

❖ Faith Builder ❖

Volume 19 Issues 11

"A Church with a Heart for People"

November 2019

Message to the Congregation

FCC Family,

First, I want to thank you for your patience these past two months as we've been experimenting with our order of service. I know many of us like our routines, and it throws us off when things change. You've been doing a great job!

I did, however, want to explain why we're doing this. In thinking about our services and in talking with our staff, I wanted to try some new things in order to make our services more meaningful, more worshipful, and more accessible.

With regards to the meaning behind our order of service, studies have shown that we are ritualistic beings. That means we are drawn towards what is familiar and comfortable, and familiar patterns and rituals help us feel safe. The danger with this, however, is that over time these rituals lose their meaning. Instead of praying the Lord's prayer, for example, as an expression of true prayer, we are simply saying it out of habit and easily forget what we are even saying. Thus, while the ritual makes us feel safe and comfortable, it has lost its appropriate function--to connect with God and ask Him for His help. In changing things up a bit, my hope is to cause us to reflect on these rituals and remember why we do them and what we are actually saying when we do them.

With regards to making things more worshipful, one of the things I've felt and heard throughout my time at Faith is that our service is very choppy. By that I mean that we stand, then sit, then stand then sit, engaging in singing but then stopping for announcements, then waiting for someone to come up to the stage to read, then waiting for the pastor then, then, then..., etc. One of my goals is to try to find a way for our service to flow more seamlessly. While we do consider all our elements to be expressions of worship (even announcements), I want to try to find a way to help us stay connected to God in spirit all throughout the service. This may take a while as we try new things out, but eventually I hope we can land somewhere where everyone feels like they are connecting with God the entire time we are "in church."

Lastly, in trying new things we want to make our service more accessible to visitors. While it may not seem like we get lots of visitors, we never know when someone new will walk through the doors, and the first impressions we make as a church are extremely crucial in whether or not that person will come back. One thing I have consistently heard from visitors, is that our order of service is confusing and difficult to follow. It is always important to remember we exist to reach and save the lost. If our order and elements of service are confusing or off-putting to someone walking through our doors for the first time, then it makes it that much harder to tell them about Jesus.

So once again, thank you for your patience and perseverance. Please continue to hang in there, and feel free to share any feedback you have. As always, we depend on our regular members and attendees to help us be a warm and welcoming church, to fulfill our mission in the world, and to share Christ with others. Keep up the good work!

--Pastor Andrew

p.s. For your curiosity, here are the results from our service elements survey (points were calculated by assigning 5 points to a 1st place vote, 4 pts for 2nd place, etc.):

1st Place--Lord's Prayer (99.5 pts)

2nd Place--Benediction (98 pts)

3rd Place--Doxology (81 pts)

4th Place--Congregational Prayer (79.5 pts)

5th Place--Greeting time (48 pts)

Communion Sunday & Family Sunday

Sunday November 3rd was our monthly Family Sunday. Students from Faith assist in worship through singing, ushering, and reading. Families worship together and we conclude the service with communion.

Welcome

If you missed it at church, we are excited to welcome Ashley and Lamar Foster as our new youth leaders. Ashley and Lamar will be leading a weekly Sunday School class for teens, as well as trying out other ideas they have to engage our teens in a meaningful, discipleship process. Please take the time to introduce yourself and welcome them into our church. And if you know any teens, please invite them to consider coming to one of our programs.

October General Giving

Anticipated

\$17,500.00

Given

\$22,418.80

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ANNUAL MEETING

As a corporation in the State of Washington, we are required to have at least one annual meeting to adopt a budget and elect new officers.

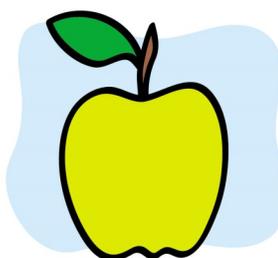
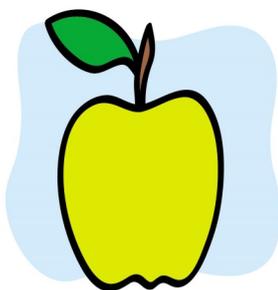
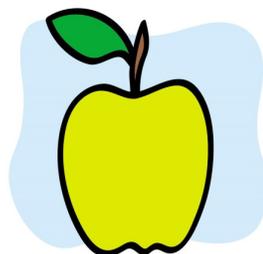
The agenda will include the adoption of the 2020 budget, the election of Leslie Millspaugh as Elder and Lu Shao as Deacon. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend. The meeting will be on Sunday November 17, at 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.

BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, November 10, at 10:15 AM, our Deacons will be available to answer any questions about the proposed 2020 budget. The budget will be sent to the people in the church. If you have not received one, please contact the office and we will send one out. Copies will also be available at the meeting. The budget will be voted on at the November 17, annual meeting. The budget meeting will be in the White Board room, just off the Fellowship Hall.

Save the Date For The Annual Women's Christmas Tea

The Annual Christmas Tea – Saturday December 7th, 2019 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Open to all ladies and their friends, mothers often bring daughters! Watch for opportunities to sign-up and/or host a table in November. Questions: Carole Shaw (carole@faithedmonds.org) or Jenny Kanzler (jen_tfw@yahoo.com)



Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday November 24, at 6:00 PM.

Faith Church will host a Thanksgiving Dinner. We have invited the Chinese and Korean Churches to join us. The meal will be prepared and provided by Faith. Reservations are requested to allow for adequate food for guests. Sign up sheets will be in our weekly bulletins.

Auditions for Kids Christmas Play

Any kids that want to be in the Christmas Play on December 15, are encouraged to come and audition on November 10, after church. Rehearsals will be November 17, 24, and December 1st & 8th.