

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

January/February 2019

SAVE THE DATES

January 30, 6-7:30 pm –
Small Groups begin – Church
Library

February 1, 7-9 pm – Youth
Night

February 9, 1-3 pm – 100th
year Birthday Bash for Gloria
McNeely – Social Hall

February 23-26 – 2019
General Conference

EGGS!

*I come that you
may have life,
and have it
abundantly!*
- John 10:10

Two hundred
and forty five
days of tending
to young
chickens came
to a joyful
climax at our house yesterday morning - eggs!



arrived to a kind of blessed fulfillment. Eggs!

Silly to be so excited perhaps by such an ordinary occurrence, but the joy is spiritual. It feels a lot like digging up potatoes, anticipated and surprising all at once. No wonder so many of Jesus' stories draw upon earthy agricultural experience. We are connected in this amazing though not always easy flow. Some call it Grace.

Typically, eggs are an image at Easter. But strong in me this time around our treasured liturgical stories, God's fulfillment in Christmas arrives to the Hartman house like a long anticipated and yet surprising egg. Much is poured into and stands behind the fulfillment that is coming to pass as Christ is born anew in each of us. Let us receive and further incarnate God's amazing gift.

With you on the Way,
Pastor Lee

WORSHIP FORECAST

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

January 20 - *Join the Adventure & the Family of God.* Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:21-22. Luke 4:1-30; 5:1-11. (We Make the Road by Walking, chapter 20.) Music with Toddie Downs and some youth leadership in worship.

January 27 - *Early Signs of Life* (We Make the Road by Walking, chapter 21.) John 2:1-12 and Mark 1:21-28. Music with Sally Russom and Chancel Choir.



Photo by Marcia Reinert

February 3 - *Teacher Teacher* (We Make the Road by Walking, chapter 22.) Mark 4:1-34; Jeremiah 31:31-34. Holy communion, and music with Wendy Yee.

February 10 - *Jesus with the Masses* (We Make the Road by Walking, chapter 23.) Luke 5:17-32; 18:15 - 19:9. Music with Sally Russom and Chancel Choir.

February 17 - *Jesus & Hell* (We Make the Road by Walking, chapter 24.) Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 16:19-31, Matthew 25:31-40. Music with Toddie Downs, and some youth leadership in worship.

February 24 - *Jesus, Violence, and Power* (We Make the Road by Walking, chapter 25) Isaiah 42:1-9; 53:1-12; Matthew 16:13-17:9. Music with Sally Russom and Chancel Choir.

March 3 - *Making it Real* (We Make the Road by Walking, chapter 26.) Mark 2:1-19, Hebrews 11:1-8, 1 John 1:1-2:6. Communion Sunday, and music with Wendy Yee.

'SIMPLE CHRISTMAS' AT SUMC



As our Worship Committee entered the process of planning Advent and Christmas this past year we, like so many others, were tired. Tired of.....retail Christmas beginning the day after Halloween....tired of Christmas being about lighting your home so it can be seen from space.....tired of Christmas being a competition about who bought the most expensive gift for someone else..... tired of painful, frightening language and behavior from people who possess the power to significantly impact our lives in a negative way.....tired of blaring music, and flashbang.

When, we wondered, did the world decide that a proper observance of Christmas had to be loud and colorful and flashy? The first one certainly was not. The only flash around was one bright star and the glow of love surrounding a manger.

So, we decided---simple Christmas. Simple and calm and the feeling of a soft glow instead of strobe lights. The idea resonated, we began to plan and realized we were up to our elbows in planning Christmas, with lots to be done—but we were not nearly as tired. It was a soft, respectful and deeply joyful experience to prepare to celebrate...quietly.

It was a labor of love, and so many people were a part of the experience; Betty Gildersleeve, Freda Daubert, Pastor Lee and myself with the 'hands on' piece. Linda Boord—the 'fairy lights' she donated were perfect! And Ed Morrison...the hands-on time in his woodshop, giving shape and form to chunks of tree branches that became our altar candleholders. And Brian Skakosa, the local resident who cut and donated the slice of native cedar upon which our advent wreath and Christ Candle rested. And our guests from the winter shelter celebrated over a period of time with the decorating of the social hall tree—it wasn't a 'decorating party, but merely a work in progress—an ornament here and an ornament there. We thank them for participating.

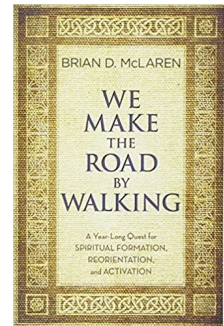
We hope that our sanctuary became a place for you to step out of the craziness of 'commercial Christmas' and into a peaceful time of 'simple Christmas'. A place to take a deep breath, hold it, let it out really slow and allow the joy to seep in and settle.

