

WOODLAND PARK PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF
WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A COVENANT NETWORK OF FAITH
AND A GREENING CONGREGATION

Happy
New Year!

JANUARY— 2019 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From the Pastor...

During our Christmas Eve service each year, we hear these lines from Madeline L'Engle's poem *The Risk of Birth*:

*This is no time for a child to be born
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.*

Every year, these words seem fitting, and this year is no exception. Given the present state of affairs in our nation and on the global level, it's not only tempting to say "This is no time for a child to be born" (which, in my present state, I have to admit that I have been thinking occasionally!), but it can also be tempting to ask what's the point of remembering the Christmas story anyway; what could possibly be the point—other than maybe sentimentality—of rehearsing yet again a story about an unexpected pregnancy and no room at the inn. You might be even more tempted to ask such a question if you happen to be one who maybe questions some of the details of the story...like, say, a virgin birth.

If you have any such skepticism, you're in good company. In fact, in Luke's version of the story, Mary herself had her fair share of disbelief. She was living in a time of empire and, as Madeline L'Engle says,

*That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome.*

Those were dark days. So, for Mary, why would she believe that, in that context of oppression and few possibilities for change, she's going to miraculously have a child and that the world would change because of it?

So, understandably, we find Mary questioning the angel: How can this be, since I'm a virgin?

Well, that's a fair question, right? The woman clearly has some idea about where babies come from. The angel goes on to explain: "The holy spirit will come upon you..." and so on and so forth. "Oh, and by the way, your relative Elizabeth—who is *really* old—is also pregnant!" Not the most convincing argument. But still, Mary stops protesting and, in fact, consents to participate.

Was Mary convinced? Does she now believe the angel? Maybe...but I would suggest that it's not so much about her *belief* as it is about her decision to *suspend her disbelief*. In that moment, despite some faulty logic being presented to her, Mary *decides to hope*. Only then does she begin to

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A Member Congregation of the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

Toward a Church as Generous
and Just as God's Grace

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sing her song of joyous anticipation.

Jim Wallis, the founder and editor of *Sojourner's Magazine*, has often been quoted as saying, "Hope is not a feeling. It's a decision, a choice you make based on faith or moral conscience, whatever most deeply motivates you." Every year, right amid whatever mess the world is in, we have the opportunity to join the angel and Mary...and maybe all those animals from the kids' book too...in *deciding to hope* and declaring that *now is the time*. As Madeline L'Engle says...

*When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn—
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.*

May it be so.

~Pastor Staci



Amnesty's Write for Rights

Reminder: Amnesty's "Write for Rights" campaign extends through

January.

If you haven't already, you can still go to: www.amnestyusa.org/w4r and sign in to scroll down and click on the person you support. Be sure to write a short support note and also click on the letter to the governmental official. You can write a regular letter, with stamps, or send your letters on-line. Amnesty has chosen to feature 11 women who are under threat this year. They face discrimination, are imprisoned, are targeted, are harassed, or are persecuted. We send copies of our letters to government officials in the countries involved.

Our letters let these women, and officials, know that they are not alone. The world is watching. You have a month - so there's time to support all the women. Be sure to keep track of how many you write so we can count them in February.

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Articles for the **WOODLAND PARK PRESS** are due by the 20th of the month. E-mail them to me at debbiealan@yahoo.com.

Please make sure to note **your name and phone number** with your article so I may contact you if I have any questions. Thanks again to all of the contributors for this month's **PRESS!**

Thanks -
Alan Herbig - Editor
WOODLAND PARK PRESS

January Worship and Scripture Readings

January 6: Feast of the Epiphany: Visit of the Magi
Text: Matthew 2:1-23
Adult Education resumes at 9am
(Topic: Exploring Islam)

January 13: Jesus' Baptism
Text: Matthew 3:1-17
Annual Congregational Meeting right after worship

January 20: Tempted in the Wilderness
Text: Matthew 4:1-17

January 27: The Beatitudes
Text: Matthew 5:1-20

Bits and Pieces

WE CHOOSE WELCOME!

