

September 2025

The Communicator

EAGLE HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Dee Eisenhauer, Pastor

Full Harvest (Urodzaj)

And it seemed it was time for us to die
somehow right now, this afternoon, but the apples
were abundant that year and ripened
before autumn really showed what it was made of.
Even the water shoots arced into branches.

And now the sun is happily drinking water
from the puddle at the gate and the burdock-
sized leaves of the lilac, but the warmth isn't enough for it,
the day smacks of humidity. Again the magpie chatters
in its own way, and old friends, one after another,

will deny us, and we would be the last
to want to hinder them, but neither
to overlook this, because then how would the others cope,
high and dry, without a word from us.

I chyba mieliśmy umierać jakoś
tuż zaraz po południu, ale jabłka
obrodziły tego roku i dojrzały
zanim z jesieni wyszło, co w niej naprawdę siedzi.
Nawet wilcze pędy wygięły się w gałęzie.

I teraz słońce w najlepsze pije sobie wodę
w zagłębieniu przy furtce i na przerośniętych
łopuchowato liściach bzu, ale nie starcza mu ciepła,
dzień zalatuje wilgocią. Sroka znów skrzeczy
po swojemu i dawni przyjaciele kolejno

będą się nas wypierać, a my w najmniejszym stopniu
nie chcielibyśmy tego utrudniać, ale przegapić
też nie, bo jak by potem mieli radzić sobie inni,
tak na sucho, bez słowa z naszej strony.

written by Piotr Sommer

translated from the original Polish by Christian Hawkey and W. Martin



The Communicator is a publication of Eagle Harbor Congregational Church.

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From Pastor Dee



Bill just asked me if I have a “short-timer’s calendar.” He said that in the military, a person counting down to their discharge date often put a calendar on the wall and put an “X” through the days as they counted down to the end of their posting.

I don’t have a calendar like that exactly, but doing wrapping-up work is certainly on my mind. Top of mind for me is the way I have been deflecting or ducking the last few months when anyone has tried to start saying goodbye, because the work of the Search Committee was not yet complete and the time was not right yet.

But now the time is right. I am hoping that during the next three months I can visit with as many people who want to visit with me to talk about whatever needs or wants talking about. We’ve had a long relationship as pastor and people, and parting ways—while expected—will be a bit complicated for me and for some of you as well.

One of the things I most want to avoid is leaving my successor with a steaming kimchi pot of unresolved grief or disgruntlement or whatever. So, let’s take some intentional time to say good-bye. I would love to have tea or lunch or supper or a walk with as many people who would like to get together between now and November 23, which I expect to be my last Sunday.

During these visits, we can talk about our spiritual journeys, our shared history, our concerns, our gratitude, our beefs—whatever needs talking over. As a young minister, I remember carrying away some bad feelings and no doubt leaving some bad feelings behind when I went to a new call while a perceived rift with one of my parishioners remained unresolved. I was too immature then to recognize how much better it would have been if we had talked it out before I left. I’ve grown up some, and now know I would much rather have a difficult conversation with someone than leave behind someone with lingering resentment (of which I may be totally unaware).

Remember, once I am finished as your pastor, it’s better for all concerned if there is clean break and a clear ending. I may be seeing you around the community after my last Sunday, but I won’t be talking about church or offering any pastoral care. I won’t be attending EHCC. We can, of course, still be friendly (nobody needs to act like “you’re dead to me!”)—but the nature of our relationship is changing.

Give me a call or send me a message if you would like to get together! I would love to see you.

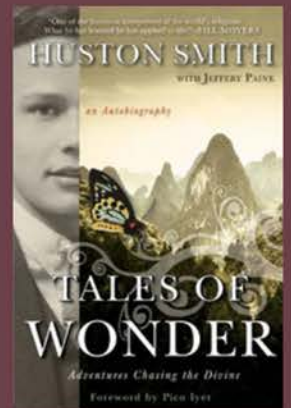
Peace be with you! Dee



Hungry Readers

Wednesday Sept. 17 at 11:30 am, in the fellowship hall.

We’ll be discussing *Tales of Wonder: Adventures Chasing the Divine* by Huston Smith. Religion scholar Huston Smith wrote this memoir when he was in his 90’s after moving to assisted living. It’s a delightful and inspiring story of his childhood as a missionary’s son in China and his long career as a distinguished scholar of world religions.





Prayers, Gratitude & Good Wishes



WE SEND OUR PRAYERS TO

Marlys Burnett, Grant Clowery, Teresa Curts, Don Fox, Anne Hopkins, Lexi Lovejoy, Leona MacKay, Christine Perkins, Geri Parker, Teita Reveley, Cathy Tusler, Mary Waterson, Sherri, Ailish & Mei Wilson, and all those suffering loneliness, starvation, addiction, war, oppression and genocide.

