

The Connection

Volume 6, Issue 6, June 2008

from Pastor Mike...

For over thirteen years you have heard me speak about us fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission here in the Walla Walla Valley. People matter to God so they should matter to us. This is our calling.

I came across an article by Scot McKnight that helps me to see a way to change my DNA regularly. I hope it inspires you and ignites your heart and soul as it did mine. Remember, you matter to God and so do those outside of His love and grace. May the Lord Jesus Christ and his love for you encourage you as you share his love with others.

Love,

Pastor Mike

The Great Connection

by Scot McKnight

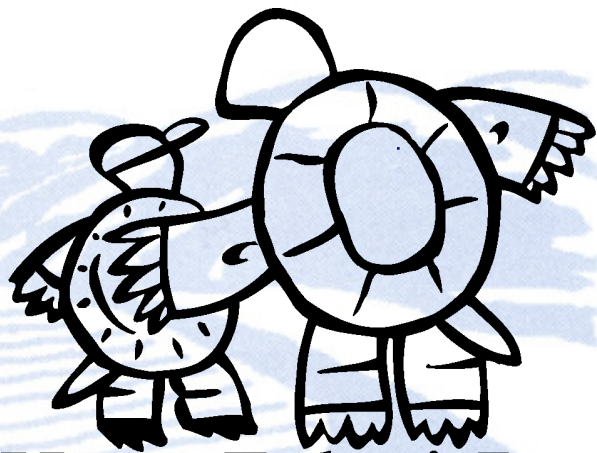
I don't know about you, but often the inner promptings I get from God to reach out in love to someone are inconvenient. I could be preparing a sermon or a talk or I could be on an errand and – to quote John Madden – “Boom! There it is! Love that person!” Now let me dig a bit deeper and I confess that evangelism is frequently inconvenient for me. I find I'd rather talk to someone about sports or politics or even theology. Evangelism is not as easy as I'd like.

I want to suggest that our inconvenience with living out the Great Commission is tied to the Great Commandments. How so? The best evangelism, as nearly every statistic tells us, emerges from love and out of a relationship. Whatever we call it, the best evangelism is nurtured by love.

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God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad!

~Author Unknown~



Happy Father's Day

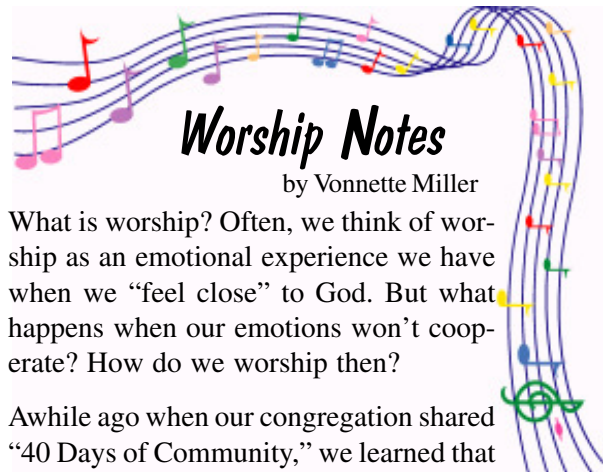


From Your Administrative Pastor

One of the most stirring and transformative periods of the church calendar has just passed. As we walked the way with Jesus to the cross, death and resurrection, God met us in very personal ways. The Gospel accounts are full of drama, mystery and hope. Then come the quiet days before the ascension—ordinary days punctuated by the appearance of Christ.

The faithfulness of God inspires, invites and enables our faithful response. Sometimes the busyness and routine of ordinary days dull our attentiveness. What can we do to sharpen our awareness of the Holy Spirit in everyday life? To recognize and to remember God's faithfulness? You may find some of the following ideas helpful.

- Listen to the story of God at work in someone else's life.
- Read Psalm 23 meditatively—lie in the green grass beside still waters, drink in the love and care of God
- Read some favorite Scripture passages and remember what first drew you to them.
- Look through a photo album or read an old journal.
- Sing or read the words of some of the great old hymns or some of the wonderful new ones.
- Hold a baby.
- Abandon your to-do list and rest in God's provision and care...enjoy a Sabbath rest each week.
- Take a walk outdoors—witness spring and new birth unfolding. Watch the sun rise.
- Engage in our community through volunteering.
- Take a personal retreat.



