

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

Words Aren't Always Cheap

by Rev. Jonny Finlayson

On the first Sunday of February, directly after church, we had a special opportunity. Members of our church were invited to bless the apartments of three Northaven Residents. We walked to their apartments as a group, gathered in their living rooms, and pray simple prayers for peace, community, faith and love for all who live in and enter the spaces.

Words can be cheap. Words can be misleading. Words can be worthless. We know that all too well in this current season of empty words and broken promises. But the prayers we prayed last Sunday were not empty. Ask anyone who came, and they'll tell you. There was something incredibly meaningful about the words we used. They were meaningful because we didn't force them upon the hearers; they were asked for. They were meaningful because they were humble, and not self-aggrandizing. They were meaningful because they reflected the truth and love of Christ. They were meaningful because they represented a church that already had a footprint of blessing in the Northaven community. I speak too many cheap words, fleeting words, words that fade and

are forgotten. Sometimes I am guilty of speaking words that are ill-timed, spoken out of sin, or truth spoken thoughtlessly. But that doesn't mean that all words are like that. The words spoken last Sunday were fitting words. Wise words. Capturing the truth of the moment and meeting the need for love. The words that I, and others, spoke were certainly a blessing to others. But even more than that it was a privilege and a blessing to be able to speak them. Thank you to those who invited us to speak. Thank you to all who came to participate. Thank God for continuing to instruct us with his Word to make our words reflective of his character. In Christ, Pastor Jonny



Above: Harriet, Serene and Taushie



On these pages:

- 2. Pastoral Search Process Report
- Getting to Know Jonny Finlayson
- 3. Brethren Men's Retreat at Camp Myrtlewood in Oregon
- 4. Outreach Giving
- Holy Week Schedule March Calendar



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Pastoral Search Process Report

by Roger Edmark

Many of you are probably wondering where we are in the search for a full-time pastor. First, we should acknowledge how blessed we are that Jonny Finlayson has continued to be our interim pastor over the last 21 months. Though Jonny thinks his best fit is as our interim pastor, that has not tempered his enthusiasm to preach and to get to know all of you. As they say, Jonny is “all in” in developing relationships and growing in his ministry to the church.

There are two approaches to finding a minister for our church. The usual way in the Church of the Brethren (CoB) denomination is to develop a Congregational Profile and get it submitted to the CoB denomination. Pastors can then search the database and submit their name if interested. We submitted our profile one year ago, and are now updating it to be resubmitted.

The second way is much less informal. It involves connecting with organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest to let them know we are searching for a pastor. To do this, we have fine-tuned a flyer that explains this opportunity. We have also brainstormed a list of many organizations to contact about our search. We are attaching the flyer link in this report because you might have a connection we do not have.

Flyer: <https://olympicchurch.org/careers/>

The effort of all of us is necessary to cast as wide a net as possible to get the word out, but the timing is up to God. Isaiah 40:31 says “...but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint”. There is a blessing when we wait upon the lord with patience. Amen!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Meets via Zoom on Thursday's
at 8pm.

Topic - Book of John

Look for the email
invitation in your mailbox.

Getting to Know Jonny Finlayson

by Roger Edmark

At Olympic View Community Church, we are privileged to have six staff members contracted to help in the ministry of the church. Over the next few months, we will interview each of them.

Our Interim Pastor, Jonny Finlayson, has been worshiping with us since January 2024 when he first filled the pulpit. In June of 2024 he accepted the call to be our interim pastor, a position he still fills today. You can find Jonny regularly on Sunday mornings as he leads our worship, but also in the church office during the week, usually on Monday and Wednesday's.

Q: What year did you first connect in some way with OVCC?

“I met Pastor Glenn, Sylvia, and Anita from OVCC in 2023, when the church planting ministry I was leading at the time rented the old church building for services.”

Q: Tell us a little about your story. What brought you to the Pacific Northwest and what do you like to do with your free time?