In need of prayer? Contact the prayer team: prayers@eagleharborchurch.org

WE SEND OUR GRATITUDE TO

Ann Lovejoy, Jennie Greiter, and everyone who brought cookies and helped set up and clean up for Stephen Wilson's memorial. It was beautiful to see so many members of the congregation in attendance. And it was bittersweet to remember our dear Stephen and say goodbye. We won't forget you Stephen! And we continue to hold his family in our prayers in the days to come.

And a thank you to our Mission Council and our Pastoral Search Committee, as we continue to move through our ministerial transition process. Thank you for holding us all in mind as you make difficult decisions, craft meaningful plans, and make sure everyone is heard. You rock.

Deep gratitude to our Care Team and our Prayer Shawl team (whose members look virtually identical) for their care of our community, providing soups and shawls and presence to everyone who needs it. When someone is sick or home from the hospital or has a family emergency, they are often the first to respond along with Pastor Dee. A fabulous team of folks!

Want to thank someone in your life?

Cut out and pass along the affirmation cards on the back of this newsletter!

SUMMER SCHOOL RETURNS!

It is September and summer school is back!
Ms. Elissa will be celebrating the wonder of God's creation
with lots more music, laughter, fun and play.
It happens every Sunday and children of all ages are welcome!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Happy
Birthday!*



9/9 Ernie Williams
9/9 Mary Cliver
9/12 Lynn Stone
9/15 Marlys Burnett
9/15 Francesca Delfino

9/18 Don Fox
9/18 Ken Colman
9/20 Dee Eisenhauer
9/21 Mary Clare Kersten
9/22 Jim Macpherson



Gathering in Community



Super Supper

Sunday, September 28 at 5pm (set up at 4pm).
Please consider offering to bring a dish, donating some \$ to the Super Supper fund, or volunteering to help set-up or clean-up.

Women's Weekly Coffee & Tea

Every Tuesday, 1pm, Social Hall
Bring your snack, your handwork, or pictures of the grandkids.
Drop in for a moment or stay for a while!
We also meet monthly on the last Friday, 10am, at the Coffee Oasis in Poulsbo.
All who identify as women are welcome.



Men's Coffee & Tea

Every Monday, 10am, Social Hall
Join Bill Comfort and others.
All who identify as men are welcome!

Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pastor Dee 9:30am via Zoom.

Wednesday Bible Study

Meets 7pm on Wednesday over Zoom.
Please email Jessica or Dee for the Zoom links.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, September 8, 10am,
in the Dovetail Room
Can't knit? We'll teach you!

"Mark" Your Calendar!



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th

Meet Pastor Candidate Rev. Mark Travis and Family

- Open-house style – 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- Light refreshments



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th

Congregational Meeting

- After worship in the Sanctuary
- Brief overview from Pastor Search Committee
- Time to ask the candidate questions
- Secret ballot vote by members (in person or via Zoom)

Your presence and input are important
as we discern God's will for our church.

We hope to see you there!

Search Committee: Wendy Johnson ▪ Ann Lovejoy ▪ Jim Macpherson
Jennifer Merrill ▪ Taryn Oestreich ▪ Dianne Speers



September Caring Coins



Our September Caring Caring Coins collection will be donated to Seattle's Operation Nightwatch, specifically to the work of its Street Ministry program. Says the Operation Nightwatch webpage: "The goal of street ministry is to make friends, and help our friends move toward housing, treatment, employment, or even moving back with friends or family. The street ministers bring socks, bottled water, hot pizza, peanut butter sandwiches, and other supplies, depending on need and availability."



EHCC can help in two ways. One: As in years past, we will be collecting pairs of new men's socks, which we will deliver to Operation Nightwatch in early October. The donation basket is in the narthex. Two: We will collect money, via our Caring Coins donations, which Operation Nightwatch can use directly to purchase the supplies they deem most needed for this ministry.

Your Caring Coin donations can be made via check or cash (marked CC on the check or envelope) or by putting your loose change in the basket on Sunday. You can also donate via the QR code!



FALL CHOIR SEASON starts with a rehearsal on Thursday, September 11 and the first anthem sung during the worship service on September 14. Sharon and I have lined up some thoughtful and beautiful pieces for the fall series "Six Stone Jars, The Economy of Jesus". We have chosen some "old chestnuts" that choir members and the congregation will know, and some aspirational pieces (music that we have not performed previously and that is a bit more challenging).

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME! If you have never sung with the choir but think you might like to, please come on Thursday, September 1, 7:00-8:30. We welcome newcomers with open arms. All you need to succeed is the desire and the time!

THANK YOU to the musicians and singers who performed Special Music during the choir's summer sabbatical. Your help really made summer worship lively and "special": Reed Price, John Eisenhauer, Chris Smellow, Jessica Star Rockers, Gil and Carolyn Parsons, Sharon Acton, Dean Twitchell, Sunday School children, Eric Fredericks, Marian Silberstein, Mary Cliver, Shelly Huffman

Best Regards, Alice T.



