



The EDGE

Summer is Harvest Time for Blueberries

By: Karen Avinelis, Director of Counseling and Ministries to Women

June catches us preparing for harvest on our farms. Harvest typically begins after July 4th.

Blueberries are an important crop, here in Oregon.

A farmer knows the work he has to do long before the harvest begins: all the cultural practices that help nurture and grow the plant. Vitally important to good crop loads, year after year, is **pruning**.

If you are like me, knowing exactly what branch to prune is difficult.

- 1) Just where do I cut the branch?
- 2) How many cuts per plant?
- 3) How do I discern fruiting (productive) wood from vegetative (non-fruiting) wood?
- 4) What shape of the plant am I trying to achieve?

There are so many things I need to know to effectively prune a blueberry plant so that when harvest rolls around there will be a plentiful crop to pick and enjoy.

When the harvest starts, all that time pruning way back in the fall and winter is clearly evident.

You can see the berries that have had room and the nutrients to grow into big, flavorful, robust blueberries, just waiting to be eaten and enjoyed.

Jesus teaches the disciples about the **vine** in the **Gospel of John, Chapter 15, verses 1 through 11**.

Jesus is the true vine.

God, His Father, is the vinedresser.

Every believer (you and me) are the branches.

The fruit is the work God has planned beforehand for you and I to do, bringing Him glory and growing us into a more intimate relationship with Him, in Christ Jesus, His Son (Eph 2:10).

God is the One Who prunes away the dead, unproductive branches.

He also prunes productive branches so that they will produce an even greater crop of excellent quality fruit.

Now, take this example from **John 15** and lay it over our lives.

He wants us to bear more fruit than we think possible by His trimming away and making room for more eternally valuable fruit. Sometimes these are small cuts, sometimes large drastic cuts.

God prunes us, not for our glory, but for His.

How does God know what to prune? How does He know where to make just the right cut? How does He know exactly how many cuts to make in each of us? What shape is He purposing to make us into?



When a farmer approaches his blueberry plant, he has spent time watching this plant grow, watching how it sets fruit on each of its branches. He has fed this plant, he has watered this plant, he has given this plant protection from pests and diseases through his wise and discerning care.

He has even harvested fruit from this plant so that he understands what kind of blueberries this plant produces: Flavorful or blah, sweet or sour, crunchy or squishy, small or plump, colorful or pale and many or few.

Pruning is about balance and self-control. We must believe that promoting methodical growth in a plant today by controlling its pace of growth and fruiting will lead to a longer, steadier, and more productive life producing fruit that looks great and is filled with a flavor that blesses

those who eat it.

When plants are allowed to grow wild and exhaust themselves while young, we never really see the plant reach its full production potential. Often the plant will collapse, be stunted, or have to be severely pruned in its premature years in order to give it a fresh start at production.

Have you ever thought about the way God prunes each of us so that we will bear the maximum amount of fruit of

excellent quality? He knows each of us as we spend time with Him. He sees us, hears our prayers and there just is no place we can go where He is not (**Psalm 139**).

As we grow up in Christ, God, our heavenly Father, is pruning us for maximum production of His glory. He is pruning each of us so that we can and will enjoy Him more. God is pruning away things (dead or unproductive wood and wood that blocks out the sunlight) that may seem really good. He does this to cause us to grow and produce even more excellent fruit than we may think even possible. God prunes away things in our lives that:

1. Tend to shade Him out
2. Blocks the Light of His Son streaming into our hearts

3. Things that take His place
4. People that lead us away from Him
5. Things that steal His glory and make us big in ours and other's eyes
6. Things that make our lives dependent on us or someone else other than Jesus, His Son
7. Toys that steal our hearts and take captive our minds
8. Relationships that don't honor Him
9. Jobs that become bigger and more important in our hearts than Him
10. Responsibilities that steal our time for refreshment, rest and restoration
11. Things that lead us to worship some other love in our hearts other than Jesus

*God prunes us,
not for our
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Now heart-pruning can hurt, it can be scary at times. But God has nothing but our best and His glory in view whenever He makes a cut that touches our heart. His intentions for His children are always kind (**Eph 1:5-6**). Pruning is often about removing what is still fruiting today (and often has produced fruit successfully for years) in faith that the new growth will produce even more fruit for years to come!

John 15:1-2, 7-8 says,

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit... If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples."

This summer, when you eat a blueberry or see the farmers out in the fields harvesting, stop for a moment and thank God for the ways in which He prunes you so that, like the blueberry plants, you will bear much flavorful, enjoyable, and valuable fruit for His kingdom glory for years to come!



Our Missionaries. . .

Family Profile. . .

