

Evergreen Notes

Arise and Shine!



By Rev. Doug Avilesbernal

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to

you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come." - **Isaiah 60:1-5**

January is not high on the list of favorite months of the year. There isn't much happening on that month, it is cold, the days are short, etc. In other words, January can be a very mundane month. This month in the midst of the cold of winter can easily become one more in a long series of years.

This time though, January finds us living out a reality we couldn't have imagined just a little while ago. For many of us the world feels different in ways we thought would never happen. Many among us are having to make daily choices we have always thought were for those in other places in the world to make. We even have many among our Evergreen family living in daily fear even though they have not broken any laws. There are some in our family who cannot renew their passport since who they are no longer exists according to our government. We are most certainly in a very different world than we were just one year ago.

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EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION
—OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA—
TRANSLATING OUR UNITY TO THE WORLD

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Pray for Churches seeking Pastoral Leadership

Filipino-American Christian Fellowship,
Lynnwood, WA

Grace Baptist Church,
San Jose, CA

First Baptist Church of Denver, Denver, CO

Mt. Zion Baptist Church,
Seattle, WA

Shell Ridge Community Church,
Walnut Creek, CA

Listening & Responding as Prayer



By Rev. Sam Kim

An important breakthrough in my spiritual life was changing my approach to prayer. In my past upbringing, I would often view prayer as a place where

I felt obligated to send detailed petitions to God. Why did I not realize that God already knew what I was concerned about before I prayed? In many prayer meetings that I facilitated, I noticed that we often not only gave God our requests, but we would also tell God how we thought God should answer them. We came with a fixed mindset and predetermined how God should help us, which struck me as problematic. After studying the theology of many saints from the Middle Ages and other contemplative traditions, I reconsidered Paul's challenging exhortation to "pray at all times." (Ephesians 6:18) From this passage, I discovered that prayer is not so much an individual action but a lifestyle of constantly engaging with God in all that we are.

The scripture of James 1:18 inspired me to consider what it would be like if my prayer life came before God as being "quick to listen, slow to speak..." With this idea, I began to consider prayer as much more of a place where I come to listen to the Spirit and the world around me, and THEN I would respond

to what I heard through heart, mind, spirit, and action. This shift in mindset very much informs my most recent season of ministry and inspired my work with the Pneuma Initiative in Evergreen. It is about listening to the Spirit, and then we respond in action. Much of our difficulties in ministry happen when we come in with prescribed and predetermined assumptions about what God should do and what the people of God should do. By adopting an open heart of humility and curiosity, we are more receptive to being led by the Spirit and to addressing the unmet needs of the world.

For this coming year, let's all join in this lifestyle of listening to the Spirit and responding in action to a world in need. I am so grateful for our partnership in the work of the Good News of God's Grace. Blessings to you in the journey ahead.

Sam.

Calling On Singers for the All-Evergreen Choir for MLK Jr. Day Worship Celebration

Do you enjoy singing? Want to lend your voice alongside other Evergreen folks from the greater Seattle area who will be honoring the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, January 19th at **1pm** at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship? Then join the All-Evergreen Choir. There will be rehearsals on Wed., Jan. 14 at 6:30pm and Sat. Jan. 17 at 11am at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship.

Sign up here (<https://forms.office.com/r/ux9KneVEf9>), and we'll be in touch soon!

Password Managers: Why Keeping Everything in a Notebook Isn't Cutting It Anymore, Part IV



By Rev. Shavon Walker

Today, we're going to talk about Keeper Security, also known as Keeper, another password manager designed to help you log

in safer and faster. (I do apologize if these password manager articles look more like product ads; I want to be sure you are all as informed as possible.) Keeper has a lot of the same features as the other password protectors; it stores all passwords in an encrypted "digital vault", allows you to create strong, unique passwords for every account (and allows for quick password changes when necessary), and it automatically fills in passwords when needed.

Keeper has a couple of features you may not find in the other password managers. It has Family and Personal plans, which allow you to increase your security. In the Family plan, each family member (up to five) gets their own password vault for their own personal passwords and passkeys. There's no need to share one account. With the Personal plan, the only person you have to worry about is yourself. Both work on unlimited devices from day one.

Keeper allows users to use autofill, which can be handy when dealing with multiple websites at once. Users can also share passwords

without compromising their own accounts, plus unlimited password generation and logins, with 10GB of storage. It's a great way to, say, share the WiFi password without giving access to your email account too. If, however, something goes wrong and someone does need to access that account, Keeper has an emergency access option. And, you can sync your data across all of your devices. Lastly, Keeper also comes with 24/7 customer service.

Keeper is a subscription based service. You are billed annually; families pay \$84.99 annually (7.08/month), but here's the best part: for the individual limited account (one device, ten passwords and no autofill, emergency access or sharing), it's free! If you'd like the perks, though, you'd pay \$39.99 (\$3.33/month).

If you'd like to try Keeper, you can sign up at www.keepersecurity.com using your email. From there, download the app onto your phone, create a strong password and start moving your passwords into the app. Or, you can find the Keeper extension for your browser, and install it there.

