

The Brethren Baptist Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren and an American Baptist Church, March/April Issue, 2022

“Looking forward...”

I was in Safeway last week, picking up a prescription. It was the 16th of February, two days after Valentine’s Day. I chose to walk down the “seasonal” aisle toward the pharmacy, and what were the shelves filled with? Yep – Easter candy! And Easter is really late this year!

Like many of us, I live with the tension of being attentive to the “right now” and anticipating the “what’s next?” in life. We are often encouraged to “live in the present”, and there’s wisdom in that. But I have recently been reminded by... here comes a surprise... Eugene Peterson to live what he calls “the expectant life.” Here are some words of my current mentor that have called me to think deeply:

“Christians should live on tiptoe. Alert. Joyful. Affirmative. Wide eyed. Ready. What are we looking forward to? In a word, God. We know that God comes; it is his most characteristic motion. He doesn’t leave. He doesn’t wander off. He comes – to us, his people.” (from “On Living Well”)

Each of us has a rich legacy of days lived that we can remember and reflect upon. We also have a wealth of relationships to enjoy every day of the present. And, and here’s what I think my friend Eugene is pointing us to, we have a life ahead to be eager for, to be excited about, in which to anticipate God doing good and big things equal or even greater to what he has done in our past! God has great plans to unfold, and we’re going to get the privilege of seeing them!

For decades I have encouraged young people with the great promise of Jeremiah 29 – *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”* (29:11-13) Those words are as true for every one of us as they are for the teenagers at camp who are considering the love of Jesus for the first time. God has a wonderful future in store for you – for this church – for our community – and for our world. Right now – on a dark snowy morning when I must still wear a mask to go in a store – it’s easy to forget that. But truth is truth, and our God is Truth!

More great words from Peterson:

“We ought to cultivate the skills that equip us to live in cheerful anticipation of what God will do tomorrow. Will we live anxiously, complaining and querulous, because we don’t have all we want or because we don’t know what is coming next. Or will we live in confident joy, sure that God’s next move will be a good one. The expectant command is for us to rejoice.”

Blessings as we look down the road –
Pastor Don

UPDATE ON CHURCH HAPPENINGS

It was decided that we will resume in-person worship on Sunday, March 6 at 11:15am. Everyone still needs to wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines.

Both groups are still working on the Pastoral Search and Building Transfer. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their efforts to find a pastor and complete the building transfer.

On a smaller scale, the mailboxes that were just inside the entry doors from the parking lot have been removed and new mailboxes have been installed in the office and many closets have been gone through and cleaned out as well. Guess you could say we are doing spring cleaning early!!

MARCH 13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS!
(Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour)



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING

Each year we collect the America for Christ Offering for the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, 100% of your generous donations to our AFC Campaign support our ministries providing much-needed assistance to communities devastated by natural disasters and the pandemic.



The America for Christ Offering (AFC) 2022 is based on Psalm 22:22 *I will praise you and testify about what you have done.*

This year we will collect the AFC offering on *Sunday, March 20*. Please write your check to Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church with "America for Christ" in the memo line. Wenatchee Brethren Baptist is associated with both the American Baptist Church and the Church of the Brethren. In the fall, we will collect the Mission Offering for the Church of the Brethren.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

Carolyn Storme
Darlene Uhrich

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

10th Jesse Graybill
15th Karen Whitley

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NO Anniversaries

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

24th Jay & Susan Stockwell



2 CENTS WORTH OFFERING

Sunday, February 27

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. The offering collected is sent to Heifer Project International.



Please write a separate check for the 2 Cents Worth Offering.

FINAL SCORE OF THE SOUPER BOWL

Each year, on Super Bowl Sunday, we collect the "Souper Bowl" offering for the food ministries of Serve Wenatchee Valley. Although your team may not have won in the Super Bowl this year, your WBBC team *definitely* won in the Souper Bowl. The final score was \$250.00! Thank you for your generosity! Go team!



NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons are still calling folks who aren't able to attend Zoom worship services as a means of connection. Not everyone is called every week if some connection/conversation has happened. Zoom has been well attended with 25 - 30 participants. Palm Sunday (April 10) plan to have a bread and cup communion during worship. This will depend on the Interim Pastor, but we feel it isn't the right time to have a full-blown Love Feast. Future plans for such an event are iffy. Given the ongoing Virus mutations and health crisis it is not on the table this year.

The Support Deacon is sending cards to shut-ins, the sick and those who they feel need a pick-me-up.

Leanne Ford

GOD'S CREATION

Brethren have been called to be peacemakers throughout their history. We are exhorted to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Following Jesus led many churches and Christians to oppose slavery and work to free slaves. Fifty years ago, Jesus followers were led to participate in the Civil Rights movement. Every generation has its calls for moral action, to love like God loves.

A new Anabaptist Collaboration on Climate Change has been started by a group of primarily Mennonite organizations. Leadership from 18 Anabaptist organizations in the United States and Canada convened in January to address what many consider a moral emergency. Those gathered drafted a statement that was later signed by the majority of the participating organizations: 'As organizations founded on Christian faith in the Anabaptist tradition, we recognize the significant threat to global communities, economic justice, and the next generations from climate change. We are committed to explore our work and mission in support of sustainable and just climate solutions.

This was the largest gathering of Anabaptist leaders on climate change in North America to date. It was organized by the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions." Doug Graber Neufeld is Director of the Center and Professor of Biology at Eastern Mennonite University. The center plans to organize more gatherings on climate change in the future and include a broader range of participants. A link to the consensus statement and signatories is at <https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org/anabaptist-climate-collaboration>.

Creation Care Team

HOLY WEEK 2022

Holy Week is usually the high point of our yearly church calendar – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Love Feast, Easter Sunrise Service, Easter breakfast, and a joyous Easter worship. For the last 2 years we have had to cancel and adapt those activities because of the pandemic. We hoped that for Holy Week 2022 we would be "back to normal."

Unfortunately, things are still not back to normal. We do not anticipate having any in-person activities during Holy Week (April 11-15). However, we will be having in-person worship on Easter Sunday. We will have a *Bread and Cup Communion* during the service on Palm Sunday.

Happy
Easter!
