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**May 2016**

## Power of Prayer

*by Pastor Rob McCoy*



Do you believe in the power of prayer? I Do!

Prayer is the one and only thing that has changed my life. I will call it my "Personal Spiritual Renewal" and it is something I pray will happen to us all. It is true, loving God with all we

have and loving neighbor as we love ourselves is our greatest commandment, however, it might feel difficult to find our starting place in this renewed, and transformed life. Prayer is usually the best place to begin for a personal spiritual renewal.

Prayer is the way we will become, and remain, connected to Christ. Jesus reminds us about the importance of being connected in his image of the vine and the branches. "Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." ~*John 15:4*. Many people have misinterpreted this into something like, "Keep believing and keep working," but that is not the message at all. Jesus says, "Stay connected to me as I have stayed connected to God." The vine and the branch image reminds us that "fruit" is what God produces, because we only bear it on God's behalf.

Living the Christian life and being productive for God are not things we do. It is what the Spirit does in us as we first and foremost keep our lives connected. How? Prayer!

Prayer opens the windows of the soul. Prayer acknowledges that God alone is able! Prayer is not what we do when we have already done all that we could. Prayer is living constantly in the awareness that it is "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of Hosts." ~*Zechariah 4:6*. Prayer is what links us to God's active presence. There cannot be any personal or even corporate spiritual renewal without prayer.

I would like to invite you to the first annual "Pray-Each-Day-In-May" May.

I do not know if I am in love with the name, but the concept is solid. Maybe more like, "Pray-Each-Day-In-May-a-thon."

Regardless of the name. I invite you on a 31 day journey into your own Personal Spiritual Renewal. There is power in prayer, but how do we pray? Let us look at what Jesus had to say about the subject of prayer. I have included my own perspective of what Christ's instructions for prayer might look like in our daily lives.

### Instructions on Prayer Luke 11:1-4

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he stopped, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

**Father, may your name be honored:** God is, and so we pray. Creator God, we acknowledge that God, you are! God, you are King in our lives. God,

*Continued on page 2...*

## Power of Prayer ...continued

you are sovereign. God, you are in control. God, you are at work in my life.

**May your kingdom come:** God we ask that you make us new. Create in us clean hearts. Make us your servants in your kingdom here on earth. Make us disciples for your glory so that others might readily themselves to know you.

**Give us each day our daily bread:** God we know that there is nothing on this earth more life giving, more life saving, more life changing, more life sustaining than a full and complete relationship with you. Everything which we need for a bountiful life comes from you. We trust in what you provide and we will be satisfied with all that comes from you.

**Forgive us our sins:** We are not without flaws and, thankfully, flawlessness is not what you require in order to seek righteousness. You desire us. Here I am. Broken in my relationship with others and my relationship with you. Forgive me, O God, and help me to forgive myself as well.

**We also forgive everyone who sins against us:** God you have poured out your love, your grace, your mercy, and your forgiveness on me, time and time again. Pour it out over me again until love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness pour out from my life into the lives of those who are my friends and even the lives of those people I have not yet learned to call friend. For, though I have been wronged, and even hurt, by the actions of others, I have not lost anything because I am complete in you.

**And do not lead us into temptation:** God, this world is a mixed up place and there has never been a more important time for your presence to be felt on earth than now. Give us strength to keep on a path which leads to righteousness, a right relationship with you, with ourselves with our neighbors, and with all of creation. Keep our focus, God, on you. Especially when the distractions of the world become great, remind us that you are greater. For it is your Kingdom which we seek here, now, and for all eternity. You have the only power we require. May our lives continue to point to your glory, today, and all days. **Amen.**

You might choose to use this as your daily prayer. You might want to create your own. You might decide to spend each day in meditation about how the Spirit would have you pray, at this moment. You might have music playing or coffee brewing.

Whatever you choose to do, just do something. It is an invitation.

Continuing to explore the power of prayer, we will be adding a prayer request to the bulletin. This is your opportunity to share your prayer requests with me directly, or with our prayer partners, or with the entire congregation. *Check out the new form, fill it out, drop it in the offering tray, and prepare to see the world transformed by the power of prayer.*

Let us be the “Children of the God” of *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*... “Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances” because God is. Let this message and your lives continue to be God’s good news.

Pastor Rob



Cell Phones For Soldiers is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing cost-free communication services and emergency funding to active-duty military members and veterans.

