

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Social Distancing Edition Vol. 7

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

MAY/JUNE 2021

SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday May 12 , 4-5:30 pm – Spiritual Gifts/Fruits of the Spirit Bible Study begins

Saturday, May 15, 10:30 am – WORK PARTY, SUMC

Sunday, May 16, 11:45 am – Congregational meeting

Sunday, June 27, 10:30 am – Celebration of new Graduates

SCHOOL'S (ALMOST) OUT FOR THE SUMMER!

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- Proverbs 1:7



I'm so glad to have been teaching introductory Spanish to middle school students at a school in Georgia this year. AND I'm glad summer break is almost here! As if being half-time pastor hasn't been challenging enough through these COVID months, I was quick to embrace a second demanding role as *profesora en linea* (on line teacher). What was I thinking?

Despite various limitations (my own, and technology's) I've mostly been thrilled by the experience. It's stimulating to be with these young students, and in a different part of the country, and as a white person to be the minority in our classroom. They are teaching me so much!

I wish I could say that every one of those awesome kids is fully and happily engaged in the class, but that's not the case. It's my job to amp that participation, but I don't always get it right. One week there was a big assignment in our curriculum. The students had two and a half class periods to work on it, and it was worth a big chunk of their grade, and it wasn't hard. But still a whole bunch of students just never turned it in. I asked them, "Why aren't you turning it in? What am I missing? Why aren't you participating?"

I wonder if that's God's question for humanity sometimes too. "I've given you the Way. Why aren't you participating?"

Middle school students want assignments that are relevant to their lives, that are neither too hard nor too easy, and that include some social interaction. Thankfully that's the kind of work God invites us to as church! Online and in person, I applaud your participation.

Juntos en Cristo,
Pastor Lee

THIS IS US: GRADUATE EDITION

Our *This is Us* focuses on this year's high school graduates: Will Downs, Charles Grant Finney, Rachel Holloway, and Aaron Willson.



WILL DOWNS

Will Downs would advise his younger self, “Make the most out of your high school years (because you don’t know that the building will change in a little over two years).” He was told that he wouldn’t like some of his teachers and found that to be true. He tried to keep his grades up so he could make the most of football games, friends, and extracurriculars. His most memorable moments were going to football games with friends and following a team that had fewer than 15 losses in 5 years and went to the 1st round of state games.

This is Will and “pop culture:” Jon Lovitz of SNL would play him in the movie about his life. His superpower would be “Super Strength.”

His favorite meal is nachos with sour cream, guacamole, and taco meat.

His least favorite music that he hopes he never has to listen to again would be Bro-country (girls, trucks, and beer) or Munble Rap.

Will is graduating from Two Rivers School in North Bend. His plans are to attend Bellevue College and take basic prerequisites and courses in Communications and Broadcasting, and, after that, make the move to Eastern Washington University. He sees himself in 5-10 years living in the Midwest—Wichita, Kansas, or Canton, Ohio, and having a radio “gig” as a DJ in the afternoon.

CHARLES GRANT FINNEY

Where are you graduating from? **Mt Si High**

What are your plans for post-graduation or the summer or fall? **I am undecided, but have it down to a few universities.**

In the movie that is made about your life, who will play you? **Henry Winkler (The Fonz)**

What advice would your present day self tell your freshman (sophomore?) self as he/she begins high school? **Get off the screen and go outside and meet with friends in person.**

What's the weirdest thing you wore during your high school years? **Bright blue suit for Homecoming.**

What is one expectation you had about high school that proved to be true? **It goes by fast.**

What is one expectation you had about high school that proved to be false? **I would spend 4 years actually in the school!**

What is your favorite memory of the last several years of your school life? **Fishing on and in the rivers with my friends.**



In a fluke accident, you have somehow gained a superpower. What is it? **Flying with impregnable sheet of armor.**

Given unlimited time, money and no stay-at-home restrictions, what would you like to be doing/where would you like to be in 5-10 years? **Getting our salmon back into the rivers and Puget Sound to the levels they used to be at.**

