

OCTOBER 2020

# THE EVANGEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF  AUDUBON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SERMON  
on the  
MOUNT

During his time on earth, Jesus spent time preaching and teaching about the Kingdom of God. The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus most profound and most memorable teachings.

Here we find the Beatitudes the Golden Rule, and the Lord's Prayer. Here Jesus speaks of the meek inheriting the earth and identifies his followers as "the salt of the earth." He urges people to "turn the other cheek" and to "go the second mile." He refers to "wolves in sheep's clothing," "serving two masters," storing up "treasure in heaven" (Matt 6:20), and "casting pearls before swine."

What might these teachings have mean to his disciples, and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live?

***Join us beginning Sunday, October 4th as we explore the Sermon on the Mount in Worship on Sunday Mornings!***



**Rev. Geoff Helton**

**Lead Pastor**

[geoff@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:geoff@audubonparkumc.org)  
[fb.com/geoffhelton](https://www.facebook.com/geoffhelton)



One of the main ways that we're communicating as a church during the Coronavirus pandemic is Pastor Geoff's weekly email.

You'll get a short message from Pastor Geoff each week and hear more about church what's happening at the church.

To sign-up email pastor Geoff at [geoff@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:geoff@audubonparkumc.org)

or go to our website:  
[www.audubonparkumc.org/connect/pastors-e-note](http://www.audubonparkumc.org/connect/pastors-e-note)

*If you've signed up and still aren't receiving our emails, we recommend that you check your spam folder.*

# FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

*How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?*

- Psalm 137:4

When in exile from the land of their ancestors and transplanted in Babylon our ancestors in the faith asked a great question: "How shall we worship in this strange land?" We are more than 7 months into social distancing, worshipping online, and living our faith in this strange new land, and there seems to be no end in sight.

Crisis invites us to reorder our lives, our loves, and our hopes. We can decide to live as people of God in new ways. In this time of pandemic we live between the extremes of life and death, between quarantine together and loneliness, between abundance and scarcity, between anxiety and the holy.

I stand firm in the belief that our loving God does not send things like pandemics or wildfires our way to punish us or test us. But I do believe that God can redeem these things and use them for our good. When we ultimately emerge from our self-isolation may we carry with us the gifts we have learned in these times. May we spend more time together with those we love. May we gather for Holy Communion, worship, and sing in celebration together. May we understand this gift of life in new ways. May we have a new pace of life that allows us to take life in. May we love God, love self, and love neighbor.

Thank you for being the church in the midst of a crisis. We are the church that worships online. We are the church that serves the community and the world as we continue to feed those who are food insecure through our food bank. We are the church that continues to grow via Zoom small groups, classes, and midweek vespers. We are the church. Thank you for being the church in new ways.

Thank you also for your continued financial support of the church. Your giving has sustained us in remarkable ways through this season. Some of you have given a little extra as you have been able, others have had to reduce their giving due to reduced income, increased costs, or the need to help a family member or friend in these difficult days. If you are one of those who has had to reduce or take a break from giving to the church, know that we understand and so does God!

When we joined the church we committed to supporting the ministry of God through church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. You are living up to these commitments and we are so thankful for you!

*Grace & Peace*  
*-Pastor Geoff*



# Humor about Feelings

A person fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.

A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there."

An objective person walked by and said, "It's logical that someone would fall down there."

A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."

A mathematician calculated how deep the pit was.

A news reporter wanted the exclusive story on the pit.

A self-pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit."

A New Age philosopher observed, "The pit is just in your mind."

A psychologist noted, "Your parents are to blame for your being in that pit."

An optimist said, "Things could be worse."

A pessimist claimed, "Things will get worse."

Jesus, seeing the person, took them by the hand and lifted them out of the pit.

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## Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

**Youth Group Schedule:** Youth Group (6th - 12th grade) will meet every Sunday at the church from 6pm - 7:30pm, unless otherwise stated.

**Youth Sunday School Schedule:** Youth Sunday School (6th - 12th grade) will meet every Sunday online on Zoom from 9am - 10am.

