October 2020



# Making Him Known

As we kicked off new services in September, none of us knew exactly what to expect. Would the "Modern" service attract new families and seekers? Would the "Traditional" service continue strong or grow stagnant? I have to say that the results have resoundingly shown that God is blessing our efforts and leading many new people to PCC. We have had many new families connected to Life Groups, our attendance has grown, and we have a couple of baptisms (potentially) on the horizon! God is working! The small successes that we have seen are a good reminder that God is always working, always present, always seeking those who will turn to Him.

In pondering the above, I was reminded of the wonderful story of Joanna Flanders Thomas. Joanna and her husband were involved in peaceful protest that helped tear down the system of apartheid in South Africa. During this season, she began meditating on part of the Lord's Prayer, "... Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done." She began to ask God to show her and send her to a place where His kingdom and will were largely unseen. The place she came to was the notoriously violent Pollsmoor Prison. Here is Philip Yancey's description of Pollsmoor: "the most violent prison in South Africa, Pollsmoor Prison, was just minutes from her home. [The year Joanna became aware of it, the prison recorded 279 acts of violence—almost one a day! It was run by gangs. You would actually get points by stabbing somebody in another gang. If you stabbed a warden, you would get a lot of points. And it was severely overcrowded, as so many prisons are."

Into this terrible environment, Joanna started going, every day for a year – alone. She began to teach the prisoners about conflict resolution and

about God's love through Jesus Christ. The year after she started going, the instances of violence dropped from 279 to TWO! The transformation was so amazing that the BBC did a documentary expose' on Joanna's work. Eventually, Philip Yancey had a chance to meet Joanna and her husband. Here is what he said:

"I've watched these videotapes, and I think what you've done here is amazing. But tell me, what happened here? These guys are murderers; they're rapists; they're monsters. You just go in and act like a youth group and change the whole prison. What really happened?"

Below is what happened after Philip (a Christian author!) asked her the above:

She looked at me, kind of shocked that I would ask such a question, and she said this line that I've repeated many places in the world because it so struck me. She said, "Well, of course, Philip, God was already present in Pollsmoor Prison. We just had to make him visible."

This story has never failed to stir my soul. It also reminds me of our mission as we head forward

with our "20/20 Vision" and beyond. We aren't called to "save" anyone. We are called to be faithful ... to be present ... to be witness ... to be people who make the love and presence of God visible to those who need him the most! May we be these people now and always.

The Pastor's Study



Justin McMurdie Senior Pastor





# Christian Education Co-Chairmen



BRYAN RISPALJE

JORDAN CARTER

Here is a brief look at what is coming up for PCC Youth:

### PCC Youth Center "Student Zone" Renovation:

We are renovating the *PCC Youth* Youth Center! The architectural drawings are in, the work is starting, and we will have an AWESOME space for our Middle School – High School students. The "student zone" should be completed by the end of October (if not sooner)!

Wednesday Nights: Regular Wednesday night PCC Youth meetings are in full swing on Wednesdays with fellowship, food, worship, games, and God's Word! All Middle School and High School students are welcome at the *Youth Center* at 6:30pm (we end at 8:00)! Until the "Student Zone" renovation is complete, the group is meeting in the Gym and outside.



WAHOOZ/PINZ FAITH 'N FUN NIGHT: On Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-10pm, join us for a great event. The schedule is as follows:

5:30pm - Arrive at the church

**6pm** - Socially distanced check-in w/ temperature check

6-7pm - PLAY, PLAY, PLAY

7-7:30pm - All-you-can-eat pizza & soda

**7:30-10:30pm** - Continued "Unlimited PLAY, PLAY, PLAY"

The cost is \$25.99 + tax per person (help is available if you need it!). The bus will be running. Come to PCC at 5:30pm and head on over for a great time! If you have any questions, please contact Bryan (brispalje@pccmeridian.org) or Collin (cfreese@pccmeridian.org).

# **Coffee Hour:**

Volunteers will be needed this fall (we hope).
Please contact Rana
Brown, 208-800-8948,
if you are available and willing to help out.

