The New Olympian September 2026

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

Calling Norm Underland to Olympic View Community Church

by Roger Edmark - Moderator



We have exciting news to share with you!

On Sunday, August 16, the congregation affirmed the Search Committee's recommendation to call Norm Underland as our full-time pastor. A few days later, Sylvia Hershberger, our church Clerk, and Roger Edmark, Church Moderator, sat with Norm to discuss specifics of a contract and then asked Norm if he wanted to accept the call – he said "Yes"!

So it is with great joy that we get to inform you that Norm Underland will be starting as our full-time pastor on September 1st with regular office hours and dedicated time in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. His first Sunday to preach will be on Sunday, September 13th. That service will also be the first worship service in the remodeled church building.

As part of the search process, we sent Norm the Congregational Profile, which is a 24-page document that explains everything about the church: its mission, goals, structure, demographics, history, etc.

Here was Norm's response after reading it:

"I love this. It is everything I have wanted to see in a community of faith. The heart for all people in the neighborhood, the desire to love God and neighbor as fully as possible, it is what "church" should be in my opinion. Such a beautiful expression of loving the way Jesus wants us to love. I would be honored to be a part of what you are doing and dreaming there in Northgate."

Please come meet and help us welcome Norm and his family at 11:00 AM on Sunday September 13 as we worship together in the new church worship space at 11049 8th Ave NE in Seattle. If you are unable to attend, you can watch on-line via YouTube or Facebook.

On these pages:

2. Brethren Connections

Crop Walk

September Calendar

3. Olympic View Open House

4. Bible Study Restarts

Book Group

Zoom Coffee Hour

P·E·A·C·E

PLACE STAMP HERE

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

Brethren Connections

by Roger Edmark

We are instructed by Jesus to "Love your Neighbor as yourselves" (Matthew 22:37-39). Loving and caring for our neighbor needs to be an intentional activity. When we find ways to listen, care for, and support others in big and small ways, we make connections that change lives.

From July 30 to August 8, ten young adults from the Pacific Northwest, all of them 21- to 35-year-old emerging leaders in the abolition of nuclear weapons, were in Hiroshima Japan at the World Friendship Center (WFC). There, they immersed themselves in learning from hibakusha (survivors) testimonies about the atomic bomb detonated above Hiroshima 81 years ago. They listened, considered their role in peace, and made plans to become emerging leaders by taking action!

You might wonder what this has to do with COB connections. Let me tell you!

Kathy and I were the co-directors of WFC from August of 2019 to April of 2022. We found out about WFC as a place to serve when we attended an insight session sponsored by Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) at a Church of the Brethren Annual Conference back in 2005. We identified with WFC's motto – "fostering peace, one friend at a time." It was from that connection, that we eventually were called to serve at WFC.

When we returned to the states in 2022, we found out about an organization, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR), which had created a coalition of anti-nuclear organizations in the Pacific Northwest (many are faith based), which is called 'Northwest Against Nuclear Weapons' (NANW). We encouraged the American Committee (AC) of WFC, which we also joined when we returned, to join the coalition, which they did.

The relationship between WPSR and the AC of WFC was further strengthened when Sean Arent, the NANW Coalition Manager, joined a PAX (Peace Ambassador EXchange) Team of four anti-nuclear and peace activists that the AC sent to Japan in 2024. Kathy and Roger were the traveling host for the group as they traveled to Kyoto, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The program to send 10 young adults to Hiroshima, called the "David C, Hall Emerging Leaders Program," emerged after the PAX trip and is sponsored by WPSR, the AC of WFC and several other organizations, one of which is our own Pacific Northwest District of the Church of the Brethren.

"Loving your neighbor" is not just a catchy phrase Jesus told us to say, but rather an active embodiment of ministry which requires relationships and connections. Every connection makes a difference. So, make them and foster them! You never know what connection might change your life or the lives of others because, every connection matters!

Crop Walk

Walk around Green Lake to fight hunger with Church World Service!

We donate $20 for each person who walks with us!

Sign up for the Olympic View CROP walk team here:

https://tinyurl.com/OVHungerWalk

The walk begins at Green Lake United Methodist Church,
6415 1st Ave NE in Seattle on October 4.

On-site registration opens at 12:30 p.m. The walk around the lake begins at 1 p.m.



Calendar for September

Sat. Sept. 5
Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Sun. Sept. 6
Bring food for the Northaven Pantry

Tues. Sept. 8
Leadership Meeting at 7pm on Zoom

Thurs. Sept. 17
Bible Study 7-9 pm

Sat. Sept. 19
Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Sun. Sept. 20
Confirmation Sunday

Tues. Sept. 22
Book Group 3:30pm
"*Stride towards Freedom*"

Sat. Sept. 29
Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Olympic View Open House Aug 22, 2026

Photographer - Mike Helmuth

We had an open house of our newly remodeled building on Saturday, August 22. It followed the Northaven Summer Picnic, which was earlier that day.

