

The Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
tel. 206.525.8900 • olympicchurch.org • email: ovsecretary@gmail.com

LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

by Moderator - Roger Edmark Olympic View Community Church

Olympic View Congregation,

Thessalonians 5:16-18 says “Rejoice always, pray continually; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” We have much to rejoice about and to be thankful for.

After the congregation sold the old church building in November of 2023, we set out together to change the direction of the church. We hired Debbie Eisenbise as our transitional pastor, a process which took about a year culminating with the Congregational Profile being sent to the Church of the Brethren in March of 2025.

Debbie explained to us that a church is either growing, standing still or closing its doors. She asked us which church did we want to be? We choose to set a new course towards growth in ministry. New ministry five-year goals were set and we have accomplished most of those during the first year since we finalized the Congregational Profile. We just updated the “Profile” and sent the new version to be posted soon with the Church of the Brethren.

One of our goals was to settle on a permanent pastor after Glen needed to leave. That has not yet happened, but we were very blessed to find good speakers to fill the pulpit as well as an interim pastor, Jonny Finlayson, to serve at OVCC for about two years.

Another major accomplishment was to purchase the “green” church building and get it remodeled. It was a clear goal of the church to have our own set apart place and I think we are all happy to see the remodeling moving towards completion.

Financially, in spite of a tumultuous time of estimating budgets during transition, we can be thankful that the church has faithfully met all of its obligations in 2024, 2025 and thus far in 2026 while also being generous in outreach.

It is good to reflect on what we have accomplished, but now, I would like for us to look forward! What do we need to do today to grow in ministry in the future? That will be one of the focuses when we meet together at our regular General Assembly meeting after church on Sunday, June 14. See you there in person or on Zoom! Rejoice and be Thankful!



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE



The New Olympian
Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
P.O. Box 75032
Seattle WA 98175

Getting to Know Jeanne Rempel

It's 2026 and I am the visitation pastor for Olympic View. I'd like to share how I got here.

Back in 1998, I was a part time pastor for a Mennonite house church in Southern California (Mennonites are very similar in beliefs/traditions as the Brethren). I had also previously been part of a West Coast Mennonite church committee that John Braun, a former OV pastor, was also a member of. He visited me in Southern California at some point and found out that I had stopped my MDiv studies to pay for my oldest daughter's college expenses. John, being John, came up with an idea. I could move up to Seattle, become a pastoral intern for Olympic View and finish my MDiv at Seattle University. It was a huge idea! How could I move up to Washington, either with or without my family, with one child in college, two still in high school? It seemed crazy and impossible to me, but John left it out there as an offer for me to think and pray about. It continued to be an impossible idea and then suddenly, something shifted. I thought, "I think I have to go." I tested it with my husband, Dennis, thinking he would talk me out of it. He didn't. I talked to trusted leadership at church. They agreed it seemed like God's leading. I found myself talking to John about what it would take to get me up to Seattle. In March 1998 Dennis and I drove up with some of my things to Seattle. I would start out staying with various church families until we got other details worked out and somehow, they all eventually did.

I loved my Seattle U classes and my internship with OV was an amazing time for me. I met person after couple after family who opened their homes and hearts to me. They/you were so supportive and sincere and fun! They invited me to all the Friends events, which introduced me to so many beautiful places in the Pacific Northwest. I got to do such interesting things at church, like starting a book club, taking seniors on all sorts of fun outings (including a Mariners game or two in 2000). I had my choice of becoming the church organist and finding a choir director or becoming the choir director and hiring an organist. I ended up finding a pianist/organist and had the most fun ever learning how to direct a choir. Who knew that raising my arms and encouraging people to sing together could be such a wonderful experience? There was a death in the congregation not long after I arrived. John was out of town, but Bob Mays was still an active member, and he mentored me how to support the family and lead an appropriate memorial service. He also mentored me in many other ways. I was there when he declined so quickly and I was able to support him and Joyce and the family during those intense and difficult days. While at Olympic View, I was also ordained. I received so much support from the district. Neither before or since have I experienced a group of pastors who were so genuine in their faith and humble in who they were as children of God/leaders of their congregations.

My internship eventually came to an end, and I ended up pastoring a Mennonite congregation of my own in Kirkland. Eventually I became a hospice and then a hospital chaplain until retirement. I never forgot the support of the Olympic View congregation, though, and a couple of years ago, when OV leadership asked if I would consider becoming the visitation pastor for those OV members who could no longer attend OV, it was not hard to say yes. I've had opportunity to support several of the same people who supported me back in days of my internship. It has been such a blessing to me. I trust that I have also been a blessing to Olympic View.

