



Wedgwood Community Church

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The Wedgletter

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FAITH-IN-ACTION SUMMER SERIES



In lieu of the summer conversation series we've had the last two summers, this year we are not going to *talk* about faith, we're going to *put our faith in action* by doing humble service projects. I've titled it the *Faith-In-Action* summer series. The intent is to still be fellowshiping and building our sense of community while at the same time doing positive things for others. Below are the dates, times, and events:

Wednesday, July 24, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the fellowship hall: **Making Thinking-of-You greeting cards** for the residents at St. Anne's.

Wednesday, August 14, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM gather in the fellowship hall: **Field trip to a nearby park to pick up litter** (or an alternative option if someone has a good suggestion).

Wednesday, September 18, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM at Lake City Presbyterian Church (3841 NE 123rd St., Seattle), **packing party for the Hunger Intervention Program.**

These will be small, heart-felt deeds of service to help out vulnerable entities and communities, such as the elderly, children, and the environment. I hope to see you there so that we can put our faith into action together.

Pastor Sean

Upcoming Events



Saturday July 20
 Tuesday July 23
 Wednesday July 24
 Sunday July 28

Movie Night
Lunch Bunch at Wedgwood Broiler
Faith in Action activity
Church Picnic at Rhododendron Park

6:00 PM
 11:45 AM
 6:30 PM
 1:00 PM

Wednesday Aug. 14
 Sunday Aug. 18
 Saturday Aug. 24
 Tuesday Aug. 27

Faith in Action activity
Potluck
Church Parking Lot Sale
Lunch Bunch at Wedgwood Broiler

6:30 PM
 12:30 PM
 8:00 AM
 11:45 AM

PASTOR SEAN'S ARTICLE



I don't have any tattoos. It's not for religious reasons. Getting one just seems like an awfully large commitment to me. For that very reason I often find myself impressed by other people's tattoos. Asking them about the meaning and significance of their body art is a wonderful conversation starter. Clearly, their tattoos mean much to them. I know someone who adds an elaborate tattoo to his body every time a significant life event happens. His body is like the canvas for an ever-growing mural, telling the story of his life with images and symbols. Indeed, tattoos are often highly symbolic in nature. To the observer, there is mystique in those symbols, creating curiosity. To the bearer, there is meaning in those symbols, creating identity.

Our culture grows less wordy and more visual with each passing year. We grow increasingly unwilling to read and digest large chunks of text. But we can easily process a fast-paced flood of images and icons. In some ways we are more like the Middle Ages than we are like those who lived in the middle of the 20th Century. Back in medieval times most people did not know how to read. They mostly learned the Christian story through artwork and stained glass windows. And they were highly sensitive and reactive to that imagery. Today, Christians' images, icons, symbols, *as well as* our behavior and actions, speak louder than our words do. We can say all the right things and offer eloquent and verbose prayers, praises, and arguments for faith, but without accompanying images and symbols, or with behavior that contradicts our words, those words fall on deaf ears. This is because words mean less and less with each passing year.

While we are probably aware that our behavior broadcasts much and can easily invalidate our words, how much stock do we put in our symbols? Perhaps it depends on how visual we are, or how much time we spend thinking about such things. If traditional Christian symbols like the cross, dove, flame, fish, alpha and omega, or a whole host of others don't mean much to us, then maybe it is time for new symbols to be created; symbols that are commensurate with new emphases that our faith seems to prioritize. In some Christian circles, timeless concepts like love, hospitality, inclusion, and hope are wonderfully emphasized and prioritized today over Christian concepts like heaven/hell, blood atonement, apocalyptic dispensationalism, or creationism of yesteryear (all of which require many words to explain and contextualize). Do we create new symbols for new emphases? Or can we reinvest old symbols with new meaning? For instance, the cross can just as much symbolize love as it can symbolize blood atonement.

I invite us to think more about the ways that we visually represent our faith. The more we prioritize and integrate symbols into our faith, the more we cement our identity and the more we will find ourselves having conversations with strangers.

