

Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Quarterly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren & American Baptist Church, April / May / June Issue, 2026

"When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn.¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord.¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish.¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead."

John 21:9-14

A strange experience I'm having on my journey with Jesus: I understand God's love more as I go through my own sorrows and our nation's anguish. I would not have volunteered for any of these experiences. I wonder if how I communicate Jesus' love for us makes sense or is relatable, because it sounds so different now than when I was younger and more certain and my world made more sense. If we do unto others as we would have them do unto us, *period*, we open ourselves up for all kinds of pain and criticism. Pain from people who take advantage of our kindness, who return our love and generosity with disdain and manipulation or worse. Trying to spread God's love will not protect us from pain; it's a choice to open ourselves to pain.

That leads us to Easter.

Easter is a celebration of God's love for us. On Easter, we remind ourselves and one another that Jesus resurrected from the dead! Love overcomes hatred, fear, racism, misogyny, cruelty, prejudice of all kinds. Love conquers death! We believe that God's love that holds the universe will have the final say and that resurrection proves that nothing, even death, can separate us from the love of God.

And...

I want to say "And," not "But," because these points are connected, not opposed.

As our Triune* God who *is* love--Jesus, our Creator God, and God the Holy Spirit our Comforter and Advocate--loves us, unconditionally and irrevocably, our God also calls us to love others. We do so imperfectly (that's an understatement). God gives us grace when we fail at love and keep trying. Loving poorly, or trying to love and failing and trying again, *is* following Jesus.

Real love for one another hurts. That's because love requires us to open ourselves to others in vulnerability. *Even more*, love hurts because as soon as we really seek to love, we start to see our own pride, selfishness, judgment, fear...all the things from which God desires to free us.

We're celebrating Easter and God's wonderful, freeing, unstoppable love--and we celebrate *by* joining God, as Jesus followers, in offering the love God gives us.

Here comes the strange part: I know Jesus' love for me through my failures. I know Jesus' love through my pain and coming back from despair. I know Jesus' love as I seek to love others who don't receive it. Of course it's more enjoyable when people receive our love, and I prefer success stories. But Jesus loved people who rejected him...including me.

Easter is the celebration not of "triumphant love" that takes over a government or forces (or shames) people into acceptance, but of love that perseveres, that endures rejection, failure, violence and fear while gently, patiently calling us to join Jesus in welcoming everyone to the table. Or the fish fry.

*Triune God simply means God is a Trinity

Pastor Mike

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week. We will celebrate with a bread and cup communion during worship. Maundy Thursday we will share time together with Love Feast and feet washing or hand washing at 5:00pm. Trinity Church has asked to join us, so we may have a larger number, and we will do the meal differently. Then Resurrection Day! Hallelujah! Blessing on your journey through this Holy time.



Merry Roy, Spiritual Nurture Chair

DEACONS

The Deacons have suspended the Comfort person, but if you would like to be the comfort person for a month, please contact Linda Vickery. They send cards to people who have birthdays, anniversaries, have a crisis or are ill.

Deacon Chairs,
Leanne Ford & Linda Vickery

EARTH DAY 2026

Earth Day will be at Wenatchee Valley College, Saturday, April 18. A variety of organizations will share information on how to be a good steward of God's Creation. Family friendly and fun!



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Myla Fletcher
- 3rd Judi Delabarre
- 6th Denise Holland
- 18th Gary Shaw
- 22nd Merry Kay Shaw
- 26th Linda Vickery
Leanne Ford

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Mabel Hoffman
- 9th Paxton Fletcher
- 14th Ann Wilson
- 21st Robin Shockey
- 22nd Corin Rumley-Wells
- 23rd Jan White
- 26th Don Miller

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 29th Steve Shell

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

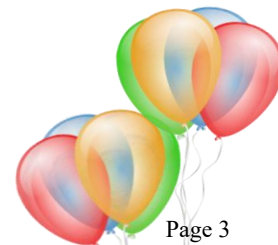
No Anniversaries

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3rd Chuck & Jo Anne Cox

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 20th Steve & Jane Shell
- 24th Gary & Merry Kay Shaw



Page 3

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!



2 CENTS WORTH OFFERING

Sunday, May 31

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.



Happy Easter!

Happy Mother's Day!



Creation Care Corner

Increasing our recycling is a win for God's Creation. Reducing the amount of waste in our landfills is good for the planet and recycling also helps wildlife by reducing their risk of ingesting unsafe materials.

Places to recycle things Waste Management can't take:

Michelsen Packaging

<https://michelsenpackaging.com>

The Michelsen Company takes **shredded paper**, mixed paper and corrugated boxes. Their decades-long commitment to using local recycled materials to manufacture containers for the orchard industry is inspiring. They are located behind Sav-Mart off of North Wenatchee Avenue.

To recycle **empty prescription medicine bottles** you can contact How It Works – Cocoplum

<https://share.google/Xoh2AbcbeCwT8zTJt>

Use Ulta Beauty's **Beauty Dropoff™ program for difficult to recycle beauty packaging**. Ulta Beauty has partnered with Pact Collective, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing packaging waste. Visit our [Sustainable Packaging page](#) to learn the types of packaging that we accept.

Use the drop-off box inside the Ulta store in Wenatchee Valley Mall.

Be sure to clean your empties before recycling. Residue can contaminate the recycling process, making it harder for facilities to process the materials. Rinse thoroughly: Use warm water to remove any leftover product. For items like foundation or sunscreen, a bit of soap can help break down stubborn residue.

- Disassemble components: Separate pumps, caps, and applicators from the main container, as these are often made from different materials.
- Dry completely

Plastic bags and plastic packing materials can be recycled in "barrels" at grocery stores like Safeway and Fred Meyer.

Creation Care Team

GOD'S EARTH, OUR HOME: "Engaging Creation Care through Faith"

A virtual class from McPherson College
Saturday, May 2, 8:00-10:00 AM Pacific Time
at the home of Joe and Merry Roy in Wenatchee

The environmental crisis is real, and a threat not only to our current health and well-being, but also to the vitality of all lifeforms and the viability of future generations. But does our faith have anything to say in this situation? It often seems that the church has found ways to avoid taking this crisis seriously for all manner of reasons that we will explore. We will look at pertinent biblical texts, including the teachings of Jesus, and reflect on Brethren history and current practice. We will also visit virtually parts of the world that are on the front lines of this crisis to see how it is impacting our neighbors and our neighborhood.

David Radcliff, director of the New Community Project (NCP), will be our teacher. NCP focuses on human justice, care for creation, and experiential learning. David has served in various roles in the Church of the Brethren over the years, including as a pastor, Director of Brethren Witness for 15 years, and, occasionally, as a writer for study guides. He and others launched NCP in 2003. David is a graduate of Bridgewater College and Bethany Theological Seminary, where he earned a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry (peace studies) degree.

Do you know.....

- Who was the man Mark Twain called "the most picturesque of men"?
- Who joined the Dunkers, the Church of the Brethren and was faithful his whole life even when he had no church?
- Who saved the lives of Mark Twain's sister-in-law, her young daughter, and the nurse?
- Who was the model for Jim in Twain's book *Huckleberry Finn*?

Check the bulletin board in the entry hall and find out!

HAPPY
Father's
DAY

