

The Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
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PASTOR'S REFLECTION

by Rev. Glenn A. Brumbaugh

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

It has been awhile since we've been able to gather together in person. I miss seeing your smiling faces each Sunday!

This has certainly been a challenging year for all of us. The struggles of quarantine and social distancing have fundamentally changed how we go about our daily lives, and how we gather together as a community. It is a new world we've found ourselves in, and we have all struggled to adapt. This is also true of our church. We are thankful we were able to navigate converting quickly to the YouTube online format for worship. I hope many of you have been able to access those services online, and they can also be mailed to you on DVD if that is a possibility for you. We've also been using the Zoom format to hold online Bible Study each Wednesday, as well as occasional Zoom Coffee Fellowships, which is an opportunity to just chat and catch up with each other online. We've also moved our monthly Book Club to the Zoom format. Please reach out to me if you would like more information about any of these opportunities, or have an idea for a new ministry or outreach possibility.

As more churches choose to begin meeting in person, we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation in our area. As a diverse group of people in age and background, we want to ensure that we can provide a safe environment

for all to be able to return to in-person worship. Unfortunately, we have not yet reached a point where that is possible. We continue to discuss the situation on a regular basis, and have developed procedures to minimize risk when we are able to safely resume worshipping in the building.

As we live into this new reality, let's take some time to reflect on what the church really is. We have become so accustomed to identifying the church by the building where it is located. But the body of Christ is not a building; it's the people who worship there. How can we be the community of faith in this new world of social distancing we find ourselves in? What ministries can or should we seek to support or provide?

While we may miss our time together in person, maybe this is our opportunity to find new ways to be the church in our community, a time to pause and reevaluate who we are and should be as a community of faith. I hope we all take some time to reflect on what the church really is, and how we can live into that renewed vision of what we can and should be. I would love to hear any thoughts you may have.

I hope you all continue to be well, stay safe, and keep each other and our community of faith in prayer.

In Christ,

Pastor Glenn



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The New Olympian
Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
425 NE 95th Street
Seattle WA 98115

THE UNSTOPPABLE CHURCH

Have you ever noticed that sometimes, when you don't see a friend for a long period of time, you forget that they have no idea what's been going on in your life – or you in theirs? That certainly applies to our church right now! We are distant, but each of us is busy in our own way. So, here's a peek into what OV Church has been up to these past months

Your Board has been meeting every month via Zoom, taking care of ongoing needs. But what does that look like when 'church' is not even meeting? Good question!

In addition to keeping on top of basic needs, i.e., the general finances of the church, the grounds maintenance and janitorial tasks, we have refocused our discussions to include preparation for re-gathering when we can safely do so. We have developed a brochure that encompasses the governmental guidelines for gathering in a safe, clean environment as it applies to our worship community. We have prepared a document for our tenants and community user groups, as well as one for our congregants, so we all know what to expect and do when we come together again. We will train our tenants and community groups prior to them returning to the church.

Pastor Glenn has set up signs and distance markers in the sanctuary to enable safe-distancing. There are face coverings and sanitizers available. We still have work to do to be ready to welcome all of you back, but we are making progress and watching the reports from our State authorities.

During this time we have extended grace to our tenants, the two other churches and the pre-school, with respect to their rent. God has been faithful, through you and our virtual community, and we have been able to meet our financial needs. Although, as the COVID restrictions continue to be extended, it will become increasingly difficult. Your continued generosity and prayers will see us through! This is part of what makes our church unstoppable!!

We continue to support and interact with the Pacific Northwest District, mostly via Zoom, and reach out to our community via Facebook, email, Twitter and YouTube.

There are a few projects that need to be addressed before we reopen and some projects we hope to tackle in the near future. If you would like more specifics on what those projects might be, and maybe volunteer your help, please reach out to me or to Pastor Glenn and we will be happy to share these with you.

We hope that this finds each of you well and creatively engaging new ways to fill your days with things that bring you joy. Your church will be ready for you when the doors can re-open. You are unstoppable too! Let's turn our eyes to the new future that God is preparing for us!

I, for one, am so grateful that Jesus knows the rest of this story.

In trust,
Sylvia Hershberger
Board Chair

Stay Connected!

Online Opportunities

Zoom Bible Study
Wednesdays at 3 PM

Zoom Coffee Fellowship-
Every other Thursday at 3 PM

Online YouTube Worship
Every Sunday, also available through
Facebook video and IGTV

Zoom Book Club,
reconvening in October
For more info on any of these opportunities, visit our website at www.olympicchurch.org or email Pastor Glenn at: vicarglenn@gmail.com.

