

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

serving to encourage and build up faith in Christ

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Fall 2021/Winter 2022

I've Been Thinking . . .

Seattle

Worship Services

University Presbyterian Church

Words That Matter

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-6

January 2, 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

An Interlude of Sacred Music and Scripture

Together

St. Mark's Cathedral

January 22, 3- 4:15 p.m.

Theological Dialogue

Paul as a Friend: Letter to the Philippians

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 11

Morning Bible Studies

University Ministries Interns

The Palmer House

Encounters with Jesus in the Gospel of John

February 9, 16, 23, and March 3

Word and Worship

Henry Chapel, The Highlands

A New Look at The Book of James

March 24

April 21

May 19

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Away from Seattle

Worship Service

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley

TBA

May 1

10 a.m.

Saturday Seminar

New College Berkeley

Words for Our Generation: The Sermon on the Mount

Studies from Matthew,

Chapters 5-7

May 7

9 - 11:30 a.m.

Watch for details at
www.earlpalmer.org

. . . about one line in David's 23rd Psalm: "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Today we can understand the danger David faces. The current world-wide Covid 19 pandemic has made the peril of David's valley very real. David speaks in the present tense as he describes the threat of the valley: "yea though I walk." But his faith is both present and future: "I will fear no evil, for thou art with me." The Lord—who he has called his shepherd—is alongside him, and that comforts him: "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

I am drawn to this word "comfort." It is the Old Testament word, "nihum," which in Hebrew means literally, "to breathe deeply." David is calmed, and he now breathes in and out deeply because his Lord is near. The same word, comfort, is spoken twice at the beginning of Isaiah, Chapter 40:1:1-2: "Comfort, o comfort my people, says your God, speak tenderly to Jerusalem"— breathe deeply, breathe deeply my people. Later, the prophet says, "He will feed his flock like a shepherd." (Isaiah 40:11)

David begins the 23rd psalm with "The Lord is my shepherd," which Jesus fulfills. Isaiah proclaims the promise of the good shepherd who comforts and gives strength in every valley. which Jesus fulfills. Mathew records for us a calming time in the ministry of Jesus when he invites his listeners—all of them wherever they are—with these words:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt 11:28-30)

Jesus's promise in the gospel of Matthew comes at the right time. The word "rest" in Jesus's promise is a Greek word, which is also translated "pause" – like a resting space to think, to pray, to wonder, to decide. He combines this rest/pause with the word "yoke," – which is what enables separate horses to be united, – to work together. But Jesus's yoke unites us with the shepherd himself and with a team of those whom he has invited to learn and help with burdens that need to be carried.

I'm thinking today of the heavy burdens people carry and of those who are weary and afraid as we walk through a shadowed valley. I am thinking of health providers in every hospital, of research scientists in labs testing and developing vaccines to combat the deadly virus. I am thinking of families in need, children and their teachers trying to stay safe in schools while carrying on the vital work of education, and the daily workers and police officers who make cities clean and safe and keep things running. I'm thinking and praying for people in countries where vaccinations are not as available as for us in America. I am thinking and praying for people who are caught up in false and defiant narratives that endorse distrust of vaccinations or face mask protective standards to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe.

The burdens in our valley of today are complicated and have caused fear and anger. But Jesus is our shepherd in this valley. He offers rest/pause to all who are in need. The pause gives each of us a chance to breathe deeply and decide to yoke ourselves to Him and to lighten our burden with truth and love. Jesus said: "You will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." One way to lighten our collective burden is to trust science as a stewardship gift from God and follow guidelines in favor of our own health and the health of our neighbors. The decision to be vaccinated and to wear face masks in public settings can be understood as acts of love—they reduce harm to those around us. Even in the midst of controversy and anger, we can see this heart-warming love and the help of many hands, humbly yoked together to fight off this horrible virus. Although the burdens may be complicated, love is not complicated when we have the good shepherd alongside.

So breathe deeply.

Earl F. Palmer



Earl preaching January 5, 2021 at UPC

Earl Palmer Ministries is pleased to announce that Word and Worship – an evening hour set apart for worship and personal reflection through music, prayers, and exposition of texts from the Bible – is on the calendar for Spring 2022.

A New Look at The Book of James
March 24–*Faith in Times of Stress*
April 21–*A Work of Grace*
May 19–*People of Faith and Work*

THE MAN WHO MADE THE PLACE FOR WORD AND WORSHIP HAPPEN

It was Bruce Hosford who brought this meaningful event to the picturesque setting in the Highlands. We had the joy of interviewing him recently in our living room. Permit us to introduce Bruce and share with you how the Lord uses his talents for the work of sharing the Gospel.

How did you get involved in Word and Worship?

