

WOODLAND PARK PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF
WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A COVENANT NETWORK OF FAITH
AND A GREENING CONGREGATION



OCTOBER – 2017

From the Pastor...

Over the last couple of months, you may have seen the invitations to a Presbytery-sponsored anti-racism workshop. On Saturday, September 23, a group of twelve from WPPC attended the day-long training along with over 100 others from our Presbytery. It was a beautiful sunny day after several days of clouds and rain...the kind of Saturday that would lead almost anyone to want to drop their plans and go for one last sunny hike in the mountains or stroll down to Golden Gardens or Green Lake. But, at least from our group that day (and as far as I could tell from the turnout of other churches) no one did that. Instead, we gathered as planned in the gym/fellowship hall of Mercer Island Presbyterian to explore the long and deep roots of racism and white supremacy in our country and to consider how we as the church can move toward being intentionally anti-racist institutions.

To have that particular conversation, the people involved first have to agree that our institutions are not already anti-racist...which can be a difficult conversation. A conversation that requires examining and challenging the assumptions with which many of us were raised; a conversation that requires wrestling with uncomfortable questions that often have, at best, ambiguous answers. Throughout the day, I was impressed by the facilitators willingness to name hard truths and encourage us to make room for that uncomfortable ambiguity. I was impressed with the willingness of the WPPC participants and our Presbytery colleagues to engage deeply in the reflections and discussions.

Our facilitators talked about the need for courageous conversations...and I agree that courageous conversations seem to be exactly what

our currently social, political, and spiritual contexts are demanding. Fifty years have passed since the formal end of law-endorsed discrimination...but—as we acknowledged at the workshop—while much has changed in 50 years, if we listen to the experience of marginalized communities, maybe not that much has changed after all. I believe that our country and wider world are yet again in a state of spiritual struggle to define what it means to honor the human soul...and—sadly—answering that question still includes a struggle to define who is truly human and deserving of that honor. When Pastor Diakonda Gurning preached at WPPC the day following the workshop, he asked us how we (referring to those of us who are US citizens) reconcile our citizenship with our call as Christians. As we look around at what is happening to black and brown bodies all around us, and when we look systemically at who benefits from those actions in terms of the concentration of wealth and power, I believe that we must have these courageous conversations. As Jesus challenged the inherent prejudices of the systems of his time, so we are called to courageously challenge our own...even and especially when we have to start with the systems closest to home and closest to our hearts.

In hope and courage,

Pastor Staci



A Member Congregation of the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

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

Commitment Decision

“And try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.” Ephesians 5:10



We now enter Commitment Season in the life of Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, a time of much discernment.

During Commitment Season we consider, individually and as a community, what we will commit to ourselves and the community toward the life of WPPC for 2018. We share our thoughts and hear from others our commitments to this community of faith. We will share experiences of stewardship and the work of this church. We will also prayerfully consider (discern) how each of us should best allocate the resources we have received and expect to receive. We are each called to show our faith, and measure, in one way, our commitment to this community.

In doing this work, please remember that 2017 is also the third year of our three year Mission in Motion campaign conducted in 2015 with pledges for capital and mission work. Those three year pledges, made in 2015, continue through 2017 and are in addition to our annual commitments to the financial welfare of WPPC. If you are able and willing to continue your pledge to the Mission in Motion campaign, you are welcome to do so. Please be sure that if you make separate pledges for 2018 to confirm your wishes to pledge against both budgets for 2018.

Please also mark the date of November 5, which is Commitment Sunday, when we will dedicate and commit our pledges for the 2018 budget. Please bring your completed pledge card to church that day, or make arrangements to get it to the church prior to that date.

This is our time to make our financial contributions to the work of this church in 2018 and beyond. This is another opportunity to seek to find (discern) God’s will for us at this time and in this place.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Michael Bronsdon and Gene Oliver, for the Stewardship Committee

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Nursery Attendant Jenna VanderMeer Davis

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

October Worship and Scripture Readings

(All readings are from the Narrative Lectionary)

October 1: World Communion Sunday

God’s Name Revealed:

Preacher: Rev. Eliana Maxim

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

October 8: God Provides Manna:

Preacher: Rev. Eliana Maxim

Exodus 16:1-18

October 15: Preaching text TBD (Narrative

Lectionary text: God Calls Samuel:

Preacher: Rev. Kent Narum

1 Samuel 3:1-21)

October 22: God Calls David:

Preacher: Tali Hairston, Director of the John Perkin’s Center at SPU

1 Samuel 16:1-13

October 29: Solomon’s Temple:

Preacher: Tali Hairston

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

Bits and Pieces

WE CHOOSE WELCOME!

