

Come Home to Blessed Community

“Fear Not—I Will Uphold You”

Please join us Sunday for Worship and Praise

Sunday, March 26 at 5:30 pm

10311 NE Hwy 99, Vancouver, WA

(Park in the back behind North Creek Church)

Letting Go to Grab On

I saw Jerry sitting in the middle pews every Sunday morning, smiling and singing. His wife Eileen sat next to him, mostly quiet and not much of a singer. I would shake their hands after the service, as they headed into coffee time. Jerry had been an accountant or a bookkeeper—something to do with money—and I had once or twice encouraged him to get involved with the church financial team. He smiled and said he would think about it, but he never took the next step. Knowing he was retired, I’d hoped he would have more time to get involved in some way with his church, but he made it clear that an hour or two Sunday morning was all the time he had for God, and seemed to feel good about spending even that little time. And why not? Life was comfortable and he was comfortable. When life is good, people forget about the cross, see no need for miracles, and rarely thank God for all that appears to be making life good.

But then, life does its thing.

Several weeks went by when I didn’t see Jerry in church. The people he sat with at coffee hour hadn’t seen or heard from him either, so I gave him a call. The phone was answered by someone claiming to be his daughter, who said her mother Eileen had died suddenly from a brain aneurism. No, she said, her father would not come to the phone, but I could hear him in the background shout something like “God did this!” The daughter urged me to come by in person, and I made an appointment and hoped for the best. I’d seen anger consume people who had ignored the path of repentance and humility while things were good, and now felt that God had singled them out for punishment. But I also knew that God could step in, seemingly unbidden, with a torrent of irresistible grace. The same grace that had pulled Peter up out of the water that threatened to drown him. Sometimes the effect of sinking, of drowning, can bring us into the numinous presence of God as we simply have to get out of our own way. God doesn’t ask us to sink or swim; He just shows up to catch us when we fall.

It would be hard to point to a single, dramatic moment with Jerry, but he eventually embraced Jesus as Peter had. Perhaps it occurred out of my presence, or just evolved in time. God is not only good and loving, but patient as well with those trying to walk—or swim—towards Him. Jerry never did join the finance team. Instead, he joined a men’s prayer group. He says he feels Christ walking with him in a way he never had when things were good. The ache of missing Eileen would never go away, but neither would the healing presence of Christ.

Join us on Easter Morning
8:00 am at Northwood Park

Come home to Blessed Community

A new worship community for all ages

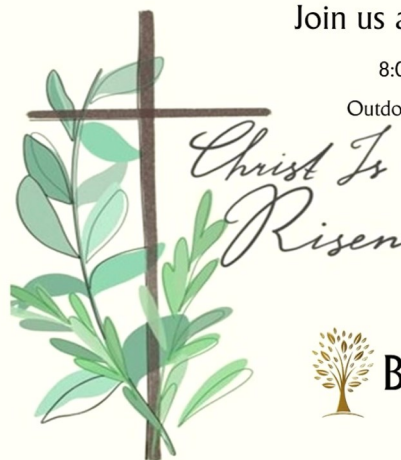
Join us as we greet the risen Christ

8:00 am Easter morning, April 9th

Outdoors if it’s sunny—indoors if it’s not!

At Northwood Memorial Park
16407 NE 15th Ave., Ridgefield, WA

Easter Egg hunt after worship
for children and adults!
Coffee & refreshments



Blessed Community
A Free Methodist Church

This week - Embracing “Fear Not!”

Isaiah 41:10/Matthew 14:22-33

“I Will Uphold YOU”

Jesus walks on water.

**Are you feeling like you’re drowning?
Jesus rescues Peter, and is there
to uphold you too!**



Blessed Community
A Free Methodist Church

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