



The Lamp Post

Issue #361
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OPPORTUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MOVING DAY



Well, after 18 months here at OPC we are finally finishing the getting settled in process by moving into our new home! We have been fortunate to have such a great rental but there are still boxes to be unpacked that we haven't seen in awhile. It definitely shows you what you can live without and I have a feeling a big garage sale is in our near future!

All the hard work of moving is not just happening at home for our family, but I also see it happening all around OPC as well. The Holy Spirit is moving in our lives as we love God, grow together and serve others. I am encouraged by many stories that have been shared lately of OPC members who are moving forward in their walk with Christ. I am thrilled to see so many folks growing together in fellowship, Bible study, prayer and small groups. And we are serving others through many opportunities this summer at OPC as well as with many partners in ministry around Spokane!

I read somewhere (but can't find the quote-the book is probably packed in a moving box!) that the Christian faith doesn't have a neutral gear. The gears are either drive or reverse. You are always either moving forward or backward in your faith journey. Even though moving is such hard work, I am glad to be moving forward with all of you in my OPC family!

Pastor Kevin Lind



News From the Presbyterian Women of the Inland Northwest Presbytery

The Nez Perce Women Leaders met May 30, 2015 at the Event Center near Lewiston, ID. Eighteen women from our Presbytery in the Spokane, WA area were representatives for both the Synod of Alaska NW Presbytery and the Inland Northwest Presbytery. Our Presbyterian church-wide coordinating team, plus the Inland Northwest Presbytery's Strategic Team Grant were donors of the Nez Perce Tribal Children's Home in Lapwai, Idaho with their gift of \$100,000 for the Nez Perce Tribal Children's Home. The primary purpose is to keep the children, ages birth through 17 years, in a community with familiar cultural environment. In 2014, 100% of the children served were enrolled Nez Perce.

What a privilege to have the Nez Perce leadership in our Presbyterian Women's planning where we serve the Lord together in the Northwest in Mission work.

*Ruth Parman
Liaison from W.O.P.C. to P.W.O.*

Save the Date

OPC All Church Potluck & Game Night at Terrace View Park



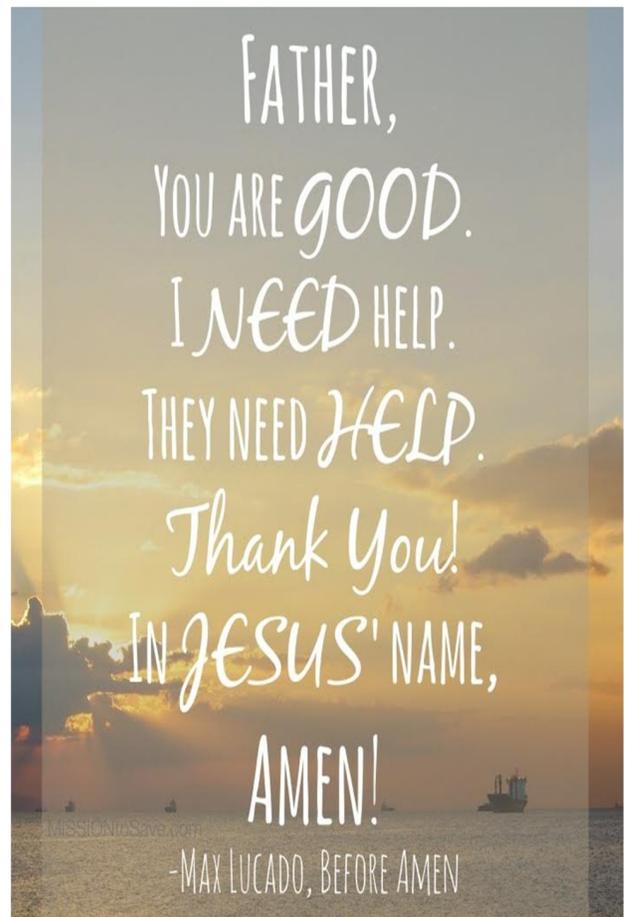
August 26 from 6:30pm-7:30pm

Summer Daily Prayer Commitment



This summer take a moment to connect to OPC in prayer. Each day take 5 minutes to join with other members of the congregation in prayers for our

Pastor, staff, members in need, summer ministries. To commit to a summer of prayer contact Jane Hussey or sign up at church on Sunday. Need reminders? Sign up to receive weekly e-mails, calls, or texts.