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR WPPC LONG TIME MEMBER, EVELYN MERRITT, will be held at WPPC on Wednesday, January 2, at 2 pm followed by a reception. Pastor Staci will officiate.

ADULT EDUCATION WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 6TH. Exploring Islam: A sign on our front door declares “We stand with our Muslim neighbors,” and we do... and how much do we know about their faith? Our next Adult Education sessions will be an introduction to Islam including a combination of discussions led by WPPC leaders and Muslim guest speakers. This nine-week series will run from January 6 to March 3 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Mural Room. As always, regular attendance is encouraged, but don't let occasional absences keep you away.

HOLY HOPS is a monthly group that meets to discuss a topic of interest over supper and beverages. The January Holy Hops meets Monday, January 21 at 6:00 pm, at [The Dane](#), 8000 15th Ave NW; Seattle. Snacks, sandwiches, salads are available.

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION with Pastor Staci meets Tuesday, noon, [Green Bean Coffeehouse](#) ; 8525 Greenwood Ave N.
January 1: Happy New Year! No Scripture Conversation today.
January 8: Matthew 4:1-17 January 15: Matthew 5:1-20
January 22: No scripture conversation (Pastor Staci out of town)
January 29: Matthew 7:1-14,24-29

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Recovery: Debbie Blane, Flo Bliss, Ken Doak, Bethany Erickson, Evelyn Merritt, Salwa Nemr, and Bruce Herbig .

Missionaries: Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer.

Our college students: Arthur Bale, Miki Bale, Lupita Barren, Colin Bronsdon, Jessica Cruz, Erin Emery, Kai Hirayama, Luke Luttrell, Myles Sproul Nelson, Ben Peterson, and Emily Peterson.

Presbytery Connections - January, 2019

By Roger Lee

The recent Port Orchard tornado gave us a local example how Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) helps people with recovering from disasters. Less than a day after the storm, PDA contacted our Presbytery to offer help. After learning of this resource, Rev. Susie Beil, Summit Avenue PC, plans to make a grant request to PDA. Although no PC(USA) churches or members have been directly affected, Rev Beil can use the grant to assist the Port Orchard community in recovery. She notes the United Way of Kitsap County is taking the lead on establishing the recovery fund and organizing a committee that includes the Salvation Army, and the Red Cross to address the needs of the community members affected by the tornado.

Established by Presbyterian missionaries, Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church had just 13 Alaska Natives in attendance at its first service, on Easter 1899. Today, the Rev. Joseph Reid leads more than 250 members and visitors who attend services regularly in the most northern U. S. town, formerly known as Barrow. For more information see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/remote-alaskan-church-thrives-amid-challenges/>

Putting on the Mind of Christ: the Inner Work of Christian Spirituality.

by James Marion.



What does it mean to follow the path of Christ today? For Jim Marion, former Catholic monk, mystic, and attorney, if you want to join the Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven, you must do so while living as a human on the Earth. It's not something that automatically happens to Christians after death, nor can the Church do it for you. Indeed, says Marion, inner spiritual growth has always been the true essence of Christian practice.

Putting on the Mind of Christ is the ardent expression of a modern mystic reporting his spiritual experiences within a "Christ-focused" framework. Neither evangelist nor theorist, Marion is a Christian practitioner--he's simply done what the scriptures advise. For Christians who are disaffected with contemporary Christianity there is another way--Marion calls it the "old original way"-to experience the true spirituality of Christianity.

Drawing upon his own rich mystical experience and deep understanding of scriptural models, Marion shows the reader how to emulate the developmental stages of the Christ--how to put on the mind of Christ to achieve spiritual illumination and communion with the Christ. Pioneering, transcendent and grounded, *Putting on the Mind of Christ* may permanently alter the landscape of 21st century Christianity.--(Amazon.com website).