“I grew up in Toronto, Canada, until I moved to Philadelphia when I was 27 years old for Seminary. While there I met and married my wife, Lauren, who is originally from the Northwest. I ended up in Seattle partly because she wanted to come back to the area, but also because I had the opportunity to come on staff of a church here in the city in 2020. Some skills God has given me the grace and resources to develop over the years are preaching, listening, and discipleship. My pastoral training has prepared me well to study and understand Scripture, and it is my honor and privilege to use that training to preach the Word every week. In my free time I enjoy running, spending time outside, enjoying a good coffee, and spending time with my wife and kids. I like a lot about the PNW. One particular thing - that I think goes unmentioned too often - is the deep and vibrant green. There's nothing quite like it anywhere else.”

Q: Finally, is there anything else that you want to share about your relationship with the church. Perhaps your current calling to serve the “church” through OVCC.

I have enjoyed getting to know the Anabaptist and Brethren tradition through Olympic View. I have gained an appreciation for the heritage of humble love and service in those traditions, but especially as Olympic View has carried that torch. The legacy of care and service that has been left in North Seattle by the church over the years is beautiful, and I hope and pray that it continues for many more! I am thankful that God has me here right now, helping OVCC in this season of transition. Thanks Jonny

Brethren Men's Retreat at Camp Myrtlewood in Oregon

by Roger Edmark

The Men's retreat which was first started in February 1992, has been gathering each year in February for 35 years now. It tried to alternate between Camp Koinonia and Camp Myrtlewood in the early years, but eventually settled on being at Camp Myrtlewood each year. If you have never been to Camp Myrtlewood, someday you should. The Camp is in Myrtle Point Oregon in the Southern Oregon coastal range. The 158-acre forested setting is on Myrtle Creek and has been there since 1936. Men's Retreat is a relaxing event that does not require you to do anything, but also provides opportunities to hike, learn, listen, sing, talk, eat, play and gather with friends each year. As you can see from the photo, Roger, Frosty and Ella, the dog, went this year.



Above: Roger and Frosty and Ella - **Below:** Everyone at the retreat



ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

An alternative way to chat and hear from our friends when we may not be able to be at church every Sunday to see each other in person.

Look for the email invitation in your mailbox.

Every other
Saturday at 3pm

Outreach Giving

Olympic View Community Church has historically committed 10% of our giving as a church towards outreach ministries. As you can see below, we were able to meet that commitment in 2025. It is important to be accountable and transparent with the trust placed in us to meet the needs of the neighborhood, community, nation and world, but at the same time, we recognize that it is “God who works in you (us) to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purposes.” (Phil 2:13 NIV)

Outreach Giving (Designated Donations) Total 2025

Date	Type	Amt
Feb. 2025	Brethren Volunteer Service On-Earth Peace	\$300 \$200.
May 2025	PNW District Disaster Relief Northaven Gala Table	\$100. \$1000.
Oct. 2-25	Crop Walk	\$745.
Nov. 2025	Thanksgiving Baskets	\$896
Dec. 2025	New Community Project PNW District Disaster Relief	\$500. \$500.
Total		4241.
Outreach Giving (Church through Budget)		
Date	Type	Amt
Jan 1-Dec 31	Northaven	\$12,000.
Jan 1-Dec 31	Pacific NW District	\$2,400
Total		14,400.

2025 10% Giving Goal based on approved budget of \$134,690	\$13,469
2025 10% Giving Goal based on actual expenses of \$160,600	\$16,060
Total Outreach Giving for 2025	\$18,641

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sun. March 29 - 11am

Palm Sunday

Thurs. April 2 6:30 pm

Maundy Thursday

Love Feast & Footwashing - a simple re-enactment of the Last Supper with a light meal and communion

Sun. April 5 - 11am

Easter

Bring appetizers to share

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday March 1 - 11am

Bring food to the church for the pantry

Tues. March 3 - 6 pm

Search Committee

Thurs March - 8 pm

Bible Study.

Tues. March 10 - 8 pm

Leadership Meeting via Zoom

Sat. March 14 - 3 pm

Coffee hour via Zoom

Sun. March. 22 - 11 am

Communion Sunday

Thurs. March 26

Bible Study on Zoom at 8 pm

Sat. March 28 - 3 pm

Coffee hour via Zoom

~ First Sunday of the month ~

**Bring a pantry item to share for Northaven residents
to the church service!**

Examples: canned food items, boxed meals (ex: mac n cheese) , peanut butter, bread or rolls - etc.
beverages, fresh produce (ex: apples, banana's, salad) Something easy to fix on those days
Northaven isn't serving meals. Thank you!