

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

March/April 2018

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, March 23 – Youth Night, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Thursday March 29 – Maundy Thursday – Last Supper Love Feast, 6:30 – 8 pm

Friday March 30 – Good Friday service, Fall City UMC, 7 pm

Sunday April 1 – Community Breakfast and Egg Hunt, 9 am

Friday, April 6 – Youth Night, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Saturday April 14 – Our Social Principles, Federal Way UMC, 9 am-3 pm

Friday, April 20 – Youth Night, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Saturday April 28 – Table Talks: Finding a Way Forward Together, Edmond UMC, 1-4 pm

FAITH IN ACTION - WHAT'S YOUR STYLE?

Faith finds expression in each of our lives and in such a variety of ways. Faith can look like prayer, like Bible study, and like cooking for homeless neighbors...It can look like visiting those who can't get out, like teaching Sunday school, and like making donations. It can look like serving on a church or civic committee, like writing a letter to the editor, like singing one's heart out...and so much more.

Whatever form our expressions may take, faith often compels us toward some kind of "doing." Faith inspires action. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and you're love neighbor as yourself? *DO* this and you will live! (Luke 10:28) Everyone who hears Jesus' words and *ACTS ON THEM* will be like a wise man who built his house on rock (Matthew 7:24). Who are Jesus' brothers and sisters and mother? Those who *DO* the will of his father (Mark 3:35). Let us be doers of the word and not merely hearers (James 1:22). The disciples call involves hearing *AND* doing.

Action needs grounding in faith and faith needs expression in action. The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (and the Book of Resolutions that extends from it) are meant to help us connect some of those dots in today's world. We'll never all agree on their every recommendation, and we're not asked to. Faith in action takes many forms. Those whose faith seeks expression in working for social justice may be interested in an upcoming training with the Social Principles. (Details for April 14 training inside.) Those whose faith is expressed in other ways are likewise encouraged to shine on!

With you on the Way,

Pastor Lee



WORSHIP FORECAST

Sundays at 10:30 am; see www.snoqualmieumc.org for possible updates and adjustments.

March 18 - *The Way, Kingdom Clashes.* Table turning in today's temples too. Mark 11:15-19. Youth leadership and music with Bless This House.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday March 25 - *The Way, Palm Waving & Cross Bearing.* Mark 8:31-38; 11:1-11. 15:1-32. Music with Chancel Choir.

Maundy Thursday March 29 - *Last Supper Love Feast, 6:30 - 8 pm* - This event is centered on dinner in the Social Hall with last supper theme and optional foot or hand washing. *Maundy* means "command" and tonight we celebrate Jesus' "new commandment" to love one another. Our time together will conclude in the sanctuary anticipating crucifixion and stripping the altar.

Good Friday March 30 at Fall City United Methodist 7 pm. - Meet at Snoqualmie UMC at 6:30 pm for carpooling to Fall City, or drive directly to 4326 337th Pl SE, Fall City, WA 98024.

- Other meaningful Good Friday invitations: Join with St. Clare's Episcopal (8650 Railroad Ave SE, Snoqualmie) or Mt Si Lutheran (411 NE 8th St, North Bend) at 7 pm.

Easter Sunday, April 1 (*Easter on April Fools!*)

- **Sunrise service** 6:30 am at Snoqualmie Point Park. Dress warmly! Coffee and Easter eggs will be on hand as the universe speaks of resurrection in the sunrise.
- **Community Breakfast** in the social hall, served 9 - 10 am. For church regulars AND neighbors passing through. Donations benefit our youth group as they prepare for this summer's mission trip.
- **Egg Hunt** 10 am. Seek and ye shall find.
- **Sanctuary Easter Celebration** with Chancel Choir 10:30 am.

April 8 - Easter Season continues with Guest speaker and enlivened worship.

April 15 - Thank God for Trees, a spiritual Arbor Day. Consider Genesis 2:4-9; 22:1-5 for starters. Special collection for Native American Ministries this week. Music with Chancel Choir

April 22 - Creation Celebration and Care, a spiritual Earth Day. *Grounded.* Consider Genesis 1:26-2:3 for starters. Music with Bless This House

April 29 - *Love Stories* from John, 1 John, and your life too. New series begins today.



CELEBRATE CHRIST'S RESURRECTION



EASTER SUNDAY April 1

- **Sunrise service 6:30 am at Snoqualmie Point Park.** Dress warmly! Coffee and Easter eggs will be on hand as the universe speaks of resurrection in the sunrise.
- **Community Breakfast** in the social hall, served 9 - 10 am. For church regulars AND neighbors passing through. Donations benefit our youth group as they prepare for this summer's mission trip.
- **Egg Hunt** 10 am. Seek and ye shall find.
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GOT MUSIC?

Thanks to Tess Huestis (flute), Dan Taylor (clarinet) and Ryan Hungerpillar (trombone) for their recent rendition of *Dona Nobis*.

Sign up to offer special music on our Sunday Signups clipboard or by contacting Worship Committee Chair Marcia Reinert, 425-281-1953.

