

## PASTOR'S REFLECTION

by Rev. Glenn A. Brumbaugh

Fall is in the air! As the temperatures cool off and the leaves begin to change, I find myself marveling at the beauty to be found in the natural cycle of creation all around me. Autumn has always been my favorite time of the year.

And what a year we have had. This time last year, we were deep in the throes of COVID-19 restrictions and not sure what the future would bring. After a brief respite following vaccinations this past spring and early summer, we now find ourselves in much the same situation with the rise of the Delta and other variants. Unfortunately, much like the seasons, viruses also have their times of change and transformation.

It has been hard to decide how to guide our congregation through these challenging times. For over a year, we met only virtually, only to resume biweekly, in-person gatherings this summer, just in time for the numbers to increase again. Our church leadership has kept a close eye on the situation in our area, and will continue to do so. That is one advantage of a very small group on Sundays – we can spread out and social distance very easily!

Like many other parts of God's creative order, our congregation and the larger church continue to transform and evolve. The pause we have all experienced during the pandemic has led to many changes in our lives and culture,

including the body of Christ. Not meeting in-person on Sunday mornings has forced us into finding online ways to worship and fellowship together. While some still prefer to gather in the more traditional sense, we now have more people joining us on YouTube and Facebook on a Sunday morning than are physically present when we meet in person. Change is definitely in the air.

It can be disheartening to see the small numbers on Sunday mornings. But only so if we look from a lens of what was. Times change, and so must the church. God continues to move forward and work in times of change, and we have to the choice to adapt to where and how God is present and working now, or to try to make God fit into what was, and is no more. That is the creative order we witness in the cycles of nature and the changing of the season. The bounty of spring and summer are replaced with the withering and dormancy of fall and winter, only to spring forth as new growth when the new season arrives.

It is my hope that we can prayerfully seek out God at work in our community, and find ways to join in that work, with the time and resources we have been blessed with, however different and unfamiliar that may look like. With the Spirit's guidance, we can find that path together. May it be so.



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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

## WHY MASKS??

By Ronda Russell

I am going to try and explain this in simple, layman type terms. COVID-19 is a virus. Viruses get into a host—in this case, humans—and begin to replicate. This means they produce more and more virus, attacking the host body. Because viruses are microscopic (seriously tiny), they are easy to spread through the air and physical contact. When we get a vaccine for a viral threat, we teach our body how to recognize the virus and fight it. If everyone gets a vaccine and takes precautions, we can stop the virus from transferring from host to host. Without a host, the virus will die out. Polio—which my mother survived as a child—has been virtually eradicated thanks to vigorous and extensive vaccinations. The same is true of smallpox.

HOWEVER, viruses are actually quite adaptable. They mutate—which means they change in order to survive. That is what our current virus has done.

There are at least 17 variations of this virus currently being tracked. The virus

only wants to survive, and if changing lets it do so, it will. Most of the variants are held at bay by the antibodies built by the vaccine. Delta seems to be stronger. For this reason, vaccinated people have been testing positive for it. They just don't seem to be dying from it as much as the unvaccinated. Once the virus has a hold in your body, vaccinated, or not, symptomatic, or not, you can spread it. That is why you are being asked to wear a mask again. To protect those people around you.

I'll be honest. I don't always like the people around me. Right now, I particularly dislike those who argue the mask policy, claim that the virus that has claimed so many—including my friend—is fake, and that the mask is a violation of, and I quote, "My God-given right to be free." I still wear the mask to protect them.

Why? Because I follow a faith that says, "Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the

interest of others." (Philippians 2:4) "For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love." (Galatians 5:13) "Be hospitable to one another without complaining." (1 Peter 4:9) "And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works." (Hebrews 10:24) and, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)

I do not discuss my faith much, but I do follow it. I render unto Caesar what is Caesar's (i.e. the mask mandate), and I render to God what is God's (the directive to love and care for others—even when they irritate, anger and attack you).

