

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

serving to encourage and build up faith in Christ

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Winter/Spring 2019

I've been thinking... the circle of seasons

Seattle

UPC Worship Services

The Promise of God's Love May 19
The Wideness of God's Love May 26
University Presbyterian Church
8:45, 10, 11:30 am and 5 pm

FPCT Worship Service

Finding Our Way, John 8 and Isaiah 9
First Presbyterian Church Tacoma
June 23 10:30 am

Kindlings Muse

A Hobbit, A Wardrobe and a Great War
Walker Ames Hall UW
October 7, 7:00pm

**C.S. Lewis the Writer of
Stories and Man of Faith**

Our Redeemer Presbyterian Church
October 11 and 12 - Ephrata, WA

FPCT Bible Study

The Language of Love
First Presbyterian Church Tacoma
Sept 15 and 29, 9:15 -10:15 am

**Fall Theological Dialogue:
Meetings with Earl Palmer**

Karl Barth: Dogmatics in Outline
Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11
(Reservations Needed)

**A Morning with C.S. Lewis
The Storyteller**

The Chronicles of Narnia
University Presbyterian Church
January 11, 2020

Around the Country

**C. S. Lewis Seminar in
Oxford, England**

First session: July 6 - 12
Second session: July 14 - 20
C. S. Lewis Foundation
(909) 389-1155

Bishop's Institute/Diocese of Florida

St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians
September 20-22, Live Oak, FL

Symposium on C.S. Lewis:

Influence and Relevance Today

November 6, 7, 8 - Montreat, NC

Watch for details at
www.earlpalmer.org

I once imagined a first century in the year of our Lord way of understanding the span of years we all live in and I decided to describe that span as the seasons of our lives. The first season is the earliest: we are born in a time and place, and to a family. From then on we hear our name and learn a language with an accent that come automatically. In the first season a family, small or large, loves protects and teaches us, often with celebrations. This is the season that I'll call the Jewish Period, the time of building and growing up. People around us in our neighborhood train us, recognize our skills and strengths, and begin to learn from us our desires. The first season lasts for a time that goes by too fast and then arrives at doorways that are usually ajar because growing up with talents, strengths and desires moves us through that door into a second season. I'll call it the Greek Period of our life.

Here we usually look more like everyone else of our own age. I wear the same clothes with the same REI backpack for notebooks and energy bars and my own iPhone. I am aware of myself; traditions are not as automatic or set in place as before. This is my time for taking risks I would not dare when I was younger. This is after all the Greek Season. For me it is a time of heavy weighted learning, of opening doors not ajar. It is a time of my thoughts, of my meaning and desires that I wonder about owning. It is marked by testing of what deserves my deciding and my trusting as true and good. Somewhere at the edge of this season my mind and my heart is focused with the boldness of personal commitment that settles my life with the one who shares the same and so we each enter the third season. I call this the Roman Period of life.

We are now more like owners than imaginers. In this season the rewards of learning and the increase of skills make the chances of permanence a real possibility for another bold commitment and together we choose to receive the gift of new life in the births of our children who now we will name, protect, teach and who we will watch as they make their own entry through a door ajar. In this season my concerns are now more about steadiness and traffic safety than swiftness, risks and speed.

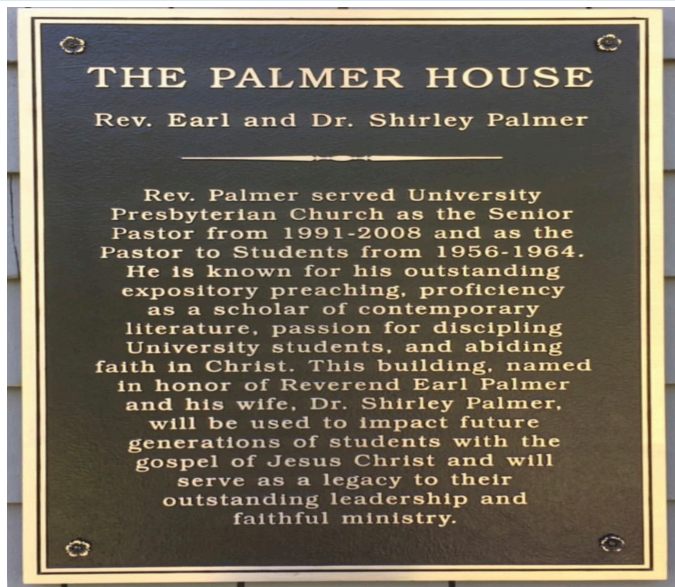
With all of the ownership and authority of the Roman time there comes with maturity a longing to experience the full circle of all seasons. The full circle is better than staying either in or returning to any one season as if we really could. I need all three together: the traditions and people of the Jewish period; the adventure and discovery of the Greek period; the responsibility and wisdom of the Roman period. And best of all I can live as a follower of the Lord of the whole of life in every season.

