

HAPPENINGS AT THE CHURCH AND IN THE COMMUNITY NOVEMBER 2019

CHURCH NEWS --



So we can keep the doors open, pay the bills, and show our appreciation to Pastor Sally Balmer for all the goodness she brings to us, November is when we host our annual stewardship drive. We are most appreciative of **church and community members'** generous support of our church and its work.

Sundays, November 3, 10 and 24 at 9:30 am – Pastor Balmer will be preaching.



Pastor's Corner – A warm hello to all who read this! We are in the midst of days fraught with news of wildfires both literal and political ones. The days are growing shorter and in the midst of it growing dark and cold as well. I am reminded of an old call for more light and less heat. My conviction is that 'church' is a people and time to pause, to consider, to lean into the holy, the sacred. God is ever a touchstone for a grace and strength that is more than any particular moment. "Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble?" a prophet mused long ago in a helpless prayer. "Write the vision" comes the reply. We all

need 'vision,' however far-reaching or for the day. Our consumer society is especially limited this way; our politics can be, too. I would like to think that 'church' – us, and our time together— expresses a spirit, a Spirit, that sorts-through life with a grounded hope, a vision beyond the troubles we see. This month, we will particularly appreciate expressions of vision and 'light' in our midst.

Sunday, November 10 at 9:30 am - Memorial Service for Reverend Darrel Berg

During the regular church service, we will honor the 14 years (1994- 2008) that Darrel served as minister to the Guemes Church. Many islanders, whether church goers or not, will fondly remember Darrel and his infectious spirit. He was widely known and loved in the community. Darrel would have turned 99 on November 14. Many will remember his deep love of poetry. We will listen during the service to Darrel read a few poems from his CD; and we will recall the time he read to a packed house at the community center- with all profits donated to Summit Dogs. We will sing a few of his favorite hymns and enjoy hearing Darrel anecdotes. This will be our moment to celebrate Darrel's: spirituality, intellectual fervor, and his sense of social responsibility and political engagement. Please join us. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, November 17 at 9:30 am – David Wertheimer will be our guest speaker.

Moderator's Message - November is a time for giving thanks and there are MANY in Guemes Church deserving of special recognition: Anne Passarelli for continued direction of an appreciative choir in spite of her mobility challenges. Connie Snell who diligently keeps us connected with our community and mindful of our commitment to environmental issues. Julie Pingree for her faithful attention to quality worship leaders when Sally is absent. Lynn Prewitt for sharing her talents by producing this monthly newsletter that you are now reading. Carl Cady faithfully attends to our treasurers' duties. THANKS to all who contribute their time, talents and money to keep our church an open and welcoming place.

Sunday, November 3 at 11:00 am – Church Council will meet; everyone is welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY NEWS-

Ferry Operations Community Forum, Thursday, November 7, 6:00 pm at the Community Center:

The public is encouraged to attend to learn about the latest ferry system updates. Public Works staff and consultants from BERK & KPFF will be available for questions and answers.



Fiesta de Los Amigos, Fundraising Dinner for Immigrant Services, Saturday, November 9, 5:00 pm at the Community Center:

GIST (Guemes Immigrant Support Team) and the Guemes Community Church are combining forces to raise \$500 each for four Skagit County immigrant service groups. There will be a dinner and a brief program with two remarkable, young women sharing their stories. Suggested donation is \$25 per household at the door. Please donate new wool socks for field workers. Purchase a \$5 raffle ticket to win a \$100 gift certificate to the COA Mexican Eatery. Note: If you can't attend, you may donate by sending a check made out to the Guemes Church with "immigrant support" on the memo line.



Gathering Lunches - Thursdays, November 7, 14 and 21, 11:30 am-12:15 pm: These lunches are a great time to meet and eat with friends and neighbors. Find lunch menus online at Linetime.org. Suggested donation is \$5.

Community Soup Supper - Tuesday, November 12, 6:00 pm at the church: Brooks Range

Revisited - Ralph Mendershausen will present a program detailing his hiking experiences traversing Alaska's Brooks Range this past summer. As usual, the soup and social hour will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by the program at 7:00. Soup and bread will be provided, while dessert is a spontaneous offering. Everyone is welcome.

GIPAC Annual Meeting and Election - Sunday, November 17, 2:00-4:00 pm at the

Community Center: GIPAC will give its annual report, outlining its sponsorship of two code amendments that would advance the use of rainwater catchment systems and strengthen code requirements for permitting all drilled wells, and the progress of the shoreline restoration project at the Peach Preserve. They will also kick off a fundraising project to help finance a U.S. Geological Survey study that will map the aquifer recharges areas on Guemes Island and determine what the island's annual water budget is. Guest speakers will discuss what a critical area is and how protecting them helps the island, and will report on a recent study of the impact of multiple beaver dams in the valley and outline options for mitigation of the resulting flooding of Edens Road. All islanders are encouraged to attend.

GICCA Meeting - Thursday, November 21, 7:00 pm, Community Center: At the Annual Meeting on November 21, the membership will elect, from the slate of nominees, members to fill the two open positions on the Board. See <https://myguemes.org> for details.



Featured Artist at the Church - The artwork of Guemes Island artist Betsy Ockwell is currently on display in the church foyer through the months of November and December. View and enjoy any time the church is open.



Guemes Island Historical Society's Annual Holiday Bazaar, Lunch and Bake Sale, Saturday, November 30, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Guemes Island AA Meetings, Thursdays at 6:30 pm – Call 425-369-9450 for details.

Note: *If you have program ideas for the larger Guemes community, call Connie Snell, 360-708-3589 or email her at conniemsnell@gmail.com. Also, contact Connie if you'd like to reserve the church facilities for group or personal events. **There is no fee for using church facilities; however, donations are much appreciated.** If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter contact list, email Lynn Prewitt at redhouseelynn@gmail.com.*