

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

by Rev. Glenn A. Brumbaugh



Advent Reflection

The last year has been one full of change. Living through the COVID-19 pandemic has brought many changes to all of our lives. We've learned how to adapt to the many restrictions we've faced: wearing masks becoming a daily routine, learning how to work curbside pickup for many of our necessities, and finding new

ways to worship safely together. We've missed spending time with family and friends, and have lost friends and loved ones as well.

The church has undergone change as well. Our office staff figured out how to primarily work from home, and how to develop an online worship format, as well as livestream our in person worship on YouTube and Facebook. We've lost the presence of many of the groups who once used our space as they migrated to meeting online instead of in a physical space. But we've also added many new faces on Sunday mornings, with four different congregations

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

using our space on many Sunday mornings. Yet even as we returned to live worship on alternate Sundays, some are no longer able to return with us in person. Our congregation continues to explore what change we are being called to, and what it looks like to be the church in this new world in which we find ourselves.

This week we enter in the season of Advent. Advent traditionally marks the beginning of a new year in the church liturgical calendar. It is a time of waiting and preparation for change, and great transformation. As we anticipate the arrival of the Christ child and the radical transformation that event brings, what better time to also reflect on theme of change, not only at that first Christmas, but how that change continues to transform our lives together as Christ's body in this world today.

I hope you will be able to join us as we observe Advent over the next four Sundays at 11 AM as we gather each week in our sanctuary, culminating in our Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5 PM. As we

gather in this time of preparation and waiting during Advent, we will gradually prepare our sanctuary for Christmas by sharing fellowship as we decorate our worship space a little more each week, until it is fully ready Christmas Eve for Christ's arrival.

If you are unable to be with us in person, you can watch our livestream on:

YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIwyIUer_eFk6QVZ9XWTAjg

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/ovcob/live_videos/

May you take time over the coming weeks to reflect on the changes you've experienced, the transformation the Christ child brings, and the change you are called to as Christ's disciple in this world.

Blessings,

Pastor Glenn

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Meets via Zoom on Wednesday's at 3pm. Look for the email invitation in your mailbox.

If you are not on our email list:
Contact: ovsecretary@gmail.com
for the links if you are not on our email list.

BOOK GROUP

Meets Monday's at 7pm
Olympic View Community Church
in the library.
Also meets via Zoom.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

by Harriet Koscho

Thanks again to everybody who helped put together our Thanksgiving baskets for the Olympic View neighborhood!

We gave 70 families (including 300 people) everything they need to provide a traditional home-cooked meal, including roasting pans and instructions for stuffing and roasting a bird.



As usual, half of the families are at the Broadview Women's Shelter, and the other half go to families with children who attend Olympic View Elementary School.

Carmen Lao-Woo and Harriet Koscho organized the drive. Harriet worked with the school and got volunteers from all walks of life to help with shopping. Carmen asked local businesses to donate vegetables, fruit, and gift cards. The Olympic View School gave us money and they also connected with Sea Bend Meats to donate 32 3-pound whole chickens, which are perfect for smaller families.

We get volunteers to help shop Thanksgiving sales: free turkey with \$100 purchase? Let's go! Did you know you can get a 50-pound bag of fresh carrots at a restaurant supply store for \$10? It's too much for one family, but when we spread it out among 40 families, suddenly there's plenty of food for everyone. This is how we manage to provide so much goodness for so little money.



Thanks to everyone that helped: Kristi Morris, Lan Zhang, Eileen Birky, Gabrielle Toutonghi, Carmen Lao-Woo, Aaron Lao-Woo; Emilee, Lyndon, and Raiah; Shannon Williams, Kiausherae Jones, Jordan, Glenn Brumbaugh; Crystal, Sabrina, Kylie, and Melissa from Olympic View Elementary; and finally Sprouts, Sea Bend Meat, Fred Meyer, Lenny's Produce HT, Market, Grocery Outlet, QFC, and Fred Meyer.



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