### Since 2004, Cell Phones For Soldiers...

- Has provided more than 220 million minutes of free talk time.
- Since July 2012, Helping Heroes Home has assisted more than 2,800 veterans and their families with emergency funding.
- Recycled more than 11.7 million cell phones, reducing the impact on landfills.
- Mails approximately 1,500 calling cards each week.

NMUMC is sponsoring a collection of cell phones to provide deployed and returning troops cost-free methods to communicate with families while serving in the United States military. Donate cell phones (with their chargers) and place in the designated box.



## From the cluttered desks of your Lay Leaders, Joyce Stratton and Carmen Caporale...

Remember my entry in the April newsletter? 'Thanks to *(your name here)* for volunteering to help prep the breakfast coming up on April 3rd and again on May 1st, or for volunteering your assistance to help package breakfast burritos, or to help deliver the burritos to the hungry beyond our doors. Many hands make for happy work!'

We'll let me rephrase that... If you are interested in assisting with this program as a church outreach to the community, please contact Denise or Michael Snow at (360) 275-5474 or manddsnow@msn.com. This program is typically served up the first Sunday of every month.

~ Blessings and thanks from Joyce and Carmen

We had our first organizing meeting, then our first working meeting. We have changed our meeting schedule because the original was too confusing. We will be meeting on Mondays from 2pm until around 6pm. That way you can choose what time you want to be there.

### **May schedule:**

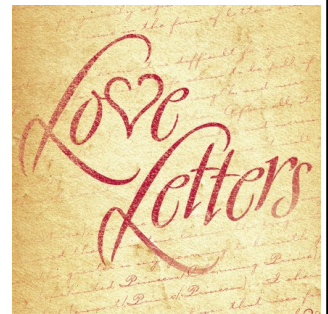
**May 2nd** - No meeting because of rummage sale set up

**May 9th** - 2pm to 6pm-ish

**May 16th** - 2pm to 6pm-ish

**May 23rd** - 2pm to 6pm-ish

**May 30th** - No meeting because it is a holiday weekend



If you are coming, I recommend that you bring something to eat if the times you pick are during a meal/snack time.

The only equipment you need to bring is a pair of scissors. Equipment that would be nice: if you have a scrapbooking kit with your favorite tools. We have a lot of the equipment, except for scissors.

Hope to see you at our gatherings.

~ Kathy Matsen

## **Around The Grounds and Within**

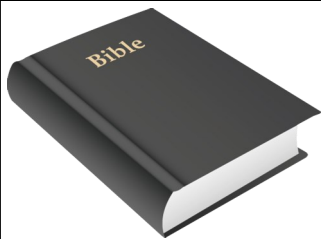
Have you noticed the amazing spring blossoms surrounding our church and parking area that were brought to life by a fantastic work party on April 9th? How about the warm greeting you receive as you enter through the beautifully restored main entry doors? What a wonderful way to enter the place you are going to receive God's word.

However, we've got more ways to share the gift of service. Now that many of us have healed from an unusual cold and flu season, we have an opportunity to share our service gift to complete the spring maintenance around the labyrinth and camp fire area. We dearly love all the familiar faces that continue to answer the call for help and love to be joined by new faces for fellowship in sharing that gift. With your willingness to help, please provide your name and contact information on one of the sign-up sheets near the main entry on Sunday, OR call (360) 275-3714 and leave a message with your information.

Also, the Adopt a Highway, litter collection project will be on May 9th, 9am. We need 3 more helpers to complete the team. We meet at Bob and Peggy Hager's home and the work is usually completed within 2 hours and then have some refreshment and share our adventures. Please sign up or call as described above.

In God's service,

Butch Boad



## Women's Bible Study!

The Women's Bible Study meets *every Wednesday*,

11:30am, at Robbi Huff's house, 30 East Cardinal Court (just off Hwy. 302, Victor cut-off, in Belwood).

Contact Nancy Polen at:  
360-440-4459 or [npolen@yahoo.com](mailto:npolen@yahoo.com)  
or more information.



## "The Word"

Do you have a different version of the bible than I do? Do you want to study and explore the upcoming scripture being read on Sunday? Do you like to be in friendly discussions as to the possible meaning of the scripture? Come join us! We are "The Word" discipleship group. We meet on Wednesdays at 6pm until around 7 to 7:30pm in the church library. We are having lots of fun and discussion on what the pastor wants us to read! Yes, we try to stay ahead of him! Come join us! All are welcome!

