

# EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

*Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith*

## Fall/Winter 2017-2018 I've been thinking...

Seattle

### The Kindlings Muse Podcast\*

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)

*The Return of the King, J.R.R. Tolkien*

Nov. 20 7-8:30 p.m.

### Theological Dialogue for Lay Teachers and Pastors\*

*Malcolm Chieffly on Prayer*

Nov. 8, Dec. 6 8:30-10 a.m.

### Iranian Bible Society Banquet

*One Lamp*

Nov. 11 6-8 p.m.

### C.S. Lewis Institute

*Love and Obedience Philippians 2*

Dec. 9 9-11 a.m.

### Preaching at Worship

University Presbyterian Church

Jan. 7 (2018)

### EPM PRESENTS\*

*A Morning With C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien:*

*Speakers to Our Generation*

Jan. 13 (2018) 8:30 a.m.-12 noon

### Spring Word and Worship

The Highlands Chapel

Mar. 22, Apr. 26, May 24 (2018) 7:30 p.m.

*Around the Country*

### New College Berkeley\*

*The Gospel of John*

April 7 (2018) 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Laity Lodge\*

Kerrville, Texas

June 14-17 (2018)

*Around the World\**

### C.S. Lewis Study Week in Oxford

(1) July 15-20; (2) July 22-27

\*Watch for details at [www.earlpalmer.org](http://www.earlpalmer.org)  
or email [zach@earlpalmer.org](mailto:zach@earlpalmer.org)

I know of one virtue that is on most people's wish list. It is the word "genuine." We look for it in interpersonal relationships, with business colleagues, from pastors in our churches, and among leaders in government. In Romans 12:9 Paul writes, "Let love be genuine. Distance yourself from what is evil, cling to what is good."

We are interested in understanding how this word "genuine" would be understood by a first-century reader. In Greek Paul uses the word *an-upo-krites*, a mixture of three words combined together. It begins first with the strong negative word *an*, which means "not," and that changes everything. Second is the connector word, *upo*, which means "under." We have seen this word *upo* inside a different word that we love. The English word for endurance or steadfast is the word *upomemo*. As a verb, *meno* means "to stay"; as a noun it means "a staying place." Therefore, *upomemo* becomes the word literally "under-to stay," and when used as a positive word it becomes a virtue, steadfast or endurance, to stay where you are even when there are dangers above and around you, to "hang in there" with courage and faithfulness. Back to "genuine," the third Greek word is *krites*, which means "to weigh" or "to judge" as a verb and "weight" or "judgment" as a noun. When the three are united into one word it means "not under weight" (not a lightweight).

First-century readers already know the word *upokrites* because that is the term for actors or thespians in Greek dramas. An actor may play the role of Julius Caesar, yet every member of the audience knows that the man who is dressed to look like Julius Caesar is not, in fact, Caesar. He is acting the part: he is an "under weight" Caesar. This is the word that Jesus used in the Sermon on the Mount, when our Lord teaches about prayer. Listen to His words: "When you pray, do not be like the actors, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their wages." (Matthew 6:5). *Upokrites*, which he uses here, takes on a negative moral connotation. Modern English has imported this combined Greek word into our language without translation; it is the word "hypocrite," literally the pretender, the opposite of genuine.

Paul shares this word in the Romans 12 text governed by the negative, "not." His sentence could read as follows: "As for the word love (agape), it must *not* be a pretended word for you because in that pretending we take away the weight of its meaning." Love is the work of Jesus, who on a dark afternoon called Good Friday took on real death, sin as the harm that actually happens between people and the power of evil, real wrongness on our behalf. That very love then won the victory because it could not hold him (Acts 2:24). This is love with weight in it. Paul believed that love can be present in our lives, and it can be shared with people around us. This weighty power of love enables us to distance ourselves from evil and to cling to goodness.



"The Power of Goodness": Earl's message in Washington D.C. at The National Presbyterian Church Men's Breakfast Oct. 21

It is this love that the world needs most. Paul concludes this Romans text with a command to the followers of Jesus with a promise: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). The opening sentence in this passage is whimsically translated by Eugene Peterson in *The Message*: "Love from the center of who you are, don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil, hold on for dear life to good." The message is clear: Be genuine.

