

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Social Distancing Edition Vol. 2

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

July/August 2020



HOLY NOW; YOU ARE GOD'S SPIRITUAL HOUSE

While our building is closed, the church is open and alive. Obviously! When the ancient Israelites twice lost the Jerusalem temple – their beloved architectural center of operations – God was active as ever. That seems very true in our time too. Sacred places are essential, and also ubiquitous! Do you not know that *you* (you plural) are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16). While our church building is closed, may we awaken to the beautiful reality indwelling each of us and

all creation. *ALL THINGS* came into being through the “Word;” not one thing came into being apart from “him” (John 3). That includes you!

I highly recommend frequent summer listening to *Holy Now*, a song by Peter Mayer. I learned about *Holy Now* through Karolann and Richard Whetsell, and Toddie played it for us in worship as well. Check it out on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KypaURysz4> or wherever you get your music.

Building or none, now and always, may we *like living stones let ourselves be built into a spiritual house* (1 Peter 2:5).

Together on the Way,

Pastor Lee



WORSHIP FORECAST

Gathering on Zoom for the Time Being

Sundays at 10:30 am

We gather on Zoom: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/801896850>. If dialing in by phone, call 1-253-215-8782 and note meeting ID #: 801 896 850. One can also access the service through the home page of our church website, www.snoqualmieumc.org.

July 26 – *Holy Spirit Power*, Series Culminations. Music with Michelle Wilkinson. Acts 10:34-48; Romans 8:14-24. Zoom link above.

August 2 - Pastor Lee away for a week of planning. Brief communion service on Zoom at 10:30 am (Zoom link above), or join Faith UMC (10 am, www.faithunited.org) or other online gathering.



August 9 - *Journeys with Jonah*. The satirical story of this hot-tempered prophet breathes humor and insight into today's tensions as well. A great summer read! We begin a 4-part series with Jonah chapter 1. Music with Michelle Wilkinson. Zoom link above.

August 16 – *Journeys with Jonah*, music with Michelle Wilkinson. Jonah chapter 2. Zoom link above.

August 23 - *Journeys with Jonah*, music with Toddie Downs. Jonah chapter 3. Zoom link above.

August 30 - *Journeys with Jonah*, culminations, music with Michelle Wilkinson. Jonah chapter 4. Zoom link above.

September 3 – Pastor Lee away on vacation. Brief communion service on Zoom at 10:30 am, or join Faith UMC (10 am, www.faithunited.org) or other online gathering.



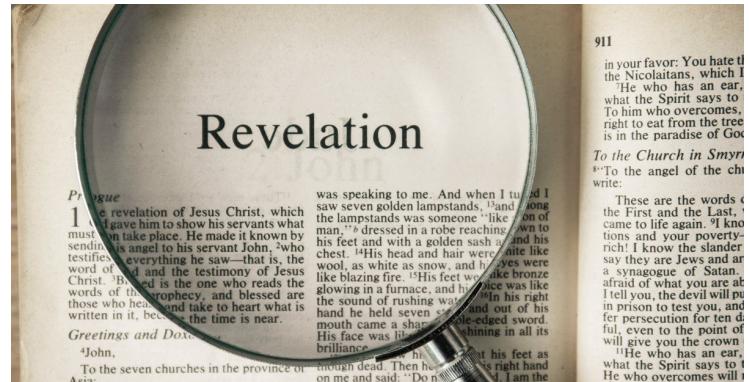
ZOOM PRACTICE AND LEARNING SESSION,

Saturday July 25, 10:30 am

Zoom works great for some and remains frustrating for others. It's still our best option for now, so let's work out some of those kinks! Having trouble connecting? Falling off during breakout rooms? Not sure how to mute/unmute? If you want practice or coaching with Zoom, please click or phone in on Saturday July 25 at 10:30 am for a trial run, using our usual worship Zoom link: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/801896850>. If dialing in by phone, call 1 253 215 8782 and note meeting ID #: 801 896 850. One can also enter through the home page of our church website, www.snoqualmieumc.org, clicking where indicated. If unable to connect, please call Pastor Lee (425-444-5556) or Greg Downs (425-246-4384) for assistance. We can do this!

FALL WORSHIP SERIES – APOCALYPSE NOW?

Starting September 10, explore what the book called Revelation revealed, and its applications for today's crises/opportunities. The Greek word behind "apocalypse" means revealing, uncovering. What is God revealing and urging you to see?



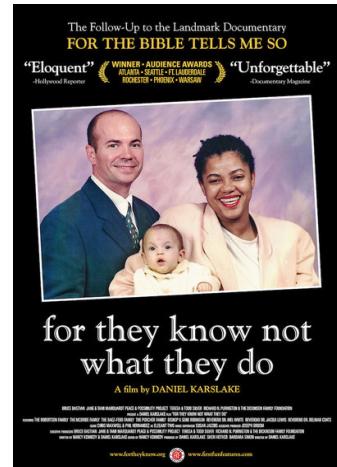
INCLUSION COMMITTEE UPDATE

From Carol Morrison, chair of Inclusion Committee:

The Committee's work paused for several months when Ed and I were called to central California for a family medical crisis. While there, I prayed daily that SUMC will become an officially reconciling congregation, publicly expressing our welcome to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

We're ready to resume our personal stories on how we came to be so passionate about full inclusion for all God's children. We hope you'll join us via Zoom on your computer or your phone when Reri MacClean tells her story during worship on August 23rd.

