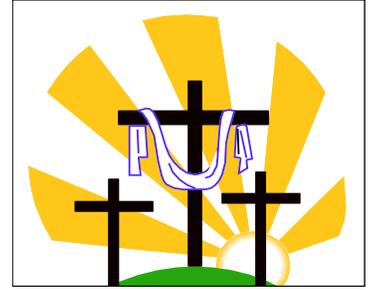


WOODLAND PARK PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF
WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JULY – 2018

From the Pastor...

As I was preparing for the last sermon I preached on the Ten Commandments in June, the news at the time was full of commentary and outrage about the new policy of separating immigrant children from their parents when they are detained for crossing the border without documentation. It seemed that everyone (except those actually capable of making immediate change) was aware that this policy is inhumane. What has gotten less attention is the announcement that came out in the same week that domestic violence and gangs violence will no longer be considered to be valid claims for asylum. In truth, our system was already so strict that only a very small percentage of victims of domestic violence or gang violence have been granted asylum in recent years, but even the right to apply granted victims momentary safety and the opportunity to try to make a new plan while they awaited their credible fear interview.

As I preached in my final sermon on the Ten Commandments, the second half of the commandments are all about care for the neighbor. Read simply, they're a laundry list of common sense things we shouldn't do in order to avoid harming our neighbor. Don't lie, don't be jealous, etc. If we take those simple commands and consider their positive counterparts (e.g. if we shouldn't do x, we *should* do y), we find ourselves with a clear mandate to proactively protect our neighbor.

The era in which we find ourselves now is not a new immigration crisis; our southern border has been in crisis for decades...but these new policies do all but guarantee that many more people will be returned to the hands of their oppressors and probable killers. That reality is both tragic and

overwhelming. At a clergy gathering in the week after the policy changes, many of my colleagues expressed the feeling of being paralyzed — the feeling that something must be done and, yet, what can we do? I don't claim to have the answer, but here's what I do know: at minimum, we can't allow ourselves to become numb. We can't directly stop what's happening. We can't fully grieve every life that will be so deeply traumatized by these policies...but we can refuse to stay silent. Some of the women who have been separated from their children are being held in the detention center in Tacoma; we can make sure that they know we are praying for them and speaking for them as neighbors in solidarity. I encourage you to continue to follow the action alerts coming from the Church Council of Greater Seattle, consider a donation to the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project or the legal and mental health branches of Lutheran Community Services, read about what's happening and post on social media, talk to your friends and relatives. Pray, sing, meditate, find solace and strength in community, or do whatever is life-giving and rejuvenating for your soul so you don't become numb, too overwhelmed, or burned out. None of us can do it all, but we can all do something to show our love for our neighbors. And that matters.

Yours in hope,

Pastor Staci



A Member Congregation of the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

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



Notice of Special Congregational Meeting:

On Sunday, July 15, 2018 we will have a special Congregational meeting right after church. The purpose of the meeting is to first vote on a slate of candidates for church officers. Those being submitted for Elders for a two-year term are MaryLou Mackay, Gene Oliver, Dustin Wilsor, Todd Peterson and Arnee Gomez and for a one-year term Tom Howard. For Deacons; June Howard and Alan Herbig will be submitted for two-year terms. For the Nominating Committee, Gar Olson will be submitted as a

member at large. A second candidate at large will be named prior to the meeting.

The second purpose of the meeting is to consider an amendment to the church by-laws which will allow for two regular congregational meetings each year. The first will be called the Annual Meeting to be held as soon as practicable at the beginning of the year. This will address the annual reports, review the adequacy of the pastoral compensation and any other matters to be considered. The second congregational meeting will be held mid-year to elect Elders and Deacons. A copy of the proposed by-law revisions will be available in the gathering space.

For questions on the agenda items please see Michael Bronsdon, Karen Siscel Smith or Tom Howard.

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Ministers The Congregation
Pastor The Reverend Staci Imes

pastorstaci@wppcseattle.org

Parish Associate The Reverend Ellen Acton
Minister of Music Jeffrey Wilsor
Office Manager DeAnne Hamlin
Church Newsletter Editor Alan Herbig
Church Librarian Jeri Lee
Church Custodian Tom Keim
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

July Worship and Scripture Readings

July 1: Come hear the Rev. Dr. Linda Smith and her take on "Love God, Love Neighbor" (Matthew. 22) from the perspective of racial and economic justice.