From Shannon Borgman—Director of Children's Ministries

The last two weeks I've been accosted on Sunday with a request to go to ice cream. I'm not sure if it's the invite or the ice cream that is more exciting. I love ice cream, but even more I love a chance to get to know someone better. When a child wants to hang out that's gold. So let's go to ice cream. The school year is fun but as the programs fade there is more room to build a relationship with the children. The summer months are great places for summer "Meet Ups", special small group events geared at building relationships. These events encourage the children to "meet up" with their friends and members of OPC for a special treat or activity. To find a "Meet up" for your child check out the list below.

Preschool Play Meet Ups (birth-5yrs)

July 15th: Preschool Play Meet up at the church for a special day out.

August 3rd: Preschool Play Meet up at Discovery Park.

Meet ups for K-5th grade

July 1st (1.30-2:30pm) Dairy Queen

July 29th: (1.30-2:30pm) Dairy Queen

Meet ups for 6th and older

June 25th (1.30-2:30pm) Celebrations Cupcakes

July 9th: (1:30pm-2:30pm) Celebrations Cupcakes

August 19th: (1:30pm-4:30pm) Splash Down

If you would like to join in on one of the "meet ups" and need a ride please contact me at 924-9750 or Shannon@opportunitypresbyterian.org.

Back Pack Blessings! August 30th you are invited to share in a special Sunday of Back Pack Blessings. Children of all ages including preschoolers are invited to bring their backpacks to church for a special prayer. Back-to school can be scary, fun, uncertain, and happy for our kids. Back pack blessings are a great way to send our kids into the new school year encouraged by God's Word.





An interview with Family Promise Executive Director Steve Allen by Logan Shenkel

In America, there are 2.2 million homeless kids per year. On average, there are over 2,000 homeless kids in the Spokane area alone.

These children are usually registered in our public schools. They live in cars, shelters or couch-surf through homes with other families. Many get dressed in the car and brush their teeth in restrooms at gas stations.

The problem of child homelessness isn't going away. In fact, the number of homeless children has nearly doubled since 2010, and increased 8 percent in the past year.

Homeless kids will face a number of daunting challenges that others might not. They are more likely to encounter mental problems, to have developmental delays, to struggle in school, miss classes, repeat grades, and eventually drop out.

These statistics are daunting, and ones that led an organization to rise from the rubble. Family Promise's first program was created in Union County, New Jersey, in 1986. The success of that program led to the creation of the National Interfaith Hospitality Network in 1988, which is now Family Promise.

Family Promise of Spokane is an organization that is devoted to helping homeless children and their families by returning them to stable home environments.

"I love that we can practically help churches and volunteers live out Matthew 25 in a very practical, mentoring, loving way," said Steve Allen, Executive Director of Family Promise. [Matthew 25:40, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"] "I love that because of our approach with a few families at a time, we are seeing life change in a very real, intentional and life-altering way."

Family Promise fulfills this mission in six primary ways:

Family Promise provides necessary facilities for families in crisis and in transition. During the day, our families spend the day at the Family Promise Day Center, where they are able to wash clothes, shower and bathe, use computers, cook meals and take care of children.

"These simple and common amenities and a daily routine help the children feel secure and provide the family with a sense of community and humanity," said Allen.

Family Promise of Spokane welcomes the whole family and keeps the family together. Rather than splitting up husbands and wives, Family Promise serves all family members, as individuals as a unit.

Family Promise partners with over 30 churches to provide the basics needs of survival. This community approach to meeting a crisis gives church and community members to "bear one another's burdens" while serving with love.

Family Promise supports our parents through individual case management, counseling, and resource support. This organization recognizes that, while homelessness is a common problem, our families have unique circumstances and backgrounds. At Family Promise, they find a community of people committed to helping them find their way into long-term, sustainable, security. *Continued on next page*

Family Promise is committed to retaining long-term relationships with our families for as long as they need it.

“After care support is provided, including weekly Family Enrichment classes that foster community for our previous and current homeless families,” Allen said, “allowing them to network and build relationships, learn how to manage and improve personal finances, learn life skills, and take parenting courses.” Family Promise provides ongoing support.

Family Promise is committed to help each family not just get into homes but we venture further with them into a new reality of security and stability. This organization is the only program in Spokane that allows families to stay in the program for as long as it takes to find a home.