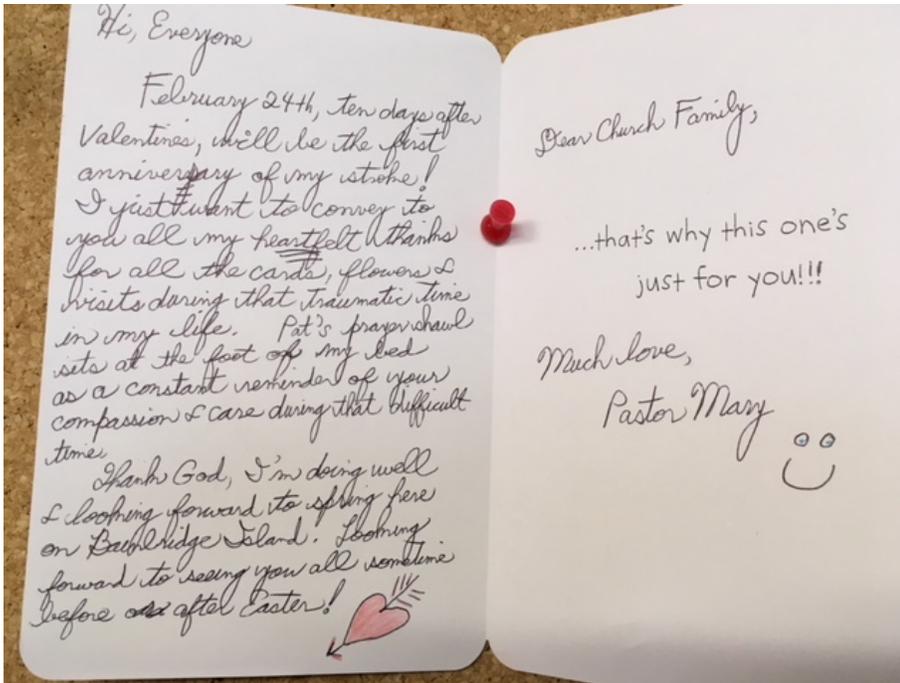
A WISH FOR WINGS

WINGS is looking for a few good volunteers!! If you can commit once a month to cooking or bringing goodies OR setting up or cleaning up the kitchen, we really need some new recruits. We especially need some hale and hearty souls who can help out in the kitchen. Just once a month. We promise! Email Nancy Parsons for more information at nancyparsons1@comcast.net.



FORMER SNOQUALMIE UMC PASTORS SEND LOVE & GREETINGS

Pastor Mary now resides on Bainbridge Island. Many will recall that her birthday is on St. Patrick's Day. Birthday wishes can be sent to her Bainbridge address: 234 Wood Ave SW, Apt. 310, Bainbridge Island WA 98110.



For those who have a hard time reading the photo, Pastor Mary writes:

Hi, Everyone

February 24th, ten days after Valentine's, will be the first anniversary of my stroke! I just want to convey to you all my heartfelt thanks for all the cards, flowers & visits during that traumatic time in my life. Pat's prayer shawl sits at the foot of my bed as a constant reminder of your compassion & care during that difficult time.

Thank God, I'm doing well & looking forward to spring here on Bainbridge Island. Looking forward to seeing you sometime before or after Easter!

Pastor Paul sends greetings and love from Vashon UMC (PO Box 330, Vashon 98070). His holy advice for Lent? *Lean into Love.*



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A METHODIST – A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



Our Social Principles:

A Guide to the Church, A Witness to the World

Rev. Dr. Clayton Childers

Conference Relations - General Board of Church and Society

9:00AM – 3:00PM

\$10 AT DOOR INCLUDES LUNCH COST

Doors open at 8:30 for sign in and refreshments

APRIL 14, 2018 @ FEDERAL WAY UM CHURCH

Pre-registration required by April 7 – Contact Ann Mayer arsamayer@yahoo.com

MAY 12, 2018 @ SPOKANE VALLEY UM CHURCH

Pre-registration required by May 5 – Contact Judy Dirks judydirks@meadowcrk.com

Enjoy a day of learning around the United Methodist Church's Social Principles

- What do the Social Principles mean for me and my church?
- How can we use the Social Principles in church classes, Bible studies, youth programs, new member classes, confirmation training?
- How can we build on our study of the Social Principles to address critical needs in our own communities and beyond?

The day will include a conversation introducing a proposed draft of a completely **revised Social Principles to be presented to General Conference 2020**. Your input will help support the revision process.

Sponsored by **Pacific Northwest Conference Board of Church and Society**



TABLE TALKS: FINDING A WAY FORWARD TOGETHER

Edmond United Methodist Church

April 28 - 1-4 pm

United Methodists in the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences are being encouraged to participate in Table Talk conversations being planned in various settings across the Greater Northwest Area. These opportunities will provide attendees a way to engage the church's current discussion of human sexuality and the report of the Commission on a Way Forward within a structure of worship and respect for one another.

