The New Olympian October 2026

The Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
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Jesus in the Neighborhood

by Pastor Norm Underland



This weekend the memory of a conversation I had with a young church planter many years back popped into my head. His denomination had sent him to the Pacific Northwest with the express goal of "bringing Jesus to the people of Seattle". I couldn't quite place it at the time, but something about that noble ideal didn't sit right with me. It wasn't until just a few years ago, while doing my own community engagement work, that I figured out why. In many mission circles we can romanticize the notion that we are "bringing Jesus" to a place, a people, where Jesus isn't already known. However, we run the danger of thinking we are bringing Him to a place (or people) where Jesus is not already at work. I never spoke with that planter after our brief conversation but through a mutual acquaintance I heard that about a year later he had packed it up and gone back home because their efforts had not yielded the fruit the denomination had hoped for. I personally believe that part of the lack of harvest had to do with starting their mission with an incomplete picture of the field into which they were being sent. The reality is that this planter wasn't "bringing Jesus" anywhere. Jesus was already here in Seattle long before the church planter arrived. Jesus was already at work in this place, and in the hearts of the people, before his denomination scraped together the funds to send this (very well meaning) person to the PNW.

What brought this memory to mind was the vision statement printed across the report that was handed out by the CoB Mission representative sent to share with our district on Saturday:

"Jesus in the neighborhood"

I believe the goal of any ministry should be to take a moment, maybe even a very long moment, and ask God to reveal where they are already at work in the place and people that ministry is trying to reach. All too often churches, organizations, or individuals feel like they have to come up with the "one big thing" that will suddenly, drastically, impact the people and place they are ministering to/in. Rarely do we stop and ask "How can we JOIN what Jesus is already doing in our neighborhood?" Instead, we launch some grand program and hope God gets behind us, when we should be seeking how we can get behind God and follow their lead. I also believe that the reason for this error in our approach is due to the effort it takes to actually get to know our neighbors and find out what their real needs are. Truly knowing your neighbor takes time and intentionality. It takes more than a couple of years for a church planter from the Midwest to really get to know the area of Seattle they were sent to, and really figure out how

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

Crop Walk - October 4th

by Harriet Koscho

We'll be walking around Greenlake on Sunday, October 4.

The path is 2.8 miles, and we would love for you to join us.

Sign up here! join using the QR code below.

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Let us know you're walking and whether you need a ride. You can also just show up and register for the Olympic View Team on-site before the walk!

- We will carpool from the church parking lot after church on Sunday, or you can meet us at Green Lake Methodist Church (6415 1st Ave NE) on Sunday, Oct. 4 between 12:30 and 1pm.
- At 1pm, with a bagpiper leading us, everybody heads off toward the Greenlake ballfields and we walk around the lake.

Why we do it: Hunger awareness

- Olympic View Church donates $20 for every walker on our team. You can register by going to the link under "Register"
- Extra donations are welcome too! Scan the QR code to give by PayPal, Venmo, or Apple Pay.
- The money we raise goes to Church World Service. Some goes to buy livestock and create gardens for impoverished communities and families abroad
- Some stays in the local community to help needy families right here in the Seattle area

Links for Crop Walk

To Register

https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/Olympic-view-church

Green Lake United Methodist Church

Gather at 12:30, walk begins at 1pm

6415 1st Ave NE

Seattle, Washington

Church World Service. -

https://cwsglobal.org/







Fall - A Season of Change

by Roger Edmark



Though we all like the warm days of summer, fall has a lot to offer each year. Here are just few we enjoy each fall:

- The leaves on our Katsuda Tree have started to fall and the aroma of creme brulee is in the air. It smells so good!
- Harvest in our yard was completed today as we picked the apples from our two trees, and picked one pear (that is not one tree, but one pear – not a great harvest this year), but boy was it tasty!
- A week ago, it was the grapes and homemade grape juice, and right before that were the Italian plumbs which we brought to church to share.
- The leaves are turning shades of yellow, orange, and browns and even crimson reds.
- A little more rain has started to bring the dead grasses back to life – green is starting to emerge.
- Pumpkins grace the entry to all of the grocery stores reminding us that pumpkin pies are coming soon. You can't beat Costco's!

At Olympic View, the seasons of-change are also a part of the church.

October 4 – That is when we walk around Green Lake (see article) for CROP – Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. Several of us contribute $20 towards CROP Walk for every person and friend from the church that makes the trek around the lake. Don't miss it!

