

# WOODLAND PARK PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF  
WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A COVENANT NETWORK OF FAITH  
AND A GREENING CONGREGATION



SEPTEMBER – 2017

## *From Your Session...*

Pastor Staci has requested, and Session has approved an 8-week preaching sabbatical for her from September 10 through October 29 (one week of which is an already-approved week of study leave). Session thoroughly considered the matter, and offered its enthusiastic support, based on several factors.

First of these is its evaluation that Pastor Staci creates highly creative, thoughtful and polished sermons. However, the creation of a sermon requires many hours of preparation, including research, thought, reflection and the actual writing process. After four years in our pulpit, Staci has had an extremely busy summer, is facing a busy fall, and quite simply needs a temporary break from sermons at this time to renew her energy and gain perspective for sermons to come.

During the preaching sabbatical, a grant from the Presbytery will cover the services of several visiting pastors, who will use the same narrative lectionary that we have been using. Pastor Staci will maintain her other pastoral functions during the break, and will be in church on Sundays, offering post-service discussions of the guest sermons for those who wish to stay after, in the sanctuary.

Session observes that Pastor Staci works hard, is fully engaged, and provides effective leadership in all areas of church activity. Previously, Dick Erickson and assistant

pastors offered the senior pastors regular relief from sermons, but this help is no longer available on a monthly basis. We note that other smaller churches use the preaching sabbatical as a means of relief for their pastors. Further, we think that the visiting pastors will offer new and exciting perspectives and food for thought that will be a positive benefit to the church, as well as providing relief for Pastor Staci.

In peace and hope,

*~Your WPPC Session*

### **Being an Affirming Faith Community**

The Session of Woodland Park Presbyterian Church voted to join a partnership with [InterfaithPride.org](http://InterfaithPride.org) (check them out) for a social media campaign the week of October 19th to provide the LGBTQ community with a list of businesses and organizations that are welcoming and inclusive (WPPC will be listed as one of many). Also, check out [myoutspirit.com](http://myoutspirit.com).

We will be preparing to welcome LGBTQ+ youth and their families on Sunday October 22nd. Stay tuned for more information as the date nears.



A Member Congregation of the  
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

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

## From the Pastor...

I'm grateful to Session and to the Presbytery for their support for my upcoming Preaching Sabbatical. We have so many exciting things happening in our community right now, and I'm glad to be able to continue in a leadership role in all those ways while also recovering a bit after an especially busy summer! To be clear, this is a sabbatical from preaching but nothing else—I'll still be present and available for pastoral care, worship leadership, support for committee leadership, etc.

Even though I won't be preaching from September 10—October 29, worship is still going to be an exciting place to be and you won't want to miss it! We're taking this opportunity to focus on racial justice and invite a diversity of voices that we don't normally get to hear into our pulpit. We'll be lucky that the following preachers have already agreed to join us: the Rev. Eliana Maxim (our associate executive presbyter), Tali Hairston (director of the John Perkins Center for Reconciliation, Leadership, and Community Development at SPU), and Diakonda Gurning (a candidate for ordination and pastoral leader of an Indonesian immigrant worshipping community). At least two of our preachers (Eliana and Tali) will be with us for more than one Sunday so as to provide a bit of continuity in the midst of diversity! I'll still be leading worship for all but one of those Sundays and I'll also facilitate a conversation after worship each week in which we'll get to discuss the sermon together.

As you may have heard by now, we'd like to invite you to further engage in this time of exploring racial justice by reading *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving as a congregation. A number of people in our own congregation have spoken recently about how important they think this book is and it has also been recommended by the co-moderators of the PC(USA) for congregational study. We're inviting anyone who is interested to read the book at your own pace during the month of September and then, in October, I will co-facilitate (along with some of our preaching guests and other congregational leaders) a 5-part Adult Education series before worship to discuss the book using the discussion guide recently published by the PC(USA). The curriculum assumes that participants have finished the book prior to the first week of discussion (October 1). Books can be purchased from Amazon as a paperback (\$17.99) or in e-book form (\$8.99) or, if you would like us to order a book for you, please sign up on the list on the counter in the Gathering Space or contact Serena Chin at [sdchin24@gmail.com](mailto:sdchin24@gmail.com). If you want us to order a book for you, we ask that you contribute what you can toward the price of the book (the Worship Committee has funds for scholarships as needed—just contact Serena).

I'm looking forward to a fall of new experiences and faithful exploration—I hope you'll join us!

