

Elders



Mark Johnson



Casey Long



Thomas Pruett
Minister of the Word
541-758-4456



Josh Stutzman
Campus Minister
541-753-4310



Maria Zhang
Secretary
541-758-4456

Please Pray For Our Family

Please pray for God's healing hand to be on those with cancer:

Les Brooks (malignant leukemia); Renee Gunselman's parents; Gregg's cousin Susan, serious cancer

Please continue to pray for:

Keith Cornell, Phil & Linda Weimer, Paul & Donna Johnson, Jean Woods, Betty Carter, Al Hendrickson, Renee's mom, Linda Holland, Charlotte Bibb, Les & Joyce Brooks, Bill Perry

Pray Also For These Health Requests:

We pray for Pam Strawn to be peaceful, and for God to be with Gregg as he provides primary care for Pam, and that Gregg will be strong and courageous as he and Pam go down this path together.

We pray for Ezra Parker and his family as he continues recovering from a sedated procedure. Last week was very tough for them and we pray that Ezra is fully recovered soon!

We pray for Mark and Nancy's friends, Larry and Cathy Ciaffoni. On Friday, Larry's father passed away due to COVID, and his mother also has COVID and is fighting for her life.

James & Misty's friend Brent Watkins, who fell off a ladder and sustained serious injuries.

James & Misty's friend Franz Wall who is paralyzed after a skiing accident and fighting to recover.

Please continue to pray for Bill Perry and his heart condition, which doesn't seem to be improving. Please pray for healing and guidance for Bill and this situation.

We pray for Lincoln & Lindsay Jones to recover from COVID-19.

We continue to pray for Renee Gunselman's parents, their health and their situation. We also pray for Ed and Renee as they provide care and help manage their situation.

Greg Brown, as he recovers from knee replacement surgery.

Virgil's sister-in-law, Alice, who is now on hospice.

Physical:

Ron Eastridge and Glenn Hallas.

Thomas Wood's aunt and uncle, Charity and Richard Henry, who lost their home last week due to a fire.

Alan and Cathy's friends in LaGrande who lost their home in a house fire.

We pray for Alan and Cathy's grandson, Briar, who will be away from home for the holidays for the first time this year.

Jean Woods, Ron Eastridge, Linda Holland, Hallas Family

Military: Jordan Paul, stationed in N Carolina in extensive training; John, Betty Carter's grandson, Navy

Engaged Couples: Cody Parsons and Michelle Maeda; Gabriel Gunselman & McKenzie Kemp

Expecting Mothers: Alicia Gollakner, Naomi Smith, Summer Shore, Shima Kanani, Alanna Sullivan

Spiritual:

We pray we will rise to the challenge of loving God and others.

We pray we will be God's people this week, and that we will be able to stand up for Him and put our pride aside.

Praise:

James & Misty give praise for Misty's cousin having a baby girl last week!

Deacons: Eric Bracht, Adam Goddard, Ed Gunselman, Rolland House, Eric Jensen, Ryan McPartlin, Bob Parsons, Jose Reyes, Jake Shore, Jordan Strawn, Josh Wise

Outreach Programs: Bay Area Rescue Mission, Christian Relief Fund, Clothing Drive, East Asian Missions, Food Boxes, Mountain States Children's Home, Orphan Sunday, Quilts for CASA, Special Situations, University Christian Center



541-758-4456

2020circle@gmail.com

www.2020circle.com

December 13, 2020

2020 Circle Family Times

Sunday: 9:30AM Bible Classes for all ages
10:30AM Worship

Wednesday: Various Life Groups

Office Hours: S: 2-5; M-R: 8-4; F: 8-12

Family Newsletter



Thank you Circle Church of Christ for your generous giving! Last Sunday, you raised \$6,383.25 to be divided evenly between 4 organizations: Christian Relief Fund, Orphans Lifeline of Hope, Mountain States Children's Home and Walk 4 Water. Because you gave enough for each organization to receive over \$1,000, Circle Church of Christ will add another \$1,000 from our general fund to be divided and given to each organization. Thank you!!!

"The Main Thing"

1. To **love the Lord** our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength.
2. To **love our neighbors** as ourselves.
3. To **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Christ has commanded us.

Upcoming Events

December 13th, 9:30am: Bible Class
December 13th, 10:30am: Livestream Worship on our website, Facebook & YouTube; In person meeting at Circle Church of Christ



Thomas' Takeaways

The Hard Why Questions

As has been overstated most likely, this year has been challenging. COVID it seems has exacerbated any and every stressor, anxiety, division, and crack in our lives, and even for those who are less concerned about the health implications, has made everyday life at the very least incredibly inconvenient.

Yet, over the last few weeks, there has been an additional layer to life. Pain, suffering, and the end of life has been much more present for many, not just in our congregation. Things already difficult and taxing are made that much harder by the pandemic. I've been asked "why?" by multiple people in multiple contexts the last few weeks. Why this personal tragedy? Why this sickness? Why this situation? Why all this already on top of COVID? Just...why?

