

Examples of Christ

“Set an example,” wrote the Apostle Paul to the young church leader Timothy. “In what you say, in the way you live, in how you love others, in how you love God, and in your integrity, be a model for others to imitate.” This timeless instruction from Scripture speaks wisdom to us still.

In recent months, we have witnessed a tidal wave of accusations against elected officials in our nation, along with leaders in the news and entertainment industry, even the church. People losing high power positions in what seems an instant. Apologies from some, silence from others. It’s hard to make sense of it all, and more difficult still to ignore the growing feeling of unease about leadership in the church, our government, even among our favorite storytellers and entertainers.

With each of these stories of inappropriate behavior or downright violence against others, my heart breaks for the ones wounded and left deeply scarred. I am also reminded again and again of the deep brokenness in humanity, that these “high profile” people are simply other humans on this planet who wrestle with sinfulness and pride, temptations and failures. Their positions and fame have elevated them to such heights that they fall much further than most, and more people stand as witness to their demise.

And yet. If we believe what we teach as Christians, we must also uphold that these news anchors, actors, preachers, and politicians – they all are created in the image of God and redeemed by the same Jesus who has

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“Leadership experience? I have 13 people following me on Twitter!”

redeemed us as well. Their sins are grave. But Jesus draws a quiet message in the sand to any of us who think we are without sin. Humbling, to be sure. In this season of calling out leaders for their transgressions, we would all do well to examine our own hearts and lives, reflect on the kind of the example we set for others.

For clearly, integrity always been a concern for humanity, especially when it comes to leadership. In his first letter to Timothy, Paul identifies five key areas leaders in the church must be particularly careful to guard:

1. What we say
2. How we conduct our lives
3. How we love others
4. How we love God
5. Our integrity in personal relationships

As Presbyterians, we take this list pretty seriously. We choose our leadership from among the church membership, rather than an outside authority appointing leaders over us. Elders (Greek: *presbyters*) are nominated and elected, called by God and the church into

leadership for a season of 3-6 years. We hold that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, it is *together* that we discern the mind of Christ and the will of God.

If you’re doing the math, Paul’s list to Timothy is one for all of us to consider. Because we as the membership of the church are the pool from which leaders are chosen. Yikes!

Listen, we are none of us going to get it right all the time, or even right for one hot minute. We say bad words, think mean thoughts, nurture unhealthy habits, hurt one another with our words and actions. But when we consider what it means that others are watching, that we as Christ-followers are called to set an example for living grace-filled lives, we start to feel a shift. Because of Christ, we can – and want to more and more – watch our speech, guard our actions, love others and God more deeply, and live with faithfulness in our relationships.

May we enter this New Year together with more kindness in our words and deeper love in our actions. The world is watching, and Jesus is calling us to this good work.

Sueie Paul



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Summit Life is a monthly publication of:

Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church

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Bremerton, WA 98312
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Newsletter Articles are due at the church office the 3rd Monday of each month.

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:45am Brass Handbells
 9:00am Adult S.S Classes
 10:00am Chancel Choir
10:30am Worship
 11:45am Coffee Hour

Audio sermons available at www.summitave.net

Seeking Hospitality Volunteers!

The Hospitality Team is building teams of volunteers and would love to have your help! Each team would be responsible for hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday per month. If you are interested in joining this fun and vital ministry, please contact Ruth Martin (206) 226-4193.

Communion

Jan 7 Rick Chapman

Liturgists

Jan 7 John Lemm
 Jan 14 Sharon Peterson
 Jan 21 TBA
 Jan 28 Ruth Martin

Time For Young Disciples

Jan 7 Susie Beil
 Jan 14 Sharon Peterson
 Jan 21 Bethany Nupen
 Jan 28 Lori Hamilton

Acolytes

Jan 7 TBA
 Jan 14 TBA
 Jan 21 TBA
 Jan 28 TBA

Organist

Jan 7 Woody Bernas
 Jan 14 Woody Bernas
 Jan 21 Woody Bernas
 Jan 28 Joann Richardson