“We don’t want to stop at meeting the crisis of homelessness,” Allen said, “we want to see them through and give them the skills, resources and confidence they need to transform their lives from hopelessness to seeing their own bright futures come true.”

During this last school year, there were 818 students who were identified as homeless or in transitional housing in the Spokane Valley between three school districts. Family Promise was asked to consider expanding their program to increase their service in the Valley.

You can help them do this in three ways:

\$100 for 100. Family Promise is looking for 300 people to donate \$100 a year. Would you consider giving \$1 for 100 children?

Businesses Giving Back. Family Promise is looking for 20–25 businesses and churches that will donate at least \$1,000 or more over the year.

“We know businesses understand their place to contribute to a better society and to give back,” Allen said. “You can rest assured that when you invest in Family Promise, you are investing in your community.”

The GR8 CR8 D8. Family Promise’s first annual fundraising banquet will be this October. For \$8, you will have access to 8 musical acts, 8 of the best Appetizers from 8 great local restaurants, 8 drinks from local breweries, coffeehouses and wineries and 88 pieces of art available for silent auction, benefiting their New StART ReStore.

Allen said, “We hope you will consider how you can partner with us in helping homeless children and their families find homes again.”

Financial Update

We are moving in the right direction together - whether it is walking across the parking lot to build relationships with the folks in the manor, or folding our hands in daily prayer for OPC. Our financial picture turned a corner in May, with renewed financial commitment from the congregation and a restructured budget by Session. Our goal in June has been 20 new or increased pledges - to date we've received 12. Although we haven't covered our shortfalls from February, March & April yet - May was a good month - let's keep the momentum going:

	Income
January	\$39,554.16
February	\$30,043.53
March	\$36,595.36
April	\$32,258.78
May	\$39,520.55

Our revised 2015 budget is based on a monthly income of \$35,500

To date 70 of our 261 members have paid their \$37 annual per capita commitment. We've collected \$2,557 towards a bill of \$9,657. Per capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected and participate in the work of the wider church.

Thank you for your generous donations to OPC.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

BE BEN FOR DAY!

OPC is looking for volunteers to fill in while Ben is on vacation July 5-18. A task list and sign up sheet is located in the Narthex.

Bill Moody is turning 90 on July 22nd!

If you would like to send him a birthday card, his new address is:
1801 E. Upriver Drive Apt. 124
Spokane, WA 99207



Vacation Bible School At OPC

When: August 10-13, 9:00am-12:00pm

Cost: Free

Registration form can be found on our website:

www.opportunitypresbyterian.org

Register soon, space is limited!

Supply donations needed:

- Assorted ribbon
- Adult tube socks
- Colored duct tape
- Dry erase markers
- Colored pencils

What's Happening At OPC

July & August

- July 4- Independence Day
- July 10- OPC Young Adults Dinner & Game Night
- July 12- Ice Cream Sundaes & Camp Spalding Carwash Fundraiser following worship
- July 27- Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- August 4- Building & Grounds Meeting @ 7:00 PM
- August 9- Ice Cream Sundaes following worship
- August 10-13- Vacation Bible School
- August 26- All Church Potluck & Game Night at Terrace View Park @ 6:30 pm

Camp Spalding Carwash Fundraiser at OPC



July 12th After Worship

Second Sundaes

Join us for ice cream sundaes on the second Sunday of each month this summer following worship. Second Sunday Brunch will return in September.



OPC Young Adults Dinner & Game Night

Where: OPC

When: Friday, July 10th @ 6pm

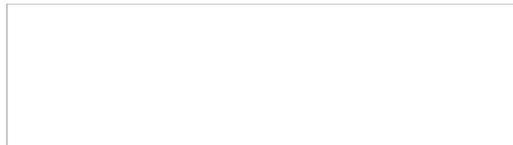
Cost: \$5

Pizza will be provided, please feel free to bring drinks, desserts, or snacks to share.

Childcare available on site



Opportunity Presbyterian Church
PO Box 14014
Spokane, WA 99214



OPC STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Kevin Lind

Music Director: Jennifer Pearman

Children's Ministry Director: Shannon Borgman

Nursery Coordinator: Danielle Calcaterra

Organist: Jim Brown

Secretary: Melanie Nelson

Maintenance: Ben Beach

Identification Statement

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