



Newsletter

JULY

2017

Dear East Woods Family and Friends,

Welcome to July! What a beautiful season we're now having! The results of the sunshine and longer days are all around – from smiles on faces, summer wardrobes being worn, and everything in nature seemingly exploding with color and growth. Our backyard looks about half the size it was two months ago, thanks to the all of the plants that have unpacked their bags after the long trip through the rain and cold.

At the June Session meeting, I reflected with our Elders on a story that relates a bit to the topics of growth, discovery, and coming to life. The night before the meeting, I had read Dr. Seuss' beloved book *Green Eggs and Ham* to Ben and Will. I imagine you know the story. As I was reading to them, I was struck by the passion of the character named Sam. Sam has only one goal throughout the book, and he is lovingly relentless as he goes to impossible lengths to introduce the story's unnamed antagonist – a yellow creature in a black hat – to the delicious delicacy of green eggs and ham.

As Sam follows the creature from setting to setting and scenario to scenario, his question remains, "Would you try them, eat them, like them here or there?" And again and again, in every setting and scenario, the response remains the same, "I would not, could not, try them, eat them, like them anywhere!" Until finally, as the two characters float up to their necks in water surrounded by a cast of other characters and vehicles they have picked up along the journey, the creature gives in. He tries green eggs and ham just to get Sam to leave him alone; and, low and behold, he likes them... a lot! In fact, he is deeply grateful to Sam for pushing and pursuing the issue through to the first bite. What had begun with absolute annoyance gives way to pleasure, thanksgiving, serendipity, and the promise of a partnership in pitching the wonders of green eggs and ham to others.

I've never tried green eggs and ham. My doctor and my wife would recommend against it. But, I have tried East Woods, and I have tried Jesus, and I have discovered that I LOVE both... a lot! I am grateful to those who went to great lengths to introduce me to both. Especially in the case of my introduction to Jesus, there are people who patiently and passionately pursued me, even to moments of my own annoyance, with the hope that I could come to know the joys of Jesus, the grace of God, the love of the Lord, and the call of Christ in the same ways they did. And, when I finally dug in, my reaction was even more joyful than that of the yellow creature in Dr. Seuss' book... "Say! I like Jesus! I do! Thank you! Thank you!"

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The invitation to know Jesus and to connect with a wonderful church like East Woods is much more significant than green eggs and ham – or anything else we could try in this world, for that matter. And yet, it is incredibly rare to find people among our congregation who are as eager to share Jesus or the community of East Woods as Sam was eager to share green eggs and ham. Some of us might invite others once or even twice. But, when annoyance hits or the circumstances seem less than favorable, it is too easy to get discouraged, yield to sensitivities, and give up. May I encourage us together to let Sam’s passion inspire us and to remember that we are not selling something to people for our own benefit. Rather, we are inviting people into a wonderful, life-giving community and into the most significant and saving relationship in all eternity for their benefit and the benefit of the kingdom of heaven.

If our invitations are rejected, we have every right to do what Jesus suggested his disciples do in the early days of their training as evangelists. In three of the New Testament gospels, we read this: Jesus sent the disciples, saying, ***“As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.”***

Jesus never required a high-pressure pitch. He knew God would be responsible for doing the work in the hearts of those who heard the message. But, he did ask and expect his followers to be faithful in sharing the good news. Once they had done all they could do, they could shake the dust off, essentially washing their hands of the responsibility of the response from their audience.

The Spirit of God still does the work in the hearts of those who receive the good news of Jesus and the invitation to a loving church community. But, the call of Christ to his followers hasn’t changed, either. We are to go and proclaim the good news. Like Sam, we ought to do the work of an evangelist, whether the circumstances are favorable or unfavorable. And, Lord willing, if we do the work with the passion, perseverance, and patience Sam had, we’ll eventually have the same joy of introducing a former skeptic to the best good news ever and hearing their response, “Say! I like Jesus! I like East Woods! I DO! Thank you! Thank you!”

In partnership for the journey~

Bill



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS

SUNDAY, JULY 2

Connecting Time - 9-9:45 AM

Worship 10 AM

PLEASE NOTE: *The Hospitality Committee is taking the summer off—
the **Gathering Sunday Meal** will resume with the
return of two services in September.*

FAMILY MINISTRIES

CHILDREN

Connecting Time for Children

Nursery (Twigs room) is available for 0-5 yrs.

