



# Wedgwood Community Church

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## The Wedgletter

### Inside this Issue

Kickoff Sunday	1
Upcoming Events	1
Pastor Sean's Column	2
Query the Clergy	3
St. Anne's Ministry	4
LLS Light the Night	4
LLT Highlights	5
Evergreen News	5
Movie Night	6
Birthdays	6
Church Humor	6
Bulletin Board	7



### KICKOFF SUNDAY

Not only is September 15 potluck Sunday, it is also *Kickoff Sunday*! We will be unveiling the theme, scripture, and activities for the upcoming year. During the church service before the potluck, we will also have an opportunity to renew our covenant vows as spelled out in our constitution and by-laws. The overarching theme for *Kickoff Sunday* and for the year ahead will be a focus on fellowship and community; what it means to be a welcoming, loving, inclusive community of faith, and what it means to fellowship with one another in the name of Christ. In actuality, this theme was determined by all of us back in the meeting on Sunday, June 2, after a year of meditation and deliberation through engaging the spiritual disciplines. *Kickoff Sunday* will allow us to begin fleshing out this theme of fellowship and community. Please join us for this exciting Sunday.

*Pastor Sean*

### UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday	Sept 14
Sunday	Sept 15
Tuesday	Sept 24
Saturday	Sept 28

*Movie Night*

6:00 PM

*Potluck and Kickoff Sunday*

12:30 PM

*Lunch Bunch at Wedgwood Broiler*

11:45 AM

*Games Night*

6:00 PM

## **PASTOR SEAN'S ARTICLE**



On Sunday, June 2, after a year of engaging in the spiritual disciplines, we shared with each other what God put on our hearts regarding the general future direction of Wedgwood Community Church. It was determined that, moving forward, we want to emphasize fellowship. Much more will be unveiled around this theme during Kickoff Sunday later this month. But I want to announce now that part of the programming around fellowship for the upcoming year will be a class on Community. Starting on Wednesday, October 9, the Wednesday evening Bible studies will resume. We'll repeat our pattern from previous years of meeting on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

What does it mean to be a community? What are some different rallying points around which a community is formed? We'll take an in-depth look at different forms of community in scripture and compare and contrast the similarities and differences with secular notions of community. Then we'll analyze the ideal form of community centered "in Christ." Being in Christ shapes and molds our identity in this world and comes with great privileges and responsibilities. Participation, conflict resolution, and mission will be looked at in depth.

In order to enhance our fellowship, as a starting point it is important to have a good theological grasp on the spiritual foundations of this thing we call "church." Our fellowship is not just incidental times of getting together for fun activities, chitchat, and coffee. There is cosmic significance to our gatherings! I hope to suss all this out with this class. The cherry on top is that when we are doing community properly, when we are at our best in fellowship, it can serve as a model for the wider society. Part of the mission statement of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches reads, "And translate our unity to the world." Even if "the world" isn't in Christ in the same way the church is, the world can benefit from seeing our unity-through-fellowship at work. One of the primary angles through which we'll approach this study is to ask the question of how our biblically-based fellowship procedures and processes can meet the needs of the communities, institutions, and indeed the society as a whole that we interface with. Hopefully, understanding that our fellowship can be an example for others will sharpen the focus of *our* sense of community and get us excited about church fellowship. I'm looking forward to this study and I hope to see you all there!

*Pastor Sean*

## QUERY THE CLERGY



In Luke we learn that Jesus at the age of 12 was in the Temple listening and asking questions of the teachers. And He "... increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." Yet, upon being baptized by John in the Jordan River, "the heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form . . ." So, had He not received the Holy Spirit prior to His baptism?

UM

Great question! There are many theological takes on the story of the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus in the form of a dove at His baptism. Most of these takes fall within the parameters of orthodox Christianity, though a few were considered heretical opinions. One such unpopular opinion was that Jesus was just a regular guy until His baptism. Then the Spirit came upon Him, signaling that God had chosen Jesus at that point to be the Messiah. While Jesus may have been a young prodigy, as evidenced by His wisdom in the Temple at age 12, He was just another human being until the baptism. This view is a variation of the ancient heresy known as *adoptionism*, i.e. that God adopted Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah at some point during Jesus' life.

Orthodoxy says that Jesus, from birth to death, was always the Messiah. But where does Jesus' reception of the Holy Spirit fit within this? Some theologians argue that from birth Jesus always had unique power through the Holy Spirit, given His relationship to God the Father. According to this view, the dove descending on Jesus and the voice from heaven was simply meant as a public declaration to all that Jesus had this superior power. Yet, Luke does not mention any bystanders witnessing this miraculous event (Luke frequently mentions that people were witnesses when miracles happened). In John's gospel, apparently only John the Baptist witnessed the dove, though he did start to publicly proclaim this detail as part of his testimony about Jesus. If the Spirit descending on Jesus was simply for the benefit of letting others know what Jesus already had, you'd think there would be more witnesses originally present.

Another opinion is that while Jesus already had the Spirit in the way that all believers have it, Jesus needed a special anointing, an added dose of power, as He began His public ministry. This perspective opens a large and confusing can of worms because it suggests that the Holy Spirit comes in different stages to different people and with varying degrees of forcefulness throughout our lives.

