

The Brethren Baptist Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren and an American Baptist Church, September/October Issue, 2021



DECLARING THE GLORY OF GOD

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God’s hands.” ~Psalm 19:1, NIV

-Story is from eBrethren: www.brethren.org/missionoffering

Since the beginning of time, humanity has looked to the skies. Whether for direction, agricultural planning, or inspiration, the heavenly bodies—near and far—have promoted ingenuity and amazement in our world.

King David was a sky-watcher, a stargazer. In his younger years as a shepherd tending his sheep, he surely spent plenty of days under the radiance of the sun and nights with little more than the heavenly bodies to keep him company. Taking in the warmth by day and the vast masterpiece at night, David concluded that the sun and stars above were telling a story, playing a song about the awesomeness of God—a song that, he reasoned, warranted words being written and sung along with it.

Psalm 19 is a wonderful hymn for the people of God in every age. It begins with observing the lights in the sky by night and by day, declares the greatness of the Lord who made them all, reflects upon the lifegiving nature of God’s word and promises, and concludes with a plea for protection from wrongdoing and a prayer.

As we consider the body of Christ in all the earth, many have witnessed the beauty of the skies and proclaimed how great God is for bringing them into being. Around the world, our sisters and brothers continue to be inspired by God’s power and goodness, and as a result, work to share great love with those around them. Indeed, all of us are invited to catch the tune of the heavens and to share fresh testimonies of God’s handiwork in the heavens, in our world, and in our very lives. It is together that we can tell (this and other) rich stories and sing melodious songs about the God who created all things and continues to sustain them through all seasons and struggles.

In a time when each of us greatly benefits from hearing statements of hope and promise, what words of Psalm 19 resonate with you or would encourage those around you? As you look to the heavens, what fresh (or refreshed) words of worship do you feel led to sing to God in this season?

No matter where we are located, as we look to the skies, may we with one voice declare the glory of God, singing new words to the song of the universe.

The Church of the Brethren Mission offering is one of two special mission offerings WBBC collects each year. America for Christ offering is collected in the spring and goes to support the work of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. This year’s Mission offering will be collected on **Sunday, September 12**. This offering supports Brethren missions of evangelism and service around the world. We encourage you to give generously.

WORSHIP & COVID-19

With the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, we need to do all that we can to reduce being exposed and/or spreading this virus. To protect our congregation and community, we will be returning to Zoom Sunday Worship at 10:30am beginning September 5. The link will be sent to you via the prayer chain as it was when we worshipped with Zoom before.

Joe Roy said it best, *“WBBC is a resilient and adaptable church with a big heart for the health of all people. Returning to zoom worship and prayer & sharing groups will help keep us and others safer from the spread of Covid. We did a good job of caring for our church members in our past Zoom church. Now it is time to learn from experience and build a better way of being a virtual church, at least for the upcoming month. It will take all of our efforts to make this succeed.”*

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Pam Hannah at phannah947@gmail.com or 679-9390.

DEACON NEWS

We will not start in-person meetings just yet. The Deacons are calling or sending cards to some shut ins who can't attend worship besides the regular Support Deacon responsibilities sending out get well, sympathy and birthday cards.

The Fall Love Feast observance held in October will not be held this year due to Covid.

We continue our support of those in the congregation who need special attention.

We will also work with our new Interim Pastor to meet the spiritual needs of the congregation.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

Mary Burshek
Carolyn Storme
Darlene Uhrich



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd Dave Whitley
12th John Clevenger
24th Lael Vickery

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4th Kay Graybill
10th Randy Morse
18th Carolyn Storme
19th Cathy Madsen
27th Jim Hannah



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

None

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

None

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - OCTOBER 10

Each year we have a special Sunday devoted to stewardship. Stewardship is how we use and share the resources God has entrusted to us. On Stewardship Sunday we offer our “pledge cards” and commit ourselves to giving of our time, talents, and money in the coming year. This helps us reflect on our own stewardship, and it helps the church prepare next year’s budget.

