

# The Brethren Baptist Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren and an American Baptist Church, November/December Issue, 2021

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*“We are the family of God, oh oh we are the family of God...”*

Can you hear the melody of that chorus in your head? It’s been quite a while since I’ve heard that sung in any group setting, but the words often come to me when I experience God’s family in action.

And it gives me great joy to tell you I’ve heard that song a lot lately! I am so thankful for the warm and generous welcome I’ve received in the last weeks as you’ve opened up the WBBC family to me. You all are a great bunch of people! You have been without exception friendly, gracious and hospitable as “the new guy” has been feeling his way into a new setting. I have felt like family from the very first, and for that I am deeply appreciative. (You didn’t even make fun of me when my microphone wasn’t turned on last Sunday...)

As pleasing as your reception of me has been, I will also tell you I’m not surprised. Glad and thankful, but not surprised. Why? Because who should be more welcoming of the stranger in our midst than those who have been loved, welcomed and accepted by the best giver of grace there ever was? “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1). Each of us has been so well loved by God that we should be brimming over with that same love for those around us. And you are!

Though it’s clear I’ll only be in this interim role for a limited time, I’m very excited to partner with you to express that boundless love to the world around us. I love your - our! - mission mindset, both for those across the world and right down the street. As covid continues to recede, I’d love to see us renew our relationship with the treatment center. I’d like to see us increase our connection with folks at Colonial Vista and Garden Terrace, and perhaps with other similar residences. And I’m excited about exploring the partnerships already in place with groups like Serve Wenatchee and Parque Padrinos.

So thanks for welcoming me to the WBBC family of God. I hope you are reaching out to others as well, encouraging them to join us on Sunday mornings and in Grace & Growth groups. Your open arms are tangible expressions of the welcome Jesus extends to every one of us. Let’s make it clear to anyone we meet that our home is open to them as well.

Pastor Don

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for handing in your pledge cards for next year. All donations are very important for the church to operate. The finance committee has met with the church board and the budget for next year will be presented to council on December 5.

Many blessing to everyone,  
Connie Mitchell, Treasurer

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## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

Carolyn Storme  
Darlene Uhrich

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## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

8<sup>th</sup> Tanya Zaytsev  
9<sup>th</sup> Keith Madsen  
15<sup>th</sup> Joyce Briggs

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2<sup>nd</sup> Colleen Michael  
9<sup>th</sup> Alexis Vickery  
11<sup>th</sup> Jo Anne Cox  
17<sup>th</sup> Joe Roy  
22<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Dryden  
Caleb Vickery  
29<sup>th</sup> Pam Hannah



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

None

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9<sup>th</sup> Jesse & Kay Graybill  
23<sup>rd</sup> Joe & Merry Roy  
27<sup>th</sup> Maurice & Joyce Briggs



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

Every year (even in a limited way for last year's pandemic Christmas) we have decorated the church for Advent and Christmas. We call this "Hanging of the Greens", an Old English-y way of saying "Decorating the Church".

**Saturday, November 27, join us at 9:00am to Hang the Greens/ Decorate the Church.** Decorations will be laid out in the narthex, and everyone is invited to deck the halls!

## PROPERTY NEWS

Property always seems to stay busy. This fall we had our outside cleanup with 16 people showing up to help. Everything is looking pretty good. Wenatchee Public Works shut off the irrigation water on the October 18 and Caleb and I drained the irrigation pipes, so everything is set for winter. Caleb and I got the furnace up and running and the timer is set in the office for when it is to come on. The next thing we need to do is to put the snowblower on the tractor, then let it snow.

Lael and Caleb

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## GOD'S CREATION

***“Today, we say nobody should profit from the rising temperatures, seas and human suffering caused by the burning of fossil fuels. We can no longer continue feeding our addiction to fossil fuels as if there is no tomorrow, for there will be no tomorrow.”***

**-Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu**

Climate change/emergency/catastrophe, whatever you call it, is manifesting now in many ways all over the world. The world is getting hotter; our decisions as God's people will determine how hot.

We are living in a Nehemiah moment, said an announcement of new resources from Creation Justice Ministries. Nehemiah's critics on his returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and temple taunted him by saying, “Will they restore things? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish it in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish—and burned ones at that?” (Nehemiah 4:2)

Now is the time for us to work shoulder to shoulder, like Nehemiah in rebuilding the city of Jerusalem. Now is the time for us to work with all our heart. It is clear that the climate crisis has arrived. We are standing in the rubble of climate breakdown. All around us, our communities are being affected by climate disasters on a physical, spiritual, and social level. Like Nehemiah, it is time for our faith communities to respond not only with words, but with actions. Nehemiah said, “So we rebuilt the wall and all the wall was joined together, for the people had a mind to work.” (Nehemiah 4:6)

What can we as Christians do? Every small way we act responsibly helps. Every small way we neglect to act hurts. Caring for God's precious gift of creation is following Jesus. That's what we are called to do, and in this we love the Lord with all our hearts and minds and our neighbor as ourselves.