Team Builders Class for K-5th Grade (Maple room). Science fun while learning Scripture.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group welcomes students from middle school and high school to our regular meetings on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 PM in the Redwood Room, and 9-9:45 AM on Sundays during Connecting Time.



EAST WOODS FAMILY SUMMER ACTIVITIES

This summer the Children & Family and Youth ministries will be coming together to offer a series of fun events for the whole family. All families of East Woods are welcome, regardless of age, and we hope you can join us for some or all of these great activities. The events are:

Clark County Food Bank – Wednesday, July 19, 2-4 PM. We will meet at the Clark County Food Bank and spend a couple hours packaging food for local families in need.

Game Night – Friday, August 18. We will spend the evening at the church enjoying fellowship around board and card games, followed by the Summer Outdoor Movie, *Secret Life of Pets*, at sundown.

For more information, contact **Charles Bivens**,
Jeff Kennedy, or **Cathy Roeper**.



OUTDOOR SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT AT EAST WOODS

begins at sundown.

Bring your chairs or blankets and invite your friends!

The schedule for this summer:

July 7 – *Lego Batman Movie*

July 21 – *Prince of Egypt*

August 4 – *Moana*

August 18 – **Game Night at 6, *Secret Life of Pets* at sundown**

THE DEACONS' CORNER

Deacons Moderator Lynne Helmke

Sheldon Tyler likes to say that his only claim to fame is the fact that he was born in Hollywood, CA. He went to school in California and he is grateful to the US Army who gave him the opportunity to "visit" Viet Nam and Germany. Sheldon moved to Camas in 1973 and was an active member of St. John's Presbyterian Church for a number of years. He and wife Jackie joined East Woods in 2007. Between them they have four children and seven



Sheldon Tyler

grandchildren. Sheldon keeps himself quite busy. He volunteers with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate; they advocate for children in foster care), is a member of the Buildings & Ground team, the Worship Commission, is our newly elected Clerk of Session and is Deacon to: Rich & Jan Adamson, Bob Clark, Ron Prestwood, Carol Domench, Gordon Wehner, Jim & Catherine Bangert, Jack & Marge Mace, Chuck Gehle, T. Wayne Hickey and Jack & Helen Dunn.

SUNDAY CONNECTING TIME - 9:00—9:45

Christian Education – the new BELIEVE study will include in July:

- ✦ Patience—July 2
- ✦ Kindness/Goodness—July 9
- ✦ Faithfulness—July 16
- ✦ Gentleness—July 23
- ✦ Humility—July 30

Children's Activity – Nursery (Twigs room) is available for 0-5 yrs. K-5th Grade (Maple room).

Youth Gathering – Middle school and high school students are invited to the Redwood/Youth Room for relationship-building and discussions on faith-centered and Bible-oriented topics.

Mission Time –

- ✦ July 9—Minute for Mission
- ✦ July 16—Heritage Farm Report
- ✦ July 23 & 30—Heritage Farm Volunteer Opportunity Schedules

HERITAGE FARM: Thanks to our incredible volunteers and program participants, approximately 92,000 pounds of produce raised at the 78th Street Heritage Farm were donated this season to the Clark County Food Bank and other local agencies in 2016.

Acres: 8 acres cultivated

Volunteers: 7,269 people 17,939 volunteer hours

Donation: Churches in Partnership harvested 8,378 pounds of mixed vegetables;

Clark County Food Bank volunteers harvested 76,400 pounds of produce.

Clark County Food Bank and its 34 partner agencies distributed all donated produce to Clark County families in need.

JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Tom Koecher, Elder of Finance, reported that East Woods' year-to-date income exceeds expenses by roughly \$2,700.

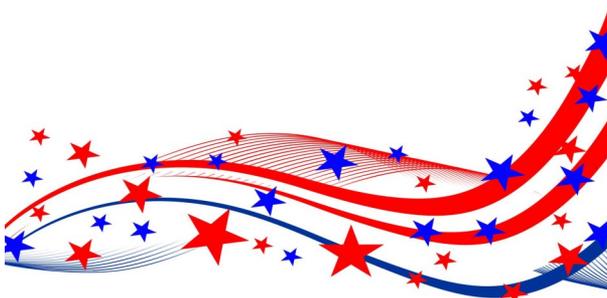
Cathy Roeper, Elder of Children and Family Ministries, reported that she will be shifting personnel responsibilities for July and August. Cathy will be serving as the primary Sunday school teacher for elementary-aged students. A young woman named Grace Cunningham will be hired as our primary Nursery Caregiver during the summer schedule, and she will provide care under the supervision of Cathy and other C&F Ministries leaders.