In peace,

Pastor Staci

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Jeffrey Wilsor  
DeAnne Hamlin  
Alan Herbig  
Jeri Lee  
Tom Keim  
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](mailto: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**

## September Worship and Scripture Readings

(All readings are from the Narrative Lectionary)

**September 3:** Final Sunday in Sacraments Series: Communion  
Mark 14:12-25

**September 10:** First Sunday in Narrative Lectionary Year 4: Creation by the Word  
Genesis 1:1-2:4a

**September 17:** The Binding of Isaac  
Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14

**September 24:** Jacob's Dream  
Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

# Bits and Pieces

**WE CHOOSE WELCOME!**



## LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT ADULT EDUCATION SERIES:

In conjunction with our upcoming guest speakers' theme of racial justice, we will be reading "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving and working through a study guide published by PC(USA). Since the study guide presumes you have read the entire book, we would like to encourage you to read the book during the month of September before we begin discussing it in October. Copies will be available through the church for however much you wish to pay (\$18 suggested amount) via the sign-up sheet next to the Sanctuary doors. Please contact Serena Daniel with any questions.

**SORIANO RAMIREZ FAMILY WELCOME DINNER AND BLESSING:** Olga, Eever and the girls will move into their new apartment on **Monday Sept 4**. During the afternoon we expect to be moving their belongings from Staci and Nate's apartment as well as other furniture to Abby and Roger's house, 616 NW 80<sup>th</sup> St, Seattle WA 98117 where the apartment is located. We'd like to have a potluck dinner and blessing of the space. If you are available on Labor Day please stop by at 5 pm. Bring something to share and let's celebrate. If you want to attend but would like a ride please contact Todd Peterson.

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ALERT!** There will be a Special Congregational meeting Sunday, **September 10**, RAC, to vote to extend the terms of current Session members for up to six months to enable greater flexibility in leadership alignment.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**Recovery:** Debbie Blane; Flo Bliss; 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, and Ben Peterson.

## Presbytery Connections - September, 2017

By Roger Lee

In a public letter The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) asked the CEO of Ben & Jerry's to honor his commitment and sign on to the Milk With Dignity program so changes may take place in the dairy industry in Vermont. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/August-22-2017/>

Now a different kind of map — — is available for those headed to St. Louis to attend the 223rd General Assembly from June 16–23, 2018. The new online map, developed by staff in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Office of the General Assembly, gives locations and information about 13 historic churches and other sites in the St. Louis area. For more information, see:

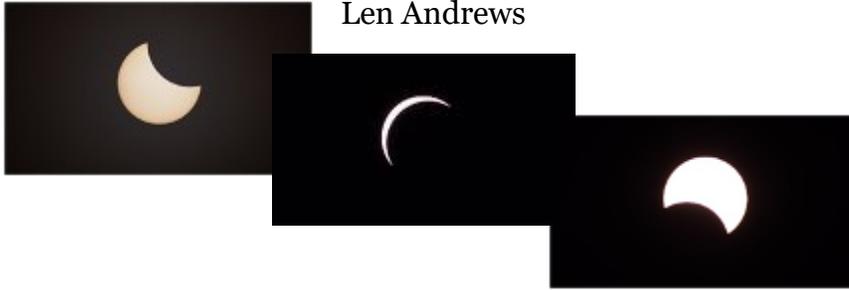
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/August-16-2017/>

Why would a family leave home in Central America and embark on a harrowing 2,500-mile journey with the uncertain outcome of finding asylum in the United States? *The Genesis of Exodus*, a new interactive online resource, seeks answers to this question. It offers a wealth of background and tools to help Presbyterians and others understand and respond to immigration issues. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/August-15-2017/>

## The 2017 Eclipse

Len Andrews



On the morning of August 21, the moon passed in front of the sun, and we had a solar eclipse in North and South America. In Seattle, the sun was more than 90% covered at 10:22 am. The photo shows one eclipse watching party in Ballard with Len Andrews and his grandsons Elliot and Colin and their friend Conner. We had a 4" refractor, solar filter and a DSLR camera to record the event. It was awesome to watch the solar disc become slowly covered and then reappear.

The next eclipse visible from Seattle will be an annular one on October 14, 2023. The sun will only be partially covered and there will be no totality. The next total eclipse in the United States will be April 8, 2024 , but that one will be best seen east of the Mississippi.

## Holy Hops!



Join us for some fellowship and pointed

discussion in a new group here at WPPC we're calling 'Holy Hops'. We'll be meeting monthly and talking about current topics that are important to the group.

