

June 10, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of The Old Scotch Church,

Session met last night and made a few decisions that affect our summer, so I've delayed my "Tuesday" pastoral letter to today (Wednesday) in order to keep you all up to date!

First, please know that the Session has been working hard to stay on top of church matters, seeking to stay faithful to our Lord in these turbulent times. May God lead the church and our country through the needed changes we must accomplish to be clear ambassadors of the good news that God loves every person in the world, regardless of any divisive way we human beings label one another.

Worship and Music commission is working hard to involve people in worship through participation and creative services. Our grounds look great, and the inside of the church is being kept clean, plus getting a few small projects done. The cemetery has cleared the way for paving, redone the sprinkler system, and worked with our groundskeepers on maintenance needs. Business and finance is watching our income and spending, plus taking care of investments and bill-paying. Our clerk is keeping us straight with the denomination, and we enjoy our fellowship time every Sunday! Outreach and membership has ordered our church shirts and we'll figure out delivery and payment for those the week of June 22.

From the Christian education perspective, the restrictions around VBS have led to the decision to postpone the Rocky Railroad VBS until 2021, so stay tuned for a great week next summer! An alternative play day theme was discussed, but not enough church families were able to commit to participating. Finally, because we are not meeting together, Session suspended the search for the Family Ministry Director until plans for Phase 2 opening in Oregon are made clear.

The Mission Commission has been going great guns with our summer emphasis on Feeding our Neighbor and Nourishing our Souls. They spent their funds helping in several ways, and also multiplied their financial gift with challenge gifts! In order to help rebuild the mission fund, gifts of \$10 or more for a Hannah Metz Youth Sunday 5x7 print can be sent to the church with a request for prints emailed to Julie Metz at jmetzphotos@gmail.com with your name and address. Honoring a wonderful man in your life will also fund our Mission work through an alternative gift sent into the church, with the name of your honoree included with the check. **See the gift acknowledgement below that can be sent to your honoree.** Feel free to combine a Father's Day gift and a print in one check by simply noting how much goes to each in the memo field.

Finally, the latest news on worship is that we will continue with online worship through September 6 with the exception of trying outdoor worship on two Sundays this summer – July 26 and August 30. More details on how this will work will come out as Oregon guidelines are released, but we hope to see you soon for safe and wonderful worship!

Any questions? Our church office remains closed to the public, but Jeff Uecker is working in successful isolation at church and can answer all of your questions! (Church phone: 503.648.9573; church email: office@oldscotchchurch.org)

Friends, regardless of where we are for Sundays, we are the church! We are in worship, prayer, community, and growth in Christ! May we do so with love for God, love for one another, and love for ALL of our neighbors, especially those who are treated inequitably.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tracie