July 8: Singer/songwriter Rachael Weasley will reflect on "Love God, Love Neighbor" through the lens of art and music. Come experience Rachael's Taize'-style social justice-oriented chants!

July 15: First week of series in Ruth (Ruth chapter 1). Pastor Staci preaching.

July 22: Second week of Ruth series (Ruth chapter 2). Ordination and installation of officers.

July 29: Church Picnic!

Join us for worship, lunch and fun in upper Woodland Park (the actual park—not the church!)

Scripture Conversation Texts for July:

July 17: We will examine several short texts with different perspectives on Christian unity.

July 24: Ruth chapter 3

July 31: Ruth chapter 4

Bits and Pieces

WE CHOOSE WELCOME!

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY GATHERING: Have you wondered about becoming a member of Woodland Park Presbyterian Church? Would you like to learn more about the Presbyterian Church (USA), and what it means to be a Presbyterian? Pastor Staci will lead a fun and informal gathering this spring (actual date TBD based upon availability of those interested). You don't have to be sure that you want to join nor do you have to commit to joining if you attend. Gathering date(s) will likely be a weeknight evening over a light meal. If you'd like to participate, or if you have questions, please reach out to Michael Bronsdon at 206-799-7614 or ormichael@bronsdon.com.

THIS SUNDAY, JULY 1, the Rev. Dr. Linda M. Smith will be our guest in the pulpit. She is the current President of the Board of the Church Council of Greater Seattle. She serves as Executive Director and Pastor of SKY Urban Empowerment and Transformation and is also the Founder of REACH Center of Hope, a day and overnight shelter for homeless families, women and children. Rev. Smith holds a Doctoral degree in Transformative Leadership and a Master of Divinity with Post Graduate certificate in Transforming Spirituality. She is currently pursuing a second Doctorate in Prophetic Leadership and Preaching.

Rev. Smith comes from a professional background in human resources and has been actively involved in coaching managers and leaders in professional development for over 30 years. Her experience includes corporate, organizational and ministerial experience. Her involvement in government in the public square includes Renton Human Service Advisory Board and King County Regional Human Services Citizen Oversight Board. She has done volunteer work at the King County Justice Center in Kent, Seattle, and Aberdeen, ministering to those incarcerated. Rev. Smith has contributed her leadership skills to numerous civic and human service projects in Renton and King County. <http://www.skyurbanctr.org/Pastor.htm>

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Recovery: June Howard, Debbie Blane, Bethany Erickson, Evelyn Merritt, Salwa Nemr.

Bereavement: The families of Margaret Russell, and Ken Stover in their recent passing.

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 - July, 2018

By Roger Lee

The PC(USA) GA Stated Clerk the Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, II, condemned the Trump administration's policy of separating young children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border. For more information see:

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/6/16/stated-clerk-issues-statement-separated-immigrant-/>

Five years in the making, the 2018 Book of Common Worship is now available with 3 new sections: creation and ecology, justice and reconciliation, and interreligious events. For more information see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/June-7-2018/>

Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann became PC(USA) GA co-moderators by a final vote margin of 7 votes over a team that included Rev. Eliana Maxim from Seattle. For more information see:

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/6/16/fourth-ballot-cintron-olivieri-kohlmann-win-close-/>

The 223rd GA approved initiating the process toward amending the *Book of Confessions* to potentially include the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" as a non-constitutional confession. For more information see:

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/6/21/assembly-moves-mlks-letter-birmingham-jail-toward-/>

The 223rd GA approved asking RE/MAX, LLC to end the sale and rentals in the Israeli settlement colonies in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. For more information see:

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/6/23/commissioners-ask-remax-discourage-sale-property-i/>

A Book Review from the WPPC Librarian

Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others.

by Barbara Brown Taylor.



The renowned and beloved *New York Times* bestselling author of *An Altar in the World* and *Learning to Walk in the Dark* recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations.

Barbara Brown Taylor continues her spiritual journey begun in *Leaving Church* of finding out what the world looks like after taking off her clergy collar. In *Holy Envy*, she contemplates the myriad ways other people and traditions encounter the Transcendent, both by digging deeper into those traditions herself and by seeing them through her students' eyes as she sets off with them on field trips to monasteries, temples, and mosques.

Troubled and inspired by what she learns, Taylor returns to her own tradition for guidance, finding new meaning in old teachings that have too often been used to exclude religious strangers instead of embracing the divine challenges they present. Re-imagining some central stories from the religion she knows best, she takes heart in how often God chooses outsiders to teach insiders how out-of-bounds God really is.

