



Volume 78 Issue 7

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Movies have a way of communicating unlike any other art form. In them, we find powerful stories of the human experience—often an experience marked by intersection with the divine. Whether filmmakers know it or not, (or care) God's fingerprints can be found all over their stories. This summer we'll take a look at some popular films from the past few years and look at how we can find God at the movies. (Dates and titles are listed below). I will show a little clip each Sunday; however you may want to watch the entire movie before each Sunday. Maybe you'll have some insights that I missed. Easy homework...see you this summer in church.

peace rene'

- 07.07.13 * **God in the Media** – Acts 10:1-10:48 - series beginner
- 07.14.13 * **Joan of Arcadia** - Genesis 1:27-31 - A canonical "stranger on a bus. How do you see God in the world? Ask children, "What does God look like?" and their responses usually include: "He is very old, has a long white beard, bushy white hair, and wears a flowing white dress or robe."
- 07.21.13 * **Bruce Almighty** – Job 3:3-10 - Ever been angry at God? When angry at God, the rage feels highly justified. God can do anything so he should
- 07.28.13 * **Toy Story & Toy Story 2** - Ephesians 2:10 and Colossians 3:12 - Buzz' revelation...who am I? For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.
- 08.04.13 * **50 First dates** - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7-infatuation and love are not the same thing, and only a sacrificial, long-term investment can satisfy the relational longings of the heart.
- 08.11.13 * **Man of Steel** - Matthew 5:38-44 – Where do we find our strength? I am a branch of the true vine, and a conduit of Christ's life. I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me--and I in him--bears much fruit, because apart from me you can accomplish nothing (John 15:1, 5).
- 08.25.13 * **42 – The story of Jackie Robinson**. Daniel 10:19 & Acts 23:11 - Taking a simple gift, and changing the world with it. Simple not easy, because there are few people in this world who would be willing to step out on behalf of others when

Book Club

Participants of the book club are given the opportunity to each choose a book that we read and discuss. These are the books that have been selected so far.

All women are welcome to attend the book club. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday September through June. Summer months are great for getting a head start on the fall books.

September	"Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" by Helen Simonson
October	"The Orchardist" by Amanda Coplin
November	"The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom
December	"If you lived here, I'd Know your Name" by HeatherLende
January 2014	"The Paris Wife" by Paula McLean

Sharon Klump



Finance Committee

Our next Communion Sunday Special Offering will be to benefit our local Community House. The House provides many services to the people of our community most in need. The House is in the midst of raising their annual budget, and anything we can give will be a great help. That collection will be made on July 7, during communion.

In August, we will focus on our in-house project of "Tide Me Over" food baskets. These bags of food help many in our congregation stretch their food budget for the month. It's a great way to share your bounty from God.

Cynda Webb

Finance committee chairperson



Dear Parents with Young Children in Church

You are doing something really, *really* important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant carseat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you *beg* your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

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Trustees

Trustee members had a meeting on June 5, and welcomed Bill Harder as a new member on this committee.

We voted to buy a new riding lawn mower, which has been paid for by some very generous donors. To them we say **THANK YOU** for your support. We will try to sell the two remaining riding mowers. If you know anyone interested, please have them get in touch with myself, Gene or Frank. One of them does run and one does not. We still need a new walk-behind mower.

One of our next projects will be to replace the lightning in the office. Again Gene and Frank will be our go to guys. We will be paying for this out of the building maintenance budget.

Later this summer we hope to have work parties for both inside and outside of the church.

Just a reminder to anyone wanting to borrow any object from the church and take it off the church property: Please check with the trustees before you remove. We are responsible for all property and need to know when someone borrows.

Thanks

Sharon Klump

From Tina Bacon

Thank you for sending me your newsletter. I really enjoy reading all your news.

I got that nanny job I wanted. I work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:45 – 2:30. I have never been a nanny before but so far, I really like it. I watch Maggie, who is 5 months old. Thanks for all your prayers!

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Love,

Tina Bacon

United Methodist Women

- All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend
- 1st Thursday of each month 10:30 am

United Methodist Men

- All men of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend
- Third Wednesdays 7:00 pm

Women's Book Group

- Meets 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (except July and August) in member's homes.

Sunday School

- Each Sunday Sept through May
9:30 a.m.

Adult studies

- Sundays 6:00 pm at Fosburgs 2673 42nd Ave. Watch for a new study to begin
- "Walk with Jesus"
Sunday 9:30 am

Music

- The "Unity Crew" rehearses Sundays at 9:00 am through the summer

I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is *so* important. When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about Bible Study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in ten years when your kids are old enough to *sit quietly and behave in worship*. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echos of Amens just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know, *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that *their* worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough* right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly timed depending on who you ask) cries and whines *are* a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family - with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy - are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

Library Volunteer Opportunity

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity for the summer and beyond? Let Project READ, the volunteer adult literacy program of the Longview Public Library, help you. We need responsible and caring adults interested in volunteering their time as tutors to help other adults in the community improve literacy skills.