On April 28th at a joyous event, my wife, Shirley, and I experienced the presence of the full circle of seasons before us as we were privileged to be present for the dedication of the University Ministries house that quite by surprise to us is named "Palmer House." We are so grateful to the members and friends of University Presbyterian Church for this high honor. I came as a young pastor in 1956 as minister to high school and college students here. This vital presence of Christ centered ministry to university students has thrived in this place because the congregation of men and women in the seasons of their own lives cared to share the good news with a generation of young men and women who are at the door ajar season of their lives. We are profoundly thankful to the Lord and we join in prayer with you who share in this loving outreach to a company of young men and women who look very much like other generations before – just add back packs, energy bars and iPhones.

- Earl F. Palmer



Earl and Shirley attending worship



The Palmer House Dedication

On April 28, 2019, University Presbyterian Church dedicated the newly renovated house on its campus to Earl and Shirley Palmer. The event brought together generations of individuals whose lives have been impacted by university ministries through the years. A plaque has been placed at the entrance with the words as pictured.

“Earl and I were so excited to feel the life of this place and to know the presence of such an outreach – complete with big windows that bring light, doors that open wide, rooms that offer space for meetings, an enclave for U Min staff to ponder and plan – and not to forget the coffee waiting for the taking with bands for hot cups marked “The Palmer House”. Most of all we were humbled not only by the honor bestowed but also by the whole of the careful thought and energy behind the commitment to make this place happen. The Palmer House stands in place in witness to the vital presence of Christ centered ministry to university students that UPC has offered for over 100 years. With gratitude to all who gave to support this new look for not only a house but a way of ministry for the age – even a place in the digital world through Instagram.” - *Earl and Shirley*

What do the students have to say? Study assistant Tate Busby asked these questions:



Tobey Krippaehne, a Junior and Early Childhood and Family Studies Major at UW, volunteers two days a week to help run the coffee stand.

How did you get connected with University Ministries and the Palmer House? My parents went to the Inn when they attended UW, and on a tour of the school they insisted that I go. Now I’ve been on the worship team for two years and love being connected with everyone at the Palmer House.

What is your favorite part about the community at the Palmer House? I feel like I see a new face everyday, and at the same time there’s always someone I know.

What do you love about the building itself? The windows and open doors invite people in, it’s such a welcoming space.

The Palmer House has challenged me to approach people I don’t know and has introduced me to new communities. This place has allowed me to gain new perspectives on other peoples live’s.



Jaime Bernard is an electrical engineering major at UW Bothell and lives right next door to The Palmer House.

How have you felt welcomed into this space? I’m in the Palmer House almost every day studying, and even the office space above the main floor is welcoming. The UMin staff offers up their empty desks to whoever needs them.

How is the Palmer House served as a resource for you as a student? My relationships with my peers have strengthened immensely. The Palmer House is also a great place to potentially get help from another student on an assignment, which can be hard in all of the huge libraries on campus.

How has the Palmer House helped strengthen your faith? Spending time with people who have a common focus, even those from other schools, has really strengthened some Christian relationships I might not have had otherwise.

Before and after my commute every day, it’s great to feel connected in my area by just walking through The Palmer House and seeing who’s around.

What Else is Earl up to Now?

You can find Earl most days at his desk hard at work writing his next book. You will not be surprised to know that he is focusing on “exposition” of the Biblical text, a subject that has been the mark of his 63 years of ministry. He is constructing a manuscript, chapter, by chapter explaining the importance of and how he prepares sermons. “I can think of no more exciting task in our age, so often adrift and yet underneath it all so hungry for the real, than to have the privilege of sharing in the witness to Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.” The first chapter is already available on Christianity Today’s website. Visit www.preachingtoday.com for more information.

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Earl preached at University Presbyterian Church May 19 “The Promise of Grace Fulfilled” (Romans 4) and May 26 “The Wideness of Grace” (Romans 5) as a part of the series “The Mission of Reconciliation.”

Go to www.earlpalmer.org and find photos from recent events, updates on future events, and discover hundreds of sermons and articles!



In Remembrance...

Denny Rydberg's life on earth ended in the morning of March 16, 2019 at age 74. His wife, Marilyn and their family were alongside as the Good Shepherd gathered Denny into His arms with the promise to restore him and care for him into eternity. This giant of a man whose life has had an impact on millions leaves a legacy that "relationships matter." We give thanks that Denny is no longer suffering and that he is with the Lord now. Yet for the many of us who will miss Denny we ask that we celebrate the life he lived in faithfulness in hearing the call to serve in ministry to young people throughout his life culminating as President of Young Life. We know that he will bring a new dimension of energy in the midst of calm into the community of Saints. He enters the Kingdom as real and "unforgettable." We say with praise "Well done, good and faithful servant." - *Earl and Shirley*

Covenant Shores Lectures

As Earl has done in years past he spent two evenings at the Covenant Shores retirement community on Mercer Island. In a meeting room filled with 100 plus smiling faces who were ready to learn something new about two of Earl's favorite writers: Dorothy Sayers and C.S. Lewis. Greg Asimakoupoulos hosted the event. He has served as chaplain at Covenant Shores for six years after 40 years as parish pastor in Washington, Illinois, and California. Earl and Greg first connected when Earl was pastor at First Presbyterian Church Berkeley. In Greg's words, "Earl's intellectual approach both to scripture and literature is a great picture of the kind of curiosity and intellectual engagement that our senior adults have. Earl is living in the same season of life as most of our residents and is an example of living on the cutting edge."



