

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Spring 2018

I've been thinking . . .

Seattle

Spring Word and Worship

The Highlands Chapel

St. Paul: Three Life Changing Markers in Acts

Mar. 22, Apr. 26, May 24 (2018)

7:30 p.m.

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

Walker-Ames Room,

Kane Hall, UW

Fall 2018

(Dates to be determined)

Around the Country

New College Berkeley*

Berkely, CA

The Gospel of John

April 7, 2018 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Inaugural Address of Berkeley-

Palmer Lectureship

First Presbyterian Church
of Berkeley

May 5, 2018

Lecturer: *Craig Barnes*

Laity Lodge*

The Greatest Commandment

Kerrville, Texas

June 14–17, 2018

*Around the World**

**C.S. Lewis Study Weeks in
Oxford**

(1) July 15–20, 2018

(2) July 22–27, 2018

The Kilns, Oxford

*Watch for details at

www.earlpalmer.org

or email

zach@earlpalmer.org

OR VISIT earlpalmer.org/

[events-2](#)

Jesus the teacher was often questioned about his understanding of the Covenant Law of Israel (the 10 Commandments). One lawyer asked, “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the law?” (Matthew 22:36) Jesus answers by describing love as the soul of the whole law. “He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40) This statement by Jesus is followed by his teaching, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love . . . this is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:9,12) We now have discovered the greatest commandment.

There remain, however, four more questions that still need answers: First and second, “Who is my neighbor, and how wide does that boundary extend? Third, “How do I rightly love myself?” And the fourth question: “What about those who are my enemies?” Jesus will teach the greatest commandment in the Sermon on the Mount with all four questions in his mind. Our Lord extends the border very early. “You have heard that it is said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . .”(Matthew 5:43-44)

St. Paul will expand the circle in the same way, just as our Lord did in the Sermon on the Mount. In Romans 12:9-21, Paul answers these four questions with the foundational affirmation of the enduring love of God as the preface to every commandment. Love must be real and present in our lives. He then makes use of three word choices that offer vivid descriptions of three circles of love. The first is the combined word *Phileo adelpho*, literally love of brothers and sisters. In the New Testament this love word is used to describe the fellowship circle of love among brothers and sisters in faith. The second word combines *Phileo* with the word *storge*, which is the love of our own flesh and immediate family relationships. It is the love of a mother and a father for their child. This could be understood in tribal terms. It answers the final phrase of the greatest commandment, “as yourself.” The third also makes use of *Phileo*, this time connected to *Xeno*, which is the first century word for “foreigner.” We are to love the neighbor we do not now know.

The writer of the book of Hebrews also instructs believers to share love with foreigners/strangers and uses the same word choice that Paul uses in Romans. “Be sure to show love to foreigners (*Phileoxeno*), for some have entertained angels unaware.” (Hebrews 13:2) What an amazing surprise may follow this command to love.

St. Paul will make that same new command beyond ancient tribal boundaries clear. “Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them . . .” (Romans 12:14) *Bless* is also a word of love, *Eu-logos*, good word. We are then warned against the language of hate; the word *curse* means in Greek to nullify, to negate the very dignity of that person who I see as my enemy. Paul goes on to say in this great text, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21) He quotes Proverbs 25 to show the remarkable power of goodness. In a desert culture where nights are cold and a neighbor’s campsite may be without a fire for warmth, you could show kindness with live coals from your fire. In that gift of coals, the live coals are carried in stone insulated jars on top of the new neighbor’s head. This is not an image of judgment or shaming, but help. How wise St. Paul is! Those who are won to truth and love are not won by either shame or fear, but by grace. It was Martin Luther who saw this clearly: “If men and women are converted by fear or shame they will later hate their conversion.” But goodness always has a good taste.



Age doesn't matter to longtime friend, Lorna Erickson, who at 100 attended the December event “Love and Obedience” sponsored by the C.S. Lewis Institute.

—Earl Palmer

Mark Your Calendar for Word and Worship

What: A new three-part series titled *St. Paul, Three Life Changing Markers According to the Book of Acts*

Where: The Chapel at the Highlands

When: 7:30–8:30 p.m. March 22, April 26, and May 24

Directions:

Enter at the corner of 3rd Ave. NW and N 145th St. DO NOT veer right to the golf course (Boundary Lane). Go to the left, where you'll give your name to the guard. Follow the signs to the chapel.