To develop that sense of respect, participants are asked to commit to a covenant for respectful dialog. In short, the covenant asks them to:

1. Stay Curious,
2. Be Kind, and to
3. Listen with the same amount of passion with which I want to be heard.

Both worship and a covenant for respectful dialog are essential when we ask for God to be present in our conversations and recognize that we can sometimes get in the way of that. All across the area are asked to seriously consider participating in one of these opportunities. Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky sees that respectful dialog as a key to helping the church move forward, both here in the northwest, and globally. "Christians don't need to beat each other up when we disagree," she says, "If you love your church, and want it to see its mission witness remain strong around the world, I hope you will come to one of the Table Talks. If you are sick and tired of opposing sides in the church fighting about human sexuality, and who should be welcome in the Church, I hope you will come to one of the Table Talks. We can find a deeper unity, and new ways of listening to God and one another."

Background for Table Talks: *Where is this coming from?*

Table Talks are an avenue for holy conferencing. The need arises given the disconnect between our actual full inclusion of people regardless of sexual orientation and the restrictions that still exist in the Book of Discipline. The global church has been wrestling with this for decades with faithful people reaching differing conclusions in their discernment of God's will on this matter. At General Conference 2016 a Committee on the Way Forward was commissioned to work with our Council of Bishops to help guide the global church through this impasse.

The UM Book of Discipline continues to govern church polity, yet our Pacific Northwest Conference and others (New England, Desert Southwest, and California-Pacific conferences among them) voted in 2016 NOT TO CONFORM with the book's references to sexual orientation as a condition for full inclusion. The text of that conference-level legislation was shared with Snoqualmie UMC at that time and is offered again below. The "Action of Non-Conformity with the General Conference of The United Methodist Church" was affirmed with a vote of 315 in favor, 74 against, and 6 abstentions:

"Trusting in the Author of Life who makes no mistakes when creating her children, inspired by the nonconforming Christ who taught us to defy oppression in all its forms, and led by the Holy Spirit who continually liberates us from our addiction to law and into a life of grace, The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference as a body affirms our commitment to be a radically hospitable church."

"With a deep appreciation of our common ministry, a desire to practice Biblical obedience, united in God's love for one another, and a commitment to allowing for our many understandings of following Christ, we the People of the Pacific Northwest move together.

"The PNWAC will not conform or comply with provisions of the Discipline which discriminate against LGBTQIA+ persons, including marriage (161.B), the incompatibility clause (161.F), ordination and appointments (304.3), homosexual unions (341.6), AC funding ban (613.19), GCFA funding ban (806.9), chargeable offenses pertaining to being "a self avowed practicing homosexual" or to officiating at weddings for couples regardless of the sex of the partners (2702.1b,d).*

"The PNWAC and its members will not participate in or conduct judicial procedures related to the Discipline's prohibitions against LGBTQIA+ persons.*

"The PNWAC will realign its funding to reflect these commitments, using no reserve funds to pay for judicial procedures related to the Discipline's prohibitions against LGBTQIA+ persons, and instead asking the Connectional Table to lead and fund efforts in cultural competency, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-ageism, anti-homophobia, and anti-oppression training at the conference and district levels, as well as for advocacy and implementation efforts related to the same."

*LGBTQIA+ is an acronym names the identities including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and the many other forms of identity related to gender and sexuality."

RESPONDING TO GUN VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS: A PRAYER OF FAITH AND ACTION

Michael Ramos, Executive Director of The Church Council of Greater Seattle offered these words during a vigil after the Parkland school shootings held at Edmonds UMC on February 18:

From Columbine to Sandy Hook to Charleston, from Orlando to Las Vegas to Parkland, God weeps with us. And does not stop there. God breathes in us – beginning with the unashamed and unafraid children – the possibility of the country awash in gun violence turning from spears to pruning hooks, one act at a time. Washington State has taken important steps forward, but much more needs to be done. Let us not shirk our response-ability in this time of trial.

Gracious God,

As we cry to You once again with hearts broken and plead, "How long?" we thank you for reminding us that our grief and our anger propel us to action. The names, faces, families and stories of your beloved victims touch us at our core and affirm with You that all life is sacred. You say that each person is worthy of dignity and respect, and so You call out of us common sense measures to end gun violence that hold the promise to protect children in our schools and our entire community.

Free us from our societal addiction to guns and the glorification of violence that left unaddressed can harm and destroy us all. Open our mouths to proclaim the praise of You, who denounces the idolatry of gun violence. May we feel your power which heals the brokenhearted, so that we might cure the dis-ease of blockages to cooperation and legislation that protects the health of all of us and stems the proliferation of assault weapons and the means to kill the innocent.

Strengthen us for the long haul, so that day-by-day we might do your will, to break the yoke of inaction and complicity and bind us together for the common purpose of justice-in-love. Remind us of our true

security in You. Inspire us to dismantle senseless opportunities for gun violence and to restore our belief and courageous witness to our shared humanity....

O Lord, You have granted us the capacity to be moved. Instill in us the capacity to act. - Amen

YOUTH NIGHTS

Every other Friday, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, including March 23rd.



Dinner, games, music, message and small group discussions.

For information about youth nights and other youth activities, contact Andrew Oakley, 425-281-4204, iandrewoakley@me.com. We are currently choosing dates for the summer mission trip - Learning and Serving Together (L.A.S.T.) in Portland, OR.





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

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