****NEW** NORTH STAR GROUP **NEW****

"He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. He counts the stars and calls them all by name." Psalm 147:3-4



We're starting a new group at Olympic View to get us through the tough times.

We'll meet once a month in person with social distancing.

The group will focus on scripture reading, prayer, and art activities to explore our feelings, hopes, and dreams.

With God, all things are possible, but sometimes it's hard to see it!

**The first session will be on Monday, Sept. 21, 2020
7 pm in the Social Hall**

This is the **International Day of Peace** recognized by the United Nations as a time to contemplate a peaceful world that needs to be called into being from our brokenness on all levels – individual, family, community, nationally, and globally.

Please let Harriet know if you are interested so we can plan for adequate resources and COVID safety measures.

We will read, talk, pray, and listen to each other.

THEME: Peace: Shaping Peace Together

• Songs • Prayers • Art • Action

GREETINGS FROM THE WORLD FRIENDSHIP CENTER, HIROSHIMA, JAPAN.

Dear Family and Friends,

We hope you are doing well wherever you are! Greetings! 2020 has been a year of the unexpected. Back in January, we looked forward to hosting many international short-term and long-term guests, university groups, teacher groups, and interns from three organizations as well as volunteers. They were coming from countries all over the world to experience Hiroshima, the city of peace and to study peace at WFC through conversations, Hibakusha talks, and personal guided tours. By mid-March, travel discontinued due to the new coronavirus. We stayed open, but we missed those that could not come!

Embracing the Struggle

Many people have asked how we are doing at WFC because hosting guests to foster peace is the main purpose of WFC. We hosted one guest in August “Yeah”; have had social distanced events or meetings; and are continuing to have conversational English classes each month. We have also been blessed by generous support which has enabled us to stay open and be ready when guests are able to travel. On a personal note, Kathy turned her ankle badly, breaking it in mid-August while sustaining several other injuries when she fell. She is recovering now at home, but this has been a challenge as well.

Our Present Good Fortune

This year we have been fortunate in many ways:

1. 2019 was a very good year at WFC. It was one of the four years in the last ten where we had no debt as we moved to the new fiscal year (April, 2020).
2. Through online classes using Skype and Zoom, we were able to continue conversational English classes while under stay-at-home orders in Japan for a month. Classes constitute about 30% of our usual income.
3. Corporate memberships are due at the beginning of the fiscal year, so April and May benefited by that influx of funds.
4. Generous donations from Japan and abroad. Normally donations are about 15% of our income, but great generosity from committed friends and members of WFC exceeded expectations. Without any guest revenue, we are dependent on donations to make up the difference.
5. The Japan government provided NPO stimulus funds in June.

The Future

Without guest reservations, we will need to depend on donations to get through this year. We have been diligent at WFC to keep people safe from Covid-19, thus we are able to have classes, and are ready to host guests when people are again traveling.

Generosity

That is our situation, but it is also the situation with many businesses and non-profit organizations throughout the world. They all need your help! Be generous if you are able! Give wherever you see a need.

Ways to Donate

If you would like to help us get through the end of this fiscal year, any donation would be greatly appreciated. To make a donation, go to the WFC homepage of our website <https://wfchirosima.com/english/> You can make direct donations to WFC through “Syncable”, or send to the WFC American Committee for tax deductible donations. Information is on the website. While you are on the website, look it over! There is a lot of information including Hibakusha stories, for your perusal.

Thank You Benefits

For any donation of 5000 yen or more (about 46 USD, 41 EUR, 37 GBP, 67 AUD), you will become an “International Friend” with the following thank you benefits.

- Through 2021, you will receive the discounted rate of 3000 yen per day per person for two people in your party when you come to WFC. That is almost a 30% discount on our regular rate and the best discount we provide. For those that cancelled in 2020, but expect to come within the next year, it is a very good deal. You can help WFC now when we need it, and we will give you a great discount later as appreciation for your generosity.
- We will send you a “Insiders” only newsletter so that you will see how we are “fostering peace, one friend at a time”, engaging in the peace community, as well as sharing stories of peace, Hibakusha’s and inspiration.

Final Thoughts

We are sharing this with you because in some big or small way our lives have touched each other. Thank you for that! It is by connecting and talking and engaging with each other about peace that the world gets just a little bit better. A world where love is more powerful than hatred. A world where connections are necessary to overcome isolation. A world where listening helps us to see each other as brothers and sisters. We then see that we are fundamentally more alike than we are different and can make a difference together. When we are open to make new friends, we change the world, one friend at a time.