INTERESTED IN JOINING EARL IN OXFORD? CALL STEVE ALLMORE AT 1-888-275-3947 x 101 OR FOLLOW THIS LINK: www.cslewis.org/event/2018-c-s-lewis-summer-seminars/registration

In Honor of Earl

On December 19, 2017, the Session at University Presbyterian Church voted to name its new home for University Ministries in honor of Rev. Earl Palmer. The newly remodeled building, situated on the NW corner of 47th Avenue and 16th Avenue NE, will



Model: Construction underway now

be a gathering place and ministry hub for students from the University of Washington and other area colleges/universities.

The Session desired to honor Earl Palmer's lasting contributions to UPC as Pastor to Students (1956-1964) and later as Senior Pastor (1991-2008). Throughout his lifetime Earl has also modeled a deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ, and demonstrated his proficiency as a scholar exploring theological themes in classic and contemporary literature (particularly C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien). Rev. Earl Palmer and his wife, Dr. Shirley Palmer, have made a lasting impact on ministry at UPC.

The building is currently under construction with plans to open the center by fall 2018. Gifts to support this project are still being sought; generous donors have offered to match any gifts or pledges received prior to June 30, 2018.

Please contact Jennifer Perrow, stewardship development officer at UPC, with any questions (jenniferp@upc.org; 206-524-7301 (Ext. 194).

The Inaugural Lecture to Be Given May 5th

In Honor of Rev. Earl Palmer, Pastor Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley. On November 5th, 2017, The Berkeley Palmer Lectureship was established by First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, and New College Berkeley, bringing the lens of biblical scholarship to issues concerning the university, the seminary, and the church.

These words appear in art form on the certificate that was given to Earl when he was honored as Pastor Emeritus. From 1970-1991 Earl was the senior pastor of the Berkeley church. In 1977 he was a co-founder of New College Berkeley as a graduate-level school for the Christian laity. He has been and continues to be an enthusiastic, inspiring, and erudite exegetical preacher, teacher, and author who has shaped the thinking and lives of people around the world. The Berkeley Palmer Lectureship focuses on how scripture informs our daily discipleship, including how we understand what constitutes a good life. In tribute to Earl, each lecturer will be selected for the excellence of his or her biblical scholarship and is invited to bring the "lens" of that scholarship to issues of concern to the university, the seminary, and the church.

Craig Barnes, president of Princeton Theological Seminary, will be the first lecturer. - Tom Ellison, Pastor



Earl & Shirley at the celebration in Berkeley with friends from near and far



On January 28, 2018 as part of the series "Living Faithfully with America's Past," Earl addressed questions posed by UPC Clerk of Session, David Brenner. In the hour long query titled "Providence and Our American Story," he reflected on the meaning of God's covenant in the Gospel and our national covenant in the constitutional covenant we have in American democracy.

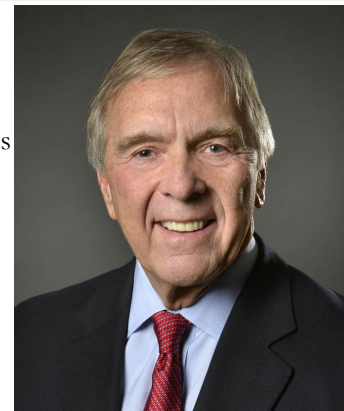
Meet George Nethercutt

Earl Palmer Ministries Board Member

What are you involved in right now? My work is at an IP Law firm with offices across America as "Of Counsel." I also serve as a director of Hecla Mining Co., and I write a monthly column for the *Inlander* in Spokane and *The Hill* in Washington, D.C. I've written a book titled *In Tune with America: Our History in Song* and another, on patriotism, due out this spring. I'm also chairman of the George Nethercutt Civics Foundation, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to helping all Americans, but particularly students, receive a better civics education (see www.nethercuttcivicsfoundation.org).

What do you enjoy most about being on the Earl Palmer Ministry Board? I like promoting Earl Palmer Ministries. I believe in Earl and his goodness, and I'm very proud to be affiliated with him and his ministry. I happen to believe he's one of the finest theological minds in the world. As a member of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., I've been proud of Earl spending time with our congregation.