Jeanne Rempel and her husband Dennis have three children and five and a half grandchildren (due date August). Before coming to live in Seattle, Jeanne and Dennis served in Burkina Faso from 1978 to 1986 with Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission and the Mennonite Church. Jeanne currently enjoys participating in the OV book club.

CALENDAR FOR JUNE

Sat. June 6

Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Sun. June 7

Bring food for the Northaven Pantry

Tues. June 9

Leadership Meeting at 7pm on Zoom

Sun. June 14

General Assembly
After church

Sat. June 20

Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Sun. June 21

Communion Sunday.

Tues. June 23

Book Club 3:30 pm

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays 7-8 pm

We will be studying the book of John in June. After that we will be on hiatus for the summer break.

Meeting ID: 880 4042 6488
Passcode: 390082

2026 Annual Conference



Every year, around the end of June—first of July, the Church of the Brethren has its Annual Conference, a five-day gathering that includes delegates elected by Brethren churches around the United States

as well as folks who attend as non-delegates, exhibitors, special guests, musicians, children of all ages, and more. This year's conference will be the 239th recorded meeting of the Brethren and will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Conference includes business sessions and many workshops organized and led by church agencies (like Brethren Disaster Ministries and On Earth Peace); affiliated educational institutions like Bethany Theological Seminary; and many others. A highlight of conference are the worship services held every evening.

The theme this year is “Imagine! A Morning of Sparking, Stirring and Serving” based on Acts 2:17-18. The annual conference moderator, Don Fitzkee, explains the theme:

“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.”

I will be representing Olympic View at the conference as your delegate. After the conference concludes, I will provide a report to you regarding the business items that we addressed. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about this important meeting of our denomination.

In Christ, Gretchen Zience - zienceg@gmail.com

Opportunity to Attend Annual Conference Virtually for Free!!

Thanks to generous contributions from the Living Stream Church of the Brethren (COB) and the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD), COB is able to offer the virtual option to attend Annual Conference at no charge for 2026. This gives non-delegates the opportunity to engage in business, participate in a number of equipping sessions, and enjoy the Wednesday evening concert featuring Brethren musicians—all virtually.

All virtual participants must still register between March 4 and June 23. Virtual attendees are encouraged to make a donation to Annual Conference as an expression of appreciation. Go to www.brethren.org/ac2026/registration and select Virtual Non-Delegate Registration.

This is an opportunity for all those who might wish to attend conference, yet cannot swing it logistically or financially, to still participate...as well as for those who might wonder what Annual Conference is really all about to actually take a peek and join in, without committing a week for travel and hotel and meal costs. People can join for a session or two, attend worship services, watch the concert... and also have access to the recordings of all those events. (Please note that anyone can watch only the worship services for free without this virtual registration option.)

Why this is important: Our goal is to unite the church, increasing communication and fellowship across the denomination, by opening it up to as many people as possible through removing barriers to virtual access. Further, if virtual attendance is high, we will have demonstrated that there is indeed a desire across the denomination to continue providing virtual access to Annual Conference, and so it will become more accessible. Yet the opposite is also true: if virtual attendance is low, we will have learned that making Annual Conference accessible in this way may not be worth the effort in its current form.

We're trying to get the word out, because we hope that every Brethren will be able to consider this invitation. We would be delighted for more folks to participate in Annual Conference, whether in person or virtually!

BOOK GROUP

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

(Part 2 - second half)

by Jamie Ford

<https://olympicchurch.org/2026/03/25/book-group-2026/>

Meets every 4th Tuesday 3:30 - 5 pm

Meeting ID: 857 2403 5342

Passcode: 309318

World Friendship Center Visitors

by Roger Edmark

In 2023, four guests from the World Friendship Center came to Northaven to share their stories about Hiroshima and the atomic bomb with the church. They also visited the Seattle Peace Park in the U District to see the Sadako statue (see photo). It was shortly after that visit, that someone took the statue. Sadako, who was folding 1000 cranes, passed away due to the effects of radiation sickness after the A-bomb was detonated above Hiroshima. Today, the Hiroshima Peace Park receives thousands and thousands of paper cranes by groups dedicated to peace and the elimination of nuclear bombs, just because of this one small girl.



Stand Up & Sing Out for Peace Mike Stern & Friends Benefit Concert Sadako Renewal Project



Friday,
June 12, 2026
7:00 pm

Join this community effort to replace the Sadako statue, renew the park & promote world peace.

Suggested donation
\$10-25

University Friends Meeting House
4001 9th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105
Info: jbetzall@yahoo.com

About Mike's music: www.mikesongs.net



Louise Brodie
Fumi Tagata
Kathy Howell

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.