

The Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
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DEDICATION SERVICE

by Moderator - Roger Edmark Olympic View Community Church



On July 26th, 2026, the congregation gathered at our remodeled building on the campus of Northaven, to dedicate the building as a place of worship and ministry for the church. John Braun, current participant, and a previous pastor of Olympic View, was asked to preside over the dedication. Howard Ullery joined us and brought greetings from the rest of the Pacific Northwest District. It was almost 79 years to the day that Olympic View dedicated its last building just a mile south in the Maple Leaf District of Seattle.

Elements of worship were carried from Northaven's Harbor Room to our new worship space. Harriet brought the banner; Serene the candles; Kelly and Matthew the Bible; and Taushie the cross. Each was put in place as symbols of making this space a set apart place for the church. Perhaps most important were the 30 people that came for the dedication, because it is the people that make it a church. I am reminded of a children's song that states that so well.

*I am the church!
You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!*

We then carried 'holy water' to all parts of the building to bless the entire building and how it will be used by the congregation to further the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together. Something is holy when its purpose is to "set it apart, make it sacred, and for it to be used for good". The special significance of this water was that we poured a small vial of water from the Eder River in Germany gathered by Stephanie Herkelrath, a member when the Church of the Brethren had its 300th anniversary in 2008. The river is where the denominational founders led by Alexander Mack, were baptized as a confession of faith (believer's baptism). Being rebaptized was actually illegal at that time and many Anabaptists were persecuted which eventually resulted in the Church of the Brethren (they were called Dunkers at that time) relocating to the USA.

When we were developing our Congregational Profile and asked the congregation to help determine goals for the church, having a set apart place for ministry was high on the list. Though we love meeting together in the Harbor Room of Northaven for

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D.E.A.C.E

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Velda Braun's Birthday Celebration!

Photo's by Mike Helmuth

"Not only did our country celebrate a milestone of 250 years on July 4th, but one of our own, Velda Braun did too with her 90th birthday. The whole church was invited, and all that could come had a wonderful day for celebration" Congratulations from the church!



Above: Velda, Jana and baby

Below: Bill, John, Velda and Sylvia

Right: Cathy and Velda



Getting to Know Mariela Perez de La Torre

by Roger Edmark

Many of you may not know Mariela Perez de La Torre, the person that keeps the inside of our church building looking good. We hired Mariela as our housekeeper back in June of 2025. With all of the construction activity going on in the building over the last year, it has been a challenge for her to keep it as clean and tidy as possible. In interviewing her, I asked her a few questions so you could get to know her.

Question: How did you get connected with OVCC?

"I first connected with OVCC in 2025 after my manager told me that OVCC was looking for someone to help out and clean the church."

Question: Would you tell us a little about yourself?

"I grew up in Mexico, in a little town called Acatic, Jalisco. I came to Seattle in 2001 when I was 20 years old with my husband. I've spent the majority of my life raising my three kids here in Seattle."

"I started working at Northaven in 2008 as a housekeeper. In 2012 I returned to Mexico for a year and when I came back to Seattle in 2013, I returned to Northaven but this time I became a CNA after getting my license. Over the past decade I've had the privilege to work with a great team."

"I enjoy working with the residents and learning about their lives."

"In my free time I like to go on walks and watch movies with my family."

Question: What do you like about living in the Pacific Northwest?

"My favorite part of living in PNW is the beautiful parks. I like all the nature like the trees and the water that surrounds the area."

Question: Is there anything else you would like to share?