Describe your perfect celebratory graduation meal. **Smoked salmon and carrot cake.**

What music do you hope you never have to listen to again as long as you live? **Fake rap from performers who never experienced what they are singing about.**



RACHEL HOLLOWAY

Rachel will be graduating from Eastside Catholic. She looks back at her time there as having been an overall good experience. One expectation that she had about high school that proved to be true was that it was life changing. She feels that she grew so much during that time, and learned to be true to herself and be proud of the person that she is. If Rachel were to give advice to an incoming freshman she would say, "Work to achieve the highest you can but be sure to take time to make memories. Find your passion and stick to it."

She hopes to follow that passion by attending Gonzaga University in Spokane where she plans to study psychology and music. Rachel is interested in writing music and learning how the brain works. During her visit to the university, she was very impressed with their choir program.

If Rachel could acquire a superpower, it would be to fly. She enjoys traveling and the ability to fly would be helpful. She also thinks it might be great fun to revamp an old school bus someday and travel around the country. She would probably bring along some boxes of Kraft Mac and Cheese, which is her "good job Rachel" reward. Right now she is just very grateful that she is again able to be with her friends.

AARON WILLSON

- I'm graduating from Mount Si High School.
- After graduation, I'm going to Montana State University to major in Mechanical Engineering in the Fall.
- I would tell myself to keep being me, and to keep learning as much as I can.
- Well, one expectation I had going into High School was that there would be a large increase in the amount of time per day spent on daily work/homework. Let's just say I was right.
- One of my favorite memories from the final years of my "school life" would be the incredible opportunity I was given to take with the Mount Si High School Band to Honolulu, Hawaii. There we had two performances, one in the Ala Moana Center, and one in front of the USS Missouri. This was a truly amazing trip, and something I will remember for the rest of my life.





WORSHIP FORECAST

Sundays 10:30 am on Zoom, Meeting ID 801896850
Or click on the home page of our website, www.snoqualmieumc.org
Need help with Zoom? No problem. Call Greg (425-246-4384) or Toddie Downs (425-208-1470)

May 9 - Easter season continues this Mother's Day. Text or email a digital photo, and/or a few words that represent your mom - to Pastor Lee (425-444-5556, pastorlee@snoqualmieumc.org) if you like. Items received by 4 pm Friday May 7 will be shared during Sunday's service.

May 16 - *Ascension Sunday*. Core text Acts 1:1-11. Music with Toddie Downs. Congregational conversation after worship.

May 23 - *Pentecost Sunday*. Wear red or other fire color if you like! Music with Michelle Wilkinson. Core text Acts 2:1-21.

May 30 - *Trinity Sunday*. New series *Acts of Inspiration* drawing on the Acts of the Apostles begins. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

June 6 - Holy Communion this week. *Acts of Inspiration*, core text Acts 2:37-47. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

June 13 - *Acts of Inspiration*, core text Acts 3:1-10. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

June 20 - *Acts of Inspiration*, core text Acts 4:23-37. Music with Toddie Downs.

June 27 - *Graduates Sunday!* Celebrate Will Downs, Charles Grant Finney, Rachel Holloway, and Aaron Willson in the wake of their high school graduations. If you or a family member are graduating from high school, college, or other significant program this spring - please let us know! We'd like to include you too. (Contact Pastor Lee at 425-444-5556, pastorlee@snoqualmieumc.org.) *Acts of Inspiration*, core text Acts 5:12-21.

Thanks to our creative and thoughtful Worship Committee: Betty Gildersleeve, Jacque Lindstrand, Marcia Reinert (chair), Ron Sumners, and Richard Whetsell. Thanks to **Shelley** Huestis for coordinating Sunday readers and liturgists. Call or text Shelley (425-283-6007) if you want to read scripture, guide the service, or offer special music!