—Earl Palmer

## What the Years in Ministry Bring

I grew up under Earl's preaching from when I was a newborn all the way through high school as a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. For that reason, probably like many others, I will always consider Earl Palmer to be "my pastor." I firmly believe it was God's use of Earl's preaching in my life, as well as his and Shirley's personal touch, that planted within me a deep passion for scripture and love of Christ. That passion continues to inform who I am as a pastor and Christ follower. What a humbling honor to have "my pastor" preach at my installation service. It is both significant for me as I become the 12<sup>th</sup> Senior Pastor and Head-of-Staff at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Lake Oswego, Oregon, as well as a meaningful marker for our congregation. I praise God for Earl Palmer!

—Rev. Dr. Mark McIraith



MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR FOR  
SPRING 2018

WORD AND WORSHIP

MARCH 22

APRIL 26

MAY 24

THE HIGHLANDS CHAPEL

## JOIN EARL FOR A SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT LAITY LODGE IN KERRVILLE, TEXAS, JUNE 14-17, 2018



(above) In October Earl returned to The National Presbyterian church at the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone by President Eisenhower for the new sanctuary on Nebraska Avenue in Washington D.C. Earl served as Preaching Pastor in Residence 2008–2010.

(below) Returning to the place Earl started his Christian journey as UCB student (1949) and later called as Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley (1970–1991), Earl makes two points as he preached on Nov. 5 at the occasion of being honored as Pastor Emeritus, wearing the robe of his mentor and former pastor, Robert Boyd Munger—now resized and presented to Earl.



## Meet Zach, Study Assistant 2017-2018

I grew up in Bothell, Washington, and completed my Bachelor of Science in Physics at the University of Washington in March 2017. I have been privileged to be a small group leader at Westminster chapel in Bellevue the past four years with students who will be juniors in high school. I plan to continue that ministry this year. I also plan to lead a core group through the Inn at UPC this year as the job as Study Assistant includes personally having an ongoing ministry during the year.

When I was recommended for this position I didn't know much about the role except what I had heard about Earl. Then meeting him was enough to convince me that this was going to be an amazing job. I am so excited to be part of this ministry, helping more people connect with Earl through his words and wisdom.

I feel very lucky to serve, watch, and learn from a man like Earl in this coming year, as I am further shaped and challenged by the Lord.

—Zach Pankratz



## EARL LOOKS FORWARD TO PREACHING AT UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON JANUARY 7, 2018

## Would You Consider Making an Investment?

As treasurer of EPM for the past ten years, I want to express my appreciation for the generous contributions that have sustained this ministry. The outreach of teaching, writing, and mentoring has drawn thousands of people through these years. Most of EPM's regular events are offered at no cost to those who attend. Furthermore, the pastoral support that Earl offers as Minister-At-Large throughout the week is freely provided. This ministry has also underwritten a full-time Study Assistant position and launched several as pastors. As a donor you have made this ministry possible.

While we have rarely asked for donations, we need to now because we are adding a new phase. Earl's works are presently now in process of (1) being digitized to be stored and maintained in a repository at Princeton Theological Seminary and (2) to be managed through a major Christian magazine with programs directed to pastors and lay leaders here and around the world.

The expense for this ongoing additional work of EPM has been more than the usual operating costs. Thus, we ask you to consider either making a donation if you have never done so or increasing your present giving as you are able. These funds will be used to expand the budget so that the ministry can continue to provide ongoing programs and presence *and* establish a ministry through an active digital format specifically for preachers and teachers of the Bible. The reason for this new dimension of EPM is to highlight the importance of Biblical teaching and preaching through

"exposition of the Bible" and to extend the exposure of Earl's history of teaching and preaching into the future. Please consider your gift as an investment in spreading the Gospel in ways that people discover for themselves the Jesus Christ of history.

With gratitude, Dick Greiling



Earl teaching, always with an easel!

## Thank you Dick Staub! Partners in Kindlings Muse @ Earl Palmer Ministries

After years of interviewing the shapers of American culture – i.e., authors, futurists, theologians, filmmakers, musicians, philosophers, business leaders, educators, politicians, trend-watchers, and others—Dick Staub is one of today’s most experienced and thoughtful observers of belief in contemporary culture.

Since the 1960s in San Francisco, where Staub made a personal, life-changing decision to follow Jesus, he has been concerned about the failure of most local churches to embody the life and teachings of Jesus as a loving, transforming presence in culture. He is particularly fascinated with America’s spiritual quest, which curiously today is often unlinked from organized religion. “The Dick Staub Show” first appeared locally in Seattle at King Broadcasting in 1987. In 1991 Staub moved to Chicago where he hosted a nationally syndicated, afternoon drive time, radio talk show. His award-winning signature interviewing honors include the Cardinal’s Award for excellence in broadcasting.

