

Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Quarterly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren & American Baptist Church, October / November / December Issue, 2025

SO HERE WE ARE

If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?" —Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Everything Jesus did and said was within the context of proclaiming and living the Kingdom of God. Living the Redemptive Life. **"Good news to the poor, release of the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, let the oppressed go free,"** and Jesus says "Today, with me here, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus says, "I'm doing this now."

Jesus tells a parable of someone giving a banquet. He invites people, but what do they do? They make excuses. "Yeah, I can't make it." So whom does Jesus invite to fill his banquet hall? "Bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame." And look at this—his servant says, "Sir, what you ordered has been done." Did the servants know the character of the man so well that they immediately knew, "Okay, this is who we need to bring in. It's not full yet? Go out into the roads and lanes. Tell people they are welcome, they are wanted, they are valued and loved and invited to *this* banquet."

In that culture, you had a banquet so that important people could see how rich you were and those you invited would owe you and repay you by inviting you to their banquets. How many of these new guests will be able to pay back the banquet host in kind? None? Remember, it's a parable. This is the Kingdom of God. People are welcome, and all they have to do is say "yes." Like when Jesus went to the land of the Gerasenes and healed the man possessed by demons, right? Who is willing? I don't care how broken or screwed up you are, don't come at me with your "I'm not qualified, I'm too messed up!" Will you come to my banquet? Will you receive this grace? Faithfulness is simply, "Will you try?"

Jesus, himself, in utero, still in Mary's womb, *is* the poor, *is* the outcast. There was no place *for them* in the inn; I don't mean the rooms were full, I mean they weren't welcome. These aren't nice stories to make us feel cozy, these are descriptions of God's Kingdom turning these upside down cultures and values of our world right side up.

Jesus' Kingdom of love is for the screwed up among us. This Kingdom is for those of us who struggle, literally or figuratively, to get out of bed in the morning, in whatever form that takes for you. I assume that all of us are screwed up in some way or we wouldn't be following Jesus.

If you're thinking to yourself, "Well, I'm not really screwed up," I think that means—how do I say this nicely—you haven't figured it out yet. When I read the Gospels, the only thing that I can see that might disqualify *anyone* from joining in the Kingdom of God, or entering the Redemptive Life, is believing you're righteous on your own and have no need for God or redemption or grace. If you believe you have *nothing* in your life for which you need forgiveness, how will you receive grace? I call that delusion. That's self-selecting, not Jesus telling anyone they're unwelcome. Those invited to the banquet all alike made excuses. "Yeah, I'm good. I don't need that banquet." The Redemptive Life makes no sense for someone who believes they have no need to be redeemed, who has never had any trouble getting out of bed and is already self-righteous, which means that evil in everyone else's heart—remember, we said --that doesn't really apply to them.

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STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY OCTOBER 5

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 5. Our theme is *Growing in Faith & Service, Giving our Time, Talent and Treasure. 1 Timothy 6:18-19*. You should have received a mailing with more information and your pledge cards for 2026. If you didn’t get one, there are more available in the office.



**FROM THE DESK OF
CO-MODERATORS,
LAEL & CONNIE**

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Fall Church Council meeting will be on Sunday, November 23 immediately following worship.

The topics will include:

- ✓ Approval of the 2026 Budget

Lael & Connie



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

8th Annalise Rumley-Wells
9th Mike Rumley-Wells
18th Carolyn Storme
19th Cathy Madsen

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7th Valentina Saucedo
8th Tanya Zaytsev
9th Keith Madsen

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd Colleen Michael
Rowan Rumley-Wells
9th Alexis Vickery
11th Jo Anne Cox
17th Joe Roy
22nd Barbara Dryden
Caleb Vickery



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!

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

23rd Joe & Merry Roy



FOR A RELAXING TREAT FOR EYES AND EARS, HEART AND MIND:

Go to YouTube; search for **Johannesburg Mt., NE Buttress, North Cascades**.

The first 20 minutes of this video is two men climbing the buttress, with the old hymns as the background music. Afterwards is their discussion of their route and techniques.

Submitted by Jo Anne Cox



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-Pastor Mike's article continued:

I believe God calls us to be not just attendees but active participants, partners in Jesus' Kingdom of Love. The purpose of God's Kingdom is to transform *us* to be more like Jesus—and to offer that love to the world around us. That means you're reading a challenge to change the world from someone who deals with issues like depression, severe punctuality deficiency, and a massive imbalance between what I'd like to be able to do and what I'm competent to do.