## First Sunday Breakfast May 1, 8:30am at NMUMC

Come join us for breakfast and help make breakfast burritos to share with the hungry of our community.



~ Donations are always welcome ~



## Annual Rummage Sale!

Friday, May 6th, 9am - 6pm

Saturday, May 7th, 9am - 3pm

at NMUMC

As you begin your "Spring Cleaning" please remember our largest fundraiser of the year and save what you think we might be able to resell.

There will be a bake sale, plant sale, a soup lunch, and lots of opportunities to participate!

Sign up sheets will be in the narthex soon.

Thank you,  
from your Rummage Sale Committee,  
Jan Olmsted, Lynn Soderlund, and Jennifer Landreth







## Emergency Food Collection

“If you can’t feed a hundred, then just feed one.” Mother Teresa.

“Assisting our Community One family at a time.” North Mason Food Bank.

The North Mason Food Bank began from a small beginning in 1983 where the food bank served 40 families a month; they have grown to serving over 550 households each month. Their goal is to freely provide basic nutritious foods to anyone residing within the North Mason county boundaries, who would otherwise be hungry.

Donations of non-perishable foods, personal hygiene items, and pet food are always needed and gladly accepted, as is financial donations.

Consider donating some of your time to serve your community through volunteer service. Reliable volunteers are needed to provide general labor such as food distribution, food pickups, warehousing, and general building maintenance.

More information can be found on their website at [northmasonfoodbank.org](http://northmasonfoodbank.org)

North Mason is fortunate to have three establishments, North Mason Food Bank, North Mason Food Pantry, and the Coalition of Churches and Community (CCC), whose main purpose is to help feed our hungry neighbors and their children. Please bring in your donations to the church and they will be distributed to these amazing organizations.

Thank you and bless you for your continuing support.

~ Denise



## Education Hour for Adults

Each **Sunday at 9 AM** is Faithlink, a discussion on the intersections of faith and current events.

## Children's Time

Children's Time is provided during worship for elementary school age children, after which childcare is available for all ages.

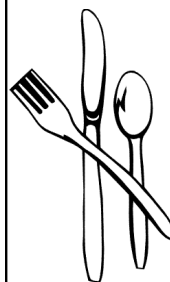


## Box Tops for Education!

Barb Goodell's school (Grapeview Elementary) has a friendly competition every year to see which class can collect the most "Box Tops." If anyone would like to save these for Barb, she would love to have them!



Please see Barb for more details.



## Free Community Lunch

The next Wednesday Free Community Lunch that will be hosted by NMUMC is on **May 18**, from **noon-1pm** at the Belfair Community Baptist Church. If you would like to help in this community outreach program, call or talk to Judy Honsowetz or Lynn Coffman.

*In our membership vows we commit to faithfully participate in the congregation's ministries through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, & our witness.*

## Our Prayers

**Ken Petticord, Estelle Foster** (Laura Boad's mother), **Nancy Polen, Nancy Herrera, Chris Jacomb** (friend of the Fleeners), **Rachel Bearce, Barbara and Sandy** (friends of Rachel Bearce), **Michael Kann** (Bobby Stratton's brother-in-law), **Jennifer O'Keefe, Mike Williams** (Gene & Linda Williams son), **Juanita High, Laura Lee** (Gerry Wasner's youngest daughter), **Dan Bearce, Al Aosved, Miguel** (Barb & Ben Boad's son-in-law), **Rebecca Merhaut** (Phyllis Merhaut's daughter-in-law), and **Leon Hart** for healing and medical concerns

Prayers for **Mary Miller** (sister of Mike Wingren) and **Alex Nobles** (Rachel Bearce's son) for peace, strength, and encouragement.

Prayers for family and friends of **Susan Bonell** (Jan Olmsted's dear friend) as they mourn her passing

Prayers for family and friends mourning the passing of **Ken Pettie**

Our brothers and sisters around the globe mired in war and political violence

## Our Presence

**April 3 - 68**

**April 10 - 61**

**April 17 - 64**

**April 24 - 73**

*Thank you for your presence*

## Our Service

Thank you to EVERYONE who is working so hard to make this year's Rummage Sale a success! You are ALL appreciated sooooo much!

Thank you to the Trustees and their workers who made the front door open, close, lock, and unlock better than it has in YEARS!

