

WEEKLY NEWS ~~ FEBRUARY 18, 2022

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Folx of Gloria Dei,

A few days ago, February 15, marked 4 months since my arrival at Gloria Dei. It has gone by so fast and yet so much has happened! In spite of the pandemic, I have kept more than busy. Gloria Dei has many things going on and it's a steep learning curve to catch up on it all and keep track of what is going on and when! Outside the daily and weekly routine, I have been making connections in the community, meeting by Zoom with people from places like Coos Health and Wellness and Devereux Center, and the Housing Action Team. I've been able to reconnect the local clergy ministerial and helped get the group back together again as well as starting up a clergy text study, bringing together ecumenical clergy ranging from Newport down to Gold Beach. With renewed energy from our local ecumenical partnerships I am excited to share with you that **Ashes to Go** will return on Ash Wednesday (March 2!), in the parking lot of Pony Village Mall. Stay tuned for more information and stop by for ashes if you can't make it to Ash Wednesday worship in the evening. We are also moving forward with plans for **Easter Sunrise at Sunset Bay Beach!**

As we anticipate Covid numbers continuing to drop, I need to say **a few words about visitation:**

I am more than anxious to be able to visit our members, particularly those who have been so isolated during the last couple years of the pandemic. If predictions are correct and case numbers continue to drop, I anticipate being able to start making a few more visits to those who are comfortable. I will continue to monitor the situation and I will continue to take precautions such as distancing and masking for the foreseeable future, and I will continue to refrain from unmasked situations, such as meals, for the time being.

I long for the day when we can safely gather in groups, safely gather around meals, and see one another's faces. I would rather err on the side of too cautious than risk spreading illness. If you would like a visit, please be in touch with me. As the weather improves, I am open to visiting outside at your home, on a park bench, or other options as you are comfortable.

Thank you all for taking Covid 19 so seriously and caring for one another. Thank you for masking. Thank you for distancing. Thank you for getting vaccinated. This is not a political issue, but one of simple care for the other, as Christ calls us to do.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Alyssa

ANNUAL STATEMENTS WERE SENT OUT AT THE END OF JANUARY. Please read your statement carefully and let Barbara know if there are errors or you have questions. Call the office at 541-267-2347. Thank you!

Women's Retreat

Anyone interested in having a women's retreat this year can contact me via email 19kaj56@gmail.com or leave me a message at 541-269-2483.

I did contact Big K in Elkton recently and must point out Big K has no vaccination mandate there. For some of us this is very important to know. Our reservation dates are April 29 and 30, Friday and Saturday and May 1 Sunday. This is the weekend before Mother's Day.

Please let me know soon, I'm sorry to get such late start but COVID has been a challenge for planning anything in the future.

I will have more information if we have enough interest this year as Covid is subsiding or maybe wait another year.

Thank you – **Kathy Jacobson**

PLEASE HELP! Ruth's Closet needs a truck and muscles to meet at the Bandon Beach Hotel located at the end of 11th Street in Bandon on Wednesday, February 23 at 10 am. We will be picking up furniture and items for our clients at no cost to us.

Please call **Mary Ann at 541-297-7730 and leave a voicemail!** Thank you!

PRAYER BEADS

The prayer beads have been re-supplied in the office at Gloria Dei. If you aren't familiar with prayer beads or haven't tried them, now's a great time to get a set and see how they can work with your prayer life. Thank you to Kathy Whitwer for making more of these wonderful prayer beads!

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