This year, Stewardship Sunday is on October 10. Our theme is *Live Generously*, based on 2 Corinthians 9:11. In the coming weeks you will be receiving a mailing with more information and your pledge cards for 2022.

COB PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE September 17-18, 2021.... all on Zoom

Colleen Michael will be participating in the entire PNWD Conference and will prepare a report to Church Board following the conference.



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GOD'S CREATION AND OUR HEALTH

Nature provides many lifelong benefits for physical health, mental health and academic competency. A healthy exposure to Vitamin D promotes bone health and helps minimize issues related to diabetes and heart disease. Nature-based learning and education reduces stress and improves people's academic performance and critical thinking.

Getting a little dirty in the great outdoors (think gardening) helps us lead happier, healthier lives. Digging in the dirt exposes us to healthy bacteria, parasites, and viruses that will inevitably create a much stronger immune system. Those who live in an ultra-clean environment have a greater chance of suffering from allergies, asthma, and other autoimmune diseases.

Being in nature enhances sleep. Many people suffer persistent sleep deprivation due to their schedules, addiction to television and screen-time, and lack of knowledge about the amount of sleep needed. Building outdoor time into our schedules will help us get a better night's sleep and receive the associated physical, emotional, and cognitive benefits. Regular doses of bright natural light help us stay more alert during the day, elevate our moods, and make it easier to sleep at night. Exposure to outdoor light in the morning actually helps set our body clock for a better and earlier night's sleep. Exercise in the out-of-doors can release soothing endorphins into the blood stream and can help with production of melatonin which promotes sleep.

We are fortunate to live near public parks and other green spaces. The tree canopy in our area is vital because trees literally clean our air and consume greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Walking along the Columbia River, splashing in the water or picking wild blackberries are opportunities to experience nature without leaving town.

Caring for God's Creation is good for the earth and good for our health. Do something every day to take care of both!

Creation Care Team



THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

What is the Nominating Committee?

This committee prepares the ballot for the election procedure that takes place at Council. The committee seeks members who are interested in serving on different committees, commissions, or as an office of the board.

How many people are on the committee?

There are two committee members. We need one additional person to volunteer and serve with Connie Mitchell. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the Nominating Committee, please contact Pam Hannah at phannah947@gmail.com or 679-9390.

'FALL' OUTSIDE CLEANUP DAY
Saturday, September 11, 9:00am - 12 Noon

Come and join us if you can; we will be cleaning up everything around the outside of the church. We will have coffee and cookies for you.



Please bring your own tools. Masks are not required outside, it's your choice.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee will be meeting on August 30 to evaluate and determine the best course moving forward. The committee will continue working closely with the District Church of the Brethren and the Evergreen Association of American Baptist. Have questions? Feel free to contact Pam Hannah at phannah947@gmail.com or 509-679-9390.

A BIG THANK YOU TO PIZZA HUT

On July 18 we had our All-Church Potluck with the Karen Church. We ordered pizzas from the Pizza Hut on Chelan Avenue in Wenatchee and had them delivered. When they found out it was for a church function, they gave the pizzas to us for no charge. How great is that? **Way to go Pizza Hut!**

WORLDWIDE PRAYER

Please pray for Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) as they face the demolition of churches in Borno State, most recently in Maduganari in the Maiduguri area. Protests have followed the demolition, which occurred despite the church having a valid permit, and during which security forces fired shots into the air reportedly killing one church member and injuring others. There are also reports of increased tensions in and around Jos recently with Jos North under a 24-hour curfew, creating great hardship for residents there.

EYN also has shared a request for prayer following the death of the chairman of the EYN Board of Trustees, Rev. Maina Mamman, who died Wednesday last week, and the death of a wife of a student at Kulp Theological Seminary. "May God comfort the church and the entire relatives," said an email from communications staff Zakariya Musa.

