



The Messenger

June 2026

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

Rector Reflection

"What does it mean to pray?"

In a recent conversation this question was posed to me. It is a fantastic question. How would you answer it?

Over the years I heard prayer described as: "Talking to God and listening to God"; "Asking God for what you need and/or what another person might need"; "Asking to know God's will and guidance in a particular matter"; "Giving thanks to God"; Acknowledging the Christian claim that God loves you. Indeed.... All these **are** prayers. Moreover, in true Anglican fashion I might also answer... Yes, all this and **more!**

Essential in the practice of prayer is believing that God (*a divine being, wholly 'other' in nature than any creature or created thing*) really does exist and is deeply interested in **YOU** as one of an infinite number of things that has been created.

Prayer is not just repeating words, it is not only asking for things. Prayer is a living and ongoing conversation/relationship with a divine being who (*if the revelation of Scripture is true ...*) is constantly reaching out to each of us desiring what is best and what is the most life giving for us. Even Jesus had to help the disciples to understand God's desire.

Remember these words from Matthew 7:7-11...

"'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are sinners, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

and remember from Isaiah 55:6-7....

*"Seek the Lord while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near.
Let the wicked abandon his ways,
And the unrighteous person his thoughts;
And let him return to the Lord,
And He will have compassion on him,
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon."*



And Psalm 105:4-5...

"Seek the Lord and His strength;

Seek His face continually.

Remember His wonders which He has done,

His marvels and the judgments spoken by His mouth..."

and finally Hebrews 4:14-16

*Therefore, since we have a **great high priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let's hold firmly to our confession. For we do not have a **high priest** who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin.*

Therefore, let's approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of need."

What is your practice of prayer? Do you know that the Lover of our souls is delighted whenever we turn our hearts heavenward and cry out for what we need or simply to offer thanks for the wonder of being alive? Take some time today and pray. Pray in confidence that the One who made you is listening and knows your deepest need. Trust that God **will** answer your prayer and you will wind up knowing more of God's character and love.

"Pastor, do you really believe this?" Yes. Yes, I do. I have staked my whole life on **this** primary relationship and the truth of God's love.

See you in Church! *Patti+*



Coos Food Cupboard

For the month of June, we ask you to consider the furry clients of the Coos Food Cupboard. Dog & cat food are items that cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits by our clients with furry companions and is a vital need. Along with donations of pet food, we also need sealing plastic bags (like Ziploc) so we can portion and distribute the dry dog and/or cat food that is donated.

Donations of grocery bags and egg cartons are another immediate need. Please feel free to leave donations in the Coos Food Cupboard bin in the undercroft entrance or drop off during parish office hours.

Please also consider a monetary donation to the Coos Food Cupboard. Please make checks out to "Coos Food Cupboard". Checks can be dropped off in the parish office or mailed to P.O. Box 1028, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

Thank you as always for your generosity and support of the Coos Food Cupboard!

Brian Sullivan, CFC Board Member

Being Thankful & Generous

I don't usually think specifically about "Stewardship" directly this time of year. Usually when the Winter Holidays are near and I'm looking towards the new year, I think about our Stewardship dinner as well as plans/goals for the upcoming year.



This year, at our regional Vestry training, a handout from an article from the Diocese of Olympia was shared. It talked about Stewardship as:

*The practice of stewardship forms us as we come to understand that all we are and all we have are gifts from God and as, in response, we adopt a stance of thankfulness and generosity related to all we have been given from God. Stewardship includes the use of our time, our talent, and our money. It includes our care for the earth.**

Let us be thankful and generous to ourselves, others, and our world. The world needs actions based on God's love and light. May we all be good stewards throughout the whole year.

Nancylee Stewart, Sr. Warden

*Melissa M. Skelton and the Diocese of Olympia, 2007

The College for Congregational Development Manual – The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia



Cursillo Reflections

I was a reluctant pilgrim, to say the least. I couldn't even acknowledge the moniker. I just knew that good people offered me a gift and it was my obligation to accept. In doing so, I had to go with an open heart if I had any hope of finding value in the experience.

My trepidation was this: I've chased healing my entire life. From mental health therapies to 12-step groups and beyond. In the 80's I did "Lifespring," a generic version of EST, the big shiny thing that promised deep personal insight via "Large Group Awareness Trainings."

The method was this: Non-credentialed "coaches" tear you to shreds in the first couple of days, including food, bathroom, and sleep deprivation. (I'm told it's like what they do in the military during bootcamp). The end result is you are supposed to walk in lockstep with the "movement," sign-up for the next "level," and recruit the next group of "candidates."

Then there was the cruise I took with the L. Ron Hubbard bunch. That was 5 days in hell that I'll never get back.

Cursillo was none of that.

Cursillo is a celebration of Love, not the fabricated formation as I had feared. It was an opportunity to listen to timely and heart-felt talks given by a wide variety of souls. It was an opportunity to share meaningful dialog around the topics presented. It was a chance to mix with folks whom I might not have otherwise become acquainted with.

The big secret is, there is no secret Just many surprises that nobody wants to spoil for the next group of “candidates.” You will be promoted to “pilgrim” once you’re there. As a pilgrim, you will be treated exquisitely. You can’t go away without something greater brewing inside.

One of the other candidates summed up the content perfectly, “Our job is to show up, listen, and serve.” When I do that, I rise above my challenges. It’s really quite miraculous.

A candidate is anyone who wants to discover more about how to walk in love more deeply. With our spiritual team at the helm, it’s a true delight to partake. I highly recommend it.

Kathleen Vineyard, Cursillo 2026



June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Payton Johnson Birthday - June 1

Erin Donley Birthday - June 11

Myrle Ellingsen Birthday - June 14

Jack & Pam Chaney Anniversary - June 21

Jill Davidson Birthday - June 29

Jacob Pewitt Yancey Birthday - June 29

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!*

****July Newsletter Submissions Deadline is Wednesday, June 24th****

Held In His Care

Just as God watches over the birds,
he lovingly watches over you.

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?
Matthew 6:26 (ESV)



what you'll need:



what to do:

- 1) create a sky background on a sheet of paper using crayons or markers
- 2) tear brown and tan paper into strips and glue them down to form a nest
- 3) draw, cut out or color your birds using colored paper or use bird cutouts
- 4) glue the birds into the nest
- 5) add the Bible verse to your picture