Session continued to discuss the potential sale of up to 2.5 acres of our undeveloped East Yard property. East Woods has received official approval from the Presbytery of the Cascades to move forward with the sale. Before any sale is finalized, the property is being surveyed, and markers are being put in place to help our congregation visualize the possibilities with the space under consideration. Conversations with property developers regarding existing offers will continue, but no decision regarding a sale will be made without input from – and clear communication with – the congregation.

Session unanimously approved the use of our church campus as a Host Facility for Family Promise of Clark County. As a Host Facility, we will provide overnight shelter and both volunteer and meal support for up to 14 people – made up of families with small children – seven nights in a row, four times per year. East Woods joins a growing list of faith-based congregations in Clark County excited to serve as Host Facilities in partnership with other congregations who will provide volunteer or financial support.

East Woods is working with **Epikos Church**, one of our campus tenants and ministry partners, to combine our sound and lighting systems in the sanctuary to the mutual benefit of both congregations. As part of the partnership, East Woods will likely enjoy the benefits of

- an improved speaker system,
- a better sound mixing console,
- a flat-screen monitor mounted at the back of the sanctuary for the viewing of the musicians and pastor during worship,
- a better wireless microphone for pastors and preachers,
- an expanded set of microphone and instrument channels on the chancel, and video capture capabilities for recording and streaming worship services.



RUMMAGE SALE

LOOKING AHEAD: THE ANNUAL EAST WOODS RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

The **Annual East Woods Rummage and Bake Sale** is **August 25** from 9– 4, **August 26** from 9–Noon. Donations will be accepted beginning August 20. We need your help! Look for the sign-up list, beginning July 16, to volunteer to help with set-up, pricing, working on sell-days, and clean-up.

We will also be signing up for baked goods. Questions?

Call or email **Peggy Konzek**, 903-2168 or at peopekon@comcast.net.



Funny Name. Easy Fundraising.

The SUMMER SCHEDULE for buying SCRIP GIFT CARDS is different. Use this handy table to plan in advance! Purchase of these gift cards - from hundreds of merchants - earns money for East Woods at no cost to you.

Thank you!

SUMMER GIFT CARD (SCRIP) SCHEDULE		
		Plan Ahead
JULY & AUGUST	Order By: July 30 Pick Up: August 6	Back to School supplies, clothes & shoes Car Washes & Oil Changes
SEPTEMBER Normal Schedule	Order By: Sept. 3 Pick Up: Sept. 10	Turn over a new leaf and develop a gift card shopping habit!



August Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, July 20

EAST WOODS ACTIVITIES -- SAVE THE DATE:

July 2	Summer Schedule Begins – CT 9-9:45 AM, Worship 10 AM
July 2	Emmaus Reunion Group, 11:15 AM
July 7	EW Outdoor Movie, <i>Lego Batman Movie</i> , at sundown
July 11	Youth Group Zoo Trip
July 16	Third Sunday Book Club in Willow Room, 9:45 AM
July 16	New Members' Class, 11:30-3:30 pm
July 19	Family project at Food Bank
July 21	EW Outdoor Movie, <i>Prince of Egypt</i> , at sundown
July 24	Men's Fellowship Happy Hour at McMenamins, 5:30 PM
July 27	Youth Group—Night Strike in Portland
August 4	EW Outdoor Movie, <i>Moana</i> , at sundown
August 6	Ladies' Dessert Social, 7 PM
August 18	Family Game Night at 6 PM, Outdoor Movie, <i>Secret Life of Pets</i>
August 20	Third Sunday Book Club in Willow Room, 9:45 AM
August 25-26	Annual Rummage & Bake Sale
August 28	Men's Fellowship Happy Hour at McMenamins, 5:30 PM
Sept. 1-4	Family Camp at Ft. Stevens, with First Pres.
October 1	EW Annual Animal Blessing, 5 PM
Oct. 5-8	Men's Walk to Emmaus
Oct. 19-22	Women's Walk to Emmaus
Oct. 27-29	Men's Retreat, Lincoln City, OR
Oct. 29	Trunk-or-Treat

*For more information on these events, please visit our
"Happenings" web page at www.eastwoodspres.org/happenings*



Office hours: Tuesday 1-3 PM, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM

Church Phone: 944-5841

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Please visit our website at www.eastwoodspres.org

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Presbyterian Church

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