In 1999 Dick and some friends launched The Kindlings Muse, a relational movement seeking to *rekindle the spiritual, intellectual, and artistic legacy of Christians in culture*. The live events are taped for podcast of “intelligent, imaginative, hospitable explorations of ideas that matter in contemporary life” and originated from Hales Ales Brewery and Pub, now with **Earl Palmer Ministries** at the University of Washington in Seattle.



**EPM is pleased to report** that Renee Sundberg joins EPM for a short time to coordinate details for “A Morning with C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien” in January. For those who do not know her work with U Min, her leadership in Professional Women’s Fellowship, or as associate pastor at UPC, here’s an update as she returns from serving five years with Presbyterian World Mission in Nicaragua. **What took you to Nicaragua?** Having had an interest in serving in a Spanish speaking country, when the opportunity opened we decided that we would be the people that did it, rather than the people who looked back and said, “Well, we had a chance, but we decided not to.” **What kind of work did you do in Nicaragua?** We partnered with an organization called CEPAD, which has been serving since the earthquake of ’72 in Managua. Originally they mobilized to provide meals and then continued to help with rebuilding for the 200,000 people who lost their homes. Now their main work is in the rural areas of Nicaragua to help people find pathways to sustain themselves. **How did you get connected**



**with Earl Palmer Ministries?** I was on staff with the Inn at UPC when Earl was called to be senior pastor. Early on, I called Shirley and asked her to be a core group leader at the Inn. She agreed. Then I got to know Earl, who played a large part in my life, encouraging me in go to seminary, encouraging me in the choice of my spouse, and baptizing all four of my children. I was an early product of EPM before it had a name.

—Interview by Zach Pankratz

## REGISTER NOW

### A Morning with C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien: Speakers to Our Generation

“... a catch of the breath, a beat and lifting of the heart...”

—J.R.R. Tolkien

Earl Palmer Ministries will host a special event tracing the lives of these two friends, their faith as followers of Jesus Christ, and their contribution as writers. Earl will reflect on how they handled their experiences— from the stress of war through their “stories of the marvelous,” where the power of good was able to overcome evil. They wrote stories of hope and grace in stressful times, guiding us toward the “good catastrophe” that provides a glimpse of Joy. Come to hear what we can learn from these men that is relevant for us today.

**When:** January 13, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon in Geneva Hall

**Where:** University Presbyterian Church, 4540 15th Ave. NE, Seattle

Coffee and pastries will be served. There is no cost; however, donations to help cover expenses will be welcomed.

**Registration is required as space is limited. To register, visit [www.eventbrite.com/myevent?eid=37765473548](http://www.eventbrite.com/myevent?eid=37765473548). If you have questions, contact Renee at [reneesundberg@gmail.com](mailto:reneesundberg@gmail.com).**

**ON THE ROAD WITH EARL . . .** I count it a great privilege to have been Earl’s sidekick to Jacksonville, FL, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, where for the third year in a row he was keynote speaker at the annual Bishop’s Institute for the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. It’s not often that colleagues in ministry have the opportunity of traveling together and being mutually supportive. Because Zach, Earl’s current student assistant, had a prior commitment, Earl asked me to join him. In flight, across the aisle, we enjoyed granola bars and coffee, brief snoozes, and conversation at 35,000 feet. While waiting for connecting flights, we spent time sharing more of our personal stories.

We were greeted at Camp Weed with more-than-heartwarming Southern hospitality. Bishop John Howard and his wife, Marie, along with the Reverend Canon Theologian, Dr. Douglas Dupree, and all of the attendees greeted and hosted us with genuine Christian fellowship. Being a personal recipient of Earl’s gift of expository teaching and preaching here in Seattle, our time seemed like an apostolic missionary journey to a developing congregation who were hungry and thirsty to “drink and eat” with the Lord, and us. I am very grateful for Earl’s continuing commitment to minister holistically with the gifts God has given to him.



—Gary Barckert

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PO Box 85117

Seattle, WA 98145

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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](http://www.earlpalmer.org) or email us at [info@earlpalmer.org](mailto: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 Zach at [zach@earlpalmer.org](mailto:zach@earlpalmer.org).

## Mission Statement

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 tenth 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](http://www.earlpalmer.org). On behalf of the EPM team, I thank you.. *Earl F. Palmer*