Everybody Eats!

September 21-28, 2025



Food insecurity is rising, worldwide and here in Kitsap County. The Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap Interfaith Council is responding this fall with a series of fundraising and food collection events that will help hungry people locally and globally during the week of September 21-28.

**Plans for this event are evolving.
So far, they include:**

Monday, September 22:

Prayers for a Hungry World at 6 p.m. at Pia the Peacekeeper, Sakai Park. Bring non-perishable food items for Helpline and Fishline.

Wednesday, September 24:

Food Drive at T & C; non-perishable food to be donated to Helpline House Food Bank.

Sunday, September 28:

CROP Dance 1:30 p.m. at Eagle Harbor Congregational Church. Participants are asked to raise pledges for the interfaith event led by Dances of Universal Peace. Funds raised will benefit Church World Service (an international relief and development agency), Helpline House, and Fishline.

The CROP Dance takes the place of the Interfaith Council's traditional CROP Walk, which has been part of the IFC's fall calendar for more than 20 years. However, we encourage people who would rather walk than dance to raise pledges and take their own individual or small group CROP Walk of any length during "Everybody Eats!" week. Walk funds will benefit Church World Service, Helpline House, and Fishline. Great news: A generous anonymous donor has agreed to match the first \$20,000 we raise for the Walk/Dance.

The Interfaith Council urges all people of good will to get involved with "Everybody Eats!" week. We hope local faith communities and non-profits will do food and/or fund drives at their own locations so that we can make this a Kitsap-wide good neighbor endeavor.

Everybody Eats! Let's make this a season of sharing, replacing scarcity with abundance, so that all our neighbors near and far can eat--satisfying physical hunger and our hunger for compassionate connection.

Want to join the team? Sign up here:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/eagle-harbor-ucc>

Finding Grace in Transitions

And so here we are, entering September, a month that heralds a season of change. In the Pacific Northwest, the long days of summer have already shortened, mornings will soon carry a hint of chill, and we'll begin to see the first signs of autumn all around us. There's a bittersweet feeling to this time of year, the harvest of our gardens and orchards, and the joy of witnessing to the abundance of God's creation. And all of this is mixed together with the awareness that summer has passed and another season lies ahead.

In our faith, harvest is a time of gratitude. It's a season for gathering in the fruits of our labor and giving thanks for God's provision. But it's also a season of letting go. The warmth of summer gives way to cooler days, and this year in particular, some chapters in our lives come to a close to make space for what is next.

Transitions are tough. But if we keep our eyes and ears and hearts open, grace finds us. And just like the apple tree needs rest after bearing fruit, our spirits need time to pause in preparation for what is to come. Thankfully, God meets us at these thresholds, in the space between summer's fullness and autumn's turning. And we're offered generous blessings of spirit where we even begin to appreciate the changing colors and the cool rain and the feeling it is time to begin again.

As a congregation, this September invites us to reflect on what we have harvested over these last 26+ years with Pastor Dee as our spiritual leader. Where have we seen growth? Where do we notice fruitfulness in our life together? And what new seeds might God be calling us to plant for the future?

My prayer is that this season of transition reminds us that God is present in both joy and change, in both abundance and release. As we celebrate the good harvest before us, let us also trust that God is already preparing the ground for the next season of abundant grace.

blessings, Jessica

A harvest prayer from ChristianAid.org.uk:

God, the Earth is yours and all that is in it. We give thanks for the food we share and ask your blessing on those who grow, harvest and prepare it. Forgive us when we fail to care for your world. Inspire us to act for the good of our neighbours, especially those who do not have plentiful food. Nourish us with your Spirit, That we may be filled with energy to do your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Celebrate the Harvest

1. Share the abundance.

If you have a garden, orchard, or even a few extra baked goods, share with neighbors, friends, Helpline House, or Super Supper.

2. Create a gratitude ritual.

Take a few minutes each day to name one "fruit" of your life right now, something that has grown, matured, or blessed you this past season.

3. Cook a seasonal meal.

The flavors of fall are such a blessing! Squash, apples, corn, or fresh-baked goodies. If you are a pumpkin-spice person, your time has come.

4. Decorate with nature's beauty.

Pumpkins, dried flowers, gourds, or even a small bowl of apples on the counter remind us of the beauty of change.

5. Plant for the future.


Farmers are known to plant cover crops. Think about a new "seed" you'd like to plant in your life, maybe a new habit, prayer practice, or commitment to community.

A pink card with a torn bottom edge and a small orange tab at the top left. It is set against a background of light blue and pink abstract shapes.

**you are
loved**

A purple card with a torn bottom edge and a small pink tab at the top left. It is set against a background of light orange and brown abstract shapes.

**you are
amazing**

A blue card with a torn bottom edge and a small orange tab at the top left. It is set against a background of light yellow and green abstract shapes.

**you are
brave**

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**you are
fun**

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**you matter
to me**

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kind**

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