September's meeting will be on **September 18<sup>th</sup>**, 6:00 p.m. at The Tin Lizzie Lounge on Lower Queen Anne. It's in the MarQueen Hotel, 600 Queen Anne Ave N, Seattle WA 98109.

## Tuesday Scripture Conversation Texts

(Scripture Conversation with Pastor Staci meets every Tuesday at noon at the Green Bean, 8525 Greenwood Ave N.)

September 5: Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14  
September 12: Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17  
September 19: Exodus 2:23-25; 3:10-15; 4:10-17  
September 26: Exodus 16:1-18

## Love at the Crossroads: Climate and Social Justice

Faith Action Climate Team (FACT) is proud to announce its second annual climate conference which will be Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist church (1634 19<sup>th</sup> Ave Seattle).

The theme of the conference is "Love at the Crossroads: Climate and Social Justice." We will have Deborah Parker, Tulalip Native Activist as our keynote speaker, and will again have a large variety of workshops on the intersection of climate and other social justice topics. We will also start our day with an interfaith panel examine the Crossroads of these issues.

So please mark your calendar and save the date.

Registration information to follow.

## “Children & Families” Update and Request for Help

Last year, we made the decision to change our committee’s name from “Nurture” to “Children & Families” to reflect the scope of our committee. We also renamed the Nursery to call it “The KidSpace” in order to reflect that it is not only a space for babies and toddlers, but also for children up to 12 years old.

This year, we will continue to use the Living the Word curriculum that follows the Narrative Lectionary. We used this curriculum last year and found it has lessons that are easy to teach and has a number of activities to choose from to tailor the lesson to kids between 5 and 8 years old. Each month, we will have at least two lessons and one children’s message during worship. We also plan to supplement the curriculum with some lessons focused on immigrants and refugees during the month of November.

Given the age of our regularly attending children, we are in need of some help. This past year, Jenna Davis did a wonderful job of teaching the older kids, while also supervising the younger ones. We now need to provide a space for the older kids to learn twice a month and the younger kids to play.

We are looking for some wonderful people to volunteer to help with either teaching or childcare on the days that we have a lesson. Jenna is willing and able to do either job. The first step for anyone who wants to help is to have a background check performed. The curriculum is easy to follow and we have most of the craft materials for the activities available at the church already. If you are interested in helping, please contact Karen Siscel Smith at [ksis11@hotmail.com](mailto:ksis11@hotmail.com) or (425) 789-1750.

The schedule for September is as follows:

September 10: Living the Word Lesson

September 17: Living the Word Lesson

September 24: Children’s Message during Worship

## 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 8/10/17 the mortgage balance is \$170,800.

### The General (Operating) Fund:

Thank you to everyone for your pledge contributions. The operating fund continues to show a loss, currently at \$6,652. as of 7/31/17. 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.

Treasurer’s Report as of July 31, 2017  
*NOTE: Thank you for your pledge contributions.*

### **Three Year Capital Campaign:**

|                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total pledged for three year campaign | <b>\$ 268,000</b> |
| Building Capital funds received       | \$ 214,001        |
| Mission portion, 10%*                 | <u>\$ 25,092</u>  |
| Total amount received as of 12/31/16  | <b>\$ 239,093</b> |

\*Amount does not include disbursements of \$1,680 authorized by Session

### **2017 Operating Budget:**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Total Anticipated Pledges, year 2017   | <b>\$ 134,185</b> |
| Amount Received as of 6/30/2017        | \$ 73,068         |
| Budgeted Pledges for 1 month           | <u>\$ 11,182</u>  |
| <b>Overall Net LOSS after expenses</b> | <b>\$ - 6,652</b> |

A Book review recommended by Crossroads Anti-racism Training.

## White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son.

by Tim Wise.



*White Like Me* is one-part memoir, one-part polemical essay collection. It is a personal examination of the way in which racial privilege shapes the daily lives of white Americans in every realm: employment, education, housing, criminal justice, and elsewhere.

Using stories from his own life, Tim Wise demonstrates the ways in which racism not only burdens people of color, but also benefits, in relative terms, those who are "white like him." He discusses how racial privilege can harm whites in the long run and make progressive social change less likely. He explores the ways in which whites can challenge their unjust privileges, and explains in clear and convincing language why it is in the best interest of whites themselves to do so. Using anecdotes instead of stale statistics, Wise weaves a narrative that is at once readable and yet scholarly, analytical and yet accessible.

( from the Amazon.com website)

"...everything changes when we read." - Neil Gaiman, author.