"Over the past year as the church's housekeeper, I've enjoyed watching the church grow and accommodate more of its community." *Thank you Mariela!*

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Sat. Aug 1

Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Sun. Aug 2

Bring food for the Northaven Pantry

Wed. Aug 6

Hiroshima to Hope - Green Lake 6-9pm

Sat. Aug 15

Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Tues. Aug 18

Leadership Meeting at 7pm on Zoom

Sun. Aug 22

Northaven Picnic 11 -2pm

Sun. Aug 22

OV Open House 1-2:30pm

Tues. Aug 25

Book Group 3:30pm

"The Finder of Forgotten Things"

Sat. Aug 29

Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Delegate Report on the 239th Recorded Annual Conference

Fort Wayne, IN June 28-July 2, 2026

by Gretchen Zience

Imagine! (Acts 2:17-18)

I've been to quite a few of our church's Annual Conferences, and they are always a wonderful, uplifting experience. The Program and Arrangements Committee plans the event and spends many, many hours throughout the year to make conference a success. In the introduction to our conference book, our moderator, Rev. Don Fitzkee, expressed the following regarding the conference theme, "Imagine!":

"When I was a young man leaving for a year abroad, a mentor encouraged me to 'remember who you are.' Could it be that the key to envisioning a way forward for the church is to remember where we've come from? Rather than something entirely new, what may be needed are renewed dreams and restored vision as we reclaim themes like radical discipleship, commitment to our New Testament creed, caring community, humble service, and nonviolent peacemaking."

He went on to say, "The second verse of the hymn, 'What is this place' suggests that 'dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are what we need.' What's old can be new again. Imagine!" (This is the hymn we sang on Sunday when we dedicated our new church!)

This report from your delegate to Annual Conference provides you with conference highlights. At the end of this report I am including a link to a video that provides a conference wrap-up.

Annual Conference is organized to include hours of business sessions; one in the morning and one in the afternoon for 2 and ½ days. We conducted the usual church business, received church agency reports, worshipped together, heard outstanding music, and received church committee reports. One highlight early in the conference schedule was receiving

one new fellowship and one new church plant into our denomination.

The business this year was lighter than the normal conference business. In fact, on the second day, we suspended the usual business and instead had a "Morning of Sparking, Stirring, and Serving" where attendees could participate in equipping sessions, networking groups, and service projects to benefit our host city, Fort Wayne, IN.

Below, I'm listing some highlights of conference, then I address the business items.

- The night before conference officially began on Monday, June 29, we had a special get together of "Western Brethren." Those of us who are west of the Mississippi gathered for a time of fellowship and connection. We were from seven western districts: Northern Plains, Southern Plains, Western Plains, Missouri/Arkansas, Idaho, Pacific Northwest (Olympic View's district), and Pacific Southwest.
- The Brethren seminary, Bethany Theological Seminary, announced that because of the success of their recent fundraising campaign and donations, they will offer tuition-free classes to all students.
- Eder Financial announced that they are looking for ways to partner with Everence Financial of the Mennonite Church in order to support the long-term viability of the organization's products and services.
- Free virtual access to conference business sessions was provided courtesy of Pacific Northwest District and Living Stream Church (an online congregation in our district).

Below is a list of all the business items. There is not room here to describe each, but please contact me if you would like more information.

Unfinished Business (UB)

UB1.1 Review and Evaluation Committee Report. This committee is formed in the 5th year of each decade and makes their final report in the 7th year. The committee chose to make an interim report to the delegates. The committee is called o review and evaluate the organizational structures and procedures of the Church of the Brethren (COB). They have been assigned 12 Review and Evaluation Tasks.

New Business (NB)

NB1. Resolution on Weapons Transfer. The COB has consistently been opposed to all forms of warmaking. Given the current state of U.S. weapons production and transfers, the church should examine and respond to the impacts of the arms industry.

NB2. Recommendations for Adjustments to the 2014 Ministerial Leadership Paper.

NB3. Resolution—Walking Together: Immigration, Peacemaking, Conscience, and Supporting Our Neighbors. One statement in the resolution: We reaffirm that the church's care for immigrants and refugees is not optional, but a core Christian ethical commitment rooted in love of neighbor, justice, and faithfulness to Christ. The paper identified Calls to Action for individuals, congregations, districts, and the denomination. (It should be noted that our Pacific Northwest District is reviewing and intends to respond to their calls for action. Our church's Leadership Team is also reviewing the calls for congregation action.)