In Peace,

Roger and Kathy Edmark, WFC Volunteer Directors

Mirei Tashiro, WFC Staff Contributor

Michiko Yamane, WFC Board “RIJI” Chair

Larry and JoAnn Sims, WFC, American Committee Chairs

OLYMPIC VIEW AND COVID-19

by Harriet Koscho

The last day of February I went to a birthday party for an old friend. He has birthday parties once every four years, because he was born on “Leap Day”, also known as February 29, which only happens every four years. At the time, I had been following the case numbers for COVID-19 in Wuhan, China with fascination and dread. That week, however, it was reported that a nursing home in Kirkland had an outbreak, and people were starting to die. It was then, at that party, that I realized how deeply our lives were about to change. When I arrived, we all hugged. None of the guests had seen each other for a long time. It was wonderful to be together and share hors d’oeuvres and reminisce. But by the end of the party, something shifted. We had talked about the pandemic and how it was coming here, to Seattle area. And we knew things were going to get hard. When we left, we waved to each other instead of touching.

The next day was a normal Sunday morning. I started talking to the youth about COVID, and everything I knew about it. I knew it usually presented as a dry cough that doesn’t go away, along with a high fever. I knew that it was spread by inhaling small particles emitted by coughs. I knew that children and young people seem to be less affected. And I knew that older people are far more likely to die. I told them that I need to be very careful around them, because if I got sick, I might die.

The next week, Bothel High School closed for a few days. It turned out that a student there had gotten COVID, and they wanted to deep-clean the school. I was shocked that they took such drastic action, but it turned out to be prescient. We had one more Sunday service after that, on March 8. The following week, on March 11, everything shut down and we all went into quarantine. Since then, we haven’t been able to hold services in person at the church because the risk is too great over the long term.

I thank God every day that most of us have been healthy, and I pray for those among us who have been affected. I’m especially thankful that there has not been much COVID in the homeless population of Seattle.

You may be wondering what is going on in the church building these days. Of the four churches that use our space, one has resumed in-person services, and a second is starting a monthly meditation group (but no services yet). We are waiting for phase 3 to resume our 11am services. Lan Zhang’s Immersive Chinese preschool, Sunny Language Academy, is operating five days a week. For now and the foreseeable future, Pastor Glenn is creating online services on our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIwylUER_eFk6QVZ9XWTAjg and we hope you are enjoying these.

We also have a webpage of resources for COVID, including our rules for using the church at <http://olympicchurch.org/covid/>

CROP WALK

The Walk is virtual, but the need could not be more real!

2020 has been a year like no other! It’s been very easy to feel helpless in the face of a global pandemic, catastrophic wildfires, hurricanes, derechos, and other natural disasters. Yet we have been richly blessed by donations to food banks even as the needs have increased. CROP Walk is one of our traditional opportunities to help people facing hunger. It’s also something that is a natural fit for social distancing!

The work of CWS and our local hunger agencies continues – and with the possibility of a global famine on the horizon, raising money for vulnerable people is more needed than ever.

CROP Hunger Walks are happening in a new way! To keep everyone safe and healthy, Walks are going virtual – either walking alone, with immediate family or in small groups walking a safe distance apart. This year, instead of gathering with other churches and families to walk around Greenlake, we will instead schedule a walk of our own choosing sometime in the week of October 11-18.

Join us – virtually - as we continue our shared commitment to stand up for the poor, the forgotten, those left behind. Our Spring CROP Hunger Walks were down nearly \$1 million this year. It is urgent that this fall we continue to raise funds to provide permanent solutions to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

Here’s how we are going to do CROP Walk this year:

1. Go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/seattlewa>
Register as a walker, and select Olympic View Church as your team.

~or~

Donate and search for the Olympic View team. Our team goal is \$500. You may also go directly to the donation page for our team here: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/seattlewa/Team/View/137333/Olympic-View>

2. If you registered as a walker, then sometime during the week of October 11-18, GO FOR A WALK!!
3. Upload pictures, videos, etc. to our team CROP Walk page. Have fun with it!

We are able to walk together if we are careful with social distancing. Glenn Brumbaugh and Harriet Koscho are going to walk in the Maple Leaf neighborhood on October 13 at 4pm. We have a page on our website with more specific details, such as WEAR A MASK!! Please refer to <http://olympicchurch.org/cropwalk/> for current details.