On Tuesday, August 25th, at 7:00 p.m., we invite you to watch, via screen sharing, *For They Know Not What They Do*, a 90 minute film from Reconciling Ministries Network. Directed by renowned filmmaker Daniel Karslake, the film takes a progressive political stance which not everyone in the congregation may share, but the personal messages are powerful and worth the watch. On Thursday, August 27, we'll meet online to discuss the film. We hope you'll take this opportunity to engage with this important matter in our church via *For They Know Not What They Do*.



Andrew and Anna Heuser and Michelangelo (aka Mikey).

VBS (VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL) THROUGH MT SI LUTHERAN: MANY GIFTS—ONE SPIRIT!

Mt. Si Lutheran welcomes us to join their virtual VBS this year, which will include a blend of virtual gathering and at-home learning. Yay! The theme is Many Gifts – One Spirit! There will be an opening and closing session via Zoom for kids and parents to participate. Parents will be invited to pick up activity kits at church. The kits will include daily lessons and projects and direct you to a daily video that will be posted on YouTube. Hopefully this allows each family to fit VBS into the schedule that works best for them. To register, visit mtsilutheran.org and go to the VBS tab. You'll be directed to Sign-up Genius from there. More information will be sent to those who register.



A favorite reflection spot at Tanner's Landing in North Bend.

THINK ON THESE THINGS....

As the apostle Paul suggests in his letter to the Philippians: *whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.* (4:8, New Revised Standard Version)

Denying the pain and challenges of this time is not helpful. But noticing the good woven into the details of one's life, through all circumstances, is. What we dwell on matters. Eugene Peterson puts it this way in The Message: you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. (Philippians 4:8)

RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Consider subscribing to Cameron Tremble's almost daily **devotional blog** - *Piloting Faith* - through www.camerontrimble.com. She is a pilot and a sage! Here's a recent excerpt:

“These are essential days. They are undoing us. They are remaking us. They are full of loss. They are full of Awakening. They hurt, and they heal. The time we live in these days is messy. It's unpredictable and hard to discern. But we are peeling away what is not essential so that we get to the root. We are on an odyssey of authenticity.”

- For those who enjoy learning about the Bible through **short videos**, check out *The Bible Project* posts on YouTube. **The Bible Project** offers several good short videos that summarize each of the Biblical books, and some that explore key themes. Here's one on the Bible and justice:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A14THPoc4-4>.
- Illuminating podcasts** abound! Pastor Lee's favorites include *The Bible for Normal People* (bold questions and refreshing insights), *The Deconstructionists* (dismantling religion that doesn't work and rebuilding honest faith), *Code Switch* (conversations about race), *Snap Judgment* (story telling), *The Moth* (story telling), *Throughline* (how history pours into today). Feel free to share are *your* favorites too.

SUGGESTED PRAYER PRACTICE FOR JULY/AUGUST



The Welcoming Prayer

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me today because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions.

I let go of my desire for power and control.

I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival and security.

I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person, or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within. Amen

Richard Rohr suggests that welcoming even unpleasant feelings, even welcoming them aloud, can move us toward serenity. Consider engaging this “welcoming prayer” for a time and see what stirs/loosens/moves as God meets you there. (The above prayer is offered in Rohr’s *Just This: Prompts and Practices for Contemplation*.)

FROM ED MORRISON, MINISTER OF COUNSELING:

First, thank you for your support of Carol and me and our California family through Sigrid's diagnosis of brain cancer and the first phases of her journey. We felt the impact of your prayers from a thousand miles away.

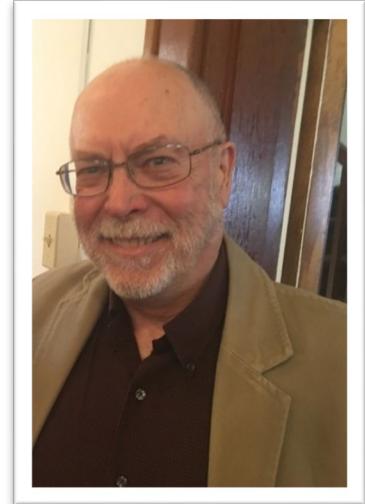
Now we are home after being gone for four months, and I am ready to again step into the work you have commissioned me to do. Under the circumstances of the pandemic, I will be working online or by phone instead of in our library. You may contact me for your own counseling, and also refer friends and family.

I pray God's comfort and strength for all as we navigate these hard times.

