



The Messenger

February 2022

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 1028
400 Highland Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Rector Reflection

February 14, St. Valentine's Day became a cultural phenomenon in the 1800's during the Victorian era when it became popular to send one's paramour a handmade card expressing love and affection. Who wouldn't love that? The problem is that there were at least two early Christian saints named 'St. Valentine' who were martyrs. It seems strange to attach romantic love and affection with martyrdom. The love of God that might lead one to martyrdom is quite a different thing. There is nothing sentimental about it or to be commercially gained by it. I wonder if February 14th might be a good day to dedicate not as a feast day to cards, chocolates, flowers and romance, but in prayerful and mindful thanksgiving for those who have lost their lives in giving witness to Christ? It's not that I am a killjoy and don't appreciate romance. I do! But we should not forget that there are parts of the world, even today, where calling oneself a Christian and gathering to worship can get you killed. Afghanistan immediately comes to mind, but there are many others. Enjoy Valentine's Day and also just make it a point to remember those who have died for the name of Jesus.

Some key texts in the New Testament might help us to refocus what we mean when we speak of love and its source:

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." -*Matthew 5:11-12*

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends." -*John 15:12-13*

"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."
-*I John 4:9-11*

"But you, child of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ...."
-*I Timothy 6:11-14*



See you in Church! *Patti+*

Music Ministry

Our interim parish musician will be Nancy Clarke. She will share her talents with us during Holy Eucharist, Rite II services. Thank you to Carla Courtney for offering her gift with us as well on January 30.



Emergency Preparedness Conversation with Sr. Amy Linder for Clergy, Wardens, Building Managers

Join Sr. Amy Linder, OP, our Diocesan Disaster Preparedness Coordinator for a conversation on Disaster Preparedness for Churches on **February 22 at 7:00 pm**. Clergy are encouraged to invite wardens and/or emergency preparedness point-person to attend. Registration is required. Learn more and register here: <https://diocese-oregon.org/event/emergency-preparedness-conversation-with-sr-amy-linder-for-clergy-wardens-building-managers/>



Coos Food Cupboard

For the month of February, donations of toilet paper would be appreciated as this a much requested item that cannot be purchased with food stamps. Thank you for your continued support of the Coos Food Cupboard and our clients.

~submitted by Brian Sullivan



Make Kindness the First, Last and Most Frequent...

2021 was a year for trials and travails. It was not about joy but about obligation, commitment and dedication. Thank God the year is over!

Now here we are at the very beginning of 2022 and there's a completely clean slate and nothing to stand in the way but lack of ambition and imagination.

What have you been avoiding?

Why haven't you learned something new?

How many people have you Skyped/Zoomed/Facetimed, contacted, invited or complimented? If you haven't this is the time. Any person has something they can teach you and most have so many things there isn't enough year to work them all in. If you start right now before the quarter of the 2022 clock you might just get the drop on'em.

Have you done all that you can do to promote your community? Have you tried to help another person find an outlet for their passion? Have you spoken to a neighbor or a co-worker and where is that dynamite new idea for a project that only you have? This is the time.

Yes, masks are a pain, but they are necessary to protect yourself, your family and your community.

There is so much work to do and so little time to do it in that anyone not out there this very minute working on getting the ball rolling for 2022 is falling behind.

I implore each of you to make a promise right now that in 2022 you will not let others do all of the work. You will get out there and find a way to make kindness the first, last and most frequent thing people think of when they think of the South Coast.



~Respectfully submitted by Ron Miranda

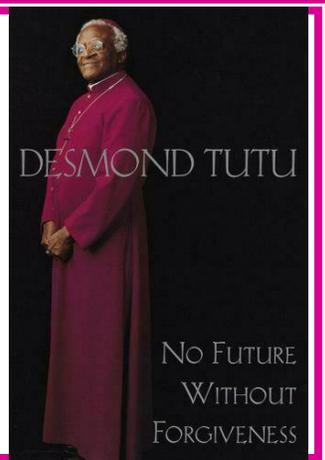


Book Recommendation from Rev. Sr. Patti Hale

No Future without Forgiveness by Desmond Tutu

“In **No Future Without Forgiveness**, Tutu argues that true reconciliation cannot be achieved by denying the past. But nor is it easy to reconcile when a nation “looks the beast in the eye.” Rather than repeat platitudes about forgiveness, he presents a bold spirituality that recognizes the horrors people can inflict upon one another, and yet retains a sense of idealism about reconciliation. With a clarity of pitch born out of decades of experience, Tutu shows readers how to move forward with honesty and compassion to build a newer and more humane world.”

~Review from GoodReads.com



From the Diocese of Oregon:

New Testament Greek classes begin February 10

Join the Rev. Tony Hutchinson and others from around the diocese on Thursdays beginning February 10 for an online New Testament Greek course learning Koine Greek. The group plans to meet on zoom from 1:20 - 1:50 pm, then allow an additional hour for folks interested in reading the Gospel appointed for the following Sunday. To learn more or sign up, contact the Rev. Tony Hutchinson (anthony_hutchinson@yahoo.com) or Martin Loring (m.loring5332@comcast.net).

Prayer by Episcopal Relief and Development

O God, our refuge and strength, our help in times of trouble. Have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed livelihoods. Protect those who evacuate houses, and strengthen those who rebuild hope so that entire communities may face the future without fear.

Amen.



– Adapted from Psalm 46

For more information about Episcopal Relief and Development, go here <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Karen Pruhsmeier Birthday - February 8

Bob & Janet Huggins Anniversary - February 12

Amelia Lankford Birthday - February 14

Pam Chaney Birthday - February 16

Eric Flaherty Birthday - February 17

Elizabeth Roman Birthday - February 19

Jason Davidson Birthday - February 22

Sarah Peterson Birthday - February 28

If you don't see your name(s) on the birthday and anniversaries list, please let Kerri in the office know so we can add you to our parish list. *Thank you!*



Jokes for Valentine's Day

Who said Love is no laughing matter?

Q. Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?

A. Because they're scent-imental creatures!

Q. Where do all the hamburgers take their girlfriend on Valentine's Day?

A. To a meatball.

Knock Knock.

Who's there?

Olive.

Olive who?

Olive you!

*****March Newsletter Submissions Deadline is Friday, February 18th*****