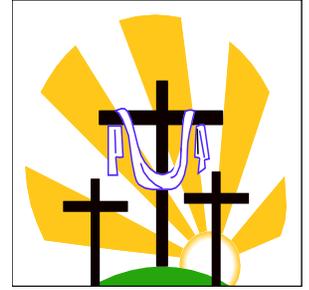


WOODLAND PARK PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF
WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A COVENANT NETWORK OF FAITH
AND A GREENING CONGREGATION



SEPTEMBER – 2018

From the Pastor...

At our July worship service and picnic in the park, I invited those gathered to divided themselves in small group and read different excerpts from the epistles on the subject of Christian unity. I asked the groups to try to imagine the various contexts that the authors were trying to address when writing those words. As a final response, the groups were asked to write a short letter of encouragement to WPPC about their understanding of the importance and practice of Christian unity as it applies in our context. This isn't an easy task to complete in just 25 minutes, but all of the groups did it, and it was indeed encouraging to hear what came out in even those hurried first drafts.

As we frequently mention in one context or another, we live in a time of increasing polarization and stratification. Our own community is, in some ways, fairly homogenous... that's often the natural outcome of self-selecting groups. That said, I'm also quite aware that, while we share many basic principles, we also differ in significant ways. The challenge in any community is to lean in to what binds us together while still benefiting and growing from the diversity among us. To do so, we can't pretend that we all agree, nor does it benefit us to avoid all areas of disagreement, because then our diversity of viewpoints, experiences, and needs don't have a chance to help us grow...but, before I get on a roll, I'd rather let the community's words speak for themselves. As promised, I'm reprinting here all the letters written at the church picnic (at least all that were turned in to me). Keep in mind that they are first drafts, written with little notice and little time. Even if you were present at the picnic and heard them a few weeks ago, I encourage you to re-read the words of your sisters and brothers in Christ. Notice the commonalities and the

diversity. Notice how you yourself find yourself encouraged and challenged.

In peace,
Pastor Staci

Letters from WPPC to WPPC written at the July 2018 All Church Picnic

Dear All Y'all,

We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equally under God and endowed by our creator with the gift of Love. We all struggle with this gift, but we must be patient with each other and remember that Love is a cooperative effort. As the body of Christ is not complete without your Love.

We encourage you to be open. Unity does NOT mean uniformity.

May our actions of a diverse community be a representation of God's Love to the wider world.

Love,
The Sunshine Table

(Continued on page 4)



Holy Hops!

September Meeting

Monday, September 10th, 6:00 pm
at The Peterson Estate.

The grill will be going so bring something to eat, grill, share or drink. Topic of the night – Todd's working on one.....



A Member Congregation of the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

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

A Soriano – Ramirez Family Update

Olga, Eever and the girls are settling into their new home in Everett with some new furniture. The move has led to some changes, but ongoing support from the congregation continues. The family had a recent visit with Eever's mother and grandmother from El Salvador and celebrated Fiorella's seventh birthday.

Although Eever is working full time, earnings do not cover the high cost of living in western Washington. The church is contributing a considerable portion of the rent for their apartment. We are beginning work to have the family assume more of their routine expenses and some of their rent, but the Task Force does not see a likelihood that they will be fully independent in the coming year. Olga has initiated contact with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to begin a job search of her own.

Abby Brockway has identified contacts in the Everett area and Staci is working to connect them with the family.

Ellen Acton has been diligent in finding new dentists who accept the insurance that Eever has through his work. Insurance is a double-edged benefit. While the costs of care are covered, the co-pays are significantly higher than the highly subsidized care they received in Seattle. Olga, Eever and Fiorella need extensive dental work after many years of lack of access to dental care. The task force has agreed to cover the substantial cost of getting this work done and setting the family on a course for healthy teeth going forward.

The Task Force thanks everyone who has contributed to supporting the Soriano-Ramirez family. We welcome anyone who would like to be more involved with them.