Pastor Sean

PARADE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL



It was not just the beautiful sunshine that drew a huge crowd to our annual Rainbow City Band parade and ice cream social on Tuesday, June 11. Drawn by the drumbeats and snappy tunes, friends and neighbors gathered to follow the band as it marched through the Wedgwood neighborhood. Many thanks to our helpers as they scooped ice cream, poured syrups, and squirted whipped cream for hundreds of folks who followed the band back to the church parking lot for sundaes and socializing. And the Seattle Leukemia and Lymphoma Society received \$42.25 in donations. A delightful evening for all!

COMMUNITY PARKING LOT SALE



Our annual community parking lot sale will be held on Saturday, August 24, from 8 AM to 12 PM. To reserve a table or to help with the sale, please call the church (206-522-5778).



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.



The latest editions of our daily devotional booklets, *The Secret Place* and *Our Daily Bread*, are available in the narthex.

Be sure to pick up a copy of one or both for a daily inspirational pick-me-up!

LLS LIGHT THE NIGHT

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

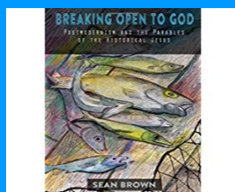
<https://pages.lightthenight.org/wa/SeattleL19/wedgwoodwalkers>

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 or call 206.957.4597. Thank you.

Victoria Wenick



Pastor Sean's Book



Pastor Sean's new book, *Breaking Open to God: Postmodernism and the Parables of the Historical Jesus*, is available from Amazon.com, including Kindle format. The book is a discussion of what spiritually, socially, and theologically happened in the exchange between Jesus and His original audiences when Jesus told parables. The salient points of that exchange are then brought into a 21st Century context where they may prove appealing to today's younger generation of Christians and may be applicable to how Christians think about God and how Christians "do" church. Pastor Sean provides an unusual analysis of the parables, which is informative and refreshing. A short glossary of theological terms found in the book is available in the church office.

QUERY THE CLERGY



In John 3:13 it says, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the son of man." But what about the thief on the cross who was told "... today you will be with me in Paradise," or Enoch who was "taken by God," or Elijah who "went up by a whirlwind into heaven"? Where did these people go? (mhb)

Here is one of many examples in the Bible where, on the surface, we certainly have a contradiction, as you've noted. We have to look at the wider context of John 3 to see that a more complex point is being made by Jesus other than His simply saying that nobody else has ascended to heaven. The context is a conversation Jesus is having with Nicodemus, a rare Pharisee who respects Jesus and wants to honestly ask Him some theological questions. Being born again as the prerequisite for experiencing the kingdom of God is how the conversation starts. All throughout, Jesus speaks in veiled and enigmatic ways, pushing Nicodemus to open his mind more and to not always think so literally. By the time the conversation gets to John 3:13, Jesus is talking about His (a.k.a. "the Son of Man") role in enabling people to experience the kingdom of God. A major theological theme in John's gospel is the descending and ascending Son of Man, and the spiritual importance of believers understanding this directional movement. John's gospel is not interested in Jesus' earthly origins, which is probably why there is not a Christmas story birth narrative like we see in Matthew or Luke. Important to John is Jesus' heavenly origin and final heavenly destination. In John 3:14-15 Jesus talks about being "lifted up," and that those who believe this will experience the kingdom and have eternal life. Does being lifted up mean being mounted on a cross and crucified, or ascending to heaven, or both? There are numerous intentional theological riddles like this all throughout John's gospel.

Putting all of this together, the context of Jesus' statement in John 3:13 is that as the unique Son of Man who has come from heaven and who will be "lifted up" and ascend to heaven, Jesus is in a special position to impart wisdom. Jesus can speak of "heavenly things" (John 3:12) in a way nobody else can. Much of the red letters of John's gospel include Jesus speaking of heavenly things. Yes, others like Enoch and Elijah seem to have ascended to heaven. But nobody apart from Jesus can say they came from heaven, will ascend to heaven, and in the meantime play such an integral role in imparting spiritual wisdom and eternal life. These contextual factors as one complete package, exclusive to Jesus alone, are what can cause Jesus to say "no one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven, the Son of Man." If John 3:13 is read in isolation, there is a contradiction. If John 3:13 is read and understood in the wider context of what Jesus is saying about His experience coming from heaven, speaking about heavenly things here on earth, *as well as* ascending to heaven, His experience is truly one-of-a-kind.