Throughout *Holy Envy*, Taylor weaves together stories from the classroom with reflections on how her own spiritual journey has been complicated and renewed by connecting with people of other traditions—even those whose truths are quite different from hers. The one constant in her odyssey is the sense that God is the one calling her to disown her version of God—a change that ultimately enriches her faith in other human beings and in God. -- from Amazon.com website.

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

Jeri Lee
WPPC Librarian

Update on the Soriano – Ramirez Family

There has been a lot happening with Olga, Eever, Fiorella and Eva!

Eever started work at Valence Surface Technologies in Everett. Fiorella finished first grade at the Whittier school on June 22.

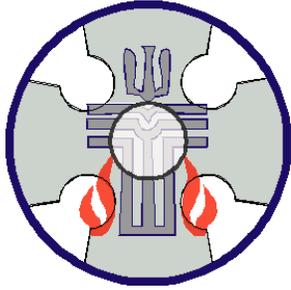
The Task Force has been busy looking for housing for the family in Everett. In early June we located an apartment near Valence Surface Technologies and are in the process of securing a lease. The apartment complex serves low income individuals and Eever and Olga qualify for a roomy two-bedroom. The paper work for application is complete and we are awaiting final confirmation for them to sign a lease. If all goes well, they will be moving in a few weeks.

Abby Brockway has provided some contacts for local groups that may be able to help our friends in the Everett area and the Task Force will be working to introduce Olga and Eever once they are settled.

It's been nearly a year since we first became involved with Olga and Eever. We've been working with them on housing, schooling, healthcare, legal issues and job search to name a few things. Many people have committed time and resources to the effort and it's been amazing to see it all moving along. With the transition now to living in Everett we plan to maintain our involvement with them even as we realize it will be changing based upon location proximity limitations.

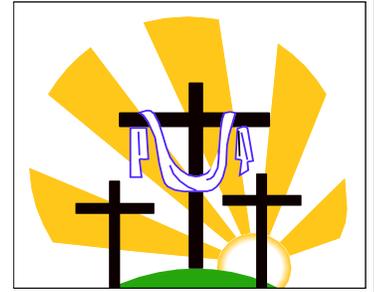
Thank you to everyone's effort to live out Jesus' call to open our doors and welcome everyone.

Task Force on Immigration and Refugees

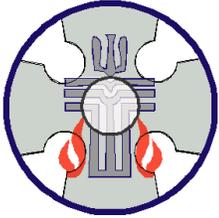


JULY 2018

**WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SEATTLE – WASHINGTON**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 <i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7 (Helen Holmes) 8:00 Men's Breakfast Group (Bay Café)
8 RAC Fellowship Committee	9 Soup Kitchen	10	11 6:00 Holy Hops	12	13 6:15 Open Mic Check In 7:00 Open Mic Night! 	14
15 RAC —Congregational Meeting RAC —Deacons	16 Soup Kitchen	17 6:00 — NAC #6 7:30 - Stewardship Committee	18	19 6:00 — NAC #6	20 7:00 pm Movie Night	21
22 <i>Birthday Cake Sunday</i> 6:30 F.O.R. meeting	23 (Kai Hirayama) Soup Kitchen	24	25 7:00 Session	26	27	28
29 10:30 Worship in the Park Woodland Park - Shelter #6	30 Soup Kitchen	31 (Evan Ream)	<p>Each Sunday 9:15 Sunday School for All Ages</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>RAC Coffee</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>NAC = Neighborhood Action Coalition</p>			



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WPPC's Worship Service & Picnic

Sunday, July 29

Place: Shelter 6 at Woodland Park (see accompanying map)

Time: We will start with Sunday worship at the Park at 10:30 (coffee and donuts will be available)



Summer is here! The picnic planning group has been at work on the menu. Scott Bale has offered to prepare pulled pork, ribs and beef. In addition we are ordering vegetarian baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad and some veggie burgers and pulled chicken from Smokin' Pete's. This is the same place that provided food last year.

We will hold a meeting to plan activities on July 8 after church for anyone interested in helping with fun and games in the afternoon. We are looking for horse shoes (we're right next to the horse shoe pits) and other games.

We are asking people to bring dessert and suggest a donation of \$5 per person and \$10 per family to help with expenses. We are also looking for volunteers to provide rides to those who need it.

There will be a signup sheet in the Gathering Space so we know how many people are coming. There will also be a sheet for those who need rides and those who are willing to provide rides.

Hope to see you all there!

Picnic Planning Group