That's it for this month. Next month, we'll talk about another topic. If you have any questions or suggestions for articles, you can reach me at Shavon@ea-abc.org. And don't forget to check out our social media on Facebook, Instagram and our website, <https://ea-abc.org>!

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At the same time there are very many for whom life goes on as normal. The cost of living has gone up more than expected, health insurance will be very difficult for many of us, and many other things. Overall, however, life is still as it has always been. Work, bills, family, church and more are just going on as usual. The regular worries of life have not changed fundamentally so it is easy to just keep on going.

Curiously, the gap between one group and the other seems to be larger than it has been in a very long time. Whereas a great many among us had a most wonderful and merry Christmas along family and friends there was a whole other side where parties were canceled, fewer gifts were bought, good byes in the mornings took on a meaning beyond words, plans have had to be made, power of attorneys drafted for children, life has been turned upside down. Both these sides live close to each other. In fact, we are in constant proximity to each other even though the side that had a merry Christmas might not even notice but certainly benefits from the other group's work. The gap between us and our lives is indeed larger than it has been in decades.

May I propose that if this January is back to normal and even a little boring for you, that this passage encourage you to look around and pay attention. Arise and shine! Shine a light around you. Point the light toward the least of these in your world. See how they are trying to just make it through another day. "Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples..." Then, when you see what is happening around you remember you can be light to this world. You are not alone for "the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you."

Be the light that helps those around you.

Earlier Time for MLK Jr. Day Worship Service

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Worship Service will be at **1pm** this year, instead of later in the evening. Make note, and see you at **1pm** on January 19th!

Invitation to the Ordination of Min. John Malcomson

The congregation of Seattle First Baptist Church (SFBC) and the Evergreen Association of the American Baptist Churches - USA invites all our members, friends and neighbors to witness and support John Malcomson in his ordination to Christian chaplain ministry on Sunday, January 18th at 1pm at SFBC (1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle, WA 98122).

Clergy should bring robes and a red or white stole. They'll gather in the Hintz Chapel at 12:45pm to process in.



Cascade Snow Weekend



Reservations are being taken for the Snow Weekend at Cascade Meadows Camp February 20th-23rd.

We are planning an enjoyable weekend of snow shoeing, snow play, fellowship, relaxation in front of the fireplace, crafts and some spiritual growth opportunities.

Indoor games, ping-pong and foosball are also available in the lodge. Activities will begin the evening of February 20th. You can choose either a two night or three night stay.

Cascade Meadows is an American Baptist Camp operated under the auspices of the Washington Baptist Convention, which all EBA churches are members of. Accommodations are camp style with attendees participating in food preparation and clean-up. Additional details about Cascade Meadows can be found on its web site: [Cascade Meadows Camp](http://CascadeMeadowsCamp.com).

Cost for the weekend is \$105 for two nights and \$150 for three nights. This includes a Friday night snack and meals through lunch on Monday. Campers provide their own sleeping bag or blankets and pillow.

If you would like to attend or have any questions please contact Mark Pittenger at mandmpittenger@comcast.net. Payment can be made at the following link:

<https://square.link/u/N3i5cdOH>, via check mailed to the Evergreen office or by scanning this QR code:



A Message to the Euro Caucus about the MLK Jr. Day Worship Service

By Rev. Wim Mauldin

I've been going to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day worship service for about 10 years. I live in a part of King County densely populated by Euro people and travel 26 miles to get to New Beginnings Christian Fellowship. But it was only when I began asking other Euro people from north County to come, did I ask myself why do I have to go 26 miles? One need only look at a demographic county map to know that segregation is alive and well in King and Thurston Counties. Our Black (as well as Asian immigrant and Latinx) brothers and sisters primarily live in south Seattle, Renton, SeaTac and Kent. A congregant of Wedgwood Community Church who is Black is a realtor. He was showing a house in a white neighborhood in King County to a white couple not long ago. When they came out of the house, they were met by FOUR police cars. A neighbor had called the police saying she suspected there was a robbery going on. The officer in charge had the good sense to apologize, but still, we need not wonder why segregation persists. If we as Euro people, living in dominantly Euro neighborhoods, join in this worship service with our brothers and sisters, we take another tiny step, on this one day of the year, to reclaim our own souls. In this small way, we continue to break the stronghold of segregation. I hope those miles will not keep me from seeing you at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, **1 PM**, Monday, January 19.