WE WILL CELEBRATE World Communion Sunday on October 1, this coming Sunday. During communion, we would like to feature diverse types of bread. You are welcome and encouraged to contribute a loaf of your favorite bread. Please contact Serena Daniel if you plan to contribute or leave a message with the church office.

ABOUT THE NEXT ADULT EDUCATION SERIES: We'll read "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving and work through a study guide published by PC(USA). Since the study guide presumes you've read the book, we encourage you to read it this month before we discuss it in October. Copies are available for however much you wish to pay (\$18 suggested amount).

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR STACI meets Tuesdays, noon, at the Green Bean Coffee Shop, 8525 Greenwood Ave N.

HOLY HOPS BATMAN! Join us for fellowship and discussion in a new group at WPPC we're calling Holy Hops. The next meeting will be on October 23rd at 6:00 pm at Urban Family Brewing Co on Magnolia (4441 26th Ave W Suite A; Seattle, WA 98199; (206) 946-8533). It's a small brewery with some great distinctive brews, ciders and other drinks. They normally have a food truck but we recommend stopping on your way and bringing something to eat. They have no problem with bringing food in. We hope to see you there! <http://www.urbanfamilybrewing.com/>

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE INVITES YOU to be a Communion bread baker this fall. Please sign up on the list in the Gathering Space.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMITTEE'S REQUEST: We are looking for some wonderful people to volunteer with either teaching or childcare on days we have a lesson scheduled. First step is a background check. If you are interested, please contact Karen Siscel Smith at ksis11@hotmail.com or (425) 789-1750. More details are in the September newsletter.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE invites you to be a Liturgist this fall. Please sign up today in the Narthex. Thanks!

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Recovery: Debbie Blane, Ken Doak, Bethany Erickson, Evelyn Merritt, Margaret Russell, and Ken Stover. **Missionaries:** Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer. **Our college students:** Arthur Bale, Miki Bale, Colin Bronsdon, Jessica Cruz, Erin Emery, Kai Hirayama, Luke Luttrell, Lupita Barren, Emily Peterson and Ben Peterson.

SEATTLE'S NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION COALITION: NAC District 6 meets at WPPC monthly on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Thursday at 6:00 pm. In keeping with our mission of welcome we are hosting the District 6 meetings. The various NAC are autonomous communities of resistance, formed to provide immediate services and protection for marginalized groups. These are ideas not directives. The whole point of building power to the people is to give everyone a say together. As a faith community we are called to be in community. Please join us in this work! For more information, see the current WPPC newsletter on the shelf next to the Sanctuary.

LOVE AT THE CROSSROADS: CLIMATE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE is the theme of Faith Action Climate Team's 2nd annual climate conference, Saturday, October 28th, at 9 am to 5 pm at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 1634 19th Ave. Seattle. Deborah Parker, Tulalip Native Activist is keynote speaker. A variety of workshops on the intersection of climate and other social justice topics will also be offered. Registration information will follow.

Book Review from WPPC Readers.

Always with Us?: What Jesus really said about the Poor.

by The Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis.

(She is the Co-Director of the Kaios Center and a Founder and Coordinator of the Poverty Initiative).



Jesus's words "the poor you will always have with you" (Matthew 26:11) are regularly used to suggest that ending poverty is impossible, that poverty is a result of moral failures, and that the poor themselves have no role in changing their situation. In this book Liz Theoharis examines both the biblical text and the lived reality of the poor to show how that passage is taken out of context, distorted, and politicized to justify theories about the inevitability of inequality.

Theoharis reinterprets "the poor you will always have with you" to show that it is actually one of the strongest biblical mandates to end poverty. She documents stories of poor people themselves organizing to improve their lot and illuminates the implications for the church. Poverty is not inevitable, Theoharis argues. It is a systemic sin, and all Christians have a responsibility to partner with the poor to end poverty once and for all.

Everything changes when we read. - Neil Gaiman, author.

Jeri Lee.

WPPC Librarian.

Treasurer's Report

Three Year Capital Campaign:

We are approaching the end of the current campaign. Thus far we have paid down the principal on our mortgage by about \$90,000 and spent another \$92,000 on major building repairs, mostly roof repairs, and on other expenses. As of 9/10/17 the mortgage balance is \$169,077.

The General (Operating) Fund:

Thank you to everyone for your pledge contributions. The operating fund continues to show a loss, currently at \$4,106. as of 8/31/17. The Stewardship committee has been diligently searching for easier ways to give to WPPC. One option available is known as e-giving. We have set up an account with the Presbyterian Mission Exchange and will be happy to help anyone who would like to contribute in this way. Other options include using your bank's online pay system, gifting of stock and remembering the church in your will and estate plans.

Endowment Fund:

We have also set up a separate fund for donations to WPPC designated as Endowment Gifts. These funds are designed so that the principle gift remains intact with a small portion available to the Church, usually yearly.

