

Twin Flames

September 18, 2019 Volume 19 Edition 27

Act Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with God (Micah 6:8, NIV)

Mt. Baker Sunrise photo courtesy of Pamela Davis Headridge

SAVE THE DATE FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!

With the Twin Flames going to a twice a month publication, I thought I'd better share the schedule for this year's shoe box campaign a little earlier than in the past. Shoe box packing and turn in day will be Sunday, November 10th, so please mark your calendars and plan to join us at 2:15 that afternoon to help fill boxes.

Brochures and informational materials should be available, starting in early October. Watch the Twin Flames, the Thursday emails, and the Missions bulletin board for more information! Questions? Contact Karen Pasewark at 360-675-1936.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Now that September is here and we've returned to a normal routine, it seems appropriate to remind you of the hours of operation for the church office and the building in general.

The office/building are open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 to 4:00. (The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00.) Unless groups are already on the calendar or other arrangements are made through the office, the building is locked up at 4:00. The office and building are closed on Fridays. You are asked to plan your visits around these hours of operation.

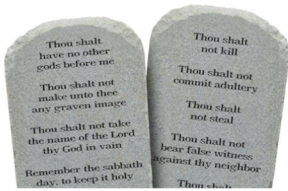
WELCOME RECEPTION

Please help us welcome Sebastian Serrano, our new Music & Worship Arts Director, into our church family on Sunday, September 22nd, right after worship. We will have cake and other goodies.

Do you all remember how we welcomed Pastor David and Cara into our church family with personal welcome cards, gift cards to local places, a boat trip around the island, a drive to your favorite eating establishment with lunch, dinner at your home, etc.? We would like to do just that for Sebastian since he is new to the Pacific Northwest and our church family. Put on your thinking caps and get creative! Bring your donation/card with you on the 22nd and put it in the basket on the cake table. Thank you all for being an amazing, loving church family....a great family of hospitality and love!

TWIN FLAMES PUBLICATION CHANGE

Effective September 4th, we are continuing with publishing the church newsletter bi-monthly, on the first and third Wednesdays through the end of December. At that time we will be entering a new era of disseminating church news. Watch for more information regarding these exciting changes!



BECOMING REAL IN AN UNREAL WORLD!

Some might think the above title a bit odd for what we know as

the Ten Commandments. What does “becoming real” have to do with the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses? The truth is, reality in God’s economy is about becoming alive in all that matters.

We all remember that God spoke to Moses in a burning bush on a mountain top, face to face (Deuteronomy 5:4). It was from this encounter that God set in motion a plan to deliver His people out of Egypt and to give them a new path to travel; a new way to live and leverage love so that they will thrive and not just survive.

This Sunday (the 22nd), we begin a new ten-week preaching series on the Ten Commandments. Found in both Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21, they record the ground rules for God’s governance of our lives. More importantly, they convey the path to aliveness and joy, health and fruitfulness that leads to contented satisfaction.

Through this series, we will see that God is much more than a “Thou-shalt-not” God. Our Father purposes life, wholeness, favor and blessing for each and every one of us. Since Jesus said he came to “fulfill the law” (Matthew 5:17), then we should expect to see Jesus clearly at work in these expectant laws of the Father. How did Jesus model these laws for us? What might he say to us today regarding their relevance in our lives?

As we journey through our lives, and through the ages, we will one day look back on these guiding principles to see how we responded to them and how they shaped our lives. John the Apostle, in his Revelation from Heaven, said: *“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus”* (Revelation 14:12).

Commandment keeping is a huge part of Jesus’ understanding of our love and devotion to him. *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments”* (John 14:15). Some have humorously noted that the bible calls these spiritual principles for action the “Ten Commandments” and not the “Ten Suggestions.” God is not calling us to live a cafeteria and buffet approach to our spiritual

lives. This is not a pick-and-choose approach to living the life that we want. Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan once said, “I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the US Congress.”

I look forward to this special journey with you in the coming months and will seek to discover, along with you, our chosen path for a victorious and life-giving journey into God’s great kingdom!

Our God is Good!

IN NEED OF PRAYER

PRAYER CHAIN: Rose Vance, 360-929-2211

BETTY JO SHADDY-BROWN & FAMILY -

Memorial Service for Larry will be held on Saturday, October 26th at 2:00.

ALENE BERTRAN - Undergoing chemo in Arizona.

JACQUI LANDRY - Health Concerns

MILLY McWILLIAMS - at Home Place.

PHIL WENDLING – at Ashley Gardens in Mt. Vernon.

MARLENE JONES - at Harbor Care.

BETTY ANN ROBBINS – at Harbor Care.

DONNA APPERSON – at Harbor Care.

CASSIE HICKEY - at Welcome Home Care Center.

