



The North Hill Christian

Spokane, WA

August 2024 Vol 71 #8

Flurries from Chris

One of the constant themes that has been arising in my meditations this past month, centers around our desire for perfection within church culture, especially when it comes to worship. At first glance this seems like a noble pursuit, until you begin to recognize that in the pursuit of perfection individuals find themselves excluded.

Lamar Hardwick, in his book “How Ableism Fuels Racism,” writes “Our churches love beauty. We create cue sheets each week for the worship experience because we need a comprehensive strategy for moving through worship in a way that eliminates distractions. Transitions must be smooth and seamless. Sound and lighting have to be on point... We mark the stage with tape, showing where every person should stand so that the camera angles are just right as the stage lights hit the soloist, projecting their good side. We do all this so that from week to week and month to month, people have an experience that is void of messiness. No mistakes. No missteps. No distractions. Nothing unattractive.” (pg 58)

Dr. Hardwick’s work takes where Nancy Eisland’s work left off in “The Disabled God.” Where she names those moments where individuals with disabilities are relegated off to the side where they will not be a distraction during the worship service. Even when individuals want to serve in places like the choir but due to structural limitations those spaces are not easily accessible and the excuse of “distraction” is named.

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Weekly Events

Attitude Adjustment

Every day at noon and 5:30 p.m.

Citizenship Preparation

Thursdays 6-7 PM.

1st Ukrainian Baptist Church

Worship: Sun. 2-6 p.m.

Study & Choir: Tues. 6-9 p.m.



Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels delivers hot meals to clients every weekday. North Hill Christian is responsible for delivering one week a month. Please call or email Michele Fleck, (509) 327-3451, michele_fleck@comcast.net

Flurries from Chris (cont.)

I say all this as I continue to be aware of our congregation and denominational practice of an open table. Where we declare that all are welcome. But are there ways in which we have disregarded solutions to concerns because they are not pretty or perfect. Rather they may just be a bit too messy for our tastes.

My work this past month has me remembering back to 2020 when we were making plans for returning to the sanctuary after worshipping from home due to COVID. I remember those conversations about how we would serve communion. Our options as I saw them at the time were to 1) serve communion by passing trays. Which was already becoming problematic because of the difficulty many in our congregation have with carrying the trays, especially up and down steps. 2) Having the congregation come forward while one person is appointed to serve those who cannot come forward. Not a perfect solution because there are those who may/do feel a separation from the community in this practice.

However, as I started to think through solutions that ignore the desire for perfection and lack of distraction solutions came to mind that I had never considered before. Before I share my ideas with you I want to begin thinking on the same themes. What issues have we as a congregation run into where the requirements for the solution be perfection and free of distraction, that could have been addressed differently if we took those requirements off the table?

Peace in Christ,
Chris Snow

Howard Burkett Memorial Service

The memorial service for Howard Burkett has been scheduled for August 7th @ 10 am at Riplinger Funeral Home (4305 N Division St).

Covering the pulpit

While Chris is on Sabbatical through early September (he will be back in the pulpit on September 8th), we will continue to have a variety of people sharing God's message.

Preaching in August/September (1st Sunday):

August 4th – Bill Jennison

August 11th – Bill Jennison

August 18th – Paul Allen (Regional Minister)

August 25th – Jim CastroLang

September 1st – Bill Jennison

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Giving to mission concerns has been an important ministry of our congregation for many years. Those objectives have included addressing the needs of God's children everywhere.

We have given to many different neighborhood and city organizations. Some such as the Salish School have gotten year-round assistance from us. Others like the Willard School families and CASA got special attention with food baskets at the holidays.

The church board is asking you to share your knowledge of groups who might become a part of our ministry together. That can include year-round help or a special focus at holiday time.

Feel free to share your knowledge of e-needs that can become a part of our ministry to our community. Your assistance will be appreciated. Any board member would be glad to hear your suggestion and present it to the group. Thank you.

Prayer Concerns

- Prayers for David Medina and Rebecca Young for health and healing.
- Continued prayers for Sam Selley.
- Prayers for Kathy Riley, following surgery.
- Prayers for Bobbie Belton and family. She was having breathing problems, taken to the hospital and has been admitted.
- Prayers for Patty Morris for safe travel to Portland to see family.
- Continued prayers for Jane Burkett and family.
- Prayers for all who are traveling.
- Prayers for people in the Gaza Strip, Israel, and the Ukraine.

Joys

Birthdays

- 8/1 Michele Fleck
- 8/2 Sally Deranleau
- 8/25 Marilyn Smith
- 8/27 Jerry Klein

Anniversaries

- 8/20 Sheila & Randy McCrea
- 8/12 Toni Keel



Please return borrowed items



North Hill Christian is always happy to help our members and partners; however, we do ask that you return any items you may have borrowed from the church. This would include, but not be limited to, items such as office supplies, kitchen supplies, gardening tool, hymnals, etc. Others may be counting on these things for their classes, meetings, or events. Thank you for your consideration.

Read Along with Pastor Chris

Pastor Chris has already begun finding books that he is planning on reading during his sabbatical and wanted to offer you the opportunity of reading along with him in this time. You are invited to look through the following book list and see if any of the titles are of interest to you. Once Pastor Chris returns from his sabbatical he will offer times to discuss the books that you have read along with him.

“How Ableism Fuels Racism” Lamar Hardwick

“My Body is Not a Prayer Request” Amy Kenny

“Disciples and Friends: Investigations in Disability, Dementia, and Mental Health” Armand Léon van Omen, Brian R. Brock

“Becoming the Baptized Body” Sarah Jean Barton

“The Viral Underclass” Steven W. Thrasher

Collection list for the Salish School Needs Pantry

Household Items: laundry detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, liquid hand soap, PineSol, disinfectant, dish soap

Personal Hygiene Items:

shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, body wash, lotion, deodorant, razors, hair ties, combs, hair brushes.

Financial report for July

| | July | YTD | YTD Budget |
|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Income | \$ 11,814 | \$ 84,580 | \$ 81,431 |
| Expense | \$ 13,168 | \$ 94,966 | \$ 95,565 |

General Offering income was below budget by \$479

\$2710 quarterly income from investment of rental house money

Income does not include:

- \$16,000 pulled from investments in May to pay for 2 new furnaces & an air conditioner
- \$7,500 pulled from investments in June to cover bills





North Hill Christian Church

4620 N. Post

Spokane, WA 99205

August, 2024 --- Serving Schedules

| | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Count | Sheila McCrea Sally Deranleau | Michele Fleck Patty Morris | Linda Alexander Arlene Pandelis | Sheila McCrea Sally Deranleau |
| Diaconate | Michele Fleck | Nathan Burford | Patty Morris | Linda Alexander |
| Elder | Janie Selley | Debbie Jennison | Sheila McCrea | Sarita McReynolds |
| Lay Leader | Nathan Burford | Debbie Jennison | Sheila McCrea | Nathan Burford |
| Power Point | Debbie Jennison | Natasha Carter | Debbie Jennison | Natasha Carter |
| Sound | Ben Greene | Nathan Burford | Ben Greene | Michele Fleck |
| Pick Up | Bobbie Belton | Arlene Pandelis | Sally Deranleau | Janie Selley |
| Greeter | Bill Phipps | Arlene Pandelis | Bill Phipps | Sarita McReynolds |
| Coffee Hour | | | | |
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