



HEAD START

February 11, 2018

This week, we are focusing in on Matthew 5:7 in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus asserts, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." The merciful, here, are those who because they do to others as they would want done to themselves and because they have experienced God's merciful love, empathize and show compassion to others. Said differently, having received God's mercy, the merciful are those who turn and share that mercy with others. Who have been people in your own life who have shown mercy? What professions in our society call people to acts of mercy?

What is often missed in Jesus' assertion that the merciful are blessed, is that that concept would have flown in the face of both the Roman and the Jewish worlds that Jesus inhabited. Romans thought that to show mercy was to show inferiority—mercy was shameful—might was more right than mercy. Jewish people understood mercy primarily in terms of God's covenant mercy on Israel (Exodus 33:19; 34:6, cf Romans 9:15). But with Jesus, the tide was beginning to turn on both fronts. The dawning of a new era was coming into bloom in which *all* were worthy of mercy—and *all* those who enacted mercy were truly "blessed".

In Jesus, we might say, a new way of life was beginning to emerge unlike anything in the history of the world.

What would our world be like if Jesus hadn't said these words? What would the world have been like without mercy?

Come hear this Sunday!

With love,
-Mark

From Pastor Ralph

Joyce, our kids and a grandson will attend my nephew's celebration of life service in Redding this Saturday. Therefore, I will not be in worship with you this coming Sunday.

At the end of our worship service last Sunday, I outlined the changes in the order of worship for February 18, 25 and March 4. In the last Head Start, I explained that the reason for the changes is to see if they will help us to go deeper in our relationships with God and one another, and go deeper into the Word, prayer and worship. After the three Sunday experiment, we should know if the changes will help us do these things.

The gathering before and after the service, the beginning of it, singing, reading scripture, the sermon and closing will be the same as we have been doing. The changes or additions in the worship format are:

- The fellowship time before and after worship will take place in the sanctuary instead of the foyer. The tables will be set up there and the beverages and snacks will be in the back of the sanctuary. When you arrive for worship go to the sanctuary, pick up a drink and snack and take a seat at a table or mill around.
- After singing, reading of scripture and the sermon, there will be discussions around the tables. A discussion leader will use some printed questions to facilitate a discussion focused on the scripture and sermon. Often people have questions, insights, or ways to apply the message of the scripture and sermon. The discussions will be an opportunity for this kind of sharing and learning from one another.

- The Prayers of the People will be different. The folks around each table will have an opportunity to share celebrations and concerns. The discussion leader will offer a prayer.
- We will sing another song and then celebrate communion around the tables in our usual way.

The Discernment Team and I recognize that some people are shy and may not want to share something. That is ok. No one will be required to share. They may just listen.

We also recognize that it may be hard for those with hearing loss to hear because of the background noise. I have this problem. Sometimes, when at a table in the foyer, I cannot hear or understand what people say. Others have told me they have the same problem. The discussions during worship may be another time when this may happen to some of us. This is an unpleasant fact I have learned to cope with. I ask the hard of hearing to join me in trying this change in worship.

We also recognize that some people might not want to come to worship on the Sundays when we use the new format because it will be different from what we have been doing or what they like. I wish we could have many worship services each week so each service could be tailored to the times and styles of different folks, but we can't do that right now. I ask all of us to focus on worshiping God, even when some of the things in the order of worship do not fit our preferences.

There will be forms at each table for you to give the Discernment Team your feedback.

Marriage Enrichment Opportunity

Elsewhere in this Head Start is an article about The Marriage Course. It is an opportunity for all married couples to enrich their lives together. Please pray regularly that the Spirit of God will guide the leaders and participants. Also, get some of the brochures and give them to members of your family, neighbors, friends and co-workers. This course is a tremendous opportunity to have a positive impact on many lives. Please help get the word out.

-Ralph

Alpha Marriage Seminar

The ALPHA MARRIAGE SEMINAR will begin at 6:00 pm on March 15 here at the church. We will be creating a "Café" atmosphere in the Chapel with room for 10 couples.

This seminar, unlike the first one we had, will involve dining together as a couple in a "date-like" atmosphere with tables for two in an intimate setting where couples can watch a video, discuss the video with each other, and hopefully, be able to grow stronger as a couple as they discuss the questions in the guide book about the video they have just watched. The series will run for 7 sessions, one each week beginning on March 15 and ending on May 3. There will not be a session on April 5th. The cost is \$65 per couple which includes the cost of 7 meals and the guide book. Pick up a brochure from the Welcome desk on Sunday to give to friends. If you and your spouse are interested in participating in the Seminar, call the church office to reserve your spot.