That God permits pain & suffering in His world continues to be among the top reasons people refuse to believe God exists. These questions have been reckoned with over the last few thousand years and have produced some good answers - if you'd like to have a Christologically ontological and epistemological conversation about the nature of suffering, I'm always game for it. But when it comes to people in the midst of pain & suffering, we must remember that those academic arguments mean about as much as those larger words I just used mean to most of you reading this - even if you understand it, it probably doesn't mean much. What does?

If you've ever experienced true, hard, deflating, heart-grinding pain, loss, or suffering you know the answers, but I offer them for us to consider all the same, and to invite your feedback if you wish for future articles. Those in pain often need the presence of friends, a listening ear, your quiet mouth, and a trusting shoulder to cry on. Presence speaks louder and better than any words, and there are no words you can say that will assuage immediate anguish, but you can help them process by listening. Grief and sorrow are vulnerable states; it is a sacred trust to be given to be cried to. Respect it and do not violate it.

This is a start, but one I hope we take to heart as we no doubt encounter more and more people who are hurting. We serve a God who understands what it is to suffer, and we can be the vessel through which God offers His unique comfort (2nd Cor. 1). Grace to you.

Thoughts, Questions, Notes



A neurologist called last week from RiverBend hospital. Test results have confirmed the original diagnosis. Pam started on Hospice last Wednesday. Pam's physical condition and abilities continue to deteriorate: including her thought processes, speech and walking. Pam and I are very thankful to the congregation for your ongoing prayers, meals and assistance. If we were not in Covid season, we would gladly welcome everyone to come and see us. We so intensely wish we could be having that contact with our church family. Unfortunately, we have to be careful so Gregg and other key caregivers stay well. If you send an email to gregg.strawn@gmail.com, Gregg will read them to Pam. If you want to say something to Pam or Gregg on the phone, indicate that in an email and we will try to work it out in the midst of the busy caregiving. On occasion, Pam can stand briefly in the window to see people.

University Christian Center

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541-753-4310 UCC
503-866-9117 cell



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7).

This has always been one of my favorite verses and it has found new meaning for me today. It's a hard week. Loved ones have serious health conditions, I know several people exposed to Covid-19 in Corvallis, I had a reenter drop, and I've had bad acid reflux all week. But for some reason, I'm at peace. I've gotten to the point where I'm trusting God that these hardships are either 1) Part of his plan, 2) God trying to teach me something, 3) An opportunity for ministry or 4) an unchangeable result of the fallen world. The bottom line is all I can do is pray, trust God's got this and do my best to follow him. If it's a hard week for you, talk to God and your brothers/sisters. Don't struggle alone!

Sunday Servants

- Elder of the Month: Mark Johnson
- Deacon of the Month: Josh Wise
- Service Monitor: Lorelea Glenn
- A/V: J Baxter/B McCaughan/J Gunselman
- Opening Prayer: Jim Calkin
- Communion: Eric Bracht
- Closing/Pastoral Prayer: Josh Stutzman
- Speaker: Thomas Pruett

Sunday Morning Attendance	35
Last Week's Contribution	\$11,530.13
Year to Date Weekly Average	\$4,563.11
Weekly Budget	\$4,705.29

Many Hands Make Light Work...Get Involved!	
Circle Facilitator Inside.....	Eric Bracht
Outside Circle Facilitator.....	Jim Calkin
UCC Facilitator.....	Nathan Lopez, Bob Parsons
Overall Support.....	M Zhang, G Brown, J Wise
Campus Ministry.....	Josh Stutzman, Eric & Chris Jensen
Church Safety Ministry.....	Ryan McPartlin, Josh Wise
Discipleship Ministry.....	Jose Reyes
Education Ministry.....	Thomas Pruett (CR-8 th Grade)
High School.....	Eric Bracht, Eric Jensen
Adult.....	Casey Long
Coordinators.....	R & H McPartlin, J & S Shore, L Wise, E Womack
Fellowship Ministry.....	Ed, Renee & Joel Gunselman
Life Group Ministry.....	Jordan & Kellie Strawn
Marriage & Family Ministry.....	Adam & Erin Goddard
Media/Web Ministry.....	Frank Cloutier, Bill McCaughan
Men of Iron.....	Roland House, Bob Parsons, Jake Shore
People Needs Facilitators.....	Tami Brown & Maria Zhang
Clothing Drive Lead.....	Charlene Franklund
Food Boxes Lead.....	Charlene Franklund
Publicity Ministry.....	Maria Zhang
Quilts for CASA.....	Cathy Brooks
Roster List.....	Maria Z, Casey L
Van Ministry.....	Bob Parsons, Chris Gollakner
Visitor Experience Ministry.....	See Elders
Vision Ministry.....	Elders, Deacons, Ministers, Ministry Leaders & Spouses
Widows Ministry.....	L Munson
Women's Ministry.....	Lead: Laurie Eastridge
Support Team: T Brown, M Freeman, N Johnson, J Parsons, M Zhang, R Gunselman	
Worship Ministry.....	Thomas Pruett & The Worship Team
Youth Ministry.....	Eric & Jann Bracht and Eric & Chris Jensen