Information from Brethren Newline and Creation Justice Ministries

Creation Care Team



# Happy Thanksgiving!



## THANK YOU NOTES!

*As The Salcido Connection, Inc. celebrates 20 years in business within the greater Wenatchee Valley, we would like to thank you for your continued support.*

*With great appreciation,  
The Salcido Connection Crew*

*Thank you for your continuing support with the Coyote Closet at Lincoln School!*

Lincoln School Staff

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## MONTHLY PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

For seven years, our church and Sunnyslope Church have been praying for Nigeria and the suffering of the people attacked and displaced by Boko Haram. We started when nearly 300 Chibok girls were kidnapped in 2014, and we gathered in a community-wide service to pray, sing, and read the names of the kidnapped girls. We created cards to send love and prayers to the families and communities of these girls.

That first year a group from the two churches met weekly on our church lawn for prayer, sometimes joined by those passing by on the sidewalk. A year later most of the girls were still in captivity; the group met monthly then to share news from Nigeria and pray. Several years later we started sharing prayer concerns for Nigeria through email and praying individually.

Today I am asking for us to expand our prayers on the third Wednesday of every month and to pray for the needs of the whole world. Will you join us? Maybe you will do this every week or every day. Pray in your own way for Nigeria, Myanmar, Haiti, Ukraine, Lebanon, Afghanistan and refugees everywhere. Pray for the United States. Pray for Creation. Pray specifically for those areas of the world that God lays on your heart.

God has blessed us to be a blessing. Thank the Lord!

Merry Roy

## WELCOME BACKPACKS KITS “A GIFT OF WELCOME”

In the coming months, tens of thousands of refugees will make their way to the United States after years of waiting. Church World Service noted *Welcome Backpacks Kits* are being collected for those entering the country to join family members, and asylum seekers at the US southern border, among others.

CWS is partnering with 17 border shelters that receive asylum seekers released from Border Patrol or ICE, providing them with food and shelter and arranging transportation for them to reunite with their families.

“Often, refugees or asylum seekers come with few material possessions—and we will be there to welcome them into their new communities. CWS *Welcome Backpacks* are a new part of the process—providing unaccompanied minors and families with the essentials for their transition: food and water, children’s activities, a blanket, basic hygiene items, and PPE. You can help extend welcome by assembling backpacks or sponsoring a backpack to be assembled.”

For information about contents of the new *Welcome Backpack Kit* and how to assemble, pack, and ship them, go to <https://cwsglobal.org/donate/welcome-backpacks>.

Please note that at this time, this new kit is not yet being received at the Brethren Service Center but must go to CWS.



# Merry Christmas!



## WWBC PLANNING SESSION SUMMARY

On Tuesday 10/19 approximately 20 of us from WWBC met with Pastor Doug Avilesbernal, the Executive Minister from the Evergreen Region of the American Baptist Church for discussion about the future of our church. Doug was an excellent moderator and guided us through a number of specific areas of conversation.

Doug first explained to us the function of the Evergreen Region of the ABC as it pertains to us. A good summary would be to see their mission statement.

*“Being a culturally diverse people who are one in Christ and who value the liberties of our American Baptist heritage, the Evergreen Baptist Association will:*

- *Build bridges between communities*
- *Provide resources to equip member churches to share Christ and teach God’s word*
- *Translate our unity to the world*

We then spent some time sharing what we thought the key values of our church are. Key words from this discussion:

- Following Jesus
- Walk the talk
- Agents of healing
- Welcoming and inclusive
- Humility
- Non-credal, New Testament based
- Caring for each other
- Friendliness
- Missional
- Loving the unloved
- Sacraments
- Preserving creation
- Servant leadership

In to understand where we are in preparation for where we might go, we listed basic demographics of the church:

- Average age ~76
- A few kids
- Membership of ~ 120
- Legacy
- A need for influx & growth
- Diverse denominational backgrounds
- Many dedicated grandparents
- Regular attendance of ~ 50
- Vitality
- Strong connection with Trinity Church

Then we discussed potential “paths” for the future:

- The transfer/transition plan with Trinity Church
- Increased cooperation and partnership with Sunnyslope Brethren Church
- Pursuing the idea of growth along the “grandparent church” model
- Celebrating and nurturing our current ministries
- Embracing technology advances
- After School reading programs, and/or similar ways to support kids and families
- Recognizing a growing pastoral influence in the cyber world

Each of these lists probably give birth to more questions that providing answers, and I’m sure anyone present would be glad to try and address those questions. We know that there are more discussions like this in the near future as we continue to dream and plan.

