



# Spirit of Faith

*Pastor Jim Deal  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Of East Wenatchee  
March 2023 News Letter*

....to inspire and challenge believers to seek deeper ways of serving Our Lord, to motivate all people to follow Jesus Christ, and to nurture one another.

## **Making people feel welcome, so they welcome Jesus into their hearts**

*“I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”* First Corinthians 9:22-23 NIV

If you have not seen the movie, “Jesus Revolution”, I would encourage you to do so. The movie tells the story of a pastor and church in Costa Mesa, California, coming to terms with the Hippies and the Counter-Culture of the late 1960’s. How would the church and its pastor cope?

The pastor Chuck Smith is bewildered by what is happening. He tells his daughter, “If God brings me a hippie, I’m going to ask him what it’s all about!” His daughter finds a hippie who has turned to Jesus, Lonnie Frisbee, and introduces him to her father. Lonnie says that this younger generation is seeking God, even if many of them do not know it. A friendship is formed, and Lonnie and his friends begin attending Chuck’s church. Unfortunately, some of the people in the church object to these newcomers.

Yet Chuck believes that Jesus would welcome the hippies, and so he says to them, “This is your home.” Chuck’s church becomes Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa, and goes on inspire the planting of more than 1,400 Calvary Chapel churches across the nation, including one here in East Wenatchee.

Now, what does all of that have to do with us? Simply this. The willingness to welcome people, as they are, is a key part of our faith. Jesus ate with outcasts and sinners, even though the religious people of his day disapproved.

As a way of welcoming the hippies, Chuck invited a musical group, “Love Song” to play music at his church. By welcoming their music, Chuck was showing that the hippies and younger people were welcome. He underscored this by saying to them, “If you have been searching, search no further: this church is your home.”

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The 1960's are now a ways in the past. Yet the same dynamics are still at play in human relationships. I recently attended a workshop on ministering in the digital age. The leader of the workshop spoke about a church which desired to minister to those who are gamers: people who are really into video games. He gave the example of one small church whose youth group membership tripled when they allowed and encouraged the playing of video games before and after youth group. He also spoke of a church which allowed their facility to be used to host a video game tournament.

One of the pieces of information I picked up at this workshop is that during a gamer tournament, gamers go by their gamer "tag" or nickname, rather than their legal names. Inspired by this bit of information, I asked my son Jacob, a gamer, about his gamer tag. He was really pleased that I showed interest in his gamer tag. He told me what his gamer tag was, and why he chose it.

Now, I am not a gamer, and probably never will be. I have other hobbies and interests. But we should always be ready to reach out, and find new ways of relating to people, where they are, in order to reach them for Jesus Christ.

One of the poignant questions the workshop leader asked was, "How could God use your hobby, or interest, to win people for the gospel?"

A few days ago, my son Jacob shared with me the trailer for a new video game, "I am Jesus Christ". He assured me that it is not a parody, but a true independent game, which has been under development for three years. I viewed the trailer, which appears to be the gospel message reimagined as a video game. I then responded to Jacob, letting him know that this reminded me of the Apostle Paul: "I became all things to all people, that I might win some."

May God guide us to know how we might reach out, in concrete, meaningful ways, in order to welcome all people to Christ.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Jim

# Little Country Church, *By Chuck Girard*

Little country church on the edge of town  
Doo-do- do-dn-do-do-do  
People comin' everyday from miles around  
For meetin's and for Sunday school  
And it's very plain to see  
It's not the way it used to be

Preacher isn't talkin' 'bout religion no more  
He just wants to praise the Lord  
People aren't as stuffy as they were before  
They just want to praise the Lord  
And it's very plain to see  
It's not the way it used to be

They're talkin' 'bout revival and the need for love  
That little church has come alive  
Workin' with each other for the common good  
Puttin' all the past aside  
Long hair, short hair, some coats and ties  
People finally comin' around  
Lookin' past the hair and straight into the eyes  
People finally comin' around  
And it's very plain to see  
It's not the way it used to be

Note from Pastor Jim: this song is from the Album, "Love Song", which is the group featured in the movie, "Jesus Revolution". Jeana remembers listening to this group as a teenager, and I remember playing this very song with a band I played in while at Whitworth College. The name of our group? S.P.A.M! or Students Posing As Musicians!



*Rusty & Dee Clark*  
March 01

*Conrad & Judy Stone*  
March 20

*Happy  
Anniversary*



*Marie Coe.* 3/9  
*Peggy Baker* 3/12  
*Jim Ottosen* 3/14  
*Pat Malone* 3/15  
*Debra Briggs* 3/20  
*Thomas Weldy* 3/24

*Happy Birthday*



# 2023

5 10:00 worship Service 11:15 Fellowship Reception/ for New Members Second Sunday of Lent 11:45 am Property Ministry Team	6	7 1:30pm Board of Deacons 6:30pm Worship Projection Team	8 9:30am Women's Bible Study	9 6:00pm Mobil Meals	10	11 Set clocks ahead for the end of Daylight Saving Time
12 Daylight Saving Time 10:00 worship Service 11:15 Special Congregational Meeting/Pastor Jim's Compensation Package Third Sunday of Lent	13 Spring Begins	14 4:00pm Choir	15 9:30am Women's Bible Study	16	17 St Patrick's Day	18
19 10:00worship Service 11:15 Fellowship Fourth of Lent	20	21 2:00pm Personnel Team 4:00pm Choir	22 9:30am Women's Bible Study	23 6:30pm Session Meeting	24	25
26 Guest Preacher/ Adam Tobey Executive Director, Tall Timber 10:00 worship Service 11:15 Fellowship Fifth Sunday of Lent	27	28	29 9:30am Women's Bible Study	30 10:30 Office is open	31 10:30 Office is open	