Earl and Greg at Covenant Shores

A New Role for Tate in 2019-2020

Earl Palmer Ministries is pleased to announce that Tate Busby, present EPM Study Assistant 2018-2019, will move into an expanded role as Earl Palmer Ministries Program Director/Ministry Associate starting in September 2019 as EPM moves into a critical stage of establishing Earl's legacy through involvement with Princeton Theological Seminary, Christianity Today, and proposed special projects. In this position he will continue to handle the ongoing activities and events of EPM while adding responsibilities that will include the promotion of the digital/media ministry on the EPM existing structures with the initiative Earl Palmer Ministries Forward. This outreach will be through not only the earlpalmer.org website, but will include the soon to be launched "The Earl Palmer Collection at Princeton Theological Seminary," and collaboration with Christianity Today to produce relevant content through "Preaching Today," as well as explore new options to expand the use of Earl's materials. Tate recently graduated from Seattle Pacific University with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a Management Concentration. He has the gift of interpersonal communication and skills in organizational operations that includes a resume grounded in strong Christian faith. We are grateful for his willingness to continue on with Earl Palmer Ministries and welcome him to this new position with joyful anticipation in working together to extend the outreach of EPM. - Tony Whatley, Chairman, Earl Palmer Ministries

Earl Preaches at First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma on June 23 at 10:30am "Finding Our Way", John 8 and Isaiah 9

Word and Worship

The people in attendance at the Spring 2019 Word and Worship were blessed once again to have an amazing team as we shared an amazing time of worship, prayer, and fellowship. As we worked our way through Ephesians chapters 1-6, the message and accompanying music from the worship team filled the hour each night with so many inspirational takeaways. I remember how Paul's unforgettable prayer called us to spiritual growth and the importance of the belt of truth in the whole armor of God. In addition, the gift of music specially arranged for the evening with Dale, Sue, Walt, Brian, Heather, and Tomoy was indicative of God's presence.



Dale Roth, Sue Nixon, Walt Wagner, Brian Coon, Heather Whitney, and Tomoko Morita



Earl Baptizing Yulia Olivia Berezow

As a special occasion on May 16th the people had the pleasure of witnessing Earl conduct the sacrament of baptism for Yulia Olivia Berezow, three week old daughter of EPM board member, Alex Berezow, and his wife, Ania. It was a very special moment added to the usual order of worship. Many family members of Alex and Ania came to celebrate.

-Tate

On the Road with Earl

Earl's and my many adventures around the country wouldn't be complete without Earl showing me around his old stomping grounds in Berkeley. We toured the UC Berkeley campus and had a fantastic time visiting New College Berkeley where Earl gave his lectures on Ephesians. There were so many friends to meet and many more on Sunday when Earl preached at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. It was amazing to see such a thriving community of Christians interested in intellectual and theological discussion. Earl's expositions in his lectures and sermons struck a strong chord with me, and I believe everyone in attendance over the weekend felt a special connection to the messages.



Earl and Susan Phillips after a full day of the New College lectures in Berkeley

- Tate



A Special Event This September

Earl Palmer returns to be with The Diocese of Florida for The Bishop's Institute for Ministry and Leadership. The place will be Camp Weed near Live Oak, Florida. The dates are set for September 20–22. This will be a weekend exploring together St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: A First Century Book For Our 21 st Century. Paul writes this letter to people he knows well. This letter is an affirmation of the transforming power of the love of God in the lives of ordinary people. Visit The Episcopal Diocese of Florida website for more information: www.diocesefl.org

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If you have any questions regarding Earl Palmer Ministries and its events, or to schedule an event, visit us at www.earlpalmer.org or email us at info@earlpalmer.org.

If you know of others who would like to receive this newsletter, or if you would prefer not to receive this mailing, email Tate at info@earlpalmer.org.

EPM's mission statement comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:11: Serving to encourage and build up in Christian faith. These words from the Apostle Paul inspire our ministry of teaching, writing, and mentoring. First, we seek to mentor young theologians through our internship program and theological dialogues. Live podcasts through The Kindlings Muse offer regular teaching and conversation for all ages to consider major Christian themes. Word and Worship provides a setting for expositional teaching of the Bible and inspirational music. EPM's wider ministry focuses on encouraging pastors and giving a case for expositional worship.

Your support makes this ministry happen. As we continue in this eleventh year of ministry, we invite you to share in this outreach again with your prayers and your financial investment. To make a tax deductible contribute, please send a check made out to Earl Palmer Ministries, PO Box 85117, Seattle, WA 98145, or via PayPal electronically or by credit card at www.earlpalmer.org.

On behalf of the EPM team, I thank you. *Earl F. Palmer*