



# Wedgwood Community Church

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## The Wedgletter

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### Support RMMO

The roots of RMMO go back to the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this appreciation of God's service. The offering supports those who have dedicated their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in times of need and a thank you check at the end of each year.

We hope congregations will be inspired by the theme this year, *Generous Congregations*. The verse is taken from Isaiah 32:8: "But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity." Generosity is central to our faith. As Christians, we are called to serve and care for others, and RMMO aligns with the collective spirit of love that inspires us all to honor the devotion of ministers and their families for their service to the church.

Please join us in honoring God's committed servants by donating to RMMO. Envelopes for this special offering are in the pew racks.



Saturday	December	2
Sunday	December	10
Saturday	December	16
Sunday	December	17
Sunday	December	24
Tuesday	December	26

<i>Church Decorating</i>
<i>Christmas Caroling at St. Anne's</i>
<i>Movie Night (Family Man)</i>
<i>Christmas Potluck</i>
<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
<i>Lunch Bunch (WW Broiler)</i>

10:00 AM
3:00 PM
6:00 PM
12:30 PM
7:00 PM
11:45 AM



## ***PASTOR SEAN'S ARTICLE***

The Holidays are here! Already, since at least November 1, the airwaves have been inundated with Christmas commercials. A common theme in many of these commercials is the idyllic picture of a small town with every house covered in festive lights, with a light snow falling, and a Christmas tree all lit up in the center of town. Family and friends are reunited, children are eyeing the presents in eager anticipation, and the adults are huddled together caroling. Everything is cozy and cheery, warm and familiar. Aside from the irony that at the end of the day these happy scenes *are* commercials trying to sell you stuff, there is another irony here. I have to confess that commercials like these depict what, in my mind, would be the perfect Christmas. Yet the other irony is that the first Christmas couldn't have been more different from these images!

Rather than being "home for the holidays," Mary and Joseph were estranged from their home and couldn't even find an inn. It was not a blessed holiday that caused Mary and Joseph to be on the move, it was a Roman-led census, which meant higher taxes were coming right around the corner. Rather than the warm sanctuary of a house, shielding the family members from the cold winter outside, Mary and Joseph spent the first Christmas morning in an animal stable, perhaps even a cave. Jesus' first bed was an animal feeding trough. Rather than a feel-good festive atmosphere, uncertainty shrouded this couple. Mary's pregnancy would have been seen as scandalous by those not in the know. For those who didn't believe the story, the baby Jesus would have been seen as an illegitimate child. Things were looking rather bleak.

But then, out of nowhere, shepherds showed up to behold the baby. Later on, royalty types from a distant place came to give Jesus and family costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In the dark times came these unexpected glimmers of grace and hope. Seeing shepherds and magi paying homage to Jesus must have been a pick-me-up for Mary and Joseph, reminding them of everything the angels had told them about Jesus months earlier. But these were just glimmers, as dark times lay immediately ahead for the couple. Shortly after, King Herod would hunt for Jesus, forcing the couple to flee to Egypt.

It seems to me that historically the first Christmas wasn't the payoff to a long and sweet season of anticipation. It wasn't like popping open a new tab on your advent calendar each day and eating a piece of chocolate. The first Christmas was a grim time punctuated by a few surprising moments of grace, making it seem truer to real life than the traditional Hallmark Greeting Card portraits we're more used to. Perhaps we can be blessed in a new and surprising way by reflecting on Christmas as gritty and messy and therefore more like the other 11 months of our lives.

*Pastor Sean*

## QUERY THE CLERGY



*"I thought there were no contradictions in the Bible. However, in John 12:47 Jesus says, "... I did not come to judge the world but to save the world." Earlier in John 9:39 he says, "For judgment I came into this world ...". Please explain. (mhb)*

On the one hand there are numerous surface-level contradictions in the Bible. Take Proverbs 26:4-5, for example. In verse 4 the advice is to *not* answer a fool according to his folly. In verse 5 the advice is to answer a fool according to his folly. It doesn't get any more contradictory than that; and in back-to-back verses nonetheless! I say surface-level because contradictions like these do not touch upon the deeper stuff. On the other hand, I am of the opinion that there are no glaring contradictions in the Bible when it comes to substantive theology or deeper spiritual matters. Biblical truth is consistently of one accord on the bigger spiritual issues. With the Proverbs example, given that the book of Proverbs consists of nothing but wisdom sayings and maxims, a good interpretation of those verses would conclude that there are times when one should answer a fool according to his folly, and other times when one should not do so. It is up to the instincts and intuition of the individual to know when to take the one option and when to take the other.