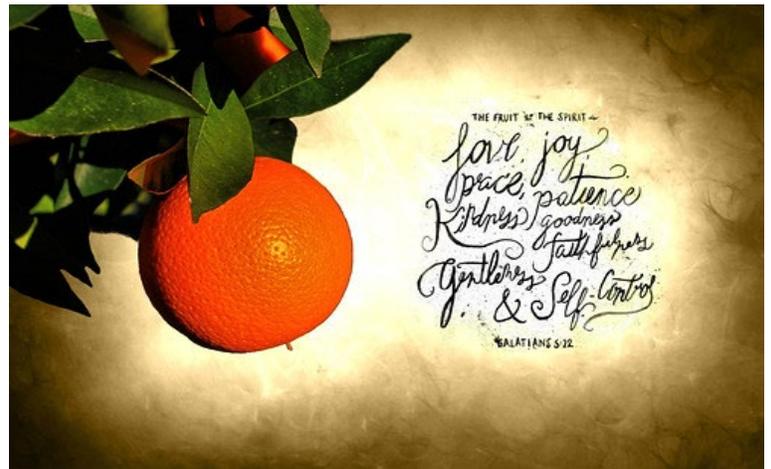
- For worship updates and occasional revisions
please visit the worship page on our website: www.snoqualmieumc.org . -

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Carol Peterson's first class of her new series will begin on May 12, Wednesday, from 4 -5:30 PM. The topic will be Spiritual Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit. There will be three sessions. The sessions will involve a personal survey to determine your gifts. It's a fun class for beginners and long-time students of the Bible. Carol can accommodate up to six people for this class series that will meet at her house.

This series will be followed by a class series on the Four Religions: Confucius, Buddha, Jesus and Muhammed. The start date on this class series is to be determined.

Carol asks that if you're interested in attending that you call her rather than email (425-888-0773).



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INCLUSION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Inclusion Committee (sanctioned by the Lead Team in April, 2019) and the thirty-five member Reconciling Fellowship (formed in September, 2020 – anyone can join) have been working toward formal congregational support of this welcoming statement:

"We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed."

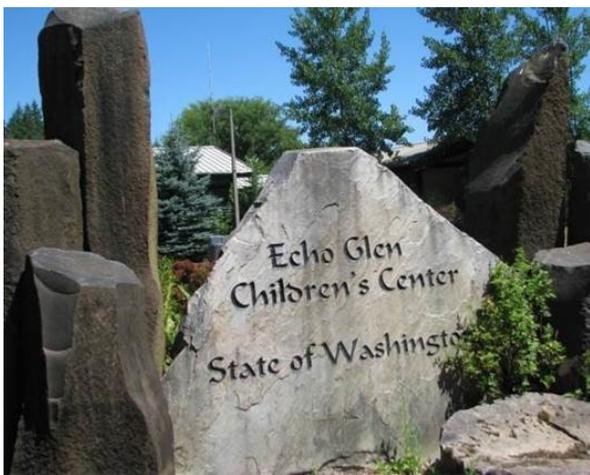
The committee's next step will be an anonymous survey to see how many individuals within our congregation agree with and will stand behind this statement. We'll also have a congregational meeting after church service on May 16 for discussions on congregational matters of interest, including what it means to be a reconciling congregation.

FINANCE TEAM UPDATE:

As of end-of-April, revenue is exceeding expenses. However, our 2021 budget has an estimated a shortfall of \$3,500. Thanks so much for your faithful generosity at all levels through these challenging months. We look forward to reconnecting in person soon, and in invigorated purpose. Financial Secretary Carol Lawrence welcomes finance questions or suggestions (celawren@centurytel.net, 425-985-1784). Other Finance Team members include Bryan Holloway (interim chair), Nancy Hayes (treasurer), Sandy Simms, Shelley Huestis (Trustee's representative). Thanks also to Candice Woodworth for considering a role in this area.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



ECHO GLEN CHILDREN'S CENTER

Profile by Shelley Heustis

Thanks to SUMC's Connie Edwards and Jacque Lindstrand, at the end of 2019, I started volunteering at Echo Glen Children's Center in Snoqualmie. Spending time there has become one of the most enjoyable and enriching parts of my life. Connie spent over 24 years at Echo Glen as a rehab counselor, having a profound impact on countless youth. Jacque co-runs the beloved volunteer-led Echo Glen sewing program which residents look forward to attending weekly.