Sue Nixon called me. I knew her from way back. She was on the EPM Board, and at the time, putting together the team for a service that would draw people into worship as an outreach for the ministry. Having been on the evening worship group at UPC for many years, Sue knew exactly what she wanted in a venue. Henry Chapel was perfect: out of the way, bringing a sense of calm among the stately trees that surround the structure and great acoustics. I was on the chapel committee, so I checked with the other members and they gave the approval to move forward.



Bruce and Earl

This was not the first time you found a place that was just right for people to be invited into the Lord's presence – you have quite a history with Young Life. Tell us a bit about that.

For me, the bonds go deep. I have had a lifetime relationship with Young Life filled with many stories over the years. As a businessman, I was just coming out of my company at the same time YL had several camps running. I told Denny Rydberg, who was then YL president, "This part of the ministry needs to be run like a business." I knew Denny very well and was not startled by his response. In typical fashion, he said, "You are right; you run it!" My first project was to take on five to six properties from acquisition, to development and reposition them as camps where YL could bring kids to have a great time, find friends, and learn about being a follower of Jesus.

The world needs you, Bruce.

JANUARY 2, 2022: EARL WILL PREACH AT UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WORSHIP: *WORDS THAT MATTER*

MAY 1, 2022: EARL WILL PREACH AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BERKELEY WORSHIP: Watch website for title

ANNOUNCEMENT! THE FIRST RECIPIENT SELECTED/AWARD PRESENTED

A Note from Earl:

The generosity of individuals across the country created an endowment in early 2020 that will allow for *The Earl Palmer Award for Excellence in Expository Preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary* to be given in perpetuity each year to a student in the third (and final) year of preparing for pastoral and preaching ministry in this country or internationally. The contributions have made possible the selection of the student and the subsequent distribution of \$5,000 to the 2021 (and first!) recipient of this award, Ryon Herin. I am humbled by the honor bestowed with such an award given in my name and confident in the choice by the faculty for the senior who shows excellence in expository teaching/preaching of the Bible. **It is my privilege and joy to share with you a few words from Ryon.**

Hello! My name is Ryon Herin. I am in my last-semester M.Div. at Princeton Theological Seminary and a candidate in the Whitewater Valley Presbytery. Just recently I became certified ready to receive a call pending graduation. I also have been active in Field-Ed, interning at two churches in the area: I am now in midst of a search for a pastorate. In my free time, I like to read fiction, hike, explore new places, and run.

I am very thankful for this award, which has been particularly helpful to me as I discern my next steps toward ministry and becoming a solo pastor of a congregation that is engaged in the preaching life. I know that it will be beneficial to pastors in-training who come after me as they discern their call to ministry and hone their skills in preaching and teaching the Word of God.

In Christ, Ryon



2021 Recipient of Earl Palmer Award



The "Together" team: Sue, Walt, Earl, and Kay

TOGETHER

**Earl Palmer Ministries invites you...
A mid-afternoon event for a time to breathe deeply
with an interlude of sacred music and scripture**

**Walt Wagner, pianist
Sue Nixon, vocalist
Kay Browleit, reader**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 22
3:00 - 4:15 p.m.
(Doors open at 2:30 p.m.)**

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
1245 10th Ave. East
Seattle 98102**

I look forward to seeing you. *Earl*

With gratitude we are able to offer this event to attendees without charge.

All parking areas in the north and south lots at the Cathedral will be available at no cost for this event. You may enter the South Lot by driving behind the cathedral. You may also find street parking in the neighborhood.

For the health and safety of all attendees, masks will be required plus proof of CoVid vaccination or proof of negative PCR test within 72 hours.

Jessica Turner



Meet the new addition to the Earl Palmer Ministries team! She is a senior at the University of Washington, graduating this spring with a BM in Music Education. In the midst of her school demands, she is using her skills of endurance and attention to detail to organize and catalogue more than 1,000 cassette tapes on Excel to maintain the records for **The Earl Palmer Collection at PTS** as well as give administrative help for the ongoing ministry.

From 5-15 pounds of coffee!

With the university now open and guidelines for safety in place, the recent uptake of activity at **The Palmer House** can be shown with the increase in use of coffee beans! As the “catch all” for the Inn, **The Palmer House**, located on the corner of 16th Avenue NE and NE 47th is a ministry of community and coffee that is drawing college students into Christian fellowship.

Interview with Mike McEvoy

What do you see as the role of The Palmer House in your ministry as Director of University Ministries/University Presbyterian Church?

I see the house as “a front door” to a place to connect that offers coffee and community with one another. For many, it serves as a home base where they “come as they are” to sit by the fireplace and study.

How might you explain this approach to ministry?

This is a new generation. People are drawn to small settings where they feel welcome, safe, and cared about. Large groups are scarier now. The building couldn't be in a better place—students walk by, look in, and come through the door. They often find their way from here to the Inn, the larger gathering on Tuesday nights.

