

## PASTOR'S REFLECTION

by Rev. Glenn A. Brumbaugh

As spring warms to summer, we often plan more time and activities outside, to take advantage of the weather we are blessed with in the summer months. Trips to the beach or time camping in the mountains often fill our agendas, as do picnics, ball games and other outdoor events.

Normally, the summer is the "slow" time on the church calendar, when attendance takes a little dip because of our other plans, and with that in mind, we often adjust our church activity level to accommodate those schedules.

But the last year and a half have been anything but normal. With the arrival of COVID-19 and the restrictions that placed on many of our lives, our schedules have certainly not been the routines we are accustomed to. Likewise, our church has had to find completely new ways to stay engaged and provide spiritual and fellowship experiences without meeting in person at our beloved building.

Times are finally changing for the better, however. As most of us become vaccinated, we can again think about gathering together "in the

flesh," sharing worship and fellowship together again. Yet, we are faced with a "new normal." Over the course of our online worship, we have more people engaged through YouTube that are not part of the smiling faces we are used to seeing in the sanctuary. So we can't put the online genie back in the bottle. Streaming online will be a part of who we are going forward.

So instead of relaxing over the summer, we are actually stepping things up. Beginning with the last Sunday in June, we will begin having in person worship every other Sunday as we work on improving our online streaming skills and get some folks trained to assist in those endeavors, with the goal of resuming weekly worship in the fall.

I hope you are able to join us, either in person, or streaming, as we embark on this new hybrid adventure, and help us explore how to be the church in the new circumstances we find ourselves in. May God continue to bless us and guide our path forward together.

In Christ,  
Pastor Glenn



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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## WORSHIP THIS SUMMER

As our state eases most restrictions with widespread vaccinations, our church will begin to work towards resuming regular in-person worship beginning June 27<sup>th</sup>. While we would love to get right into the swing of things by having worship every week, we need some time to adjust to our “new normal.” With many more attending our online services over the last year or so than ever attend in person, we need to work on having the time and space to work the kinks out of streaming our in person services over YouTube and Facebook, to ensure a valuable worship experience for our online participants as well. As a result, over the summer months, we will be meeting in person every other week, with an online YouTube service on the alternate week as we gradually transition to a weekly hybrid service in September. **The schedule for this summer is as follows:**

Streaming /In Person	Online - YouTube/Facebook/Instagram
06/27/21	07/04/21
07/11/21	07/18/21
07/25/21	08/01/21
08/08/21	08/15/21
08/22/21	08/29/21
09/05/21	09/12/21 (Pastor Glenn on vacation)

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>

## WELCOME TO OUR SHARED SPACE!

### Brothers and Sisters in Christ

As the Congregation of Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren we open our hearts in welcome to the three churches sharing our space.

**Iglesia De Christo Voz De Reino**, pastored by **Dr. Moreno Wilifredo**, will be conducting services on Sundays at 6pm.

The **Eritrean Kidisti Mariam Orthodox Tewahedo Church** will be meeting on Sundays from 6 – 10 am.

**Christ Covenant Church**, pastored by **Sung Ho Lee**, holds their service on Sundays at 1pm.

Let us all join together in welcoming our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

Last year the 234<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Church of the Brethren was cancelled. This year it is being held all online! That will certainly save attendees from incurring the expenses of travel, lodging and restaurants. However it is not going to be as immersive and it remains to be seen how much real connection and persuasion is possible.

Two years ago I attended the 233<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. The denomination had decided to focus on listening sessions rather than conducting business, and the end goal was to complete a compelling vision for the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That process has continued, and thus the main Unfinished Business of this conference is acceptance of a Compelling Vision for how the congregations of the Church of the Brethren can work together in the areas in which we are agreement with each other. They are calling it **Jesus in the Neighborhood**, and the most succinct way to explain the approach would be to offer the vision statement the committee has written: **Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless.**

As usual, the conference will have a mixture of business sessions, networking groups, insight sessions, and equipping sessions.