SUMC has been involved with Echo Glen for many years. Our church family has provided youth with chapel services, snacks, beautiful handcrafted Christmas gift bags, blankets, and seasonal gifts.

If you would to visit Echo Glen to see if you'd like to volunteer regularly, please contact me so we can schedule with the Recreation Director. Then we can hatch a plan for meeting ahead of time to enter campus together, process through registration and Security, and then walk down to a scheduled cottage activity together where I will introduce you to the staff and residents.

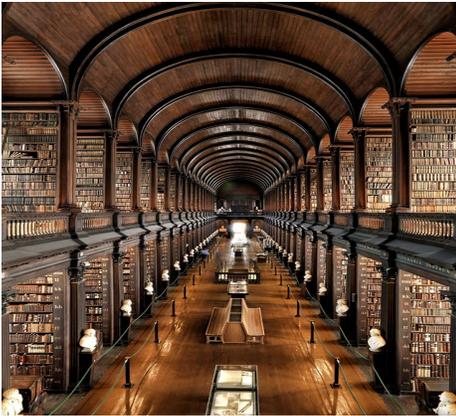
Attendance to an approved Echo Glen activity is the first step to getting registered as a cleared volunteer on campus. This process involves an application and security clearance process that can take over a month, since it all goes through the State and involves ensuring youth safety. All of Washington State's Youth Rehabilitation Centers are now run through the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

Information about volunteer opportunities at Echo Glen can be found at www.echoglen.org. Information about the Echo Glen facility itself can be found at www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/juvenile-rehabilitation/residential-facilities/echo-glen .

Once cleared as an approved volunteer, an individual's opportunities to help residents, staff and their facilities are almost endless. The more time I spend at Echo Glen, the more I feel like I understand what Pastor Lee is talking about Sunday mornings regarding how we truly are all connected.

I feel so honored and engaged getting to know the residents and staff at Echo Glen, and I would absolutely love to share this experience with my SUMC family members. Please call, text or email if you would like more information! You can also talk to Jacque or Connie if you have questions.

Shelley Huestis
425-283-6007
shelleyhuestis@gmail.com



NEWS OF THE CHURCH: SUMC READS

Joanne Royston, an avid reader since childhood, says, “School libraries were resourceful. Public libraries were amazing—comforting, quiet, interesting, and fun.” She was fond of *Little Women* and the *Nancy Drew* mysteries as a girl, and now enjoys mysteries by James Patterson, Vince Flynn, and in particular, Louise Penney, whose crime-solving mysteries are like puzzles with intriguing pieces and whose characters are always thoughtful and kind. Joanne read *The Hobbit* when she was twenty and was fascinated by its honesty and bravery. One of her favorite books is Abraham Verghese’s *Cutting for Stone*. She says it “represents us all at our best and in our hardest times.” Though she is greatly entertained by reading, Joanne also finds that it opens her to how others think.

Carol Peterson likes to read on her couch with her puppy Rosie on her lap, or outside at her picnic table under the maple tree on her patio. She reads in shorter spurts and all non-fiction. Carol reads subscriptions on Herbs and Healthcare as well as books.

She reads in four main categories: cook books (looking at possible recipes); gardening books (Carol is a Master Gardener and this is her passion! She likes to teach people self-sufficiency with food. Her 3 dogs have all had herbal names—Rosie from Rosemary, Miss Basil, and Tarra from Tarragon.); the Bible (she has taught many classes); and politics. Carol is currently reading *Fascism: A Warning*, by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (with Bill Woodward), which is on the *New York Times* Best Seller List. Albright writes from her experiences as ambassador to the UN and being Secretary of State and her years of research. The book covers several factors and historical examples of fascism around the globe.



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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