Worship Notes

by Vonnette Miller

What is worship? Often, we think of worship as an emotional experience we have when we “feel close” to God. But what happens when our emotions won't cooperate? How do we worship then?

Awhile ago when our congregation shared “40 Days of Community,” we learned that love is not merely an emotion. Emotions go up and down, affected by what we eat and how much sleep we get and many other things. Emotions come and go. Love is an action. We must make a conscious decision to act in a loving way toward someone regardless of the emotions of the moment. Worship is like that, too.

We can choose to worship God, regardless of our circumstances or the emotions of the moment. During church, we can choose to sing a song of worship in a way that brings glory to God, whether or not we like the style of the music and whether or not that style stirs our emotions. We can choose to sing the words as a prayer to God and mean them. During our daily lives, we can choose to make every task an act of worship. Perhaps there is something you must do today that seems like drudgery. You can choose to make that task you were dreading into an act of worship by praying, “Lord, even though I do not enjoy this task, I will do it today to the best of my ability to bring glory to You.” This is what worship is all about!

“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.”

Romans 12:1 (Message)



REJUVENATION UPDATE

We continue to refine the floor plans as prayers, discussions and dreams begin to become reality.

Thank you so much to all who have given their time and talents toward making this project the best it can be. Most recent modifications have focused on the stage area in the multi-purpose room, the orientation of restrooms, mechanical and electrical room needs, and egress from the second floor areas.

Our designer is in the process of implementing the latest decisions and should have them ready by the end of this week. Next will be another meeting with the city to have them review the latest plans and advise us on any street improvements required, and a final decision on sprinkler requirements. Following that meeting, plans will then be delivered to Randy Grudzinski for review and firm cost estimates. That bid will include the city's requirements for street improvements and sprinklers. Our goal is to have all this information ready to present to you at our June business meeting.

We're continuing to make progress! I continue to be amazed at how God is working within our church body toward achieving our dream of a wonderful new facility which will serve the needs of our children, seniors, and families for years to come. Thanks once again for all your prayers, ideas and support for our Rejuvenation project. Please continue to honor your pledges of financial support for this exciting project.

In His service

Larry Wachtel



MISSIONS CORNER

by Shirley Musick

H.E.A.R.T. is the Institute for Hunger, Education and Resources Team, located in Florida. H.E.A.R.T. prepares missionaries for effective life changing service among the poor and hungry of the world.

This unique interdenominational training center empowers students with problem solving and coping skills so that they can effectively serve in developing countries by simulating a Third-World Village for three or 15 weeks. H.E.A.R.T. provides a unique opportunity to deal with cultural shock as students learn to cope without modern conveniences, such as electricity, air conditioning, and indoor plumbing.

Here are some areas of training:

Sustainable Agriculture	Spiritual Development
Small Animal Husbandry	Food Technology
Appropriate Technology	Primary Health
Cross Cultural Communication	Community Development

This quote by Dr. Tony Compolo says it very well. "The H.E.A.R.T. program brings together the most advanced technological perceptions on missions, the most modern techniques of appropriate technology and the best teachers for Third World missions. H.E.A.R.T. is the only place I know where evangelical commitment is coupled with 'hands-on' experiences to mold a Third World worker for holistic ministry. I continue to urge (our) graduate students to study with you because those who do report it to be the best experience that they have had."

