



Wedgwood Community Church

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The Wedgletter

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Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering 2019

This long-standing tradition established in 1977 supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to service in ABCUSA. This year's theme, Extending Our Hands to Our Neighbors illustrates the importance of being there for one another and remembering that we are stronger together than on our own is central to the Christian faith.

December is the month we collect for RMMO. Information and offering envelopes for RMMO are available in the narthex. Let's remember our retired ministers and missionaries with a gift of love!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday	Dec 13
Sunday	Dec 15
Saturday	Dec 21
Tuesday	Dec 24

Christmas Lights Viewing Party
Potluck
Movie Night
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:30 PM
12:30 PM
6:00 PM
6:30 PM

PASTOR SEAN'S ARTICLE



Reading the biblical birth narratives of Jesus, one is struck by the grimness of Mary and Joseph's world. There was a total lack of hospitality. No good cheer was in the air. A census was issued by Emperor Tiberius to obtain proper data on the common folk so as to squeeze as much blood from that rock, through taxes, as possible. Because of the census, Joseph and Mary ended up in Bethlehem having to register. While in Bethlehem, the couple was forced to stay in an animal stable because not only was there no room for them at the town inn, but nobody thought to offer a guest room to a woman in labor. Was there not one person in town that had sympathy enough to offer that kind of hospitality? Apparently not. As we read on, Herod had all the newborn baby boys in Bethlehem slaughtered in an effort to kill the newborn Messiah. Was there no alliance of people willing to resist this decree and put a stop to such a brutal act of injustice? Apparently not. Nobody helped Mary and Joseph hide Jesus. They had to flee to Egypt.

Kindness, generosity, and hospitality, or a lack thereof, usually starts at the top. These are values that can be modeled by leadership. When leaders model the precise opposite, coupled with legislation that crushes the masses, nobody is in much of a mood to be kind, generous, or hospitable. You end up with situations like what Mary and Joseph had to deal with, giving birth in a filthy barn. Today, few people are in much of a mood to extend olive branches, reach across the aisle, or hear the other side out. In our extremely polarized society, nobody is interested in even acknowledging the other side, much less having a conversation with them. We'd rather boycott, censor, shut down, and silence the other in our "cancel culture" than actually engage them. Furthermore, in these economically stressed times, due to legislation that crushes the masses, few are in a position to offer up much in the way of generosity and hospitality to begin with. Our time looks similar in many ways to that of Jesus'.

Despite the bleakness of the world Jesus was born into, there was one glimmer of kindness, generosity, and hospitality. Journeying a long distance to pay homage to Jesus, the Magi from the east presented the family with expensive gifts. The Magi went to great lengths to show kindness to a struggling family in a dark time. Similarly, in the midst of our grim world today, Christmas presents us with a model. Gift-giving can evolve from just a tradition we do this time of year into a particular mode of being, a year-round act of resistance against forces in our society which tempt us to draw within and shut everyone else off. Kindness, generosity, and hospitality can become weapons of defiance in the hands of people of faith in our war against societal despair.

Pastor Sean

LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



Our Church will once again be joining other local churches to assist in **food-packaging for North Helpline** on Sunday, January 12, at the Wedgwood Presbyterian Church. Our service will start at 10:30 AM.

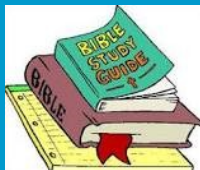
The LLT agreed to **pay the \$208.69 cost for materials to repair a section of fencing in Miss Tara's play area.** She paid the \$300 cost for labor.

With Kris Delaney's departure, **Pastor Sean will temporarily act as Moderator.**

There will be **no LLT meeting in December.**

Milton Brown

Daily Devotionals



Copies of the new editions of *The Secret Place* and *Our Daily Bread* are available in the narthex. Be sure to pick up one or both of these devotional booklets that provide wisdom and inspiration.



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The *Wedgletter* has been posted for people to access online at: <http://www.wedgwoodchurch.org/wedgletters.html>. To hear sermons, click on the Sermons link.



Please join us on Sunday, December 8, during the coffee hour to say farewell to Kris, who is moving to Longview.

EVERGREEN NEWS

Martin Luther King, Jr., Worship Service will be on Monday, January 20, at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship at 6 PM.