What activities fill the week's agenda?

Palmer House is open M–F from 12–6 p.m. with coffee bar available between 12–4 p.m. There are lots of gatherings such as many of the 23 regular core groups for Christian fellowship (set up at different times) and worship nights with music and inspiration in the main room.

Who makes all of this happen?

Six staff serve university ministries from their offices here. Five interns work out of the house to handle social media, men's ministry, women's ministry, social justice, and freshman outreach. One house manager attends to the overall care of not only the house itself but also works with the team to schedule activities. One barista manager schedules twenty volunteers and oversees supplies for the coffee bar. Overall 50 +/- volunteers add their energy and time.

What do you see as the secret for what this place does and what it represents?

This is a student-led ministry. And they “own” it.

We get it! Thanks for your leadership, Mike.

In Line for Production: *Called to Be a People of the Gospel*

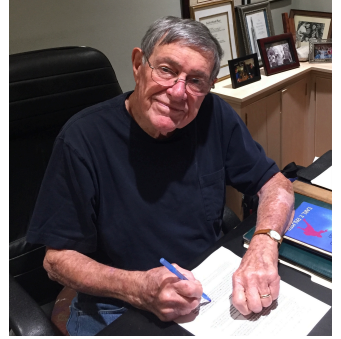
If you know Earl, you will not be surprised to find out that he spent his time in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic at his desk doing what he loves to do best. And that was studying the Bible – specifically *St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians*.

The manuscript, now in book format, is in the process for release in mid-2022. As with many projects during the past months, it is taking time. Here is a bit about this writing.

In this expositional commentary of the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul shares the universal goodness of the gospel: the news of grace and truth from Jesus Christ is for all people regardless of birth, tribe, or nationality. And, in his letter to First Century Church at Ephesus, Paul gives realistic and practical guidance for how to live as one people of the Gospel in words that are as relevant today as they were in the First Century.

The first three chapters of Ephesians are a prayer for the people of the Gospel. The themes in this prayer include the broad collections of moods and emotions; the disappointing failure to follow truth but the lightening clarity of grace that intermittently breaks in to interrupt the dangers of interpersonal hostility; and as bitter untruths surface, the grace and truth of the goodness of God prevails.

In the final three chapters of Ephesians, Paul offers concrete and practical ways for believers in Christ to “put off” the ways of wrongness and “to put on” the ways of goodness. He explains in detail how people are to equip themselves with “the whole armor of God” to share the Gospel of peace.



Earl's favorite pastime is at his desk

Exposition: Noun (ex-po-si-tion)

A preaching form that enables a text in the Old and New Testament to make its own point here and now, and, in turn, positions the context of the text within the whole biblical and theological witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ . . . the responsible teaching of the scriptures is the center of the preaching ministry today- Earl F. Palmer

SOMETHING NEW

Finally, after numerous efforts to reschedule over the past 20 months, Earl has now begun to record books he has authored in the course of his years. At the request of the EPM Board, Earl has ventured into a new experience and finding it both hard work and rewarding. The first audible, *Laughter in Heaven and Other Surprising Truths in the Parables of Jesus*, is planned for release in early 2022.

As reviewed . . . “The parables of Jesus are of untiring interest because they have the intriguing capacity to dole out their meaning here a little, there a little, with new insights revealed by changing times.

Here, master Bible expositor Earl Palmer finds in them the truths awaiting our generation, and presents those truths with a gifted sense of illustration and application. Partly because of their veiled nature, the parables never grow old. Far from what we sometimes hear, they are not little stories so simple that they can make truth transparent, so anyone can understand. Jesus used parables so that the truth will actually be hidden from those who would rather not see it in the first place (Matthew 13:11-15). But for those who long for the truth, it is there for the discovering (1987).

Stay Tuned!



“All set to go” at recording studio



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Thank you Friends of Earl Palmer Ministries for e-mails, cards, and phone calls to “remember” Earl's 90th birthday. The day was a quiet celebration with the family – if you could call it “quiet” when 16 people gather for a day, starting with morning brunch and the surprise “take-out” dinner with the focus on reading aloud your greetings along with the family's greetings into the evening. It was a time filled with fun, fellowship, food, and familiar stories that depicted an observation, an incident, an idea about Earl. It was a time of many emotions as memories of Earl were shared from near and far. It was Abe (age 11), whose words to Earl captured the day as he read two words he had written to Papa: “Stay Awesome!”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EARL ON NOVEMBER 26, 2021

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1 Thessalonians 5:11

PO Box 85117
Seattle, WA 98145

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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 have offered 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.

If you have any questions regarding Earl Palmer Ministries and its events, or to schedule an event, visit us at www.earlpalmer.org, email us at info@earlpalmer.org or leave a message on the phone: (206) 524-3250.

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

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

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