If you would like to assist with the seminar, we have jobs available – cooking, washing dishes, washing table-cloths, and setting up and cleaning up for each session. Please contact Mike Gudeman, (360-807-6064) Debbie Allen (360-736-1878) or Barb Stark (360-669-5050) if you would like to be part of this wonderful ministry!

News & Announcements

Lenten Study Begins this Sunday! "Lent for Everyone: Luke, Year C—A Daily Devotional" February 11-April 8, 9-9:45 am in Room 207, led by Mark McHugh. The book by N.T. Wright has readings for each day of the Lenten journey, but we will look at going deeper with one passage from Luke's Gospel. A sign-up sheet is available in the office. Cost for the book is \$12 if you would like the church to order one for you, or you can order one online.

Health & Hope Free Clinic ~ Fifth Anniversary Celebration Breakfast: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7:30 am at O'Blarney's Restaurant, 221 N. Tower, Centralia. Cost: \$20. Nearly five years ago, Health & Hope Medical

<p>Harrison Square Presbyterian Church Website & Facebook! Be sure to check out our website (www.harrisonsquarepc.com) often for the audio versions of sermons, Head Start Sermon Preview & News which can be downloaded, weekly calendar and more! Facebook - a link is available on our website.</p>

Outreach served the first patient. Now they have served more than 1,230 different patients. Get tickets online or send a check to Health & Hope, PO Box 986, Centralia, 98531, noted "ticket."

Thank You!

From Leola Whisler: I want to thank my church family for the prayers, cards and visits during my recovery from having surgery.

February 11-18, 2018

Sunday, February 11

9-9:45 am Adult Class, "Lent for Everyone—Luke, Year C", led by Mark McHugh, Room 207

10:00 am Worship

10:00 am Infants-5 Years Old, 210

10:00 am Kindergarten-5th Grade, 207

Following Worship, *Deacons Meeting*, 207

Following Worship, *Worship Meeting*, in front of Sanctuary

11:30 am Prayer Group, led by Ron Vernon, 205

1-3:00 pm Hogar de Fe Worship Service (Hispanic Congregation), Sanctuary

Following Hogar de Fe Worship, Fellowship Time, Foyer

Tuesday, February 13

9:15 am Staff Meeting, 205

4:30 pm Discernment Team, 205

Wednesday, February 14

5-9:00 pm A Joyful Noise Daycare Parents' Night Out

6:00 pm Hogar de Fe Worship Team Practice, Sanctuary

7:30 pm Hogar de Fe Worship Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, February 15

1-3:30 pm Adult Study & Support Group, 207

Friday, February 16

Church Office Closed

Saturday, February 17

1:00 pm Memorial Service for Gerry Touchette, Sanctuary; Reception following in Foyer

Sunday, February 18

9-9:45 am Adult Class, "Lent for Everyone—Luke, Year C", led by Mark McHugh, Room 207

10:00 am Worship ~ *Around tables in the Sanctuary*

10:00 am Infants-5 Years Old, 210

10:00 am Kindergarten-5th Grade, 207

11:30 am Prayer Group, led by Ron Vernon, 205

1-3:00 pm Hogar de Fe Worship Service (Hispanic Congregation), Sanctuary

Following Hogar de Fe Worship, Fellowship Time, Foyer

Having a Meeting at the Church? If you are planning a meeting or activity in any room at the church, contact the office, 736-9996, or email to: church@harrisonsquarepc.com to schedule it on the church calendar. The weekly events listed usually only reflect HSPC and Hogar de Fe services, events, and meetings, not outside groups, and the calendar changes often. Thank you for your help, so that meetings and traffic in the building can be coordinated for everyone's needs.



Harrison Square's **A JOYFUL NOISE DAYCARE** is open Monday-Friday, 6 am-6 pm for children ages 4 weeks to 5 years old. If you have questions about enrollment or are interested in being a volunteer, contact daycare director, Shalii Crowover at 360-669-5052, or email to: s_crownoverhspc@outlook.com.

Church & Daycare Phone Numbers - The main number to call is still **360-736-9996**. Direct lines for each office:

360.669.5054 HSPC Reception Desk

360.669.5053 Pastor Ralph Carr

360.789.6585 Mark McHugh (Cell)

360.669.5051 Ginger Peters

360.669.5050 Barbara Stark

360.669.5048 Ron Vernon

A Joyful Noise Daycare Office:

360.669.5049 Daycare Reception Desk

360.669.5052 Shalii Crowover, Daycare Dir.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday from 9am to 2pm. Closed Fridays ~ **Daycare Hours:** 6am-6pm Monday-Friday