Our learners need help with reading, writing, English conversation, life-skills, preparing for U.S. citizenship, preparing for the GED and/or math skills. Tutors work with learners in the Library one-on-one for an hour, twice a week. Volunteers are asked to make a six-month commitment, but are welcome to stay longer.

You will receive personalized training and guidance before beginning to tutor. Contact Elizabeth Partridge in the Project READ Corner or call 442-5321, to pick up a tutor application.

Share your love of learning. Make a difference. Become a volunteer tutor at Project READ.

10 THINGS YOU CAN'T DO WHILE FOLLOWING JESUS



Lots of people claim to be “following Jesus” and then they do stuff like this. Sure, people who follow Jesus do these things all the time but you can't say you are doing them *because* you are trying to follow Jesus' example.

(Clearly, this is not a complete list but it's a good place to start).

10) Exclude people because they practice another religion.

Jesus was constantly including people and he did it with a radical disregard for their religion. We do not have a single recorded incident of Jesus asking for a person's religious affiliation before being willing to speak with them or break bread with them. We do have several records of Jesus seeking out those who happen to practice faith differently from him. There was even this one time when he used a hated Samaritan as an example of how we are supposed to take care of each other.

9) Exclude people for what they look like, how they were born or things beyond their control.

I may have mentioned this already but Jesus was constantly including people. Jesus had this rebel streak in him that actually sought out folks who didn't “fit in.” People who were different, people who were marginalized, people who were made to feel unwanted in one way or another held a special place in the heart, life and actions of Jesus. I suspect he did it because he understood they weren't actually different at all. Touch the lepers (the “untouchables”). Do it.

8) Withhold healthcare from people.

Did you ever play the game “Follow the Leader”? If you don't do what the leader does, you are out. Following means you should imitate as closely as possible. When people who were sick needed care, Jesus gave it to them. If we are following Jesus, we will imitate him as closely as possible. No, we can't repeat the miracles he did but I've seen modern medicine do things that are about as close to a miracle as I expect to get.

7) Exclude people.

Last time. Promise. Jesus was constantly including people. It's a little concept called love. He was pretty big on it.

6) Let people go hungry.

When Jesus said, “feed my sheep,” it was about more than just a spiritual feeding. As a matter of fact, if Gandhi was right (and I suspect he was), you can't have one without the other: “There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.” There is not a food shortage in the world -- there is enough for everyone. There is not a problem with having a distribution system capable of handling it; I can eat lobster from Maine while looking over the Pacific ocean. The problem is that we aren't very good at sharing.

5) Make money more important than God (and the children of God).

The love of money really is the root of all sorts of evil. We make choices about what we will do with our money every day. Our choices speak louder than our words. Willingly or not, our choices frequently hurt the least of these and others rather than help them. Sometimes, we even hurt ourselves. Our money is so important to us, we are willing to shop at stores because their prices are cheaper even though we know the products they sell recklessly endanger the lives of those who make them. We buy food which is mass produced with disregard for their health implications because the farmer down the road is more expensive. We'd rather keep more of our money than pay the taxes it takes to provide for those in need. We have a money problem.

4) Judge others.

"That 'speck of sawdust in your brother's eye' and 'let he who is without sin cast the first stone' stuff? Meant it," Jesus.

3) Be physically aggressive or violent.

Okay, okay. "Jesus in in the temple grounds with the money changers." I'll give you that one but, other than that, Jesus both gave the example of and taught his followers to avoid violent behavior. "Put your sword away, (insert your name here)." So, what about the money changers? See #2.

2) Use the church to hurt people.

For the most part, Jesus practiced Dudeism. That man could abide. However, there were a few times when he seemed to get more than a bit worked up (most notably with the money changers in the temple grounds). What could take this chill, peace-loving, Jewish hippie from 0 to 60 in the flip of a switch? Using an institution whose primary goal is meant to be love to hurt people. (It's important to note that while you might describe Jesus as aggressive in the temple grounds with the money changers even then he was not physically violent toward people).

1) Hate.

The one possible exception might be "hate" itself but even then hate breeds hate -- so best to avoid it.

United Methodist Women

It is time to collect material for our annual rummage sale! The sale will be August 9th & 10th. You may bring items to donate at any time and place them in the choir room.

This is a perfect time to clean out your spare room/garage/storage unit—whatever you have been putting things you no longer use or need.

We make sure to price our things very reasonably so that all can afford to shop. Anything left after the sale is donated to ARC of Clark and Cowlitz Counties.

This is one of our main sources of raising funds to be able to provide the services we do to the church and community.

Thanks for your help.

Sharon Fosburg, UMW President

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**Check out our brand new
website!**

www.umclongview.com

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Longview United Methodist Church is a beacon of diversity in our community. We encourage each individual in their spiritual journey as they become a disciple for Jesus Christ.