

Thursday Thoughts – February 21, 2019

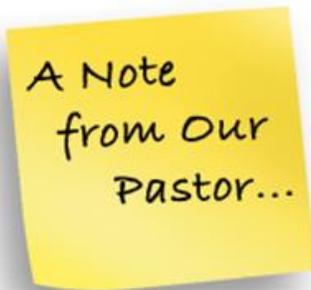
We are a Christian fellowship, who declares and demonstrates God's boundless love for all.



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[From the Pastor](#) | [Prayer Requests](#) | [Joys](#) | [This Week at Church](#) | [Birthdays](#)



Happy Thursday Everyone!

It is a gorgeous day outside. As one of my favorite bands sings, "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! The Sun is shining down on me. Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! I'm alive and I'm feeling fine." - J.J. Gray and Mofro

I'm not sure I'm singing this song because I'm trying to convince myself that everything is fine, or rather, that I'm singing this because I am actually fine?

As many of you know, this has been a difficult week and this weekend starts General Conference 2019, where the UMC will attempt to discuss and make official policy regarding LGBTQ folks in church leadership and full membership in the church.

My friend Susannah and her family are constantly in my thoughts and prayers as they are dealing with the traumatizing events surrounding their 11 year old's brain trauma.

And so I am feeling overwhelmed. But as the sun shines down on us today, I am reminded that the Creator's love shines down on all of us. No matter what actions we take in this world, no matter what is legislated at 2019 General Conference, God's love and light shines still. We cannot legislate that. And so I have hope. Because I have to have hope.

I ask you to join me in this hopeful dreaming, as I pray for our siblings at General Conference and as I continue to pray for my friends, the Carrs, back in Mississippi.

You are all such wonderful people!

Much love, and let the light keep shining!

~Pastor J.

Joys & Thanksgivings

- Joy for Rev Mark Galang, Puget Sound District Superintendent, who was our guest preacher on Sunday. Thank you for his excellent message. Also keep him and his family in our prayers as they travel together when he visits district churches on Sunday. The district includes churches around the entire Puget Sound – all the way to Canada.
- Hildegard Stone celebrates the snow, skis and animal tracks. Thank God for Wonders.
- Susan is grateful for her life, her years, her family, friends and her church family.





Health Concerns

• Pastor Justin's good friend and mentor, Rev. Susannah Carr, a minister in Mississippi, and her family need our prayers. Her son Caleb, eleven years old, suffered brain trauma due to a self-inflicted gunshot on Monday. He is in critical condition at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS. They are all heartbroken and praying for the best outcome. Susannah, her husband Todd, and their other son, Noah are being allowed to be with Caleb for the most part. Pray for peace, healing, and love.

- Mary Ellis, diagnosed with lung cancer
- Warren Kovich, Helence Norman's nephew with pancreatic cancer
- All those suffering from cancer
- Steve Armstrong's father, several medical issues, in a nursing home
- Healing for Carol and Bud
- Carol Smith, who fell down and incline in bramble bushes, suggests taking cell phones with us.

Peace & Encouragement

- Reconciliation for parents who are separated from their children
- United Methodists at General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri deciding on a Way Forward for our church denomination February 23-26, 2019.

This Week at the Church:

8811 Illahee Road NE, Bremerton, WA 98311

Thursday: 12:30pm Prayer Circle
 2:30pm Garden Club Meeting

Sunday: ~ **Upward Bound Deadline** ~
 11am Worship – 7th Sunday After Epiphany
 12pm Fellowship

Thursday: 12:30pm Prayer Circle
 7pm Book Study at **Brownsville UMC**
"We Make the Road By Walking"



Happy Birthday to:
 Joe Tollefson – 22nd
 Mia McIntosh – 24th
 Scott Harrison – 27th



Happy Anniversary to:
 No Anniversaries This Week

If you would like to receive our Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary greetings, please send your dates to our church email address listed above. Thanks...