Refugee Task Force

Woodland Park Presbyterian Church
225 N. 70th St.
Seattle, WA 98103
woodlandparkpres@qwestoffice.net
(206) 782-3776
www.wppcseattle.org

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

September Worship and Scripture Readings

September 2:

Generosity Series Week 2: Mark 10:17-31

September 9:

Narrative Lectionary Year 1 Begins

Flood and Promise: Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

September 16:

Call of Abraham: Genesis 12:1-9

September 23:

Joseph in Prison: Genesis 39:1-23

September 30:

Rescue at Sea: Exodus 14: 5-7, 10-14, 21-29

Bits and Pieces

WE CHOOSE WELCOME!

STARTING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2nd, THE FIRST WELCOME TEAM will be taking responsibility for activities on Sunday mornings through November. The Team Leaders are Pat Moberg and Judy Andrews. Serving on a Team is a way to participate in church activities for a short term. It is a way to get to know some people in the congregation better and further the feeling of faith and community. If you are interested in participating, there is a sign up list in the Gathering Space to indicate your interest and dates you are available.

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION with Pastor Staci meets Tuesday, noon, [Green Bean Coffeehouse](#) 8525 Greenwood Ave N. :

September 4: Call of Abraham: Genesis 12:1-9

September 11: Joseph in Prison: Genesis 39:1-23

September 18: Rescue at Sea: Exodus 14: 5-7, 10-14, 21-29

September 25: Covenant and Commandments: Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17

THE NEW COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE IS RECRUITING! We will be taking a closer look at how we communicate with our members and the community. The committee will convene at 7:00 pm on September 17 at the Adobe offices, 801 North 34th Street. Reach out to Michael Bronsdon at 206-799-7614 or michael@bronsdon.com if you have questions or you'd like to attend.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

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 - September, 2018

By Roger Lee

An ecumenical meeting discussed options for expanding the PC(USA) response to the Doctrine of Discovery, as directed by the recent GA 223. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/denominations-repent-for-native-american-land-grabs/>

Recent Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) activities in the California wildfires, separated families of asylum seekers, and opportunities for volunteers are summarized in recent PDA press releases. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/california-presbyteries-keep-tabs-on-raging-wildfires/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/pda-blog/2018/08/14/separated-families-and-u-s-mexico-border-update/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/August-20-2018/>

Representatives of the PC(USA) Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee hopes to work together with the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Fossil Free PCUSA in their dealings with energy firms. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/August-10-2018/>

“Church Trends,” the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s new online statistical resource, has bolstered the denomination’s ability to provide Presbyterians accessible, useful and timely information about their church, according to the research tool’s developer. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/August-1-2018/>

(Continued from page 1)

Dear Family in Christ,

All humans are precious in God's eyes. All of us are given our own gifts to develop and share. God does not call the equipped; God equips the called. Especially in today's world, valuing the gifts of "the other" is urgently needed to build community.

Yours striving to be in God's service

Dear WPPC,

Christian unity is an ideal of openness, kindness, and inclusiveness.

How can we get away from our needs and direct ourselves towards the needs of others? There are so many times when you wish you could help. Try not to spend so much time getting it perfect—getting it done with a good heart can work. Look in your own neighborhood. Look to the long-run but take action when you can.

It's impossible to expect everyone to agree on everything. It would be boring if we were all the same. Paul was writing to a culture of many religions. We can look for ways to work together—soup kitchen, St. Charles, sanctuary. We can't be in perfect accord, but we can have respect for our differences.

Dear friends of WPPC,

Continue in your efforts to elevate everyone to levels of participation and "to equip the saints for the work of ministry". You exemplify the qualities of unity in Colossians—"love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony". Beloved community, if you feel you are one of the least, strive for the kinds of diverse spirituality exemplified in speaking in tongues or in healing or in working miracles.

To WPPC—

We should follow the instruction to be one in the Spirit, and be bound by love through Christ and to grow in love, and emphasize that all are welcome at the communion table—Christian or not. *(This letter had one final sentence and Pastor Staci apologizes for not being able to decipher it!)*

Dear WPPC Community,

Continue to work with those who many not be supported by the larger Seattle community. We can be open to listen to those who aren't as supportive—don't rush to judgement and understand where they are coming from. We want to continue to support the marginalized to provide an example. Continue to listen to those marginalized people, to hear their concerns and how we can help. Continue to help others seek to understand the plight of marginalized communities. Love one another. Support one another. Listen to one another with an open heart.