This shouldn't be a political issue. It is a human problem. It is us against the virus. I would think that, as humans, we should be able to do what is best for the health of our communities. If you identify as Christians, I ask you to review the book you claim to love.

## Northaven Gala 21

**We're back We're growing. We're leaning into our future.  
We're live and changing this gala up!!!**

Join us in person on December 10! - Nosh at the beginning of the holiday season.  
And support our low-income senior housing while you dance to the Blue Wave Band.

Come for the fun and celebrate! - Wine & beer • hors d'oeuvres • dancing • live auction

**(NO SILENT AUCTION. NO DINNER.)**

**DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021 - 6:30–8:30 PM**



### LOCATION

#### ST. DEMETRIOS HALL

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church  
2100 Boyer Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112  
Parking lot entrance at E. Lind Street

**RSVP BY NOVEMBER 29 \***

**(Prices increase after this date.) - Register now**

**\* Guests must affirm they are fully vaccinated**

## **2021 PNW DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

Last weekend, we again met virtually for our annual District Conference for the Pacific Northwest District of the Church of the Brethren. While we miss the camaraderie of gathering face to face, many more can participate that may not be able to travel the distances involved to meet in person.

Our gathering was split into two days. We had a time of worship and fellowship Friday evening, featuring worship elements and updates from congregations, capped off by a reflection shared from Bobbi Dykema, formerly serving in our district, now pastoring the Springfield Illinois Church of the Brethren. Saturday began with a time of programming led by Carol Wise of the Brethren-Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests and several representatives of On Earth Peace, as well as a Q&A time with the various Church of the Brethren agencies present.

The afternoon included our business session. Several items were up for consideration and action:

### **Budget Approval**

The proposed budget was approved by consent

### **Renewing the Suspension of Bylaws**

It was decided to extend the suspension of bylaws for another year, to accommodate our current reduced structure and volunteer leadership.

### **Filling of Vacancies in District Leadership**

Lani Wright was approved for the District

Executive Team, replacing Debbie Roberts

Dale Seese was approved as Treasurer after a period of training

Sarah Kinsel was approved to chair the Ministry Commission

Patrick Feigenbaum was approved as Recording Secretary

Michael O'Cain was approved as Moderator

### **Acknowledgment of Covington Community Church decision**

After much discussion, it was affirmed to acknowledge the receipt of Covington's letter to the District, informing us of their vote to separate from the PNW District and the larger Church of the Brethren

Updates were also provided by members of the District Executive team concerning their various roles and activities, as well as the Envisioning team and Disaster Ministries. Our time concluded with a time of remembrance of those who have passed in the last year.

## **CROPWALK 2021**

By Harriet Koscho

Seattle Cropwalk will be walking around Greenlake on Saturday, October 9, @2pm - 2021 to raise awareness of hunger and of course to RAISE MONEY FOR THE CAUSE!

We have a goal to raise \$300 dollars under our team page. <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/olympic-view-church>

(Or you can go to the main cropwalk page and search for "Olympic View Church".)

We have participated every year including 2020 – and we'll be doing it again. Please donate online or send checks to the church office. Cropwalk supports food organizations with half of the money going to our own community and the other half going to organizations around the world. You can let us know if you are interested in walking with us by emailing [ovsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ovsecretary@gmail.com) or talking to Glenn or Harriet. We are flexible on the time of our walk since we're not meeting at the Methodist church beforehand. So sign up, donate, and pick out your walking shoes!

Editors Note:

*OV church staff has selected Oct. 9th @2pm for their walk. Contact OV Church for more information.*

## **Book Group**

by Harriet Koscho

The book group is meeting on the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the church library. If you would like to attend by zoom, we would be happy arrange it, just email [harriet@koscho.net](mailto:harriet@koscho.net) to get the link.