In other words, God could have done better than me. But that's always true of the Kingdom of God. Jesus has this odd preference for partnering with the weak, the lame, the poor, the screwed up, the struggling. Except it's not that weird because it turns out *that's all of us*.

It's all of us, and some of us simply haven't figured out it's us yet.

Jesus and I have wrestled, around and around: why give someone like me such a burning, inextinguishable desire to make the world a better place? Wouldn't that, you know, be more productive in someone who can, you know...do stuff?

Jesus said, "Nope, it's yours. I'm with you. Do what you can with what you've got."

So here I am.

And here we are.

Pastor Mike

Responsible manufacturers are trying to reduce their carbon footprint by changing the way they package their products, avoiding plastic which is made from fossil fuels. Some of them are committed to recycling the plastic packaging they do use. Think about the plastic bags that Fred Meyer and other grocery stores collect to be recycled – filling the gap in traditional recycling that won't take plastic bags because they clog the recycling machinery.

Here's another way to recycle some rejected products. PACT is a non-profit that helps the beauty industry be responsible for their packaging, working toward the circular solution of reusing their own plastic waste. The beauty company Ulta with a store in the Wenatchee Valley Mall has a collection box for the following beauty product containers:

- Small plastic, metal, or paper bottles and jars smaller than a yogurt cup
- plastic or aluminum squeeze tubes
- colored glass bottles or jars (check locally)
- caps and closures
- pump dispensers
- droppers
- lipstick and lip balm tubes
- toothpaste tubes (cut open, flattened and cleaned)
- dental floss containers
- silicone containers
- pouches
- small supplement bottles (2" by 2")

All the containers need to be empty and cleaned. Prescription pill bottles are not permitted. For more detailed information Google: Ulta Beauty - The Beauty Dropoff or Pact Collective – <https://www.pactcollective.org> › ultapact

Creation Care Team



DEACONS

The quarterly Bread and Cup Communion will be held October 5 – World Communion Sunday - during our worship service. Any individual attending the service is welcome to participate. You don't have to be a member, or baptized or a certain age (as adult). The "wine" is grape juice. Participants come to the altar to receive the bread and cup sacraments. But, if you are not able to come forward and remain in your seat, a Deacon will bring the bread and cup to you.

Some of our congregation prefer to use the hymnal (and the printed music) as opposed to following the song through the power point. Hymnals are available on a small shelf as you enter the sanctuary (right door facing the front of the sanctuary). This replaces the cart that we brought into the Narthex before worship. If the song is not in a hymnal there isn't music available. That cart also had free paperback bibles. The Bibles are on a self in the back corner of the Narthex near the bulletin board. If you know someone who needs a Bible, please give them one of these. They were bought for the purpose of sharing the word.

FOR A RELAXING TREAT FOR EYES AND EARS, HEART AND MIND:

Go to YouTube; search for **Johannesburg Mt., NE Buttress, North Cascades.**

The first 20 minutes of this video is two men climbing the buttress, with the old hymns as the background music. Afterwards is their discussion of their route and techniques.

Submitted by Jo Anne Cox



2 CENTS WORTH OFFERING Sunday, November 30



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.

CHALLENGE AND CHANGE AND JESUS

Trinity Church is experiencing growth in their Sunday School program. So is WBBC but on a smaller scale. What to do? Teachers from both churches worked together to see how we could share the children's Sunday School room. We met several times during the summer and worked out an agreeable way to share the room. So far after two Sundays of this sharing, the plan is working well. But it takes work - talking together, sharing needs, and being willing to change.

That's like many relationships whether they are in our families, our marriages, our work, our churches, or in our friendship circles. We need to listen to each other and find our common ground. We need to give up some things and find new ways of doing our ministry. We need to love our neighbors as ourselves, as Jesus put it.

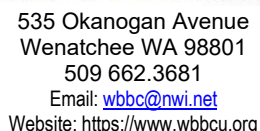
Please feel welcome to peek into the children's Sunday School room and see how this is working. The kids are sharing - it's in their nature.

Another thing Jesus told us - receive the Kingdom like a little child.

Merry Roy, Spiritual Nurture Chair

...believe in a love that is being stored up for you like an inheritance, and have faith that in this love there is a strength and a blessing so large that you can travel as far as you wish without having to step outside it.

—Rilke *AND* 1 Peter 1:4



Hours will be flexible.
Please call the office before coming in.