Tuesday Scripture Conversation Readings

(Every Tuesday from 12:00 -1:00 pm at the Green Bean, 8525 Greenwood Ave. N)

October 3: 1 Samuel 3:1-21 (subject to change)

October 10: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

October 17: No scripture conversation: Pastor Staci on study leave

October 24: 1 Kings 19:1-18

October 31: Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24

Children & Families Update

October in the WPPC KidSpace:

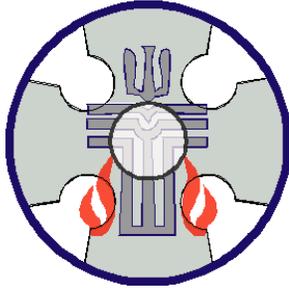
October 1: Free Play

October 8: A Time for Children, followed by an activity in the KidSpace

October 15: Living the Word Lesson

October 22: Living the Word Lesson

October 29: Free Play

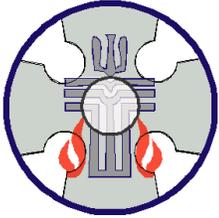


OCTOBER 2017

WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SEATTLE – WASHINGTON

MISSION
IN
MOTION

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Peace & Global Witness Offering World Communion Sunday	2	3 6:00 NAC #6	4 (Hannah Bailey)	5 7:30 Choir Practice	6	7 (Bob Barren) 8:00 Men's Breakfast Group (Bay Café)
8 (June Howard) RAC—Deacons	9 Soup Kitchen	10 7:30 - Stewardship Committee	11	12 (Grant Bronsdon) 6:15 Worship Committee 7:30 Choir Practice	13 6:15 Open Mic Check In 7:00 Open Mic Night!	14 
15 Birthdays Cake Sunday 6:00 F.O.R meeting	16 Soup Kitchen	17 (Dean Fournier)	18	19 6:00 – NAC #6 7:30 Choir Practice	20 7:30 Movie Night	21 (Flo Bliss)
22	23 (Susan Durham) Soup Kitchen 6:00 Holy Hops (Tin Lizzie)	24 (Jane Pauw)	25 (Salwa Nemr) 7:00 Session	26 7:30 Choir Practice	27 (Andrew Tempest)	28 (Dick Erickson)
29	30 Soup Kitchen	31 Halloween	<p>NAC = Neighborhood Action Coalition</p> <p>Each Sunday 9:15 Sunday School for All Ages</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>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>			



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MISSION IN MOTION



URBAN FAMILY
- BREWING Co -

HOLY HOPS BATMAN!

Join us for fellowship and discussion in a new group at WPPC we're calling **Holy Hops**.

The next meeting will be on October 23rd at 6:00 pm at Urban Family Brewing Co in Magnolia (4441 26th Ave W Suite A; Seattle, WA 98199; (206) 946-8533).

It's a small brewery with some great distinctive brews, ciders and other drinks. They normally have a food truck but we recommend stopping on your way and bringing something to eat. They have no problem with bringing food in. They are a dog and kid friendly place, too!

We hope to see you there! <http://www.urbanfamilybrewing.com/>

A monthly update from Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation

<http://www.wwfor.org/>



Events (more info on each follows)

- o – Tues Sept 26, Seattle, Anti-Torture event
- o - Sat Sept 30, Church Council of Greater Seattle's conference
- o - Sun Oct 1, Seattle; film on Duwamish fight for treaty rights
- o - Sat Oct 7, Seattle; Veterans For Peace on Vietnam War documentary
- o - Sat Oct 7, Seattle, fundraiser for Casa Latina empowering immigrants
- o – Sun Oct 15, Seattle FOR Program meeting at WPPC
- o - Sat Oct 21, Seattle, Community Alliance for Global Justice dinner
- o – Sat Nov 4, Lacey, near Olympia, Western Washington FOR's fall retreat
- o - Fri – Sun Nov 10 - 12, at the U.S. Mexico border, SOA Watch's Border Convergence
- o - Sat Nov 18, Seattle, Workshop on Compassionate Listening
- o - Sun Nov 19, Seattle FOR program meeting

TUES SEPT 26, 7-9 pm, at University of Washington Law School, Room 133, 4293 Memorial Way NE, **SEATTLE**; The **MORAL AND POLITICAL OBLIGATION TO RESIST TORTURE**. Panel Presenters: John Kiriakou, former CIA whistleblower who first made public that the CIA was using waterboarding; Lisa Hajjar, a professor at UC Santa Barbara who has written extensively about torture; Ron Stief, director of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture; Rob Crawford, co-founder and facilitator of the Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture. Co-Sponsors include Western Washington & Seattle FOR. info <http://www.facebook.com/events/1529575827080695>