By: Patty Wallace, Edge Contributor

Marta is a sweet young lady who has been attending Emmanuel Bible Church for a little over two years. The youngest of eight children, Marta was born and raised in a Christian home in the Salem area, living in the same house all her life until May of this year when she moved out on her own with friends. Marta loves being part of a big family, and enjoys being around them. She values and treasures all the opportunities she's had to watch and learn from her older siblings. Most of that watching and learning happened while they were all being homeschooled from kindergarten through high school!

When she was about eleven years old, Marta had her little pocket Bible's subject page open, looking for the word "loneliness". She found it, and was taken to Psalm 23, a passage that she already loved. Her sister was with her and as they talked about the psalm together, Marta's sister helped her see the connection of how the Lord could be *her* Shepherd. The two girls then talked with their parents who prayed with Marta as she accepted Christ as her Savior. Though loneliness has continued to be a struggle, she shares that praying with others and having others pray for her has helped so much!

While growing up, Marta's family went on numerous road trips which included some crazy camping experiences! Her dad is the president of the National Home Education Research Institute and travels often for conferences and speaking engagements. The family would travel with him once or twice a year on shorter trips, and once in a great while, on longer trips. These trips planted a travel bug in Marta. In 2015, she went on a mission trip with *Teen Missions International*, first to boot camp in Florida, and then to Saint Lucia where her team served the community. She has also had the opportunity to travel to visit family in North Carolina. In 2016, she was a student at *Summit Ministries* in Colorado, and has staffed since then at their summer camp. She's staffing there this summer as well! Marta would love to someday have a career as a flight attendant. In January of this year, after applying for an open flight attendant position with American Airlines, she was actually called for a group interview at their headquarters in Texas! She found it a very interesting experience. Someone else got the job, but Marta isn't giving up yet. She's hoping to check out other airlines!

Besides travel, Marta has a variety of interests. She enjoys music, singing, and playing piano. She also will go to the beach every time she has the chance! Another favorite activity is ultimate Frisbee. She likes to read, and has a special interest in historical fiction and C.S. Lewis. Marta loves children and has done quite a bit of nanny work in the area. Family is also a big part of her life. She loves to spend time with her sisters and play with their kids.

Though Marta loves her parents' church, a couple of years ago, she decided to visit some other churches, and sought counsel from her father and her pastor. When visiting Emmanuel Bible Church, she really liked the expositional teaching, the worship, and the people, and believed she had found the place God wanted her. Marta has been involved in the Young Adult group, helped in the AWANA program, and faithfully hosts once a month in the church foyer. We're happy to have her as a part of our church family!



EVENT PAGE

THE HAPPENINGS AT EBC

JULY EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

04 - Independence Day

In honor of Independence Day, the office will be closed. If you have an urgent pastoral care need, please contact the elder on-call.

12-13 - YAM Retreat

Location: Wasco County Fairgrounds

Contact: Scott and Heather Shetler

Everyone between the ages of 18-25 is welcome!

Cost: \$60 | Registration Deadline: July 7th

26-27 - Youth Group Campout

Contact: Cole Flanigan

All high school students are welcome! More information to come.

28 - Baptism Service

Time: To Be Announced

Location: Sanctuary

Contact: Church Office

If you are interested in being baptized at this time, please contact the church office.

29 - Office Closure

Due to construction related power-outage, the office will be closed. For any urgent pastoral care needs, please contact the elder on call listed in the bulletin or call a staff member - all email will be down.

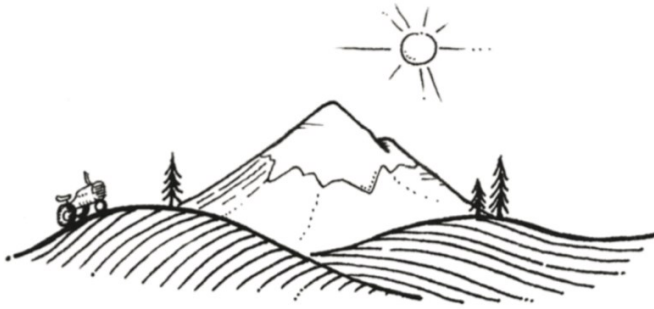
AUGUST EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August All Church Old-Fashioned Breakfast Potlucks (every Sunday morning in August)

04 - Cole and Valerie Flanigan's Going Away Party

18 - Fun with the Family Movie Night

25 - Promotion Sunday



Emmanuel Bible Church Cookbook

Reap the Harvest Volume 2 Cookbook (over 400 recipes!) is now available for \$20.

Contact Jenny Shetler to purchase your copy.
All net proceeds from the sale will go towards Emmanuel Bible Church's Women's Ministry missionary encouragement use.