### *This is Halloween*

**Sunday, October 25th 6:00pm - 7:30pm**

Wear your Halloween costume early and bring a pumpkin because we will be carving pumpkins, watching a spooky movie, and voting on best pumpkin and best costume. There will be treats and prizes! You won't want to miss this event!

**ATTENTION:** For the safety of our youth and young adult helpers all participants will be required to wear a face mask for youth group events. Thank you in advance for your understanding during these uncertain times.

Contact Drew Homchick for more info: [rew@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:rew@audubonparkumc.org).



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
Online

Children in Preschool to 5th Grade are invite to join us online for virtual Sunday School! WEEKLY ZOOM | Sundays at 9:00 AM!

- **WEEKLY ZOOM | Sundays at 9:00 AM!**
- **WEEKLY ONLINE BIBLE LESSONS & VIDEOS**

Go to Our church website to find out more!  
[AUDUBONPARKUMC.ORG/GROW/KIDS-MINISTRY-ONLINE](http://AUDUBONPARKUMC.ORG/GROW/KIDS-MINISTRY-ONLINE)  
(The password is: johnwesley)



## **Rev. Glenn Kennedy**

Associate Pastor of  
Congregational Care

[glenn@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:glenn@audubonparkumc.org)

# **FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR**

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of my faith walk my spiritual mentor and friend, a student minister named Frank Meyer, got me started in a scripture memory program offered by the "Navigators Ministry". My very first packet of eight verses included this one from the book of Philippians written by the Apostle Paul:

"My God will meet your every need out of his riches in the glory that is found in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19- CEB

I memorized that verse when I was sixteen years old, so that means I've had fifty-eight years to think about it, pray over it, and live out its meaning. Here is the story of how and when that verse first came alive for me.

In the summer of my eighteenth year, I had a chance to put that lavish promise to a full test. My friend and Pastor, Frank, had encouraged me strongly to attend a College Briefing Conference sponsored by the Navigators, in Colorado Springs. I'd never been much of anywhere. Our family wasn't big on vacations...on a farm, summers are for work. This was my High School graduation summer. I have relatives in that part of the country on my dad's side that I'd never met (we'd lost dad when I was two) so it just seemed like the right idea. A small financial "provision" miracle had occurred late that summer, so I had the needed money and I decided the trip was on! About 24 hours into my Greyhound ride from Spokane to Colorado Springs, I began to wonder how good an idea this trip, especially the Conference, was. There would be about 200 students there from all over the country. More than the number of people in the town where I grew up. (Hunters, WA) I would not know one single person...what was I thinking!? The verse from Philippians 4 began to play in my mind, "every need." I needed a friend...so for the rest of the bus ride I kind of focused in on that need.

Upon arrival in Colorado Springs, a fellow from the Conference center was waiting to pick me up. So far, so good. We visited on the way, he was a pleasant man, probably in his late 40's. He was interested that I was a country boy. He too had grown up rural. We even shared a common love for horses. As we pulled into the lane leading to the registration center a lovely sight caught my full attention. Running down the fence line keeping pace with the Suburban we were in was an absolutely beautiful chestnut Arabian mare. When we stopped, I bounded over to the fence and made her acquaintance, even before I grabbed my suitcase. As I walked back to the Suburban my new friend, asked "what do you think of her?" I answered, "I'm in love!" He smiled approvingly, reached into his pocket, pulled out his key chain, tossed me a key, and said, "In that case, consider her yours for the week, here's the key to the tack shed." He explained that since his daughter had gone away to school the mare had gotten ridden very little...he'd be all too happy to have me ride her when I had schedule breaks. My second day there the Conference Director saw me out on a little ride and called me over and made a request: "Would you consider carrying the mail into camp every



day around lunchtime Pony Express style...we've never done anything like that. I think folks would get a kick out of it!? (Remember this was 1964...well before cell phones, e-mail, and text messages. Mail was big deal when you were away from home.) Every day my new friend Rosie and I would come roaring into camp. I'd toss the saddlebag full of mail to the Director, give a wave with my hat and we'd gallop off as if there was important work to do somewhere else! I not only had a special friend for the week, but I also had a 'place'. I was given something I knew how to do. Through the mail delivery I met students from many places. The daily Pony Express rides proved to be a wonderful conversation starter ...I ended up having a marvelous, life-changing week.