NB 4. Recommended Cost of Living Adjustment to Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors

The denomination has provided much information about Annual Conference this link: Annual Conference. David Sollenberger, a past Annual Conference moderator and well-known Brethren film maker, provided a wrap-up video that summarizes the main activities,

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BRIDGES OF HOPE

by Roger Edmark

The church received the summer edition of the Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) quarterly called "Bridges". As I read the articles throughout the 12-page booklet, there was no end to the ways people of the Church of the Brethren are helping people in need.

Perhaps it is sad to some of you that disasters of many kinds keep affecting people all over the globe. We do not want to see people homeless and helpless due to natural disasters, wars and global conflicts that touch peoples lives someplace in the world every day. It is encouraging that the Church of the Brethren, in coordination with many other organizations, is working constantly to help those people. But having a structure of organizations to help people does not happen without volunteers like us willing to do the work, and our donations.

We, the church, are called by Jesus to help those in need, In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus concludes with these words: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for

one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

I do not think Jesus could make it any clearer to us – we are called to help others. Perhaps one of the ministries of BDM (which includes Children's Disaster Ministries), is where you should be serving or supporting. Perhaps at this stage of your life, all you can do is pray. Then that is what you should do. Here is the link to BDM: Brethren Disaster Ministries – Brethren Disaster Ministries focuses on rebuilding homes, caring for children, and providing international relief

<https://www.brethren.org/bdm/>

I looked up what it means to be the "hands and feet of Jesus". This is what I found: "actively living out Christ's love and serving the marginalized, showing radical compassion, and meeting physical and emotional needs in your daily life."

After the parable of the Good Samaritan, who helped the one left by the roadside in great need, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." (Luke 12:23).

That about sums it up!

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worship, it was recognized that the church itself is much more than just a place where we worship together. Having an inviting place with offices, classroom space, storage space, gathering space and a worship center not requiring weekly set up and break down was also very important for the effective ministry of the church.

We are very excited to have the church dedicated for ministry as we move forward with so many other ways to be in ministry in our neighborhood, community, and all over the world.

Annual Conference cont. from page 3

decisions, and organization of this annual conference. Here is a link to access this video:

A C Wrap Up 2026 mp4.

<https://tinyurl.com/ye253wm6>

We also have available digital copies of all conference sermons and devotions or you can access the sermons at this link:

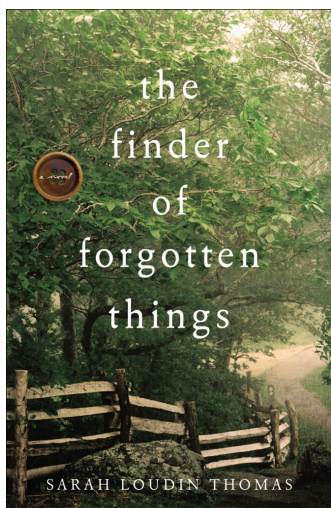
<https://www.brethren.org/ac2026/webcasts/>.

Next year's Annual Conference will be held in Daytona Beach, FL; Jul 28-Aug 1, 2027.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our church as your delegate to the 2026 Annual Conference.

Book Group Meets 4th Tuesday of the Month at 3:30

by Harriet Koscho



We're currently reading "*The Finder of Forgotten Things*" by Sarah Loudin Thomas.

This is a story of rural West Virginia in the Great Depression. Times are very hard, and there's a huge project underway to dig a tunnel under Gauley Mountain. The working conditions are terrible. At least it's a job - but why is everybody getting sick? Parts of this story are true, but we'll leave it up to you to decide if a Y-shaped dowsing rod will help find water (or other underground things.)

We'll finish this book on August 25 @3:30
September book: *Stride Towards Freedom* - Martin Luther King, Jr.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Meets via Zoom every
1st & 3rd Saturday
3-4pm

Meeting ID: 852 3609 1295
Passcode: 601582

Look for the email
invitations in your mailbox.