

The Brethren Baptist Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren and an American Baptist Church, September/ October Issue, 2022

“Don’t Put Yourself in a Box”

Joseph Roy

I’m reading Karen Armstrong’s new book Sacred Nature published in 2022. She spent seven years as a Roman Catholic nun in a teaching order. However, her inquiring mind was too much for her religious order and off she went to study at Oxford. Armstrong is the author of sixteen books and has received many awards for her writings. The first book of hers I read was called The History of God. Until reading that book, I had never thought of God as having a history, he always just was. That is true, but many events shape how we think about God. Our understanding of God continues to grow.

Armstrong talks about the Israelites close tie with nature, the seasons and God’s creation. God said “I am who I am. I will be who I will be.” Don’t put me in a box. Hundreds of years before Jesus, a new expression of spirituality emerged across many cultures despite their differences. The Golden Rule appears across Israel, China, India and Greece. This change was not about doctrine but was an understanding of a better way to live with each other and care for the earth.

Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second set alongside it: Love others as well as you love yourself. These two commandments are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hang from them.” (Matt. 22 The Message). These were radical ideas compared to “an eye for an eye...” The laws of the Old Testament were given new life.

If we stop and think about our own faith journey, we can remember when we were young or before we were a Christian that our ideas about God have changed over the years. God said, “Don’t put me in a box.” I think God tells us not to put ourself and each other in a box, but stay open to how the Holy Spirit will guide us.

Life is a great adventure and we have a wise guide. Go forth.

100th Anniversary Celebration!

The Wenatchee Church of the Brethren began 100 years ago!

This fall we will celebrate our centennial, an amazing century of faithfulness.

The proposed date for this celebration is October 23 with a special worship service and perhaps a meal at noon and a program in the afternoon with dessert following.

Colleen will extend a District wide invitation through Daniel Klayton, our District Administrative Assistant, and former members and pastors will be invited. Leanne will send an announcement of the event to the *Messenger* magazine and an article later. We will need people to help the Hospitality Committee and to make history displays. Colleen and Merry will plan the afternoon program, and they welcome your ideas.

So, save that date, be ready to participate, and praise God for this amazing century of witness.

Merry Roy,
Spiritual Nurture, Chair



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 11**. This offering supports Brethren missions of evangelism and service around the world. We encourage you to give generously.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

- Carolyn Storme
- Darlene Uhrich
- Ralph Jordon

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Dave Whitley
- 12th John Clevenger
Avery Fletcher
- 24th Lael Vickery



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4th Kay Graybill
- 18th Carolyn Storme
- 19th Cathy Madsen
- 27th Jim Hannah

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY – OCTOBER 9

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 9. Our theme is *Where Our Hearts Are, Proverbs 3:5-7*. In the coming weeks you will be receiving a mailing with more information and your pledge cards for 2023.



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FILLING THE PULPIT & WORSHIP LEADERS

Speakers

September 4: Linda Congdon
September 11: Don Myers
September 18: _____
September 25: _____

Worship Leaders

Joe Roy
Jim Bailey
Colleen Michael
Dayle Rushing

Did you know that your food choices can help or hurt the earth? Here are two films sponsored by Rotary to be shown at the museum this fall.

The first film “*Eating Our Way to Extinction*” will be shown Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 PM. This film is a journey around the world from the Amazon rainforests to the Taiwanese Mountains, the Mongolian desert to the US Dust Bowl, and the Norwegian Fjords to the Scottish coastline. These travels tell the story of our planet through the poignant accounts of indigenous peoples most affected by our changing planet and through globally renowned figures and leading scientists.

The second film is “*Plant Rich Diet Challenge*” to be shown Thursday, October 13 at 7:00 PM. This film and a panel discussion shows how choosing a plant-rich diet can make an immediate impact in reducing greenhouse gas emission, deforestation, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and air and water pollution. A plant-rich diet can even address the growing problems of antibiotic resistance, future pandemics, and chronic illnesses. Local experts will discuss how to participate in the 15 Day Plant-Rich Diet Challenge. There will be a free drawing for a plant-based cookbook and a plant-based tasting bar.

Get a friend to attend the films with you and talk about them afterwards. You might discuss how Daniel and his friends in the Old Testament refused to eat the rich diet of the Babylonian king when they were captives, and how they thrived.

Healthy eating, Biblical conversation, and helping the earth —winning all around!

Creation Care Team

Pastoral Care:

Joe Roy (509-881-1082)
Colleen Michael (509-669-5643)

Grace and Growth Groups:

Merry Roy (509-881-1083)

Ushers:

Merry Roy (509-881-1083)

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

On October 2 our congregation will join others across the nation and the world to celebrate the universal Christian practice of breaking bread with one another. On that occasion we are remembering the night of Jesus’ betrayal—when Jesus and his disciples first shared a meal as friends. He began the evening washing his disciple’s feet as a sign of humble and cleansing love. After the meal Jesus broke unleavened bread with them and said, “do this in remembrance of me”. This celebrates our faith family, the church, the body of Christ, ready to give to others. Then he drank the wine saying, “this represents my blood, sacrificed for you.” The cup symbolizes Jesus pouring out his life in death for all. And then, the resurrection came. For generations the Church of the Brethren has celebrated “Love Feast” similar to the occasion described several times a year. The American Baptists chose to celebrate a “bread and cup communion” during worship service. Because of Covid, holding a full Love Feast hasn’t seemed practical or safe. So, October 2 the Deacons have planned a special occasion as described in the New Testament during worship. Stay tuned. It will be a meaningful experience for each of us.

Leanne Ford & Linda Vickery, Co-Chairs