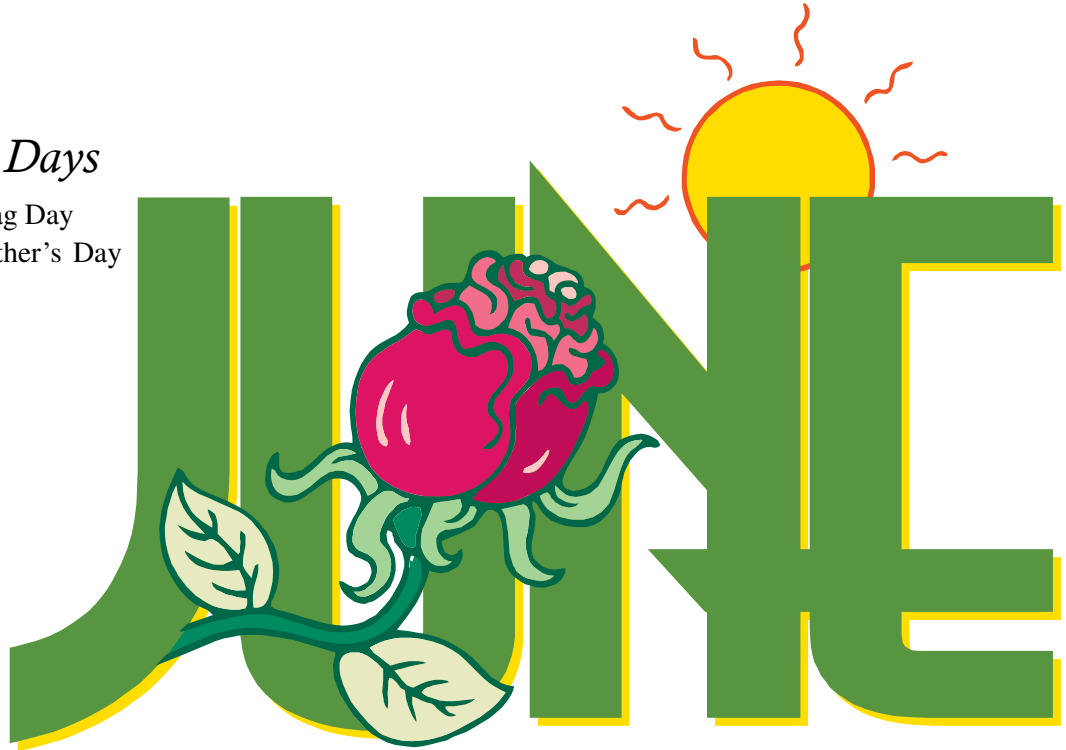
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|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 3 | <i>Don & Donna Raugust
Bill & Lydia Whipple</i> | 1 | <i>Miles Plucker</i> | | <i>Rick Walters</i> |
| 4 | <i>Robert & Laura Rice</i> | 2 | <i>Rachel Clark
Britney Cutlip
Stacey Larreau</i> | 15 | <i>Steve Nelson
George Thomaston</i> |
| 5 | <i>Mitch & Terri Adams</i> | 3 | <i>Cheryl Cowles</i> | 16 | <i>Julia Pattee
Jackie Wolske</i> |
| 7 | <i>Ed & Donna Hendricksen</i> | 4 | <i>Sydney Harris
Cary Rahn</i> | 17 | <i>Kay Benzel
Ron Dillow</i> |
| 8 | <i>John & Melanie Berger
Michael & Sharron Watkins</i> | 5 | <i>Jeremy Gonzalez
Don Hoppen
Kolby Wood</i> | 18 | <i>Jeff Goodson
Jamie Matheny</i> |
| 9 | <i>Bryce & Yvonne Henline</i> | 6 | <i>Mark Anderson
Jessica Ramsey
Ric Wiles</i> | 19 | <i>Becky Brashear</i> |
| 12 | <i>Mike & Laura Bowe</i> | 7 | <i>Amy Freeman</i> | 20 | <i>Tom Angotti
Myrna Bowen
Lauren Clark
Heather Huntley</i> |
| 15 | <i>Vic & Eloise Phillips</i> | 9 | <i>Karen McDaniels
Stephanie Simmons</i> | 21 | <i>Kristi Montgomery
Don Raugust</i> |
| 16 | <i>Michael & LaVonda Hinrichsen</i> | 10 | <i>Joshua Lyons
Diane McEuen</i> | 22 | <i>Glen Shivley
Bob Stewart Jr.</i> |
| 17 | <i>Don & Paula Hoppen
Sonny & Linda Reyburn</i> | 11 | <i>Conner Heimbigner</i> | 23 | <i>Brianna Branscum
Mary Granger
Heather Sept</i> |
| 19 | <i>Roland & Carol Schirman</i> | 12 | <i>Isaac Freeman
Rebecca Landstrom</i> | 24 | <i>Carl Banks
Jeanne Fox
Brianna Mountain</i> |
| 20 | <i>Harold & Bonnie Raugust</i> | 13 | <i>Adrienne Harris
Mindy Neissl</i> | 25 | <i>Josh Kraut
Chalene Waltner</i> |
| 22 | <i>Richard & Judi Easton
Scott & Holly Graves</i> | 14 | <i>Nancy Jennings
John Blom
Clifford Frazier
Amy Kraut
Nicholas Matheny
Shayla Mountain</i> | 26 | <i>Andrew Hoppen</i> |
| 23 | <i>Don & Kathryn Logosz
Bob & Nancy Stewart</i> | | | 27 | <i>Jean Conklin
Nancy Cornelius
Debi Evans
Larry Laughlin
Robert Miller
Sean Shea</i> |
| 25 | <i>Donny & Kandee Hoppen
Scott & Renee Krivoshein
Tom & Dianne Mosher</i> | | | 28 | <i>Stephen Miller</i> |
| 26 | <i>Jerry & Sue Willsey</i> | | | 29 | <i>Beverly Jeffris
Larry Wachtel</i> |
| 29 | <i>Nick & Julie Caton</i> | | | 30 | <i>Amanda Nielsen
Jack Shea</i> |
| 30 | <i>Barry & Leslie Culbertson
Bret & Stacey Larreau
Dustin & Nicole West</i> | | | | |