## Our Gifts

At its regular April meeting, the Finance Committee reviewed the church's financial activity for the first quarter of the year (January 1st – March 31, 2016). We are pleased to report that during this period our income exceeded our expenses by \$4,807. We also received a pre-paid pledge that has helped our bank account balance!

As always, we would like to thank everyone for their pledges and loose offerings. It is your generosity that allows our church to continue to meet our monthly financial responsibilities.

We are looking forward to our annual rummage sale to be held on May 6th and May 7th. This is the largest church fundraiser of the year. All proceeds go into the church's general fund and are used to support the programs of our church. Please be sure to bring all your friends - lots of good food and other stuff will be up for sale!

Blessings From Your Finance Committee

celebrate

## May Birthdays

4th	Ruth Wiechert
7th	Lynn Hamilton
9th	Jean Whitney
	Sandy Shoemaker
	Charles Snow
10th	Larry Seaward
	Pat Barber
	Faith Reese
14th	Linda Williams
16th	Colby Amick



## May Anniversaries

5th	Jerry & Karen Headley
6th	Bobby & Joyce Stratton





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>8:30am 1st Sunday Breakfast</b>  <b>9am Faithlink Class</b> <b>10:15am Worship w/Communion</b>	<b>2</b> <b>12pm</b> Caregivers Support Group <b>7pm</b> News & Views D-Group	<b>3</b> <b>7pm</b> NA	<b>4</b> <b>11:30am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>6pm</b> "The Word"	<b>5</b> <b>6pm</b> ACA	<b>6</b> <b>9am - 6pm</b>  <b>7pm</b> NA	<b>7</b> <b>9am - 3pm</b> 
<b>8</b> <b>9am</b> Faithlink Class <b>10:15am</b> Worship	<b>9</b> <b>9am</b> Hwy Cleanup <b>12pm</b> Caregivers Support Group <b>2pm</b> Love Letters <b>7pm</b> News & Views D-Group	<b>10</b> <b>6:30pm</b> UMW Meeting <b>7pm</b> NA	<b>11</b> <b>11:30am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>6pm</b> "The Word"	<b>12</b> <b>6pm</b> ACA	<b>13</b> <b>7pm</b> NA	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>9am</b> Faithlink Class <b>10:15am</b> Worship	<b>16</b> <b>12pm</b> Caregivers Support Group <b>2pm</b> Love Letters <b>7pm</b> News & Views D-Group	<b>17</b> <b>7pm</b> NA	<b>18</b> <b>11:30am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>12pm</b> Free Lunch @ BCC hosted by NMUMC <b>6pm</b> "The Word"	<b>19</b> <b>2pm</b> FIA BOD <b>5pm</b> Committee Meetings <b>6:30pm</b> Church Council <b>6pm</b> ACA	<b>20</b> <b>7pm</b> Harstine Island Choir  <b>7pm</b> NA	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9am</b> Faithlink Class <b>10:15am</b> Worship	<b>23</b> <b>12pm</b> Caregivers Support Group <b>2pm</b> Love Letters <b>7pm</b> News & Views D-Group	<b>24</b> <b>5:30pm</b> NMR BOD <b>7pm</b> NA	<b>25</b> <b>11:30am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>6pm</b> "The Word"	<b>26</b> <b>6pm</b> ACA	<b>27</b> <b>7pm</b> NA	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>9am</b> Faithlink Class <b>10:15am</b> Worship	<b>30</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>31</b> <b>7pm</b> NA				

*'Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.'*

**PRAY FOR OUR**



**MILITARY**

**Jason Barth** - Larry & Jean Bonzer's grandson serving in San Diego, CA

**Gaven Eier** - Wendell & Phyllis Fleener's grandson is out of the Marine and currently in DC working for the government. He has been admitted to Vassar and will be attending soon.

**Rob Eier** - Wendell & Phyllis Fleener's grandson in the reserves and back home struggling to find a career.

**Houston Hamilton** - Tom & Lynn Hamilton's son in Field Artillery with the WA National Guard

**Hunter Hamilton** - Tom & Lynn Hamilton's son stationed at JBLM

**James Meacham** - Steve & DeeAnn Meacham's son in the Air Force stationed In Afganistan.



*May 2016*

*Newsletter*

**NMUMC Office Hours**  
**Monday, Wednesday, & Friday - 10am - 4:30pm**