

Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Quarterly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren & American Baptist Church, October / November / December Issue, 2024

BASEBALL AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7
God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 1 John 4:16*

Dear Church,

This is September. That means many different things to each of us: autumn, shorter days, cooler evenings. I know September has special associations for you that the rest of us may or may not know.

September means to me the end of the regular season, the playoffs, and the climax of baseball season is coming soon. September is the time when the division races heat up, teams clinch their spot in the playoffs (or fail to*), and the World Series appears on the horizon. I've told you before that winter is my fourth favorite season – because there aren't five – so the end of baseball season also means I am preparing myself for the short, dark days, the cold, the less fun driving, and no outdoor ultimate.

I know not all of you love baseball (though I don't understand why), so I'll need you to trust me that this will lead us to a spiritual insight. Also, I want Dan White to enjoy this one.

Baseball is the longest season in sports, in terms of games played. Baseball is an endurance sport, which is ironic because many non-fans don't consider it to be that demanding physically. It does not require as much running as ultimate frisbee, for example. But playing 162 games is the most demanding schedule, a demand to perform at your best nearly every night from April until November. Baseball is a strange mix of long-haul consistency and expected failure: fielding must be near as possible to flawless, while batting is learning to accept falling short most of the time without giving up. Making spectacular catches in the field half the time while missing the ball the other half will not just get you sent to the bench but demoted back to the Minor Leagues or out of professional baseball altogether. Paradoxically, the absolute best batters in the Major Leagues fail to get a hit two out of three times; a .300 batting average makes you one of the best hitters in the league. The last time a Major League player failed “only” three out of five times (a .400 batting average) was in 1941.

Our lives following Jesus have this in common with Major League Baseball: we learn both consistency and accepting consistent failure. That sounds like a paradox because it is one. None of us is perfect (I trust I don't have to convince you of this point), but in my time with you I've observed that you collectively, are consistently kind, consistently generous, consistently seeking to love God, others, and yourself.

As pastor, I also have a bit of insight into our failures and shortcomings. Many of you have shared some of yours openly with me. Thank you for the trust. Also, as my friend Thom tells me “You're the most intuitive person I've ever met.” It's part of the pastor gift package, I think. I know stuff, more than what people tell me.

We believe in grace, in God's love for us that is absolutely unchanged by our faults, failures, shortcomings, or sins. We are, at best, .300 hitters who learn to accept that we don't love as well as we wish we could two out of three times—and God *delights* in us!

As I watch and pastor and journey and age with all of you, I understand more deeply each day that this life is an endurance sport, for which we show up each day, even when just showing up feels like a huge challenge. Following Jesus leads us to become consistent in love, as God forms our hearts to offer others grace each day, sometimes each hour or minute. And walking with Jesus teaches us that being imperfect and needing grace for ourselves is not a horrible failure, but simply how this sport called life works.

Fondly, Pastor Mike

*September is also when Cub fans say “Wait ‘til next year!” Except 2016.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY OCTOBER 6

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 6. Our theme is *Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 1 John 3:18.* You should have received a mailing with more information and your pledge cards for 2025. If you didn’t get one, there are more available in the office.

Looking Forward

Are you interested in these coming events?
Attending? Planning?

- Hymn Sing – inviting Sunnyslope
- Potluck Harvest dinner – inviting Sunnyslope
- Advent decorating – Saturday, November 30
- Christmas Program & Carol Sing
- Christmas Eve Service

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Fall Church Council meeting will be on Sunday, December 1 immediately following worship.

The topics will include:

- ✓ Approval of the 2025 Budget
- ✓ Nominations

Joe Roy & Colleen Michael, Co-Moderators

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

- Mary Kintner
- Carolyn Storme
- Shirley Beck
- Darlene Ball
- Warren & Evelyn Eikenberry
- Jim Hart
- Jay Stockwell

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 8th Annalise Rumley-Wells
- 9th Mike Rumley-Wells
- 18th Carolyn Storme
- 19th Cathy Madsen

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 8th Tanya Zaytsev
- 9th Keith Madsen

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Colleen Michael
- Rowan Rumley-Wells
- 9th Alexis Vickery
- 11th Jo Anne Cox
- 17th Joe Roy
- 22nd Barbara Dryden
- Caleb Vickery



Happy Birthday to You
(sung to the usual tune)

Happy Birthday to you!
To Jesus stay true!
May all of God’s blessings
Rain down upon you!

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

23rd Joe & Merry Roy



Set Your Clocks Back!
Daylight-Saving Time Ends
November 5

2 CENTS WORTH OFFERING Sunday, November 24

The 2 Cents Worth Offering is where every person sets aside 2 Cents for every meal every person eats in their home to go toward world hunger and the Heifer Project.





Lilies of the Valley is a local nonprofit with a mission; they give a second life to flowers that might otherwise be discarded. Floral arrangements from weddings, banquets, parties, etc. can be donated to the group, and a team of dedicated volunteers curate and arrange the repurposed flowers into beautiful bouquets. Flowers from the arrangements that once graced important occasions are delivered to hospitals, nursing homes, and care facilities.

Scheduling a flower pick-up is simple. Complete the form at their website with your contact information, preferred pick-up date and time, and any special instructions you have for the dedicated volunteers. They will pick up the flowers and deliver them to bring joy to others AND keep them out of the landfill!

It's a double win!