"My God will meet your every need out of his riches in the glory that is found in Christ Jesus."

Count on it, trust it, remember it when the going gets tough. One might think that God is too busy running the Universe to take care of a simple little need like that for a teenager away from home for the first time. Apparently not!

*Blessings,  
- Pastor Glenn*



## **WILDFIRE RELIEF**

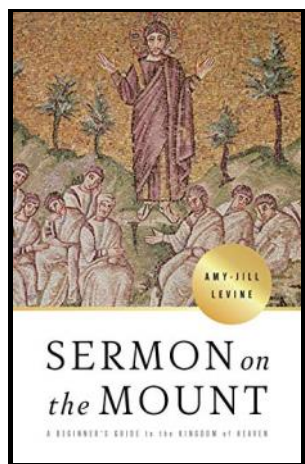
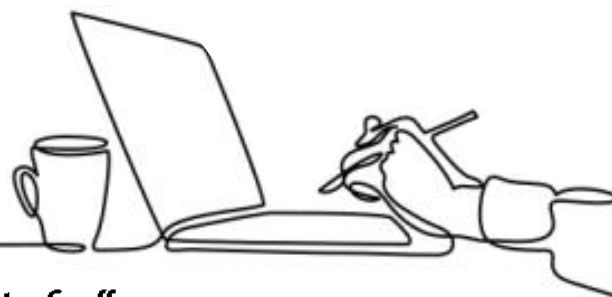
Join us in our response to the real needs of our neighbors as they recover from tragedy and find hope again.

Here are two ways you can donate:

- Send a gift to the church and mark it "PNW Conference Disaster Fund (Advance #352).
- You can also go online and donate at <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/pacific-northwest-conference-of-the-united-methodist-church/pacific-northwest-conference-disaster-fund-advance-352>

# Audubon Park Church

## FALL 2020 GROW CLASSES



### SERMON ON THE MOUNT BIBLE STUDY w/ Pastor Geoff

8 WEEKS | THURSDAYS AT 7PM BEGINNING OCT 8

The Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to his disciples, and to the others who first heard them? In this book, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today.

Join Pastor Geoff for a six-week study of the Sermon on the Mount. This study will coincide with a sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount beginning Sunday, October 4. There are two options for participating, Zoom video call or Facebook Group (learn more below).



### SERMON ON THE MOUNT FACEBOOK GROUP

Is it difficult to accommodate a six or eight week study in your busy schedule? Would you rather engage a study on your own terms in your own timing? Well, we're trying something new that might work for you! For the Sermon on the Mount Study there will be a Facebook group option you can join. Pastor Geoff will post an intro video on Monday, and other videos that connect to our topic, and each day there will be a new discussion question for us to engage through posts in the group.



# VIRTUAL HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

We had hoped to substitute our annual Halloween Hullabaloo with a Trunk-or-Treat given the pandemic. But the CDC recently released recommendations for Halloween Celebrations listing Trunk-or-Treat as a High-Risk Activity!

So, we're scaling things down a little more and are going to try a virtual costume contest this year! We're inviting all children, youth, adults, even pets to put together a fun and creative costume, submit a picture of yourself in costume and a team of judges will award fun prizes. All children and youth will receive a prize for participating!

Email your pictures to Pastor Geoff ([geoff@audubonoparkumc.org](mailto:geoff@audubonoparkumc.org)) or upload them to our Facebook page between October 23 and October 30. We'll announce the winners on October 31st!