August All Church Old-Fashioned Breakfast Potluck

Everyone is invited to come fellowship together each Sunday in August during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30) over an 'Old-Fashioned Breakfast Potluck.' This is a great time to catch-up with our church family members, meet new people, and enjoy great food!

Bring a large serving dish or two of your choice of a breakfast food.

Serving ware, tableware, and drinks will be provided.

Information will be coming to Sunday School classes in July about how each class can help out for one Sunday of the potluck to make it run smoothly. You DON'T have to be attending a Sunday School class to come to the Potluck - everyone is invited!

If you are interested in helping EVERY Sunday of August with the potluck, please contact Jenny Shetler at for more details. Many hands make light work. It's a great way to serve our church body, while saying thank you to all the Sunday School teachers who have served this year and get a much deserved August off from teaching.

We hope to see you there!



Annual 4th of July Party moved to 4th of August!

For the last several years, we have enjoyed a 4th of July picnic/potluck at the beautiful home of Dave and Becky Steffen. This year we will move our annual picnic to August 4th and celebrate Cole and Valerie Flannigan before they take on their new assignment at the YWAM base in Maui. We will still meet at Dave and Becky's house as it accommodates a large crowd, has ample parking, and is simply beautiful! Look for further details in the days to come...but here are the basics:

What? Potluck/Going Away Party for Cole & Valerie Flannigan

When? August 4th

Time? 5:00-7:00ish

Bring? Potluck food! (lots)

Table service and drinks provided!

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 Emma Dettwyler
- 02 Gregg Ditchen, Dave Gavette, Martie Kinzer,
Craig Rawie
- 03 Amy Tuggy, Jesse Turkington
- 04 Caleb Carlson, Brenna Wiegand,
Josh Wimp
- 06 Terry Rice
- 07 Jeannine Ediger
- 08 Loren Herr, Marc Hitz,
Nancy Hudson, Lance Kamstra,
Benjamin Miller, Cheryl Tate
- 09 Greg Wilson, Elizabeth White
- 11 Wendell Stadel, Ken Tschiegg
- 12 Levi Rose, Matthew Shetler
- 13 Shirley Gillaspie, Becky Miller, Shaylin Mohr
- 14 Joe Folsom, Bret Haury, Bob Simmons,
Tucker Stadel
- 15 Lindsey Gardner, Quinton Gehring
- 16 Ava Kuenzi, Ella Kuenzi, Martha Needham
- 17 Gracie Miller
- 18 Nathanael Bizon, Jeff Butsch,
Margaret Lundgren
- 19 Kyah Kohl
- 20 Bill Davisson, Deloris Stoutenburg,
Nathan Stucky
- 21 Lora Lierman, Deanna Weaver
- 22 Gabe Babshoff, Claudia Dewey, Chuck Goode,
Anita Mayhugh, Charlee Mohr, Josh Shetler
- 23 Natalie Ford
- 24 Bob Fuls, Darlene Gardner, Wally Lierman,
Kari Lung
- 25 Jeff Brenden, Elsa Dyer
- 26 Glorielle Kelly
- 27 Amos Hitz, Jim Klopfenstein
- 28 Ginny Haury
- 29 Alice Dettwyler
- 30 Kate Miller, Wayne Steffen
- 31 Amos Cook, Donna Mantie

- 01 Michael and Yelena Galante
- 02 Bruce and Betty Hargreaves **(69)**
Marvin and Stevie Klopfenstein
- 04 Bill and Nancy Garin
- 05 Joe and Patty Wallace
- 07 Jan and Sharon Mathis
- 08 Eric and Kristen Kuenzi
Andrew and Erin Stucky
- 09 Vern and Ann Heinrichs **(59)**
Wesley and Bethany Kos
- 10 Andy and Claire Baldwin **(65)**
Cole and Valerie Flanigan
- 11 Elmer and Artie Haury **(60)**
Craig and Mary Wenger
- 12 Glenn and Debbie Izer
- 14 Keith and Linda Johnston
- 15 Lucian and Audrey Batson
- 17 Leroy and Lesli Kaufman
- 18 George and Katie Kuenzi
Sam and Stephanie Pratt
- 22 Eugene and Tanya Arnautov
- 23 Caleb and Sarah Folsom
- 25 Don and Sue Turkington
- 26 Greg and Karla Hoffman
- 28 Andrew and Whitney Lierman
- 30 John and Becky Roth
- 31 Graham and Diane Slater

The Library is Moving!

Please note that the library is closed until further notice in order to prepare for the move into the new building. All materials are due back on July 14th. Please put them in the book return box located across the hall from the library under the coat rack. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during the move!

Emmanuel Bible Church

8512 Sunnyview Rd | Salem, OR | 97305

www.ebcsalem.com

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Services 8:00 & 10:45 AM

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