We just finished reading *Travelling Mercies – Some Thoughts On Faith* by Anne Lamott. She's the kind of author that can make you laugh and cry in the same paragraph. Our next book is one of Glenn's favorites, *Love Wins* by Rob Bell. It's about a big question: what is

hell? If God is all loving and all knowing, why would there be a place of eternal torment? Apparently there has been a lot of controversy about this book and its conclusions that love indeed conquers all. I can already tell that we're probably going to like it a lot. Our remaining books include the story of a Buddhist monk who decides to go out into the world with no possessions, an essay on how much we are influenced by vivid images on the news, and a book about life lessons that can be learned in a garden.

We have selected our books for the rest of the year as follows:

***Love Wins*** - Rob Bell  
(Oct. 27/Nov. 24)

***In Love With The World*** - Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche (Dec. 29/Jan. 26)

***Regarding the Pain of Others***  
Susan Sontag (Feb. 23/Mar. 30)

***A Gentle Plea for Chaos***  
Mirabel Osler (Apr. 27/May 25)

## WFC NEWS

### Introduction to PAX

The World Friendship Center will be hosting the 2021 American PAX conference during the first week of October.

PAX stands for **Peace Ambassador EXchange**. In the past, pre-Covid, WFC would send a group to the United States or would host a group from the U.S. to make new friends, exchange thoughts about peace and nuclear weapons, and to understand our interdependence in working for change together. This year, the program is being done on Zoom. If you would like to join for any part of the PAX week, this email provides you the schedules and link to do so.

### Zoom PAX Conference All Week

The Zoom link to participate in 2021 American PAX, an activity of the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan,

is provided below. The Zoom link is good for every day of PAX.

### Weekly & Daily Schedules

A schedule for the week is attached along with detailed schedules for the Pacific (PDT) and Eastern (EDT) time zones. There are no detail schedules for Mountain or Central times zones.

Everyone is encouraged to participate on the first day, **Day 1**, and on the closing day, **Day 7**. In addition, join at least one midweek day, **Day2** thru **Day 6**, to hear a Hibakusha talk. If you are part of a group joining on many computers on the same day, please let us know. If you are an individual, or a group joining through one computer, join whenever you want. The whole conference will be in English or translated into English during Hibakusha (A-Bomb survivor) talks.

### Zoom Link - 2021 American PAX

The dates & times shown below are for Japan. Ignore them if you are joining

from the United States. In the U.S., PAX starts on the evening of Saturday, Oct 2 and runs until Friday, Oct 8 (*see schedules*). This Zoom link will work for all week.

### Topic: American PAX 2021

Time: Oct 3, 2021 09:00 AM  
Osaka, Sapporo, Tokyo  
Every day, until Oct 9, 2021,  
7 occurrence(s)

Oct 3, 2021 09:00 AM  
Oct 4, 2021 09:00 AM  
Oct 5, 2021 09:00 AM  
Oct 6, 2021 09:00 AM  
Oct 7, 2021 09:00 AM  
Oct 8, 2021 09:00 AM  
Oct 9, 2021 09:00 AM

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89832317717?pwd=KzBVNW5lVFZIR2ZubElzSi8oVENmUT09>

Meeting ID: 898 3231 7717  
Passcode: 185258

## WORSHIP THIS FALL

The schedule for this Fall is as follows:

Streaming /In Person	Online - YouTube/Facebook/Instagram
10/03/21	10/10/21
10/17/21	10/24/21
10/31/21	11/07/21
11/14/21	11/21/21
11/28/21	12/05/21
12/12/21	12/19/21
12/24/21	TBD

We hope you will join us, in person or online!

Our streaming services can be found at the following sites:

### YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIwyIUer\\_eFk6QVZ9XWTAjg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIwyIUer_eFk6QVZ9XWTAjg)

### FaceBook

<https://www.facebook.com/ovcob>

## Save the date! Fall General Assembly, 11/14/21 after worship around 12 PM.

Join us for our Fall General Assembly meeting on Sunday, November 14th, immediately following the worship service at approximately 12 PM. Some of the items to consider includes approving the budget for 2022 as well as filling some positions such as Annual Conference Delegate for next year.