Lilies of the Valley is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
 EIN - 92-2030892
karen@liliesofthevalley.org
 509-312-0435

Creation Care Team

FROM OLGA RYBAKOV

Hello dear friends, prayer warriors and supporters of our ministry in Ukraine!

Almost two weeks have gone by since we returned from a mission trip to Ukraine. Even though I am home with my family, the pain of my second family (our mission team) is still in my heart.

As I re-evaluate everything I have seen and helped with, my heart re-prioritizes my own life goals, needs, joys...

As I think of my little disappointments here in the US, I remember Ukrainians who lost homes, health,

loved ones, limbs..... my heart goes out to them and my mind races to find ways to HELP.

I remind myself of the Word of God:

Isaiah 41:10 ESV

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

1 Peter 5:7 ESV

Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Psalm 55:22 ESV

Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Matthew 11:28 ESV

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

These are the words that our missionary team and our people in Ukraine live and breathe, because there is simply no other way.

Our missionary Eugene Grinishin serves alongside my brother Alex Zaytsev in Ivano-Frankivsk. They have taken in (now 17) teenagers who did not have a safe place to live. This month, Mission VHF was able to cover all rental expenses for the buildings needed for the church and to house these teens. We were able to make it happen through your donations. Praise the Lord! Thank you for continuing to support Mission VHF and the ministry in Ukraine.

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May God bless you abundantly.

With love in Christ,

Olga Rybakov

Mission VHF - donations are possible here:

MissionVHF.Aplos.org

DAY CAMP AT KOINONIA

Camp Koinonia hosted a full summer of day camps this year. This is a new venture in addition to all the regular camps. Day Camps were attended primarily by Cle Elum and Roslyn kids, with Koinonia providing staff and activities. In contrast the week-long camps bring their own staff and curriculum with Koinonia supervising things like archery, swimming, hatchet throwing (!), etc.

There were 244 day-campers spread over six distinct weeks, and everyone had a positive time being active in the outdoors. Two Summer Service Workers from La Verne University joined the staff. Friendship, self-confidence, and respect were the top values appreciated by parents, staff, and campers alike. Scholarships were available for those who could not afford the cost.

What a blessing to show kids God's beautiful Creation and help them learn to care for this gift!

PARTNER WITH OUR MISSIONARIES

Kyle and Katrina Williams, American Baptist global servants in Thailand and Myanmar, report on the unprecedented flooding disaster in their areas. The community in Chiang Rai is coming together, supporting families that were flooded. Neighbors have worked together to pump out water, clear mud, and clean homes. The city has been disposing of the enormous amounts of garbage accumulating on the street as people clear their homes and decide what is salvageable. Kyle and Katrina say good friends and neighbors and the church community have brought joy and hope. They have been fed, housed, and cared for.

International Ministries is asking for urgent prayer and support for all affected by the floods, especially for the families of its global servants and local partners. Financial gifts can be made in two ways:

- To support community relief efforts [through giving online](#), or by sending checks directly to International Ministries. Please designate your contributions "OGHS–Thailand Floods" in the memo line of your check.
- To support the IM global servants who have experienced personal losses, donations [can be made online](#) or by sending checks directly to International Ministries, designating your contributions "Global Servant Emergency Care" in the memo line of your check.

Checks sent directly to International Ministries should be made payable to "International Ministries" and mailed to:

International Ministries Attn: Gifts Processing
1003 W 9th Avenue, Ste A, King of Prussia, PA 1940

COB PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Pacific Northwest District Conference will begin Friday, October 4 at 4:00pm and conclude Sunday, October 6 at 11:00am. This year's conference will be a hybrid conference, with District members gathering both online and in-person. The in-person conference will be held at Camp Koinonia in Cle Elum, Washington (<https://campkoinonia.org/>). Camp Koinonia, one of the Pacific Northwest District's camps, is nestled in beautiful, wooded nature, providing an enriching environment for our spiritual, community, and church-business discussions and activities.

The District Conference is an opportunity for District members to come together to reflect on the past year of District life as well as discern together the future for our collection of congregations. Additionally, there will be programs and activities to foster spiritual exploration and nurture our community connections.

The theme for this year's conference will be "Where peace and justice meet," drawn from Jeremiah 22:3, which reads "This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place." Together, we will explore questions about the intersection of peace and justice. Our world today is in deep need of peace and justice—what does it look like for us to work towards both in harmony? How can our peacemaking roots nourish our work for social justice? District Conference will conclude with a Sunday morning worship service, at which Dana Cassell will preach on these themes. Dana's writings can be read at <https://danacassell.substack.com>.

Registration for online participation is free. For in-person attendance at Camp Koinonia, standard registration costs are \$175 per person, which covers overnight lodging and meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast). Customized registration options, such as departing Saturday evening or only meals without overnight lodging, can be created at request—please email pnwdcob@gmail.com if you require a custom registration option!

Scholarship options are also available for all to use as needed—no qualifications or approval necessary. Our district makes these scholarship options freely available to help ensure that financial concerns are not a barrier to participation. On the registration page, you will find discount code options for a 50% discount scholarship and 100% discount scholarship. There is also a donation option for those who would like to donate funds to financially support this scholarship program.

Registration for District Conference is open now at: districtconference2024.eventbrite.com

If you have any questions about this year's District Conference, please don't hesitate to reach out! Questions can be directed to Daniel Klayton at pnwdcob@gmail.com