Hospitality Team

Jan 7 Alyssa & Noah Golden
 Jan 14 Ruth Martin, Karl Jensen
 Jan 21 Jan Postel, Jennifer Taylor, Kathy Kuyper
 Jan 28 Steve & Louise Royce, Mary Fischer

Ushers & Greeters

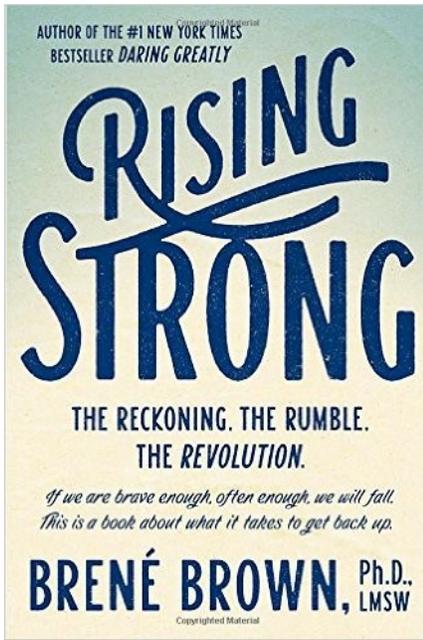
Jan 7 Joyce Hersch, Bud Taylor, Beverly Pratt, Steve & Louise Royce
 Jan 14 Ken & Sue Davis, Peggy Hitchcock, Aggie Schultheis
 Jan 21 John & Jeannie Lemm, Alison Bowling, Sue Kela
 Jan 28 Mike & Bev Kelly, Kurt & Laurel Spitzer

Rising Strong

Winter 2018

listen online: [summitave.net](http://www.summitave.net)

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Preacher
January 7	Genesis 3	The Reckoning	Rev. Susie Beil
January 14	Genesis 22	The Rumble	Rev. Susie Beil
January 21	Genesis 33	The Physics of Vulnerability	Rev. Susie Beil
January 28	Genesis 45	Owning our Stories	Rev. Susie Beil



New Sermon Series & Book Study

I am excited to embark with you on a journey through the Bible this winter and spring. Inspired by the themes in Brene Brown’s book *Rising Strong*, we will look at some of our hallmark stories of faith from the Old and New Testaments—Adam and Eve, Abraham, Joseph, David, Zaccheus, Mary, Jesus, and others.

We’ll look at the stories of ordinary people who reckoned with their lives, rumbled with their stories, or who fled the truth and experienced heartache.

In my Sunday morning class, we’ll be reading together from Brown’s book. I encourage you to join us Sunday mornings for the class, or grab a copy for yourself and gather your own group of friends to discuss its depth and insight.

Books available online through Amazon—in paperback, Kindle, or Audible. If you would like us to order a copy through the office, please let us know!

Morning Prayer

Christ, as a light
illuminē and guidē mē.

Christ, as a shield
overshadow mē.

Christ under mē;

Christ over mē;

Christ beside mē

on my left and my right.

This day be within and without mē,

lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto mē.

This day be within and without mē,

lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Christ as a light;

Christ as a shield;

Christ beside mē

on my left and my right.

from *Celtic Daily Prayer*

Thank you!

On behalf of my family, I want to thank all of you for the kindness you shower on my family all through the year, but especially during the holiday season. We are grateful for the goodies, cards, and the generous family gift. We will spend time with family and friends in Eastern Washington. Much love to you and deep gratitude.

Susie, Dave, Collin, Caleb & Jonathan

Annual Reports

January 16

Attention committee chairs: Annual reports are due to the office no later than January 16th by 2:00pm.

Annual Congregational Meeting

January 28

Annual Reports will be made available Jan 21 . We’ll look at how we closed out our 2017 budget and share the proposed 2018 budget. Childcare and kids activities planned.

Emergency Preparedness Training

Bremerton United Methodist Church | 1150 Marine Drive

January 20 | 8:30am-4:30pm

Cost: free



Help represent Summit Avenue!

Summit is looking to send a group to this event.

Lunch provided.