Pastor Sean

Combined Outdoor Church Service



On Sunday, August 18, Wedgwood Community Church will be joining with Wedgwood Presbyterian Church for a combined worship service adjacent to the Hunter Tree Farm lot on 35th Avenue NE. We did this last summer and it is always fun to get outdoors and have at least one outside worship service for the year, *and with another congregation*. The service will start at 10:30 AM and there will be a potluck to follow. For the potluck, please bring a continental breakfast-style item, such as fruit or pastries or a breakfast quiche. Also, we will need a couple of volunteers to help serve communion during the service and also a couple of volunteers to serve as greeters (the greeters will have to arrive no later than 10:10 AM that day). This should be a fun and uplifting event as always.

Pastor Sean

SPECIAL MUSIC SERVICE



On Sunday, July 21, to celebrate WCC's 112th anniversary, we'll be treated to a special performance. During the worship service, to commemorate our long and proud tradition of excellent music, Lev Koshkin and other professional musicians will bless us with the ministry of music. It will be an awe-inspiring hour you'll not want to miss. Please join us, and invite a friend!

Pastor Sean



July

- 1 - Lark Rodriguez
- 2 - Aaliyah Muanda
- 5 - Carl Potts
- 6 - Tom Francone
- 14 - Daisy Wallace
- 19 - Katy Muse
- 24 - Gary Hansen
- 26 - Spencer Sillence

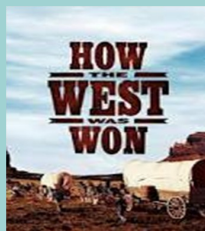
August

- 1 - Sam Wallace
- 8 - Myrna Latschaw
- 11 - Chris Wallace
- 14 - Jack Price
- 16 - Annette Mauldin
- 20 - Linda Clyde

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

MOVIE NIGHT AND BOOK CLUB SELECTION

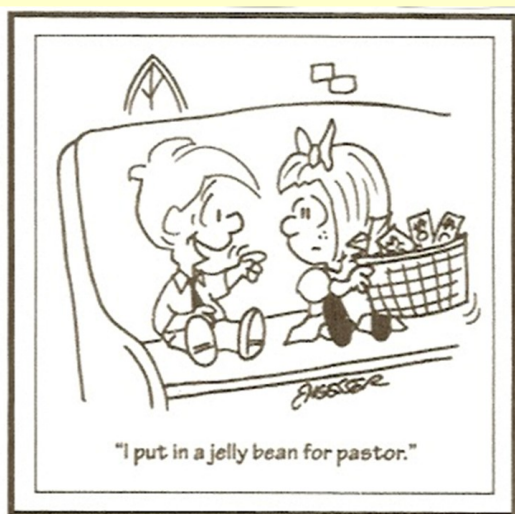


The next Movie Night will be on **July 20**, at 6:30 PM, and the movie will be the classic western, *How the West Was Won*. We gather at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and a friend to enjoy an evening of entertainment!

The book club's current selection, *Out to Canaan*, is the fourth book in Jan Karon's "Mitford" series. The Mitford books are delightful—enjoyed by all. Everyone is invited to be a part of our group. Please, come join us.



CHURCH HUMOR



RECENT LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



Marching Parade/Ice Cream Social: We spent less money sponsoring it this year.

A new craft shop opened on 35th Avenue Northeast next to the Ale House. They are **willing to help with fundraisers.**

WCC 112th Birthday Celebration Service: on Sunday, July 21 (mostly special music).

Milt Brown



EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION

Saturday, July 20, is the date for the **Black Caucus Sponsored BBQ, Bake Sale, and Auction!** The festivities begin at 12 noon at Cedar River Park, Renton. The auction begins at 1:30 PM. The food is delicious and the fellowship awesome! Tickets are \$20 each. Meal choices are brisket, chicken, rib, or any combo. Also, potato salad, baked beans, green salad, corn on the cob, cake, and water will be served. (Soda pop is available for purchase for \$1.00.) Tickets may be purchased from Pastor Sean or contact Clem at 253-859-2226 or cleam@ea-abc.org. If you wish to contribute an auction item, please notify Clem by July 15.

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Looking Ahead

October 11—12, 2019: **Annual Meeting**, hosted by Mount Zion Baptist Church, Seattle. More details later.

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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>

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 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