Sep 22	Dana O’Blenes
Sep 23	Nancy Anderson
	Pat DeBode
Sep 24	Jun Sapida
Sep 25	Donna Grate
	Linda Rider
Sep 29	James DiPinto
Oct 1	Barbara Lett
Oct 2	Rhonda Edens
Oct 3	Dwight Plasterer
Oct 6	Donna Apperson
	Daisy Sapida
Oct 12	Mary Jo Morris



Last Thursday and Friday I had the opportunity to attend the Orange Conference Tour in Everett with Nicole Rogers and Ben Harrison. Orange is an organization that partners with

churches to provide resources and curriculum to help kids and teenagers experience God, while also engaging well with parents. As the above graphic shows, they believe two combined influences make a greater impact than just two individual influences. The Church (light/yellow) + Home (love/red) = Orange

While this topic obviously relates to my job, I felt the information can also be very helpful to all adults in our congregation. Whether you are involved with our youth and kids through Sunday School, Wednesday nights, Partners in Mission, just in passing on Sunday mornings, or not really at all, the reality is that you and they are both part of this church, and it's important for you to know how best to engage with them.

The main part of the conference was Friday, but we went on Thursday and attended the add-on sessions Lead Small and Parents Cue Live. Ben and I attended Lead Small, where we heard about the importance of being authentic, smart, and honest. Gen Z (born between the late 90s and early 2010s) – which is all of our youth and many of our children – have little tolerance for anything that is fake. They want the adults in their lives (including the adults in their church) to be real with them. Now, just because we have knowledge doesn't mean we have to share it all at one time. That's where being smart comes in. Asking ourselves, "how is this helpful for them right now?" can help us find the balance between sharing too little and too much. As for being honest, that seems like a no-brainer. But the speaker, Mike Clear, focused specifically on us as adults being honest about our need for community. A phrase they repeated several times throughout the conference was, "seen people see people." We need to be seen in order for us to see others.

Friday's portion of the conference included several full group sessions as well as two breakout sessions. It's hard to relay all the valuable information that we took in (I have nine full pages of notes!), but I'll try to pass along some key highlights. The overall theme for the conference was "It's Personal". Personal is the opposite of shallow. Speaker Kristen Ivy said, "if you get personal, it will change the way you respond to this [next] generation." In order to get personal with our kids and teens, we need to be able to answer yes to these five questions.

Do you know my name? This is the (pretty obvious) first step to starting a relationship with someone. Know their name, and let them know you know their name by engaging in conversation with them.

Do you know what matters to me? Do you know what they like and enjoy, what makes them laugh, or what they fear? When you know what kids and teens like, they know they are worth liking.

Do you know where I live? Kids need to know there is someone who knows where they live, so that they know there is someone who can show up for them. Not only is it important for adults in their lives to know where they physically live, but where are they living emotionally? When we know that, we can know when they are in trouble.

Do you know what I've done? We all make mistakes and we all experience shame. But shame is a shallow motivator. Love is a powerful motivator. Jesus understood that if you know what someone's done and you love them anyway, you'll buy into their life. The story of Zacchaeus was used as an example. Jesus knew what kind of person Zacchaeus had been and was known for, but he still told Zacchaeus to come out of the tree and invited himself to Zacchaeus' house.

Do you know what I can do? This is where we call out people's potential. Jesus saw Zacchaeus' potential. He also saw Peter's. Jesus knew Peter was a fisherman but told him he'd now be fishing for men. Speaker Gerald Fadayomi asked, "what if we spent less time trying to get students to come to our church and more time training volunteers to show up for them at concerts, sports, and more?" When we show up for them, we can speak their potential and call them to more.

Now here's the part where I call *you* to more. Ben and I aim to get personal with each of our youth, and Nicole, as a parent and Sunday School teacher, also builds relationships with our young people. But this should go beyond us and the other volunteer teachers. I am inviting *each and every one of you* to also engage in a meaningful relationship with a young person in our church. It can be scary getting started, but I promise you it will grow to something life-giving. If you don't know where to start, come find me, and we can start together.

Erin



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Are you looking to connect with other adults for a time of Bible study and fellowship? Chances are that we have a Small Group just right for you.

Call Ginger Opdyke at 360-679-9071 or Dave Williams at 360-675-8856 for more information about joining or starting a Small Group. (To arrange for child care, call the church office at 360-675-2441.)

MONDAY

6:00 Moving Words Small Group

TUESDAY

10:00 Sisters of Scripture Small Group

1:00 Lydia Ladies Small Group

6:15 Young Adult Group

WEDNESDAY

10:00 Agape Small Group

3:00 Deeply Rooted Small Groups

6:00 Family Small Groups (all ages)

THURSDAY

11:30 Brown Bag Ladies

SATURDAY

8:30 Men's Small Group

Sunday, September 22nd

10:00 Worship

10:30 Children's Sunday School

2:00 Cub Scouts

5:00 Community Chorus Rehearsal

Monday, September 23rd

10:00 We Care Team

7:00 Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 24th

12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team

6:00 Praise Team Practice

6:15 Young Adult Group

Wednesday, September 25th

6:00 Family Small Groups

Thursday, September 26th

12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team

7:00 Next Generation Team Meeting

Saturday, September 28th

11:00 Women's AA Luncheon

Sunday, September 29th

10:00 Worship

10:30 Children's Sunday School

2:00 Cub Scouts

5:00 Community Chorus Rehearsal

Monday, September 30th

10:00 We Care Team

Tuesday, October 1st

12:30 Spin Café Cooking Team

6:00 Praise Team Practice

6:15 Young Adult Group

Wednesday, October 2nd

10:00 Folding Team

6:00 Family Small Groups

Thursday, October 3rd

7:00 Next Generation Team Meeting