With Love in Christ

Dear Faith Community of WPPC,

Because we are able to accomplish more by working together toward a common vision, a sense of Christian unity is important.

There will naturally be different ways of looking at things—differences of opinion, and different ways of worshipping. It is important to remember that our unity in Christ draws us toward a common vision.

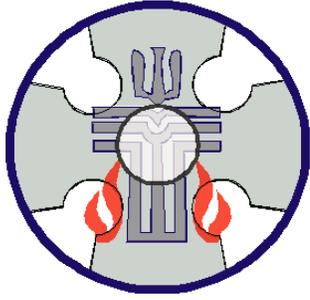
Let us remember that we all have different gifts, and we can use those many gifts to strengthen our unity in Christ.

Sincerely,

A Group of Four

Dear W.P.P.C.,

We of WPPC strive to be open and welcoming. We choose to interpret Christian unity to embrace all humanity. So often, the word Christian is interpreted to be a closed and exclusionary body. But, to us, it is not. It's wide open. This can cause fear, in us and in others. This is a radical idea, that all humanity is a part of Christ's body and subject to Christ's love. We must provide comfort and challenge in the face of such fears and encourage one another to strive for the greater gift of love.

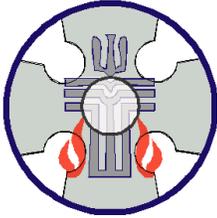


SEPTEMBER 2018

WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SEATTLE – WASHINGTON



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Each Sunday 9:15 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>8:00 Men's Breakfast Group (Bay Café)</p>
<p>2 (Peggy McClintock)</p> <p><i>The Fall Welcome Team begins their duties</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> <p><i>Labor Day Church Office Closed</i></p>	4	5	6	7	8
<p>9</p> <p>RAC—Deacons</p> <p><i>Grandparents' Day</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> <p>6:00 Holy Hops! (Todd Peterson's home)</p>	11	12	13	14 (Miki Bale)	15
		7:00 - Stewardship Committee		7:30 Choir	6:15 Open Mic Check In 7:00 Open Mic Night!	
<p>16</p> <p>6:00 F.O.R Meeting</p> <p><i>Birthday Cake Sunday</i></p>	17	18	19	20 (Todd Peterson)	21	22 (Daniel Caughey)
	Soup Kitchen			7:30 Choir	7:00 Movie Night	<i>Autumn Begins</i>
<p>23 (Luke Luttrell)</p>	24	25	26	27 (Tim Merritt)	28	29
30	Soup Kitchen		7:00 Session	7:30 Choir		



WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
225 NORTH 70TH STREET
SEATTLE, WA 98103
(206) 782-3776

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR LABEL WITH CORRECTIONS, IF NEEDED,
OR IF YOU WISH NOT TO RECEIVE THE WOODLAND PARK PRESS**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 4593



WEAVING OUR *strengths*

Narratives of Hope

THE CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREATER SEATTLE invites WPPC to its 5th annual *Weaving Our Strengths* Conference, "Narratives of Hope" on **Saturday, September 29, 8:00 am – 3:15 pm** at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church; 3605 84th Ave. SE, Mercer Island 98040.

Early Bird registration is \$40 (9/4/18). Session One includes a workshop on **The Living Body: Organizing for Church Vitality** plus 5 other choices. Session Two includes a workshop on **Cultural Humility: Practices for Walking Alongside Each Other** plus 4 other choices. Visit www.thechurchcouncil.org/wos for more details on workshops, registration, and schedule.



FAITH ACTION NETWORK Upcoming Event:

Please join Faith Action Network and local faith communities in the Phinney Ridge area for our annual cluster gathering happening on **Thursday,**

September 27th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. This year's gathering will be hosted at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church; 7500 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 .

Join us as we discuss the work that has taken place throughout the year and find ways to collectively make our communities stronger. We are excited to learn about the advocacy and social justice efforts you all are doing and hope that this gathering sparks new interests, ideas, and ways to further social justice in our state.

Please don't forget to let us know that you are coming by **RSVPing [here](#)** or **e-mailing us at fan@fanwa.org** .