EURO CAUCUS FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, February 29, from 1-4 PM at Seattle First Baptist Church will be the Euro Caucus Fundraiser. The event will feature a wide variety of ethnic foods to sample as well as several carnival games for children (and grownups!), where prizes can be won. Combining foods from around the globe along with carnival games, the event will be called *Evergreen's World Fair*. Tickets will cost \$20 for individuals, \$30 for groups of two or more. What the fundraiser committee is looking for are volunteers to bring an ethnic dish to be sampled. We are also asking for someone to donate a big-ticket item to be raffled off during the event. If you would like to volunteer to bring an ethnic dish or if you would like to donate a big-ticket item, please contact Sean Brown at seanesber@hotmail.com or 206-919-6692. There will be more information forthcoming. Thank you.

Pastor Sean

Be sure to read *Evergreen Notes*, the monthly newsletter of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches. You will find it online at

<http://www.ea-abc.org/medianewsletter.html>

QUERY THE CLERGY

Question: When we meet Christ face-to-face in eternity, will He still be bearing the scars of His crucifixion? (MHB)

Answer: Your question raises a larger theological issue about continuity between our present experiences on earth and our eternal experiences in the fully consummated kingdom of God. One could answer your question with a “no.” Once the kingdom of God is fully established and we all meet Jesus face-to-face at the end of time, His work will have been done and cemented, not just for us as individuals, but for all of creation. At that time, what would be the point of Jesus still bearing those wounds from a bygone era? Won’t God have established a new heaven and a new earth by then? If God forgives *and* forgets, why would there be need for God’s son to carry an eternal reminder of the pain of atonement? In Revelation, one end-times portrait of Christ is as a triumphant victor, riding a white horse, with the armies of heaven behind Him, with eyes as of fire and a sword coming out of His mouth to strike down the nations (Rev. 19). This portrait does not seem to square with the frail, meek sacrificial victim who still carries the wounds of the brutality of crucifixion.

On the other hand, one could answer your question with a “yes.” After all, the disciples could see the scars on the resurrected Jesus, thereby proving that those scars transcend Jesus’ mere bodily experience. An even more common end-times portrait of Christ in the book of Revelation is as a lamb. Lamb symbolism, when applied to Jesus in the New Testament, always refers to His sacrificial death on the cross. It was His sacrificial death that brought humans into the new heaven and new earth in the first place. Why couldn’t Jesus keep the marks of crucifixion on Him as an eternal reminder of what it took to create the conditions that will be enjoyed by those in the kingdom of God?

Going back to the question of continuity between this world and the next, I am of the opinion that yes, Jesus will eternally keep those wounds, and we’ll always see them. As best as I can tell, scripture promises us that at the end of time we will *not* be so totally recreated in the kingdom of God that we won’t recognize our former selves at all. A part of who we are in the here and now, a part of our basic identity, carries over into eternity. For Jesus, a part of his basic identity as Messiah, as God’s anointed one, was to self-sacrificially help God’s creation. That basic part of Christ’s identity is constant. And that part of His identity is best expressed through the scars of being one who lays down His life for others. Of course, there are other aspects to Jesus’ identity as well, aspects which also will be eternally reflected in His heavenly body. But certainly one of those aspects is seen in the scars inflicted on Him out of His love for us.

Pastor Sean



MOVIE NIGHT



Our next Movie Night will be Saturday, December 21. The film will be *Once upon a Time in Hollywood*. We gather at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall; the show starts at 6:30. Please bring a snack to share. Guests are welcome to enjoy the evening with us.

December

- 2 - Lois Wilson
- 11 - Danièle Hansen
- 11 - Tess Hansen
- 11 - Sarah Corey
- 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

CHURCH HUMOR



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BULLETIN BOARD

Opportunities to Support our Greater Community



Just a reminder that used eyeglasses are still being accepted at Woodlawn Optical located at 8032 - 35th 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 2nd 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 15th of the month and submit it to her by the 23rd.



**University
District
Food Bank**

Items Currently Needed

Food

- canned fruit (we never have enough)
- canned chicken, tuna, and salmon
- soups and stews
- peanut or other nut butters (especially crunchy)
- shelf stable milk and milk alternatives
- cereal

Other Items

- reusable shopping bags
- toiletries and hygiene supplies
- fresh produce
- pet food