Jeri Lee

WPPC Librarian.

## Sojourner's Truth

Sojourners magazine:

September-October 2017

<https://sojo.net/about-us>

### Clash of Liberties.

How do we find the balance between religious freedom and civil rights?

Oliver Thomas.

Plus: Holy cakes and colanders.

At play in the fields of church and state.

### The Paradoxes of Mother Teresa.

I was moved by her compassion and courage.  
But it's her doubt that really speaks to me.

Dean Nelson.



### "Sit Where They Sit."

Sowing seeds to end hunger in Africa - five acres at a time.

Stephen Carr.

### Dissent on Broadway.

Reviews: Radical Faith; Movies are Prayers.

Excerpt: White Awake.

### Commentary:

Health Care.

Privatizing Water.

Capital Punishment.

## Join Faith Action Network's Annual Phinney Ridge Cluster Gathering

When: Tuesday, September 12th, 7:00—9:00 p.m.

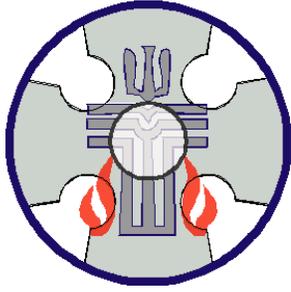
Where: Woodland Park United Methodist Church  
302 North 78th Street

We will discuss advocacy in our faith communities, hear about FAN's work and build relationships with the faith communities on the ridge!

RSVP if you are able at [fanwa.org](http://fanwa.org)

**FAITH ACTION NETWORK**

*A Partnership for the Common Good*

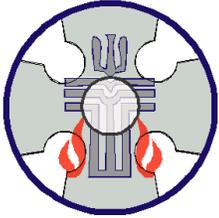


# SEPTEMBER 2017 *MISSION*

WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
SEATTLE – WASHINGTON

## *IN MOTION*

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday                                       | Wednesday                                      | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Each Sunday</b><br/> <b>9:15</b> Sunday School for All Ages<br/> <b>10:30</b> Worship Service<br/> <b>RAC</b> Coffee Fellowship</p> | <p>Please let us know your <b>(Birthday)</b> so we can note it on the calendar.</p> <p><b>JBC</b> = Just Before Church<br/> <b>RAC</b> = Right After Church</p> |   |  |  | 1  | <p>2<br/>           (Peggy McClintock)<br/> <b>8:00</b> Men's Breakfast Group (Bay Café)</p> |
| 3<br><br>RAC Fellowship Committee   | 4<br>(Allison Bailey)<br><br>Soup Kitchen<br><br><b>Labor Day</b><br><b>Church office closed</b>  | 5   | 6  | 7<br><br><b>6:15</b> Worship Committee<br><b>7:30</b> Choir Practice | 8<br><br><b>6:15</b> Open Mic Check In<br><b>7:00</b> Open Mic Night!                      | 9<br><br> |
| 10<br><br>RAC – Congregational Meeting  | 11<br><br>Soup Kitchen  | 12<br><br><b>7:30</b> - Stewardship Committee | 13   | 14<br>(Miki Bale)<br><br><b>7:30</b> Choir Practice                  | 15<br><br><b>5:30</b> Movie Night<br><b>Special Time for a Family Movie Night "Moana!"</b> | 16   |
| 17<br>RAC Deacons Meeting<br><br><b>6:00</b> F.O.R meeting<br>"U.S., North Korea, and Nuclear Weapons: Threats and Counter-Threats"       | 18<br><br>Soup Kitchen<br><br><b>6:00</b> Holy Hops (Tin Lizzie)  | 18  | 20<br>(Todd Peterson)                          | 21<br>(MaryLou MacKay)<br><br><b>7:30</b> Choir Practice             | 22<br>(Daniel Caughey)   | 23<br>(Luke Luttrell)  |
| 24  | 25<br><br>Soup Kitchen  | 26  | 27<br>(Tim Merritt)<br><br><b>7:00</b> Session | 28<br><br><b>7:30</b> Choir Practice                                 | 29   | 30   |



WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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# MISSION IN MOTION



## CHURCH PICNIC 2017

On July 30, WPPC celebrated summer with a church picnic at Woodland Park. We began with gathering in the park for coffee and snacks. Pastor Staci

and Minister of Music Jeffrey prepared an outdoor worship service and we had a chance to share thoughts and hopes for the future in small listening circles.

Following worship, the congregation enjoyed a catered barbeque lunch and fellowship. Thanks to all those who planned, set up and cleaned up!