Ed

425-941-0262 (text or call)

sumc.mincouns@gmail.com



KEEPING CHOIR CONNECTED: MICHELLE'S MUSICAL MOMENTS



We're grateful to have Michelle Wilkinson on piano, even though she's having to record solo in the sanctuary these days. Michelle is also stirring up the choir with semi-weekly **musical moments**, sent by email. If you're not yet on Michelle's mailing list but would like to be, please drop her a note (yes, pun intended!): sammeeo218@gmail.com

It will be some time before live singing in the sanctuary is approved from a public health perspective. We're encouraged to keep singing of course – and lustily! Just not in virus-spreading proximity to each other. **Michelle's Musical Moments** - voice exercises, sheet-reading quizzes, and composer history lessons – nurture our singing while apart.

PARKING LOT LABYRINTH



The circuit-labyrinth pictured above is recommended for the space (and expertise) we have available. We will use chalk and/or tape to mark the path.

Labyrinth building party Tuesday August 11, 10 am – noon (dry weather permitting). Come help create it if you like! We will be outdoors, social distancing, and mask wearing. The build process involves measuring and mapping out the design, then marking fully with chalk and/or tape.

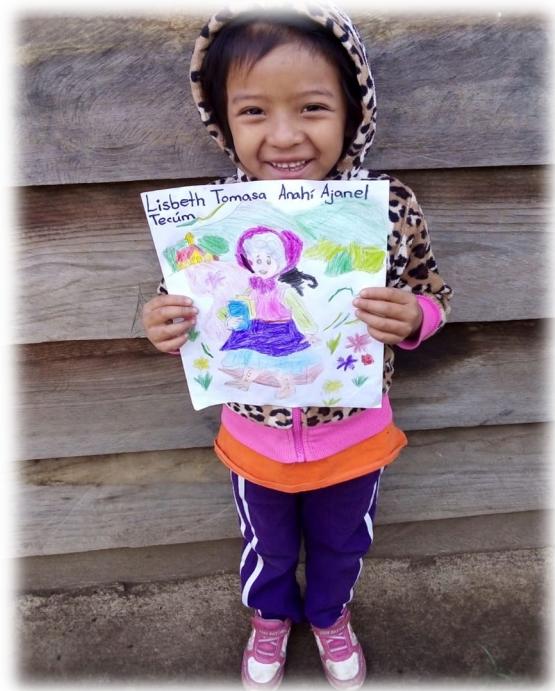
Let's set up a temporary prayer labyrinth in the church parking lot! Walking the labyrinth will be a great companion activity for anyone engaged in our Jonah worship series (August 9-30), and offers a fun COVID-careful invitation for the neighborhood as well. We will use only a portion of the parking lot and when necessary cars can park on top of the labyrinth without any problem.

What is a labyrinth? A labyrinth is an ancient tool for self-discovery, spiritual insight, and prayer. The labyrinth's path unfolds before us, guiding us into the center and out again. Walking the labyrinth offers a metaphor for life's journey and spiritual pilgrimage. We move -- in sometimes unforeseen and counter-intuitive ways - toward union with God. Propelled by that communion, we are then poured outward in service to the world.

There are a variety of traditional labyrinth designs. The 7-

COLEGIO SUSANNA WESLEY – UPDATE & INVITATION

Last year at this time some of us were in Camanchaj Guatemala, working with Salud y Paz. Time flies and broken legs heal! In addition to health clinic construction work, we had a lot of fun making toys with students at the Colegio Susanna Wesley. We are sponsoring 5-year-old Lisbeth this school year. Like here, teachers are finding new ways to reach students and families without gathering at the school building itself. I hope to return for another week or two summer 2021 if covid allows. Want to join me? If you are interested in possibly joining a team that would bring toy-making activities to the school and work construction for the clinic, please let me know! It's too early for details, but not too early to dream. Interested in sponsoring a child or teacher? Visit the give page on the Salud y Paz website, www.saludypaz.org. –
Juntos en Cristo, Pastor Lee





MASSIVE SAVE THE CHILDREN YARD SALE, JULY 30 – AUGUST 2

The yard sale is located this year at 8416 Meadowbrook Way SE, Snoqualmie. This is a ginormous yard sale created by Don Baunsgard to raise money for wells in Uganda (see www.planetchanger.org) and to support Snoqualmie Valley food banks and the Trail Youth program. Find out more on Facebook by searching *Save the Children Yard Sale*. **Volunteers to help set up may still be needed July 27 – 29.** Please contact Pastor Lee if you'd like to volunteer, and we'll connect with Don Baunsgard together. If you have **items to donate, please inquire through the Save the Children Yard Sale page**. Don invites us, and all: "Join me on this quest for humanity and to bring light and love to our community and to those who so desperately need our help. Thank you and God bless."



COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

If you have any suggestions or ideas for me for future issues, please let me know!

Thanks, Toddie Downs (toddiedowns@yahoo.com)

Contact Us

Snoqualmie United Methodist

Church

38701 SE River St.

Snoqualmie WA 98065

425-888-1697

pastor@snoqualmiejumc.com

www.snoqualmiejumc.com

SNOQUALMIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

38701 SE River St.

Snoqualmie WA 98065