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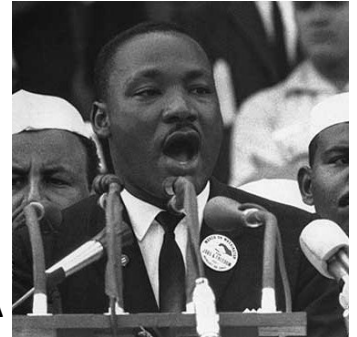
Note the earlier time!

and the



Invite you to join us for our annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Service**

at the NBCF Worship & Family Life Center, 19300 108th Ave SE, Renton, WA



Monday, January 19th, 1pm

“Striving to Become the Beloved Community”



**Our Featured Preacher is
Rev. Dr. Victoria Carr-Ware**

This year our preacher will be Rev. Dr. Victoria Carr-Ware, Senior Pastor of Queen Anne Baptist Church in Seattle, WA. She is an enthusiastic preacher, counselor, and educator who's committed to radical solidarity and belonging through the work of racial justice, gender justice, and LGBTQIA+ liberation. Prior to QABC, Pastor Victoria served as the Ecumenical and Multifaith Campus Minister at Seattle University and as Associate Pastor at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship.

**With music from the All Evergreen Choir
Lead by Min. Zhane Perez**

You can join in the All Evergreen Choir—all rehearsals at NBCF

To sign up for the Choir, click this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/ux9KneVEf9>

"Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference, but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world."

-bell hooks, killing rage: Ending Racism

Please join us as we worship together and celebrate the life, legacy and vision of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This is always an excellent service, with amazing music, preaching and encouraging our Evergreen family as we strive together to become Dr. King's beloved community.

Evergreen is deeply grateful to our host for this event:



NEW BEGINNINGS
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION
—OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA—
TRANSLATING OUR UNITY TO THE WORLD

2026 Annual Leadership Retreat February 5-7 at Camp Burton

9326 SW Bayview Dr, Vashon, WA 98070

February 21, Online on Zoom

Will run 9am to Noon

“Listening Together”

This year we’re going to be collaborating and learning together, and our focus will be hearing God and one another well. The Evergreen Staff, and Rev. Morgan Fletcher, our consultant for Well-Being for pastors and congregations, will be leading this time of listening for what God has placed before us, as churches and as the Evergreen Association.

In Person (2/5-7) Schedule

Thursday—Clergy Session

11am—Arrival & Registration

12:30pm—Lunch

1:30pm—First Session: Listening Well

3:30pm—Break/Free Time

5:30pm—Dinner

6:30pm—Second Session: Well-Being Personally and Congregationally

7:30pm—Free Time

Friday—Combine @ Lunch

8:30am—Breakfast

9:30am—Breakout Sessions

10:30am—Sharing Together

11am—Laity Arrival & Registration

12:30pm—Lunch—Laity join Clergy

1:30pm—Breakout: What are your churches

most concerned about?

2:30pm—Break/Free Time

5:30pm—Dinner

6:30pm—Evergreen Open Session—How does Evergreen Live This Moment?

7:30pm—Where do you see God at work?

Saturday—Combined Session

8:30am—Breakfast

9:30am—Clergy & Laity: What would you like to explore?

10:30am—Identifying Emerging Themes

11:30am—Caucus Connection

12:30pm—Lunch

1:30pm—Next Steps

2:30pm—Closing Reflection

3:00pm—Departure

Online (2/21) Schedule

9am—How can we be open to the Spirit?

10am—What’s on your spirit?

10:15am—Breakouts

10:45am—Break

11:00am—Report Back

11:45am—Next Steps and Closing

Register Now!

<https://forms.office.com/r/WvuXYaAzuH>





EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
P.O. BOX 1044
Kent, WA 98035-1044
Phone: 253-859-2226
Email: office@ea-abc.org

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Return Service Requested

Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for member churches, ecumenical partners, national affiliates, and friends of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches is published monthly. Please submit articles by the 20th of the month prior to expected publication. You are encouraged to copy and/or reprint information and articles for your congregation and community.

Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

Mission Statement

Being a culturally diverse people who are one in Christ and who value the liberties of our American Baptist Heritage, the Evergreen Baptist Association will **Build bridges** between communities; **Provide resources** to equip member churches to share Christ and teach God’s word; and **Translate our unity** to the world.

May this New Year bring new joys and new chances to live your faith out loud!

Save these Dates!

We’ve got some great events coming up. Please mark your calendars so you can participate in these fantastic events!

Ordination of Min. John Malcomson

Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 1pm at Seattle First Baptist Church. *Clergy meet in Hintz Chapel at 12:45 to process, and bring robes and a red or white stole.*

MLK Jr. Day Celebration Worship

Monday, January 19, 2026 at **1pm** at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship. See inside for more details!

Evergreen Annual Leadership Retreat

February 5-7, 2026 at Camp Burton. See inside for more details!

January Calendar

Jan. 1—New Years Day

Jan. 2—National Science Fiction Day

Jan. 6—Epiphany

Jan. 15—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s Birthday

Jan. 18—1pm—Ordination of Min. John Malcomson at Seattle First Baptist Church—See above and inside for more details!

Jan. 19—1pm—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Worship at

New Beginnings Christian Fellowship—See above and inside for more details! Note the earlier time!

Jan. 20—National Penguin Day

Jan. 23—National Pie Day

Jan. 25—Opposite Day

Jan. 30—National Croissant Day

Jan. 31—Last day to register for the 2026 Annual Leadership Retreat at Camp Burton next month—See above and inside for more details!