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Special Days

- 14 Flag Day
- 15 Father's Day



Monthly Events

- 1 Graduation Sunday
Baccalaureate 6:00 PM
- 5 Baptismal Class 6:30 PM
Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 7 Fishing Derby at Bennington Lake
- 9 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 10 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 12 Senior Adult Ministries 10:00 AM
Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 17 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 19 Missions Commission Meeting 7:00 PM
Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM
CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 22 Annual Business Meeting after service

Weekly Events

Tuesday

- Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM
- Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

Wednesday

- Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM

Thursday

- Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Friday

- Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM
- Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

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Our example, the hummingbirds

Last summer Kris (my wife) and I attracted hummingbirds to our feeders for the first time. We put out about five miniature feeders, and one morning, “Boom! There one was!” I saw the little hummer and I had to call Kris to inform her that we had successfully attracted hummingbirds. I’m embarrassed by how excited we were so I’ll move on to my main point: we were shocked how frequently they came to the feeders throughout the day.

So one day, when I had a bundle of things to read and decided to spend the day on the porch reading, I started counting. By my calculation, they fed from the feeder about five times per hour. Adding it all up, I calculated the hummers came to the feeder about 50 to 60 times a day. Imagine sitting down for a meal 60 times a day!

After a little reading, I learned that hummers expend so much energy and have so little space for storage, they are in need of constant feeding. Hummingbirds, I am suggesting, follow the pattern God gave for the Great Commandments. In Deuteronomy 6:4-5, God told Israel to say this: “*Hear (shema) O Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.*” The Shema was the central commandment in Moses’ list. They were to recite it constantly.

Now the hummingbird part. So important was the Shema, the command to love God, that God told every Israelite to recite the Shema at sunup and sundown, and to recite it whenever they left the house and whenever they entered the house. And they were also to repeat it whenever they were on the path with family. They said the Shema as often as hummingbirds feed.

About five years ago I started practicing the ancient Israelite custom of reciting the Shema when I got up

and when I went to bed, when I left the house and when I entered, and whenever I was on the way. I learned that I was saying it about 50 times a day. It began to work its way into my own DNA.

