

Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Quarterly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren and an American Baptist Church, April / May / June Issue, 2024

“The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one’s ‘own,’ or ‘real’ life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one’s real life – the life God is sending one day by day.”

– C.S. Lewis

Sometimes you read a quote and it changes your perspective forever. I first read these words from Lewis when I was a young Jesus follower and, thirty-five plus years later, it remains in my mind.

We recently looked at the parable Jesus tells about a Jewish man who was attacked, beaten, and robbed. We know this story as “The Good Samaritan,” because a Samaritan stopped and cared for the Jewish man – his enemy – after a priest and Levite passed by and did nothing. The bleeding man was an interruption and was most certainly unpleasant. Most often, compassion is not convenient. If we believe that we are entitled to a comfortable life, in which things mostly go our way, then people in our path who need compassion become interruptions. If we understand our lives as a journey of knowing Jesus within the Beloved Community, then we learn to be grateful for all our comforts – and also to be grateful for our opportunities to show compassion.

I truly believe that our *real* life is a balance of these: receiving God’s extravagant blessings and responding to the needs we see. We can cross the road, figuratively or literally, to avoid these interruptions. Or we can follow Jesus’s lead to be the neighbor.

All that sounds good and, I believe, is solid practical theology.

But. There’s always a “but,” isn’t there? “But the man who wants attention talks too much!” “But the woman asking for money might use it for drugs.” “But the bleeding man smells bad and grabbed my arm when I got close!”

There’s always a reason not to help. Sometimes it’s a very sound, rational reason.

And we *do* always have to use our wisdom and discernment. We have to pray in the moment, with faith that God leads us. We seek to be led by God’s Spirit, not by guilt.

The crucial point, though, is this: God is sending *this* life, our real life, day by day. God does not expect us to fix every problem we see. Of course not. Nor does God’s love for us depend on our doing this well enough. We’re not earning God’s love; God’s love for us gives us this capacity for compassion.

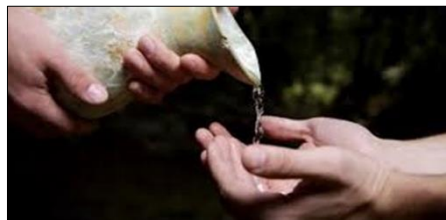
But whether we see people’s needing our compassion as interruption or opportunity? That makes all the difference.

Jesus asked, “Which of these, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? He said, “The one who showed him compassion.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Pastor Mike

**MAUNDY THURSDAY LOVE FEAST
MARCH 28 AT 5:00PM**

We will meet in the church sanctuary where the elements of a Brethren Love Feast will occur.



Hand Washing will help us remember Jesus' act of service when he washed the disciples feet. As Jesus shared a meal with his disciples, we will eat together a simple fruit and vegetable meal (individually packaged). This is followed with the Bread and Cup Communion.

It is a very meaningful experience with scriptures, song and closing with candlelight. Anyone is welcome. We sit in a circle and experience the fellowship of Christian friends.

Sunnyslope congregation has been invited.

**DISTRICT SPRING EVENT
April 19-21**

Have you been to the Spring Event where Brethren Churches in the Pacific Northwest gather for a time of fellowship, song and music, spiritual exploration, and engaging discussions?

No? This is your lucky year! You are invited to gather with others from our church in the meeting room April 19 and 20, Friday evening and Saturday, to experience this traditional Spring Event. This year it is at Gwinwood Retreat Center in Lacey, but we will participate virtually and for free through Zoom.

Registration and event details are at:
<https://springevent2024.eventbrite.com>

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

- Mary Kintner
- Carolyn Storme

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Mabel Hoffman
- 9th Paxton Fletcher
- 15th Kim Rumley-Wells
- 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



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!



BELL CHOIR

Have you ever wanted to play those beautiful golden bells? Wanted to get together with others joyfully praising God?



Here is your chance! Mary Pringer and others are planning some simple bell music to share during worship. If you are interested in playing with us, talk to Judi or Mary.

Happy Easter!



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WHERE DO OUR “OLD CLOTHES” GO?

If we donate them, they can be used by people who need them, but where do the leftovers go if no one buys them?

Mountains of discarded clothing pile up in dumps around the world. In general, people like us in the developed world are buying twice as many clothes and wearing them half as long as they did 20 years ago.

And when we discard them, three-fifths of our purchases end up in landfills or shipped to other countries. There the clothes are filtered through a series of vendors, and what doesn't sell is trucked to enormous dumps where polyester will last 500 years or more.

Is there anything we can do? Yes! Buy less. Buy better quality and keep those clothes longer. Don't succumb to “fast fashion”. And support those small industries that are working to solve the “Great Fashion Garbage Patch” problem like the start-ups in Chile making insulation or yarn from textile waste.

Source: “Fashion’s Desert Graveyard” in the April 2024 **National Geographic** magazine.

Creation Care Team

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES Joyfully Announces Their First-Ever Global Encounter – May 21 & 22 in Celebration of Their 210th Anniversary!

Global Encounter is a virtual event, streaming LIVE on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 4:00pm PDT and Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 8:00am EDT. Connect with participants during the two 90-minute, interactive sessions. This multilingual, cross-cultural experience includes a blend of music from worship teams around the world, live segments with international partners, and insightful mission moments shared by global servants across the globe.

Immerse yourself in the event with quizzes, polls, interactive games, and question & answer sessions. Enhance your experience by hosting a watch party, where you and your community will have a chance to shine in the spotlight during the online event. Join from anywhere in the world as we respond together for good, forging connections that transcend geographical boundaries.

Already registered for the ‘Global Encounter’? Explore our [Global Encounter Resources](#) to enhance your experience before, during, and after the event!

2 CENTS WORTH OFFERING Sunday, May 26

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.





UPCOMING VENTURES COURSES

Tuesday April 2, 4:30-6:30pm

Tamisha Tyler – visiting Assistant Professor of Theology, Culture and Theopoetics.

Tuesday May 7 & Thursday May 9, 5:00-6:30pm

Tim McElwee – Immediate Past Moderator CoB
“Becoming a More Loving and Inclusive Church”.

Colleen has registered for this course and noted 12 attendees. We can offer this course to anyone interested and hold it in our meeting room.



THE DRYAD OF GETHSEMANE SPEAKS TO MARY MAGDALENE ON THE EVENING OF HOLY SATURDAY

*I can tell from the way they are staring at shadows
on the ground that the voice-bearers have come
from that place where trees are not life-giving.*

*Two nights ago, One was here with them whose
longing, love, and pain woke my soul, deep-buried,
which sleeps through winter, moth-like.*

He is not here with them now.

*I am awake because I know what the voice-bearers
do not.*

*“You come here, but you will not look up. You
cannot see while you are looking down,” I say.*

Apparently, they cannot hear me either.

*“The broken whispers of leaves lift you beyond this
thin veil of earth,” I keep speaking, alive with
moonrise. I was not awakened to be silent.*

*The voice-bearers’ backs are still bent with illusive
burdens.*

*“Look up, look up, look up. From seeds swallowed
dead, trees rise holy. Roots reach deep and
branches high.”*

A weeping woman among them lifts her head.

*“Ah, yes, you too are awake,” I say through the
wind and the fallen light, pushing away time.
“You will see and you will not be wrong when you
call Him Gardener.”*

*She is struck breathless, for a moment washed in
starlight, until she forgets the shadows are untrue.
But soon she will know all that is real is in a
glimpse of moonlight tangled in trees.*

Author: Holly Wells

Source: Sojourners Magazine