# October

*For more information on church meetings or events, please see the website, your group leader, or e-mail us at: [office@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:office@audubonparkumc.org).*

## **Sunday, 10/4**

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

## **Tuesday, 10/6**

I'm Still Here with Pastor Geoff 2:00 pm

## **Wednesday, 10/7**

An Altar In the World with Pastor Glenn 1:00 pm.  
Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

## **Thursday, 10/8**

Sermon on the Mount Pastor Geoff 7:00 pm

## **Sunday, 10/11**

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

## **Tuesday, 10/13**

Audubon Park Food Bank 8:30 -11:30 pm  
I'm Still Here with Pastor Geoff 2:00 pm

## **Wednesday, 10/14**

An Altar In the World with Pastor Glenn 1:00 pm.  
Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

## **Thursday, 10/15**

Sermon on the Mount Pastor Geoff 7:00 pm

## **Sunday, 10/18**

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

## **Tuesday, 10/20**

I'm Still Here with Pastor Geoff 2:00 pm

## **Wednesday, 10/21**

An Altar In the World with Pastor Glenn 1:00 pm.  
Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

## **Thursday, 10/22**

Sermon on the Mount Pastor Geoff 7:00 pm

## **Sunday, 10/25**

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

## **Tuesday, 10/27**

Audubon Park Food Bank 8:30 -11:30 pm  
I'm Still Here with Pastor Geoff 2:00 pm

## **Wednesday, 10/28**

An Altar In the World with Pastor Glenn 1:00 pm.  
Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

## **Thursday, 10/29**

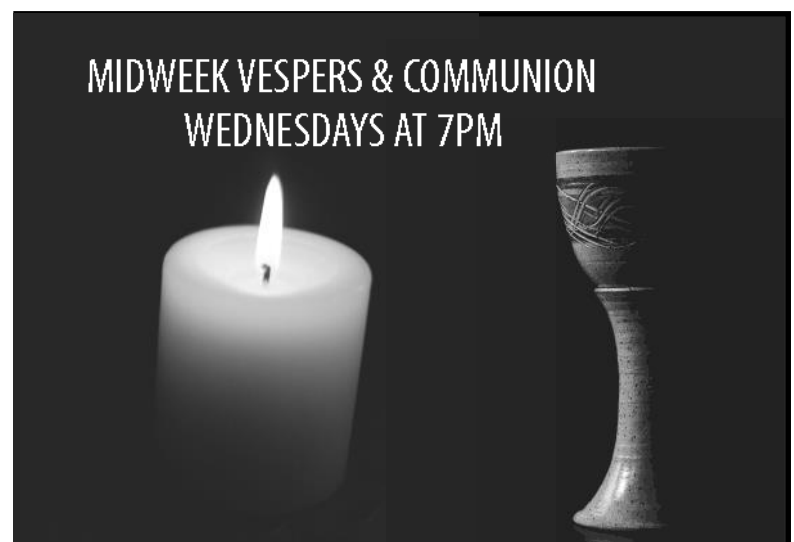
Sermon on the Mount Pastor Geoff 7:00 pm

## October Birthdays

1st - Donna Sampson  
3rd - Betty White  
5th - Richard Shumaker, Judy Walker  
8th - Jhary Asterino  
10th - John Olson, John Rissler  
12th - Wayne Clark  
13th - Barbara Burns, Karyl Masters  
14th - Ryan Burns, Darby Fosberg, Bonnie Holm, Delby Rodgers, Linda Shurtleff  
19th - Frank Cramer  
23rd - Russ Andres, Dianne Clark, Dorothy Rowe  
27th - Richard Prague, Billy Wisor  
29th - Gordon Mero  
30th - Cory Patel

## October Anniversaries

4th - Doug & Pauline Smith  
16th - Russ and Cary Andres  
18th - Chris & Sandi Nicol, Dan & Karyl Masters  
26th - Ted & Angela Schmidt



MIDWEEK VESPERS & COMMUNION  
WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM

**Address Service Requested**

# THE EVANGEL — VOLUME 66 ISSUE 10— OCTOBER 2020