Global Mission continues to express gratitude for the release of Athanasus Ungang from prison in South Sudan, but requests continued prayer for his safety and that his passport may be returned so he can travel back to the United States to be with his family. Prayer also continues to be needed for Utang James, a colleague of Ungang's who remains in custody

HAITIAN BROTHERS LEADERS TRAVEL TO EARTHQUAKE ZONE

Members of the National Committee of L'Eglise des Freres d'Haiti (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) this week met and traveled to the area of southern Haiti most affected by the recent earthquake. The trip was to identify emergency needs and possible response by the church.

To financially support disaster relief in Haiti as a collaboration of Brethren Disaster Ministries and the Haitian church, go to www.brethren.org/give-haiti-earthquake.

Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2021/haitian-brethren-leaders-assess-earthquake

**A STATEMENT OF CONCERN FOR
AFGHANISTAN FROM
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
GENERAL SECRETARY DAVID STEELE**

“Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication” (Ephesians 6:18a).

In the wake of the September 11 attack in 2001, the General Board of the Church of the Brethren called for the immediate cessation of military action in Afghanistan, saying: “We are deeply concerned that these strikes will cause further death and destruction, and will exacerbate the problems confronting those working to feed and care for millions of suffering Afghan people” (<https://files.brethren.org/about/statements/2001-september-11-aftermath.pdf>).

Ten years later, in 2011, the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference reaffirmed that same call for the end to military action and concern for people of Afghanistan (www.brethren.org/ac/statements/2011-resolution-on-the-war-in-afghanistan).

This week, the withdrawal of US troops was nearly complete, and the world watched in anguish as the Taliban quickly completed its takeover by capturing Kabul. In ensuing days, the evacuations escalated and the humanitarian situation deteriorated, while global and domestic leaders furiously assigned blame for the past 20 years of violence, loss, and expense.

While there is a clear biblical precedent and call for rebuke and correction of injustice and wrongdoing, there is an equally strong call for self-examination and repentance.

The Church of the Brethren stands by our conviction that “all war is sin” and “we may not participate or benefit from war” (1970 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference statement on war, www.brethren.org/ac/statements/1970-war),

but we must ask how we have been complicit in the war in Afghanistan and how we are called to turn now to repentance and right living.

How have we not acted in a right manner in the past and how are we called to act in a right manner in the present, to “[put on as] shoes for your feet . . . whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace” (Ephesians 6:15).

Though Ephesians 6 is filled with war-like images, we are reminded that “*our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh.*” We are called to a struggle not characterized by war and violence but by compassion, love, and justice. We are called to proclaim the gospel of peace through word and action for all those affected by the war in Afghanistan--Afghan civilians and military and US civilians and military and all others involved over 20 years of warfare.

In the coming days, weeks, and months, may we work for the safety and well-being of our Afghan neighbors near and far, extending a hand of support to them, welcoming those who have been displaced and who have become refugees, and challenging the belief that the weapons of war will bring a future of peace.

“For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

“Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18).

Find this statement online at www.brethren.org/news/2021/statement-of-concern-for-afghanistan



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Wenatchee WA 98801
509 662.3681
Email: wbbc@nwi.net
Website: <https://www.wbbcu.org>

Place
Stamp
Here

11:00am Worship Service

**Take a few minutes to pray for our Church,
our country & its leaders
and the World!**

Brethren-Baptist Church Staff

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Pastor | _____ |
| Administrative Assistant/ Bookkeeper | Betty Radke |
| Organist | Judi Delabarre |
| Pianist | Diane Stober |
| Custodian | Caleb Vickery |
| Jr. Church Teacher | Merry Roy |
| Nursery Attendant | Volunteers |
| September Support Deacons | Gary & Merry Kay Shaw |
| October Support Deacon | Darlene Ball |

MISSION STATEMENT

Our joyful response to God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ is to be faithful servants to one another and the world.

VISION STATEMENT

We seek to:

- Experience God and mature in Christ,
- Equip the saints for service,
- Encourage one another in love,
- Evangelize the lost, and minister to a hurting world,
- Exhort one another to celebrate our faith

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Wednesday
8:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 4:30pm

Thursday
8:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 4:00pm