#### **Elders:**

10/4 Lyle Gessford/Roy Johnson10/11 Barb Bowman/Marcy Timm10/18 Bill Logsdon/Lyle Gessford10/25 Roy Johnson/Barb Bowman

#### Deacons:

Mike Malone, Chairman Ron Daly, Sue Farley, Gary Pearson, Sharon Rogers, Ray Westmoreland, Dick Williams, Julie Malone

#### **Deaconesses:**

Prayer Chain Captain: Bonnie Fredriksen (208) 375-1390



# Here is what to expect in the near future:



**Life Groups:** We have leaders & groups ready for nearly every age & stage of life. Several of these have started and more are about to kick off! If you want to be in a *Life Group*, please reach out to Pastor Jordan: <a href="mailto:jcarter@pccmeridian.org">jcarter@pccmeridian.org</a> **OR** (208) 569-1980. Also, you can get more information and sign up for a group at the *Welcome Center*.

Sunday School/Bible Classes (Re)Start: We are currently working on relaunch plans for Sunday School/Bible Classes. With the COVID shutdown & restart dominating much of 2020 and the launch of 2 services in September, we have been working on how to reimagine and maximize our Sunday School/Bible Class structure and content. Stay tuned for announcements and E-Blasts on upcoming plans. If you are interested in rejoining a class, please contact <a href="mailto:office@pccmeridian.org">office@pccmeridian.org</a> to let them know of your interest!



**Topics and Texts of Interest:** In October, we will be working on the 2021 Preaching & Teaching Calendar. If you have any topics or biblical texts you would like teaching on, please send ideas to Pastor Justin: <u>imcmur-</u>





2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. By The Blood

# October Calendar

10/5	Elders Meeting	6 pm	10/15	Finance Cmte Mtg	4:30 pm
10/7	Men's Coffee	8:30 am	10/15	Church Board Mtg.	6 pm
10/7	Prayer Group	6 pm	10/16	Youth Wahooz Night	6 pm
10/7	Youth Group	6:30 pm	10/21	Men's Coffee	8:30 am
10/12	Columbus Day Office Open		10/21	Prayer Group	6 pm
10/13	Youth Wahooz	5:30 pm	10/21	Youth Group	6:30 pm
10/14	Men's Coffee	8:30 am	10/23	KidMin Fall Party	5:30 pm
10/14	Trustees Meeting	9:30 am	10/28	Men's Coffee	8:30 am
10/14	Worship Cmte Mtg	4 pm	10/28	Prayer Group	6 pm
10/14	Prayer Group	6 pm	10/28	Youth Group	6:30 pm
10/14	Youth Group	6:30 pm	10/31	HALLOWEEN	

## October Birthdays

Pat Cantwell	10/04
Kallen Gould	10/05
Bonnie Lambert	10/05
Roy Johnson	10/07
Gary Pearson	10/07
Tammi Kildow	10/12
Leah Sewell	10/14
Charlie Houck	10/17
Austin Marsh	10/17
Kylie Rispalje	10/17
Sharon Cunningham	10/22
Jim Nall	10/23
Dain Stubbs	10/24
Ethnie McMurdie	10/26
Jessie Abraham	10/27



#### **October Anniversaries**

Jessie & Lizz Garcia	10/12
Brian & Nicolasa Van Mason	10/14
Jerry & Marcy Timm	10/18
Bill & Judy Lee	10/20
Jim & Mary McKenna	10/22

# **PCC Staff**

Senior Pastor Justin McMurdie Autumn McMurdie Children's Minister Jordan Carter **Associate Pastor** Bryan Rispalje Youth & Worship Pastor Collin Freese **Youth Assistant Choir Director** Starr Johnson Worship Leader Shawn Lopez Cailee Gilster Children's Intern Children's Intern Lizz Roberts Haro Moo Custodian Mary Harper Co-Office Manager Co-Office Manager Nancy Warren



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Ray Westmoreland, Board Chair Bill Logsdon, Elder Chair www.pccmeridian.org

Office Hours: 9-4 Monday - Thursday 9-1 Fridays