"Everything changes when we read." --Neil Gaiman (author)

Jeri Lee
WPPC Librarian

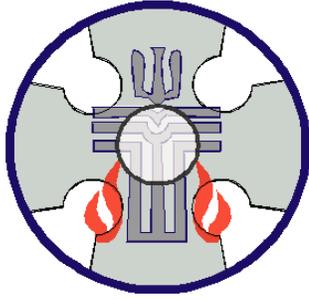
And the Survey Says....

THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE is conducting a survey on how you receive information about the church, its events, and other pertinent information! Please take some time to answer the questions to the best of your abilities. The more thoroughly you complete the survey, the better the committee can help facilitate communication throughout the church and its members. The survey shouldn't take more than about 15 minutes to complete. Thank you for your time!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WPPCCOMMS>

Did you know that WPPC has a website? ..<http://wppcseattle.org/>

WPPC also has a Facebook presence - a page that is updated with WPPC happenings and may be seen by anyone on Facebook where people can "like" the page and get notified about new activities. <https://www.facebook.com/WPPCSeattle/>

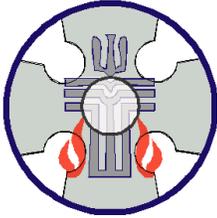


JANUARY 2019

WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SEATTLE – WASHINGTON



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Each Sunday 9:00 Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 Worship Service RAC Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>Please let us know your (Birthday) so we can note it on the calendar.</p> <p>JBC = Just Before Church RAC = Right After Church</p>	<p>1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Year's Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Church Office Closed)</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>2:00 Evelyn Merritt's service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 Choir</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00 Men's Breakfast Group (Bay Café)</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:00 Adult Education Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Epiphany</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> <p>6:30 Communication Committee (WPPC)</p>	<p>8 (Marla Herbig)</p> <p>6:00 Membership Committee (Zeke's)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 Spirit Formation Committee (Peterson home)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:15 Open Mic Check In 7:00 Open Mic Night!</p> 	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>RAC Amnesty Letter Writing RAC Deacons</p>	<p>14 (Bruce Herbig)</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 - Stewardship Committee</p>	<p>16 (Michael Caughey)</p> <p>7:00 Session</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 Choir</p>	<p>18 (Debra Denby) (David Emery)</p> <p>7:00 Movie Night - <i>Meaningful Movie Night</i></p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Birthday Cake Sunday</p>	<p>21 (Melissa Fischer)</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> <p>6:00 Holy Hops The Dane on 15th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Martin Luther King Jr. Day <i>(Church Office Closed)</i></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 Choir</p>	<p>25 (Kathy Lueckert)</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 (Meg Gruwell)</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>29 (Linda Jerauld) (Julie Tempest)</p>	<p>30 (Keith Luttrell)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 Choir</p>		



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Evelyn Merritt, our longest term member at WPPC at the time of her death, passed away December 3, 2018, at 95 years old. She hasn't been active at church for a while, but, as others will remember, she used to be very active. Her son, Gordon, recalls that 70 years ago she brought him to the church in a stroller and chose the church because it was just a few blocks from their home.

She was born in Seattle. Her parents were Oscar and Anna. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her sister Vivian and brother Bob, and James L. Merritt, her husband of 52 years. She is survived by children Gordon (Carolyn) Merritt of Seattle and Joanne (Gary) Ostby, of Lake Roosevelt, Washington. Her grandchildren are Ken (Lori) Ostby Goff of Klamath Falls, Oregon, and Tim Merritt of Seattle, and Rachel (Aidin) Brown of Orange County, California. Her great-grandchildren are Kendrick and KJ Goff, and Jensen Brown. She graduated from Ballard High School in 1941 and attended University of Washington. She worked in bookkeeping and accounting for fifty years, most recently at Hilton Oyster Stew and KVI. She did books for her husband at Everybody's Meat Market, in West Woodland.

A Memorial Service will be held Wednesday, January 2nd, at 2:00 pm, at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church. Memorials may be made to Woodland Park Presbyterian Church or Northaven Assisted Living, 531 NE 112th St. Seattle, 98125.