October 11 – Norm will be officially installed as our pastor by Howard Ullery of the District. Afterwards we will celebrate with a potluck picnic at Jana and Mike Helmuth's place. There is nothing like a picnic to enjoy the fall. (*see article below*).

October 18 – At last, a baby shower for Janay and her baby daughter Cenay after church. (See the article about Cenay's dedication. (*see article, page 4*))

November 15 – We have our year end General Assembly on Sunday November 15 right after church. This is when we prepare for the next year: pass a budget; elect officers; and set a course of ministry by putting our faith into action in reaching out to love our neighbors.

November 8-24 – It's the month where we provide Thanksgiving Baskets in support of those needing a little assistance during the holidays (*see article, page 4*).

December – The Advent Season. Christmas brings a lot of joy and celebration, decorations and lights and festivities. But more importantly, it reminds us that God can take a simple birth in a stable and change the world – it is a season of change!

All Church Picnic/Potluck

Sunday, October 11th

Back by popular demand, following the installation church service, we will join in celebrating Norm at Jana and Mike Helmuth's house in Lake Forest Park. There is plenty of room inside and outside so this is a rain or shine picnic/potluck. Plan to gather around 1pm and bring a dish to share if you are able. Please contact Jana or email ovsecretary@gmail.com for directions.

Jesus - Continued from cover page

to minister to the people in that place. For those of us who call Seattle "home" we can start by simply being more present in our daily routines. Say "hi" to the people we encounter on a regular basis, get to know their names, learn their stories. Become a "regular" somewhere. Shop in the same stores, eat at the same establishments, ride the same bus, etc… Be a familiar and friendly face to all the people who visit these same places, whether an employee or fellow customer. Be Jesus in these places to these people in those moments. Join Him and discover what He is already doing.

Calendar for October

Sat. Oct. 3
Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Sun. Oct. 4
Bring food for the Northaven Pantry
Crop Walk - Greenlake 12:30pm

Thurs. Oct. 8
Bible Study 7-9 pm

Sun. Oct. 11
Installation of Pastor Norm
All Church Picnic at Jana's 1pm

Tues. Oct. 13
Leadership Meeting at 7pm on Zoom

Thurs. Oct. 15
No Bible Study tonight

Sat. Oct. 17
Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Sun. Oct. 18
Communion Sunday

Thurs. Oct. 22
Bible Study 7-9 pm

Tues. Oct. 27
Book Group 3:30pm
"*Stride Towards Freedom*"

Sat. Oct. 31
Zoom Coffee Hour 3pm

Cenay Lewis Welcomed to Our Congregation



From left to right:
Tajae Lewis, Janay Lewis,
baby Cenay, and Rev. John Braun

On Sunday, August 17, Cenay Lewis was consecrated and welcomed into our congregation by Rev. John Braun.

We celebrate the gift of new life among us, coming to us as a gift from God. We give thanks for the extension of family and community across the miles and across generations.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Meets in person or via Zoom on Thursday's at 7pm.

Meeting ID: 880 4042 6488
Passcode: 390082

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.

Thanksgiving Baskets

by Harriet Koscho

November is coming up fast! It's time for **THANKSGIVING BASKETS!**

Every year we work with Olympic View Elementary School to provide complete Thanksgiving meals ready to cook with all the trimmings. The school provides a list of 35 families and a waitlist if there are extra requests for a basket. Large families get turkeys. Small families get a chicken. The rest of the box includes onions, carrots, potatoes, yams, celery, gravy, corn, green beans, and a pie with whipped topping for dessert.

We also give the Broadvide Women's Shelter bulk vegetables and cans - basically the same menu without the birds, as they have their own source for that part.

We make all of this work by shopping sales. Seattle grocery stores have their own tradition of offering discounted holiday classics at various points during the season. So when the pies are on sale, we get 70+ of them at the best rate!

This year we will deliver most of the baskets on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We will store as much as possible at the church, with a little help from Northaven. We will definitely need more freezer space. If you can store some frozen turkeys or chickens we would appreciate it!

Here's how to help:

- donate money (we need a lot to feed all these families!)
- help shop for food
- help pack boxes at the end
- help deliver boxes to families

We will have more details coming in emails, flyers, and sign-up sheets. Stay tuned and let us know how you would like to help.



BOOK GROUP

Booklist 2026-2027

Stride Towards Freedom

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Kreuger

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom

Before the Coffee Gets Cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

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

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