Since all of this is online, there is a unique opportunity available to us: I invite anyone to check out a session simply by getting together with me and my laptop. If this idea sounds interesting, please contact me ([harriet@koscho.net](mailto:harriet@koscho.net)). The sessions range widely, with titles like “*Herstory: Women Writing Brethren History*”, “*South Sudan: The Voice for God, Peace, and Church*”, “*BVS in Retirement*”, etc. Some of these sessions are led by people who have inspired us and worshiped with us, such as David Radcliffe, Bobbi Dykema, and Matt Guynn. The detailed conference schedule is at this link: <https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/03/AC-Schedule-2021.pdf>

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Everything has changed significantly since the arrival of vaccines. In the beginning of the pandemic, we had to worry (*a lot!*) about making sure that elderly people did not catch COVID-19, because they were far more likely than other age groups to be hospitalized or die. At that time it also appeared that small children didn't get it. Now we know that a significant number of people who have active cases of COVID-19 may have no symptoms, especially children. If somebody doesn't know they are carrying the disease they won't know that they are infectious to others. The lockdowns and closures of schools, businesses, and churches were needed to reduce the spread: the inconsistency of symptoms and outcomes was confusing for everybody, even public health organizations such as the WHO and the CDC.

We now have more evidence that COVID-19 is spread by aerosol transmission. We've learned more about "superspreader" events, namely some unlucky people are MUCH more infectious than others. Washington state has issued revised guidelines several times for churches specifically, and the most recent version can be downloaded from this link:

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19%20Religious%20and%20Faith%20Based%20Organization%20Guidance.pdf>

### The bottom line is this:

1. We need to promote air circulation in the church during services. This means cracking windows on both sides of the sanctuary as well as the windows in the balcony if people are sitting there.
- The state guidelines suggest having "vaccinated-only" seating sections. We are not going to do that. Instead, we strongly encourage wearing masks, but it's not mandatory if you are fully vaccinated. We can definitely assume that unvaccinated people are present, and we welcome them!
- The state says it is okay for vaccinated people to sing in church, without masks. We would really love to sing hymns, but we definitely don't want an unvaccinated person singing loudly who is infected with asymptomatic COVID, because that person could be sitting close enough to another unvaccinated person to infect them. (*Singing is especially problematic in terms of spreading airborne diseases.*) Consequently we won't be singing as a congregation initially.

Please check the church's COVID-19 webpage; (<http://olympicchurch.org/covid/>) for a collection of links to various research, descriptions, explainers and trackers.

## CRAFT FAIR

### Did You Get Creative Over The Lockdown?

***This is an excellent opportunity to spread some love, have some fun, and make a little cash for yourself. Here's how it works:***



- Sign up for a table by emailing: [ovsecretary@olympicchurch.org](mailto:ovsecretary@olympicchurch.org) by July 16.
- The church Requests a \$30 signup fee.
- Bring yourself and your sale items to the church social hall on Saturday, 7/31/2021.
- Setup begins at 9:30, doors open to the public at 10.
- You can sell anything that will fit on a dining table. In the past, we've sold jewelry, hats, toys, baked goods, art, candy, free-hand henna tattooing, place-mats, and "micro garage sales".
- When the fair ends at 4pm, we expect you to take any unsold items home with you.
- Please wear facemasks to keep unvaccinated customers and vendors safe and healthy.

### Olympic View Community Church Meeting Schedule!

BOOK CLUB	NORTH STAR
June 28	June 21
July 26	July 19
August 30	August 16



## GREETINGS FROM HIROSHIMA!

by Roger Edmark



Beyond that, we have also been immersed in the peace culture which is so much a part of WFC and Hiroshima. For almost two years we have read and discussed books about the A-bomb with our classes; attended vigils and remembrance services; explored the Peace Park Museum and other cultural, art, and history museums; listened to survivor (Hibakusha) stories; and watched movies about their horrific and profound loss. As emotional and sad as these stories are, they also hold out hope for a future that will never see another atomic bomb devastate any people again.

A disappointing aspect of the pandemic are the delayed or lost opportunities for people to come to Japan and to the World Friendship Center to experience Hiroshima and its culture of peace.

Despite the pandemic, we have enjoyed our time here. We have come to love the relationships and friendships we have developed. Venturing out to explore the city for an hour or more each day, we have toured all the Hiroshima city rivers, climbed the surrounding mountains, and explored several islands of the Seto Island Inland Sea. Through all that, we have come to love Hiroshima and its people.



Our replacement directors have been chosen, so, once they are allowed to enter Japan, we will complete our term. As much as it is exciting to come home to see family and friends face-to-face, it will be so hard to leave the friends we have grown close to over the last two years.

Peace,  
Roger and Kathy Edmark