Having said all of that, context is extremely important when considering whether you've come across a biblical contradiction. You give an excellent example out of John's gospel. If we isolate these two verses and line them up side-by-side we would naturally ask, "Well which one is it, Jesus? Are you coming into the world to judge it or not?" A deeper look, rooted in context, suggests that we are talking about two different kinds of judgment. In the John 9 verse, the kind of judgment Jesus is hinting at is the day-to-day spiritual judgments that we believers make. It is for the sake of *our* judgment that Jesus came into the world. In other words, Jesus' teachings and his very life assist those who believe in Him in making sound judgments on spiritual matters. By Jesus and through Jesus, believers are able to see and understand spiritual truth.

In the John 12 verse the judgment mentioned is the *Final Judgment* at the end of time, when God judges the deeds of all humankind. What Jesus is saying in the context of John 12 is that His role on earth, His public ministry, was about saving human beings, not judging them. Jesus indicates that He leaves that task of final judgment up to His Heavenly Father. Even though the wording of these two verses suggests a direct contradiction, when you read the surrounding verses, it is clear that there is no contradiction here at all because Jesus is talking about two entirely different concepts.

*Pastor Sean*

## LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



**Projector/Screen Proposal** – Christ the Cornerstone Church is asking again if we would consider this system for our sanctuary. It would consist of a retractable screen over the baptistry and a ceiling-mounted projector. CCC would pay for it and own it, although it would be available to us. The LLT agreed that before making a decision, we would want the installer to provide us a diagram or, better yet, a picture of a similar installation.

**Valentine's Day Banquet** – it was suggested that in 2018, a St. Patrick's Day Banquet replace the traditional Valentine's Banquet. This would take place in March. The congregation will be polled for their preferences on Sunday, November 26. Milt agreed to organize the planning meetings.

**Church Roof** – an anonymous donor has agreed to pay for the approximate \$3,700 cost to de-moss the roof and clean the gutters.

**Smoke Detectors** – Larry will contact the Fire Department to inspect the basement level to determine how many detectors we need, and where they should be located.

**Church Picnic** – Marilyn will contact the Parks Department to ask if Rhododendron Park in Kenmore is available again for our summer picnic. The two dates of choice are July 15 and 22.

**Rvther** – there is a high turnover of supervisory staff. Candy and Victoria had 14 children at the last session. If this number remains constant, then additional volunteers will be needed.

**Lake City Christmas Giving Project** – Candy has received 20 request cards for this children's Christmas gift outreach program. The gifts need to be returned to the Church by December 3. An announcement about this will be made in Friday Notes as well as in the Sunday church service.

### Calendar Items

December 2 – Church Advent Decorating

December 16 – Movie Night

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm

January 13 – North Helpline Food Packaging

January 27 – Games Night

*Milton Brown*



© Can Stock Photo

The *Wedgletter* has been posted for people to access online at:

<http://www.wedgwoodchurch.org/wedgletters.htm>.

To hear sermons, click on the *Sermons* link.



## *EVERGREEN NEWS*

Be a Part of the 2018 Haiti Mission Trip March 2-10, 2018

For information contact Keith Madsen at  
[drkmad2006@yahoo.com](mailto:drkmad2006@yahoo.com) or Clem at 253-859-2226.

Reiterating what Pastor Sean said in his article last month, two new giving initiatives have been presented to the Evergreen Churches. The first initiative is called the "Haiti Challenge." \$60,000 is needed to complete the building and furnishing of a school outside of Cap Haitian, Haiti. This has been a project many years in the making. A mission trip to Haiti is planned for the spring of 2018, which serves as a soft deadline for when the money needs to be raised, although money can still be donated to the project after this deadline. The second initiative is for immediate relief work in Puerto Rico after the devastating Hurricane Maria. There are about 140 American Baptist Churches in Puerto Rico, all of which have been severely impacted. The ABC USA is seeking to raise 1 million dollars and is asking each region to give \$15,000. For this initiative, a deadline of approximately 6 months has been given.