The theological take that I tend to side with is that upon belief, we all receive the Holy Spirit and retain the Spirit as long as we believe. Jesus was no exception to this rule. Whatever power that flows from the Spirit through our lives is based on the degree to which we faithfully yield to the Spirit's influence. Jesus was always Messiah and always had the same Holy Spirit that we all do. It is just that He consistently let the Spirit work through Him to a greater extent than we typically do because of Jesus' great faith. Why the need for the Spirit to descend on Him like a dove? This was a private moment for Jesus, God the Father's way to reassure Him that He would be fully equipped for the arduous three-year public ministry to follow.

Pastor Sean

## WCC's Ministry at Saint Anne Nursing and Rehabilitation Center



For more than fifteen years, Wedgwood Community Church has conducted bi-monthly services (every second and fourth Sunday afternoon) at St. Anne Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in the Meadowbrook neighborhood. Several of our church folks have been steady and loyal participants for many years. Marilyn faithfully rounds up residents and wheels them into the dining room for the service. Before his illness and passing, Bruce Wallace would alternate with Milton Brown in bringing the message. Now, Milton is the solo "preacher." And he has also been the song leader all this time. There is plenty of hymn singing from large-print songbooks containing the old-time favorites we all remember. Shortly after this ministry began, Bruce Sagor became the pianist. Bruce deserves special recognition. Although we do not see him on Sunday morning because he is the organist for Queen Anne Presbyterian Church, Bruce is an important member of our church family in many ways. He is generous with his gifts, time, and talent; and his piano accompaniment is especially appreciated at St. Anne's, by the residents and those of us attending service there. The folks brighten up and sing out as he plays. Bruce's music is a gift, which he faithfully gives and is gratefully received.

*Ellen Brown*

## LLS LIGHT THE NIGHT

September is Blood Cancer Awareness Month. Join me in bringing light to the darkness of cancer! I am forming a fundraising walk team for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) *Light The Night*. Register today to join our Wedgwood Walkers team or make a donation and help fund cancer cures by visiting our online fundraising page

<https://pages.lightthenight.org/wa/SeattleL19/wedgwoodwalkers>

Your impact is real! In 2018, LLS helped advance 19 of 21 approved blood cancer therapies. Locally, LLS is currently funding \$2.8 million in research at Fred Hutch and last year provided over \$1.1 million in financial assistance to patients right here in Washington and Alaska. On October 26 at Seattle Center, we will be joining other teams and approximately 2,000 individuals in our community to celebrate and walk in support, honor, and remembrance of those touched by cancer. For more information about this year's local walk, visit <https://www.lightthenight.org/washington-alaska#>.

If you have any questions, please contact [victoria.wenick@lls.org](mailto:victoria.wenick@lls.org) or call 206.957.4597. Thank you.

*Victoria Wenick*



## *RECENT LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM HIGHLIGHTS*



**The Women's Chorus** will not be returning because they have grown too large for our space. Milt will ask RCPA for references of groups looking to rent on Mondays. Three Thursdays each month are also available.

**Service Project:** Food packaging for North Helpline at Wedgwood Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 20, is being considered. Our participation in this activity would be held immediately after church and would be in lieu of our previously scheduled September 18 service project.

**Building and Property:** The LLT agreed to have Larry contact someone to treat the roof prior to the opening of Miss Tara's Preschool.

**The Board Retreat** on August 17 determined WCC wants to emphasize moving forward and plans and programs will be unveiled during Kickoff Sunday on September 15.

### **Calendar**

Saturday, September 14 – Movie Night

Sunday, September 15 – Kickoff Sunday

Saturday, September 28 – Games Night

*Milt Brown*



## *Evergreen News*



### **2019 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION**

**October 11-12, 2019**

**Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1634 19th Avenue, Seattle, WA**

Host Pastor: Rev. James O. Stallings, Interim Minister

Theme: FREE THE CAPTIVES (Luke 4:18)

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Priscilla E. Eppinger, Executive Director, American Baptist Historical Society

**Please see Page 4 of the August issue of *Evergreen Notes* for a registration form.**

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

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



**September**

- 4 – Mason Sillence
- 6 – Victoria Wenick
- 8 – Eddie Muanda
- 10 – Janet Fowler
- 10 – Ed Wenick
- 21 – Lily Hansen
- 25 – Virginia Price
- 25 – Jayden Moberg

**October**

- 11 – Gerardo Zelaya
- 15 – Candace Sagor
- 16 – Marie Sillence
- 16 – Colleen Williams
- 19 – Barbara Johnson
- 21 – David Jenner
- 22 – Michelle Francone
- 24 – Sandy Romberger
- 25 – Marilyn Potts
- 28 – Norma Jenner
- 30 – Brian Heerdt

**MOVIE NIGHT**



Our next Movie Night will be on Saturday, September 14. The movie, an American comedy-drama, will be *The Upside*, starring Kevin Hart, Bryan Cranston, and Nicole Kidman. We gather at 6:00 and the show starts at 6:30. Please bring a snack to share. Guests are welcome to enjoy the evening with us.



**CHURCH HUMOR**



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



The brand-new edition of the devotional booklet, *The Secret Place*, has arrived. Be sure to pick up a copy. *Our Daily Bread*, also offering daily testimonials, is another great booklet. Both are available in the narthex.

# 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 Needed

### Food

canned fruit  
canned chicken, tuna, and salmon  
soups and stews  
peanut or other nut butters (especially crunchy)  
shelf-stable milk and milk alternatives  
cereal

### Other Items

toiletries  
pet food  
fresh produce  
reusable shopping bags