Sat Sept 30, 8 am – 4 pm, at University Congregational UCC, 4515 16th Ave NE, Seattle; **Church Council of Greater Seattle's conference** Weaving Our Strengths: For Such a Time as This. A transformative day of learning, sharing, and fellowship. \$55, student \$25. info and registration 206-525-1213 x105 or <http://www.thechurchcouncil.org/WOS>

Sun Oct 1, 2-4:30 pm, at Central Lutheran Church, 1710 11th Ave, Seattle; "Promised Land" Film Screening hosted by Faith Action Network and Central Lutheran. The film follows two tribes in the Pacific Northwest: the **Duwamish** and the Chinook, as they fight for the **restoration of treaty rights** they've long been denied. Followed by a discussion featuring the filmmakers and Ken Workman, 4th Generation Great Grandson of Chief Seattle and Duwamish Tribal Council Member. Admission is free. Donations accepted to support the Duwamish Tribe. Info <http://www.promisedlanddoc.com/> or <http://www.facebook.com/whereloveiscentral>.

Sat Oct 7, 6-9 pm, at the Jackson School of International Studies, 101 Thomson Hall, University Washington campus near Red Square, Seattle; Veterans For Peace Chapter 92, Seattle invites the public to a panel discussion and forum on the Ken Burns/Lynn Novick documentary series on the **Vietnam War** in conjunction with the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington: Critical Reflections by **Veterans and Academics**. Panelists will include Vietnam veterans Mike Dedrick and Dan Gilman of VFP, and professor Christoph Giebel, History

Department, SE Asia . There will be short presentations and opportunities for discussion and commentary. The event will be filmed and made more widely available. info Dan 206-499-0226 or dhgilman@outlook.com or [facebook.com/vfp92/](https://www.facebook.com/vfp92/)

Sat Oct 7, 6 pm, at The Westin Seattle; Annual Gala “En Camino” fundraiser for Casa Latina, “to **empower Latino immigrants** through employment, education, and community organizing.” Keynote speaker WA Attorney General Bob Ferguson. \$135, please register by Sept 25. Registration or donations via <http://casa-latina.org/en-camino-gala-2017>, info chris@casa-latina.org or 206-686-2606

SUN OCT 15, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N 70 St, Seattle; **SEATTLE FOR** program with topic to be announced. All are welcome! Free, an offering will be taken. Info 206-789-5565 or wwfor@wwfor.org

Sat Oct 21, 5pm Happy Hour 6:30pm Dinner, at University Christian Church, 4731 15th Ave NE, Seattle; Join **Community Alliance for Global Justice** for our 11th Annual SLEE Dinner! Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere aims to nurture the seeds of resistance once again, to mobilize for food justice around the world. Keynote by local farmer Ari de Leña, "Farming for Cultural and Ecological Resilience." CAGJ grew out of a mass people's movement that shut down the World Trade Organization in 1999, and continues to work toward transforming unjust trade and agricultural practices. Tickets at <http://cagj.org/2017-slee-tickets-on-sale-now/>, info 206-405-4600 or slee@cagj.org

Sat Nov 4, 2017, 9 am to 5 pm, at Main Lodge, Gwinwood Conference Center in Lacey WA. Our next all-**Western-Washington FOR** gathering (but people outside this area are also welcome) will be our FALL RETREAT. “Will We Survive the Climate Crisis and Nuclear Weapons?” details at <http://www.wwfor.org/fall-retreat-2/>

Fri – Sun Nov 10 - 12, at the U.S. Mexico border, Arizona, Nogales, Sonora; **School of the America Watch's 2nd Border Convergence**, demanding: An end to US economic, military and political intervention in Latin America; Demilitarization and divestment of the borders; An end to the racist systems of oppression that criminalize and kill migrants, refugees and communities of color; Respect, dignity, justice and the right to self-determination of communities; An end to Plan Mérida and the Alliance for Prosperity. info <http://www.soaw.org/border/> or 202-710-2343 or 202-469-1696

Sat Nov 18, 9:30 am - 5:45 pm, at Queen Anne Methodist -The Well, 1606 5th Ave W, Seattle; Workshop “Live and engage from the heart:**Compassionate Listening**”. Repeating old timers as well as newcomers are welcome to join us - bring your family, friends and co-workers! We'll provide tools and experiences to help you live your life as one fully engaged from the heart. Explore the Five Core Practices of Compassionate Listening and learn the skills necessary to bring this powerful technique into your daily life: Holding Compassion for Oneself and Others; Suspending Judgment; Maintaining Balance in the Heat of Conflict; Listening with the Heart; Speaking from the Heart. Registration: <https://compassionatelistingintronov2017.eventbrite.com>, info Susan 206-310-1203

Nov 19, Watch for **Seattle FOR program** announcement