

Oh, and if for a second you think, "tech is not my gift" or "technology scares me," then I urge you to hear me out. I have had the privilege of tending to the tech ministry for the last 9 years and guess what? I do not have a technical bone in my body! BUT through willingness, perseverance, trusting in God, and LOTS of prayer, I have learned a lot of basics. And that's what I'm asking you to pray about in hopes that you might be willing to walk with me and step into that similar story to be able to say... 'look what God did!' In Hebrews 13:21, it's indicated that God will equip you with everything good for doing His will and that He'll work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be the glory forever and ever. In other words, God doesn't necessarily call the equipped, but He will equip the called.

Please pray and consider the ways you can help, from the simplest to more challenging roles:

LIGHTING. Our light board is programmable; the good news is that someone else programs it! As the operator, you have a lighting script that identifies each element of the service flow, and the lightboard has a queue programmed for each element. You just have to press the 'next' button. It's that simple!

COMPUTER. Nicky designs the slides and programs them to work with live streaming. As the operator, you have a script to follow. You do need to be aware of advancing the slides in a timely and accurate manner, but we have run-throughs and pre-service rehearsals to assist. This person also initiates the live stream program and watches the timer to know when to 'GO LIVE,' and later when to end the stream. In between, you just activate the next slide.

CAMERA. We have 5 mounted cameras all managed by the camera operator. This role is responsible for what those in-house and online see, changing views between the computer, (for playing videos and announcement slides), and the camera views of folks on the platform and in the congregation. The camera and computer operators work closely to coordinate things like showing the lyrics to the on-liners on the lower third of the screen, while those in-house see the full-screen view, as well as starting and stopping the stream/recording. (Yes, this camera system also records and we use it as a backup when the stream doesn't want to play nice with Facebook or YouTube).

AUDIO. This is the most challenging, but still attainable. When I began, I would never have thought I would run the audio for our worship services. But, though it's not really my gift, I am able to provide the audio needed to the in-house and online congregants.

We provide training for ALL 'seats', You're welcome to shadow us on Sunday mornings. We also have Praise & Worship band rehearsal on Thursday nights during which time you're welcome to come and observe. Just let me know that your interest is peaked and we can make it happen. Contact me at 302-542-8363 or worship@marinersbethel.org. Stay tuned for more tech talk opportunities.

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER



Sunday, 11/5 – All Saints Observance, 9 & 11 AM, Sanctuary
Sunday, 11/5 – Mariners Bethel Women, Knife & Card Sale, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall
Saturday, 11/11 – Men's Breakfast, 6:30 AM, Fellowship Hall
Saturday, 11/11 – Deaf Fest, 10 AM – 3 PM, Hope Center
Sunday, 11/12 – New Member Launch, 10 AM, 2nd floor Conference Room
Sunday, 11/12 – Veterans Day Observed. Remembrance and prayer for Stan "Doc" Taylor and others (after the 11 AM service). Meet at the graveside.
Monday, 11/13 – Mariners Bethel Women meeting, 1 PM, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, 11/15 – Grief Share: Surviving the Holidays, 9:30-11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, 11/22 – CRASH Thanksgiving Pie Pickup, 9 AM – 1 PM at the Hope Center
Thursday, 11/23 & Friday, 11/24 – CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
Sunday, 11/26 – Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative Mission Sales, 10 AM & 12 noon, Fellowship Hall.



DECEMBER

Saturday, 12/2 – Rock of Ages Christmas Luncheon, 12 Noon – 2 PM, Hope Center
Sunday, 12/3 – Mariners Bethel Women, Knife & Card Sale, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 12/3 – Game Day Fundraiser for Friends of Israeli Defense Forces, 12 Noon–4 PM, Hope Center
Saturday, 12/9 – Men's Breakfast, 6:30 AM, Fellowship Hall
Saturday, 12/9 – Cookie Walk, Opens at 9:00 AM until sold out. Hope Center
Sunday, 12/10 – Combined Christmas Concert with Praise Band and Choir, 4 PM, Sanctuary
Friday, 12/15 – Live Nativity, 6-8 PM. Held outdoors, unless inclement weather.
Sunday, 12/17 – Kids Christmas Pageant, 4 PM, Sanctuary
Wednesday, 12/20 – Mariners Bethel Christmas Open House, 11 AM – 1 PM, Hope Center Garage
Friday, 12/21 – Christmas Eve Cookie Outreach (Packing), 9 AM -12 Noon, Fellowship Hall
Friday, 12/22 – Blue Christmas Service, 6:30 PM, Sanctuary
Saturday, 12/23 – Candlelight Christmas Adam Service, 7 PM, Sanctuary
Sunday, 12/24 – Sunday Morning Worship, 10 AM only, no Children's Church, Sanctuary
Sunday, 12/24 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 4 PM and 7 PM, Sanctuary
Monday, 12/25 – Christmas Day, CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
Sunday, 12/31 – Sunday Morning Worship, 10 AM only, no Children's Church, Sanctuary
Sunday, 12/31 – Open Sanctuary for Self-Guided Meditation and Prayer, noon – 4 PM, Sanctuary
Monday, 1/1/2024 – New Year's Day, CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED.



Mariners Bethel Global Methodist Church
Navigating the seas of life together with Christ at the helm

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Collison

Senior Pastor

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The purpose of Mariners News is to share the message, mission, and ministry of the church.

The release date is the 1st of each month; the submission deadline is 10 days prior.

All submissions should be sent digitally, if possible, to administrator@marinersbethel.org.

Any questions. contact the church office.