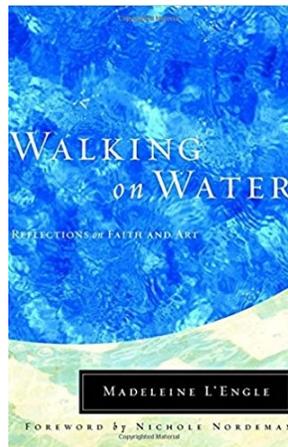
This free workshop has the goal of inspiring congregations and communities to be better able to minimize disaster-caused harm to people and property and to respond to our neighbors in helpful, cooperative and caring ways on behalf of the church and in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Summit Book Clubs

Thursday Morning Women's Study Group Thursdays @ 10:30m

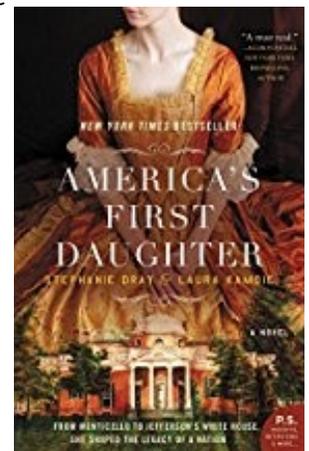
The Thursday Morning Women's Study Group will be starting the book *Walking on Water reflections on Faith and Art* by Madeleine L'engle, beginning January 11.

Everyone is welcome to come join them on Thursday's at 10:30am in the Youth Room. The book is available on Amazon.com.



Summit Reads Book Club January 21 @ 6:00pm

The January book will be *America's First Daughter*, by Stephanie Dray. They will meet on January 21 at 6:00pm. Location TBA.



Groups Ministry Highlight: Thursday Bridge Group

Meets 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays at
12:30 in Robinson Hall

Like to play Bridge or want to learn?
Contact Sharon Peterson, or come on
a Thursday!



Group Leader Meeting

January 21 @ 12:00 pm
Don Serry Room

Our Bridge Group is just one of many groups that meet throughout the week and month. Some groups meet at the church, others meet in homes or other public venues. We have Bible studies, book clubs, social groups, and music groups.

This month we are preparing for Lent and

our Lenten Study Groups. We will be looking for group leaders and hosts, and encourage everyone to sign up to join a group. Lenten groups will run from mid-February through Easter (six weeks).

If you would like to lead a Lenten Group, or have an idea for another kind of group, please let Pastor Susie know, or fill out a blue card next time you're in worship!



Grateful for our Desk Volunteers!

We celebrated our front desk volunteer team on December 12 with a delicious lunch at the Coffee Oasis on Naval Avenue. We are so grateful for their time, dedication, and many kindnesses they show on the staff and all the many people who come and go in the church office each week.

Many thanks to:

Aggie & Bethany, Sharon & Terese, Laurel & Judy,
Mary & Sue, Bud & Jerry.

Angel Tree Update

After gathering the gifts from under the tree and compiling everything for the ten individual children we sponsored, it was incredible to see the amount of love that went into the purchases! It was amazing dropping off everything at Kitsap Community Resources, along with that had already arrived. I am honored to be a part of this Summit Avenue tradition and wish to express to all of you that participated by giving to the “little angels” - you are the real angels!



Gratefully, Laurel Spitzer

Christmas Bazaar Update

This year the Christmas Bazaar raised \$533. All of this was donated to The Master’s Hands Ministries which will help the villagers in Haiti.



Bremerton Foodline

Thank you for giving!

The Foodline is always in need of non food items such as toilet paper, dish soap, and shampoo? We thank you for your continued support!



2018 Pledge Update:

Thank you to all who turned in your 2018 pledges! We are grateful for your generosity and faithfulness. We have increased our Special Capital Projects giving for 2018, but we are still quite short in our Operations pledges. If you have not turned in your pledge, we encourage you to do so. It is so helpful for our ministry planning. If you have concerns or questions about whether you can pledge this year, we hope you will talk with either Pastor Susie, Rick Chapman or Paul DuFresne.

Giving Envelopes are Available!

2018 giving envelopes are available in the Narthex. You can find your box alphabetically, by last name. Thank you to everyone that has already submitted their pledge card for 2018!