It was great to see so many people come by and see the new space for the church. It is the culmination of a lot of volunteer hours and a great group of contractors. They all did an amazing job! Enjoy the photos of the event. We hope to see you soon in our new church.



Above: Serene and Daiva

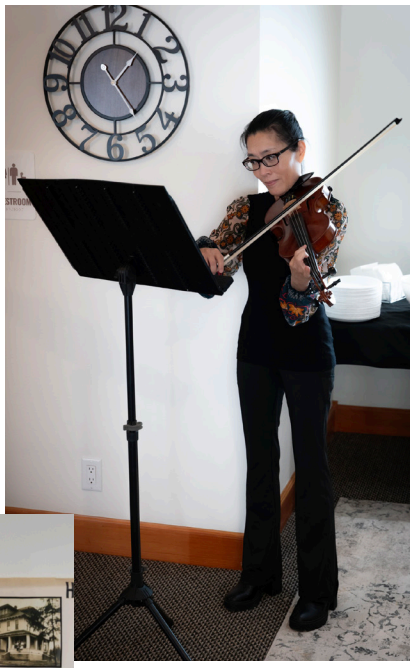


Above: Bill, Harriet and Jeanne



Left: Left to Right: AJ, Kathleen, Margurite, Sylvia and Virginia

Below: Kathy Edmark



Above: Annie Center, providing ambient music.



Below: Sylvia and Jana



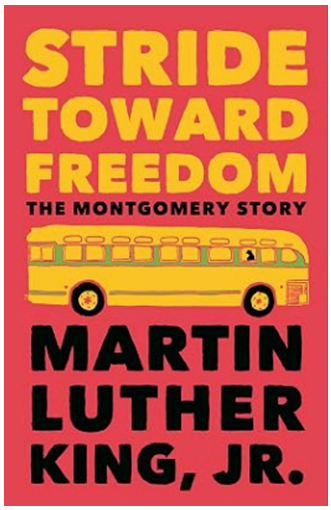


Right: Darren, one of the contractors and Harriet



Book Group Meets Tuesday September 22nd

by Harriet Koscho



Our next book is the eyewitness account of a very important historical event.

It begins with a young pastor working on his Doctorate of Divinity who is filling "pulpit supply" for a church in Alabama while going to visit his family over the Christmas holidays.

The church asks him to apply as their permanent pastor. He has to think about it, because he has five job offers - two churches in the north, two colleges in the north, and this one church in Birmingham, Alabama.

A lot is going to happen. He doesn't see it coming. He *IS* prepared in a way because he's a black man in the deep south. But he didn't have any idea how much this community would change America. The young pastor is Martin Luther King, Jr., and this book is written to try to explain some of these things to the general public, so he is careful in his wording. But oh, how well he chose his words, even at the age of 27!

While the nature of this account causes me to make frequent use of the pronoun "I", in every important part of the story it should be "we."~ from the Preface

It's very short book, but we'll take two months to read it anyhow. The first session will cover the Introduction through page 95. Let Harriet know if you would like a copy of the book.

BOOK GROUP

Booklist 2026-2027

Stride Towards Freedom
https://www.google.com/books/edition/Stride_Toward_Freedom/vnJ1NY5mbXEC

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Kreuger
https://williamkentkrueger.com/standalone/ordinary-grace/

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom
https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Hiding_Place/joBvPwAACAAJ?hl=En

Before the Coffee Gets Cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi
https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/literary/before-the-coffee-gets-cold-guide

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

Meets every 4th Tuesday 3:30 - 5 pm
Meeting ID: 857 2403 5342
Passcode: 309318

Bible Study Restarts September 17th!

by Roger Edmark

Bible Study will restart on Thursday, September 17 at 7 pm. Pastor Norm will lead the study and we will start by studying the book of James, Chapter 1.

The study will be on Zoom, but for those that want to gather in person, come to the church to join.

Here is how it works:
Each week an email including a link is sent to your email address on record with the church, to notify you when Bible Study is happening and how to join Zoom. Contact the church office if you are not getting regular emails about Bible Study. We may not have your correct email address. You can contact the office via email ovsecretary@gmail.com or leave a message at 206-525-8900.

Or just show up at the church a little before 7 pm on Thursday evening to join from there.

Remember, Bible Study will restart on September 17 at 7 pm.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

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.