The Great Commandments

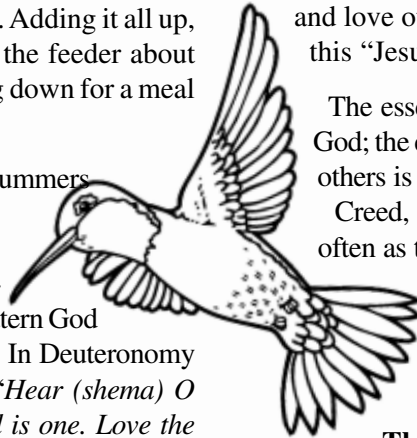
When Jesus was asked by a scribe what was the greatest commandment of all, Jesus recited the Shema and then, rather surprising to the scribe, added an obscure command from Leviticus 19:18: “The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:28-32). Because Jesus amended the historic creed of Israel, the Shema, into a love God and love others command, I decided to call this “Jesus Shema” the Jesus Creed.

The essence of living before God is to love God; the essence of living with (inconvenient) others is to love others. If we recite the Jesus Creed, which is the form of the Shema, as often as the ancient Israelites did (as often as hummingbirds feed), it works into our DNA. Like hummingbirds, we don’t have much storage and so we need to recite this often.

The Great Commission

Now my claim: those who let the Jesus Creed work into their DNA discover that the Great Commandment is far more natural and far less inconvenient. When they are asked what makes them tick, the answer is rather natural: love of God and love of others, the kind of Great Commandments that make the Great Commission our delight.

Those who live the Great Commandments discover themselves setting up Jesus Creed feeders for their neighbors.





Celebrate Recovery

By Darlene Mings

“How great is the love the father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is because it did not know him.” 1 John 3:1

Did you grow up believing that one or both of your parents didn’t love you? Were you abused physically, mentally, or verbally? Maybe all three.

We often have low self worth growing up in situations like these. We try to fit in the real world, but those old tapes keep playing in our head: “I don’t deserve better,” or “If they know me, they will not like me,” or “I must be doing something wrong.”

So often we develop habits to cover up the hurt. Some turn to alcohol or drugs, while others become people pleasers, or over-achievers. Co-dependents think they can solve all their own problems if they just try harder. We try the same things over and over, getting the same results! Insanity!

I am here to tell you that God loves us—all of us, just as we are. God has taken me from a hardened individual to a broken, loving follower of Christ.

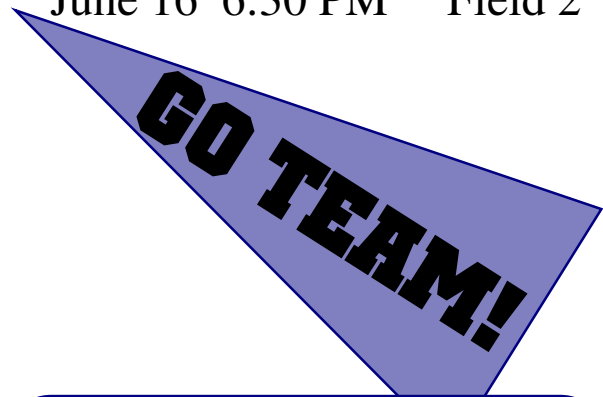
So if your self-worth comes from anyone other than God, you will always be vulnerable. The world will belittle you. Trying and failing will discourage you, sometimes to the extent of suicide. Worst of all, you will never discover the wonderful, unique person God made you to be.

At Celebrate Recovery, we can love you through all those hurts, habits and hang-ups. We can encourage you to become accountable and to discover that unique person that God made you to be. God loves you just as you are, and so do we! Give us a try. What have you got to lose?



Support our softball team by attending a game and cheering them on. All games are held at the sportsplex off Tausick Way.

June 2	6:30 PM	Field 3
June 4	7:45 PM	Field 1
June 9	7:45 PM	Field 2
June 11	6:30 PM	Field 1
June 16	6:30 PM	Field 2



Newsletter Deadline

If you have an upcoming event you’d like to promote, faith story or poem you’d like to share, or anything else that pertains to the life of the people of Blue Mountain Community Church, please consider writing a small article (300 words or less) and submitting it to the newsletter. The deadline for articles is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

**As a father has
compassion for his
children, so the Lord
has compassion for
those who fear him.**

P s a l m 1 0 3 : 1 3



Our Ministry Team

Senior Pastor — Mike Hinrichsen
Administrative Pastor — Dan Huntley
Student Ministries Pastor — Isaac Freeman
Worship Interim Pastor — Richard Easton

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