As of December 21, 2017:

2018	# of pledges	amount pledged	operations budget
Operations	72	\$ 185,808	\$260,000
Special Capital Projects	25	\$ 15,148	

2017	# of pledges	amount pledged	operations budget
Operations	67	\$ 188,963	\$260,000
Special Capital Projects	25	\$ 14,663	
*Presbytery Grant	1	\$ 10,000	

2016	# of pledges	amount pledged	operations budget
Operations	76	\$209,820	\$260,000
Special Capital Projects	24	\$ 9,374	
Sanctuary Upgrade	37	\$ 14,330	
*Presbytery Grant	1	\$ 10,000	

Session Update for December 2017

To read any past session minutes go to www.summitave.net/session-minutes or visit the library.

1. The Deacons have a need for someone to follow up on reports of members that are shut in or ill. Please contact Delcea Wills with information.
2. The Personnel Committee is once again looking for a Early Childhood Ministry Leader. If you know someone that would be a good candidate, please let them know.
3. Soup lunches for Benedict House will occur the second Sunday of January, February, and April.
4. The Session approve Communion dates for 2018. The nomination committee presented their slate of nominations for Elders and Deacons.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our Treasurer's report reflects what was approved at the previous month's Session meeting, giving us a month's lag time. So for this newsletter, we report on November 2017

November 2017	Actual	Monthly Budget (expected)	Year to Date
Income	\$29,117.92	\$19,136.94	\$247,712.33
Expense	\$20,174.59	\$23,584.06	\$247,705.74

Session Retreat

January 13 · 9am - 3pm

Elders, we will meet at the church Saturday, January 13 for a day of reflection, prayer, and planning. See you then!

Summit is Hiring!

Part-Time Early Childhood Ministry Leader

10 hours/week \$15/hour

Sun & Wed mornings + planning and staff meetings.

Full application on our website at

www.summitave.net/employment-opportunities

Summit Leadership

Session

Bethany Nupen	Worship/Kids
Brett Harrison	Mission/Outreach
Russell Warren	Groups
Paul Du Fresne	Finance/Stewardship
Ken Davis	Mission/Memorials
Ruth Martin	Outreach/Hospitality
Dan Kranenburg	Personnel/B&G
Rick Chapman	Finance
Steve Royce	Missions
Lori Hamilton	Clerk

Deacons

Moderator: Delcea Wills	
Joyce Hersch	Jeannie Lemm
Mary Fischer	John Lemm
Audrey Robinson	Jerry Dick
Ann Sveen	Tineke Dahl
Sue Davis	
Louise Royce	
Dennis Kurzrock	

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Susie Beil
Parish Associate: Rev. Jerry Benjamin
Childcare Ministry Leaders: Stephany Cabrera,
Choir Director: Gary Dahl
Handbell Choir Director: Cheryl Sanlin
Organists: Woody Bernas, Joann Richardson,
Office/Communications: Julie Mirth
Custodian: Darlene Randall
Treasurer: Cathy Best
Kitchen Facilitator: Sue Kela
Sound Technicians: Rick Walker, Tineke Dahl, Karl Jensen, Rick Chapman, Teagan Taafe, Quincy Cole, Andrea King
Desk Volunteers:
 Monday Aggie Schultheis & Bethany Nupen
 Tuesday Sharon Plowman & Terese Edmonds
 Wed. Laurel Spitzer, Judy Wieck
 Thurs. Mary Urwin & Sue Kela
Subs: Ray Goodale, Bud Taylor

January 28 | after worship

Annual Congregational Meeting

Annual reports available January 21
Childcare provided

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am - 2pm
Phone: (360) 377-2740

Check out our website at:
www.summitave.net

Got a church key?

Let us know! We are updating our inventory of everyone who has a key to the church building.



1. If you no longer need your key, this is a great opportunity to turn it in to the office!
2. If you have one, please notify the office by calling, emailing, or marking a blue card in worship with your name and the word "key."
3. Please be responsible with your key. We have had a rash of doors being left unlocked or left open, lights on, and other security concerns.
4. Session is working on a building security checklist for all people with keys to follow when they are here outside of regular office hours. Stay tuned for more details!

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Return Service requested