In addition, University Baptist Church has pledged to match one dollar for every dollar given to the Puerto Rico projects (up to \$5,000), and to match two dollars for every two dollars given to the Haiti Project (up to \$10,000). **University Baptist Church is extending this offer until December 15.** If you would like to give to either of these projects, please make the check payable to *One Great Hour of Sharing* and put in the memo line either "Haiti" or "Puerto Rico." The great news is that in donating through *One Great Hour of Sharing*, no money goes towards administrative costs. Your whole donation goes toward the projects.

*Let's prayerfully consider this appeal and make a contribution to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti and Puerto Rico!*



December

- 11 – Danièle Hansen
- 11 – Tess Hansen
- 11 – Sarah Brown
- 16 – Carter Muanda
- 29 – Pastor Wim Mauldin

January

- 1 – Larry Dimmitt
- 9 – Milt Brown
- 11 – Lanny Sillence
- 15 – Chelsea Muanda
- 22 – Curtis Price
- 26 – Kiera Wenick

**MOVIE NIGHT AND BOOK CLUB SELECTION**

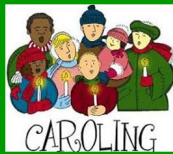


December's movie night, on Saturday, December 16, at 6 PM, will feature *The Family Man*, starring Nicolas Cage and Tea Leoni. Description: "A fast-lane investment broker, offered the opportunity to see how the other half lives, wakes up to find that his sports car and girlfriend have become a mini-van and wife." It is an "It's a Wonderful Life" kind of story. Bring a snack and a friend!

*Ed Wenick*

The book club is currently reading *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals. It chronicles the author's unimaginable experiences in integrating Little Rock's Central High School. Everyone is welcome to join the book club; and if you have a suggestion for a book to read and discuss, please see Kris.

*Ellen Brown*



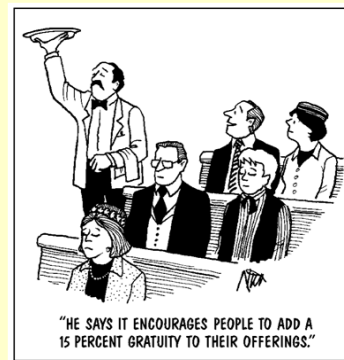
*Christmas Caroling at St. Anne's*

On Sunday, December 10, from 3 to 4 pm, we will sing Christmas carols to the residents of St. Anne Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in lieu of our regular worship service there. Come join us as we bring some cheer and attentiveness to this too-often overlooked segment of our society.



Be sure to pick up the latest edition (December-February) of *The Secret Place* in the narthex. Also available is *Our Daily Bread*. These inspirational booklets are a great way to start off the day!

**Church Humor**



# BULLETIN BOARD

## Opportunities to Support our Greater Community



Just a reminder that used eyeglasses are still being accepted at Woodlawn Optical located at 8032 - 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. Glenn will then forward them for use by those in need, both in mission areas here in the states, as well as out of the country.

Please continue to "feed" our food barrel. Pickup is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Check the list below for other things needed besides food. At every pickup, much thankfulness is expressed for our kindness.

Marilyn Potts

### Wedgletter Contribution

If you have a personal experience for *Journey Talk*, a book review, or an article you would like to share with us, please let Ellen Brown know by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and submit it to her by the 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**University  
District  
Food Bank**

## Items Currently Needed

### Food

Canned Fruits  
Canned Soups & Stews  
Canned Protein Items (tuna, corned beef hash, chili, peanut butter-especially crunchy)  
Soy Milk/Rice Milk  
Vegetarian Items (tofu, canned beans, soups, chili)  
Pasta and Rice  
Canned Vegetables (pasta sauce, peas, olives, etc.)  
Cooking oil

### Other Items

Bar Soap Toothbrushes and Toothpaste Toilet Paper  
Shampoo Deodorant  
Pet Food  
Paper and Plastic Grocery Bags  
Baby Diapers, Food, Formula and Wipes