What would you want readers of this newsletter to know about you? That I am truly a person of faith and have high respect for Earl and Shirley Palmer. - Interview by Zach Pankratz



George served in the U.S. Congress (1995-2005) representing the 5th district of Washington state.

ON THE ROAD WITH EARL PALMER . . .

The best experience I had with Earl this season was attending the **Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast** in Seattle. Earl had the opportunity to do the scripture reading prior to the breakfast. I heard many amazing voices that morning. I was also humbled to sit at a table with some very influential people in Seattle and Washington: CEOs, senators, and leaders of some world-changing nonprofits. We also were able to reconnect with one of EPM's former study assistants, Chris Thurton.

The other speakers at this event really made an impact on me. Rev. Kenneth J. Ransfer Sr. gave a rousing tribute to Dr. King. Father Stephen Sundborg, president of Seattle University, tackled the idea of white privilege and gave me a strong call to action to affect change in the lives of the marginalized despite not being part of a marginalized group. It was also stirring for me to hear about the works of so many

members of our community and their actions to create equality. Ultimately, I was reminded of the words and actions of Martin Luther King Jr., which is what reached my heart the most. It was a great experience, celebrating the achievements of those who have come before me, and determining where I can enact change. - *Zach Pankratz*



Father Stephen Sundborg, Rev. Kenneth J. Ransfer Sr. and Rev. Earl Palmer at the MLK Breakfast.



Longtime Friends: Earl was surprised on October 29th while speaking at a C.S. Lewis seminar in Ellensburg, Washington, when Don and Laverne Meehof, who date back to the late 1950s when they were part of Earl's UPC ministry, appeared. Don, now retired, pastored at First Presbyterian Church, Ellensburg, and is pictured here with his wife, Laverne, youth pastor Chris Hagan, current senior pastor Al Sandalow, and EPM study assistant Zach Pankratz.

Join Us for a Day with the Beloved Gospel: Three Studies in the Book by the Youngest Disciple, John



WHAT: Enjoy a day at New College Berkeley reflecting on the key role the Gospel of John plays in our discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ. Earl will cover John 1-2, John 7-8, and John 19-20.

WHEN: Saturday, April 7, 2018, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana St., Berkeley, California

COST: \$50/person. Includes lunch.

REGISTER HERE: www.newcollegeberkeley.org/register-now/rev-earl-palmer-seminar

Laity Lodge Retreat



Earl is returning to Laity Lodge near Kerrville, Texas, from June 14th to June 17th, 2018. The title of the weekend event is "The Power of Goodness for Such a Time as This." He will offer Biblical reflections on the greatest commandment as the key to the meaning of the whole Law and the Prophets and will focus mainly on the Sermon on the Mount and St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

If interested, please register online at:

www.laitylodge.org/retreats/the-greatest-commandment

Something in the Works . . .

Presently Earl Palmer Ministries and Princeton Theological Seminary are in discussion about the placement of Earl's sermons, teachings, and writings of the past 60 years in a digitized repository at the seminary's library. This collection will build on the archive that is now housed at the school in hard copy and cassette form. This project will include collected materials that span from Earl's time at Union Church at Manila through his time at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, and The National Presbyterian Church, as well as his teaching and preaching at other places both nationally and internationally.

What People Said: "A Morning with Lewis & Tolkien"

On January 13th, 300 people gathered together, listening to Earl and enjoying coffee and warm cinnamon rolls over the break.

"Earl's story of the lives of Tolkien and Lewis was magnificent and masterful. I loved the way Earl blended anecdotal detail with humor to show how particular parts formed the whole in the friendship between Lewis and Tolkien." - *Joe Klein*

"My group of four people all had an extremely delightful time at the EPM event! The talk by Earl was thought provoking, enlightening, and up to his usual high standards. I appreciate his scholarship, his contagious enthusiasm, and his vulnerability." - *Jim Rudat*

"Further up and further in!" describes a step we were all privileged to take recently as we listened to Rev. Palmer describe the persons and writings of Tolkien and Lewis. This was a step of learning and inspiration toward grace and faith." - *Bonnie Haidle*



With Earl there is always humor!

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Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

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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 Zach at 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.

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