May your carry 'simple Christmas' in your heart all thru the coming year.

CROSS OVER TO LIFE!

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky invites United Methodists across the Pacific Northwest to benefit from Bryan McLaren's book of weekly scripture lessons, reflections, and discussion questions: *We Make the Road by Walking*. The point is to come further alive in Jesus, embracing 2019 as a "cross over year."

Love is on the move from fear to faith...from isolation to community...from sorrow to joy...from scarcity to abundance...from strife to peace...from death to life. That's always the case, but sometimes we get stuck on the dark & lonely side. Jesus comes that we may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). We *can* cross over!



Gathering with a few other people to engage the scripture, respond to McLaren's perspective, and share from one's own life experience makes for a growing faith and lasting friendships. One small group option is to join Ron Sumners on Wednesday nights, starting January 30th (see related announcement in this newsletter.) Discussing the weekly reflection questions in our bulletin with another person or two after worship is another. And more options to come, perhaps. In any case, let's join Jesus and his disciples on the journey through 2019. We make the road by walking.

L'Chaim / To Life!

Pastor Lee

SMALL GROUP INVITATION - WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Join Ron Sumners and friends for a Wednesday night small group time using *We Make the Road By Walking* as a spring board. This group will meet for 5 weeks in the church library starting January 30th, 6 - 7:30 pm. Participants could enjoy Wednesday community dinner before small group time. Choir members would leave early on rehearsal days.





UM GENERAL CONFERENCE 2019

Several months ago the Council of Bishops called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

Last fall Snoqualmie UMC spent several weeks considering scripture, tradition, reason and experience relating to the human sexuality theme. Karolann and Rev. Richard Whetsell hosted a class inviting further conversation and an overview of the "way forward" plans under consideration at the denominational level in February. Our Pacific Northwest Conference voted a couple of years ago to welcome called and qualified candidates to the pastoral ordination process, regardless of sexual orientation....and to disregard language that still exists in the UM Book of Discipline that considers homosexuality to be "incompatible with Christian teaching." As a conference, we collectively determined that it seems more Biblically obedient to live inclusively and more truly welcoming of all people. Nonetheless in most congregations as well as the conference in full and the "global" denomination - we do not all agree on where God is with this "issue." Please include General Conference delegates from around the world in your prayers as they travel to Missouri for community discernment through General Conference 2019, February 23-26.

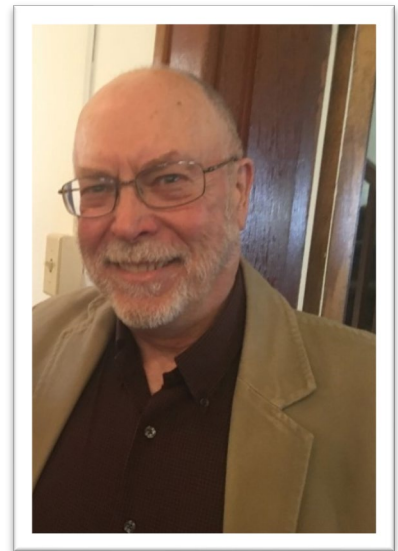
For much information about three plans that have been proposed for delegates to consider, visit www.pnwumc.org. At this point our Western Jurisdiction supports the "One Church Plan" which removes restrictive language from the Book of Discipline but allows for interpretive and practical flexibility in each local church. Living in the tension can be spiritually fruitful. Whatever our particular vantage point we come further alive in Grace as we all move toward the center, Jesus, the Christ.

SNOQUALMIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY OF COUNSELING

As a part of our call to "become the voice, hands, and heart of Christ", SUMC has commissioned Ed Morrison, M.Div. as a minister of counseling for us and our Snoqualmie Valley community. Ed has over forty years of professional experience in pastoral and mental health counseling and is now offering his services as a volunteer through SUMC.

Pastoral ministry/counseling differs from other forms of psychotherapy ("soul healing") in that it comes from a spiritual framework as part of a religious community.

- Pastoral counseling uses a spiritual model rather than a medical model as its base. Rather than "diagnosis and cure", it seeks "change of heart and mind" (Greek: *metanoia*) which leads to change in action.
- Pastoral counseling uses both psychological **and** theological resources to deepen our understanding of and help with personal/relationship struggles. Since relationship conflicts (either with our true selves and God, or with others) are at the heart of most conflict, those in partnerships are expected to engage together in seeking help.



- Pastoral counseling acknowledges who we are as physical, social, and spiritual beings, and attempts to help accomplish whatever change is necessary to improve and heal relationships with others or our internal conflicts with ourselves.

Practicing as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor for thirty years, Ed has good connections to the mental health community and can serve as a referral source for those who may not fit the pastoral care model, or who need additional resources.

As an inclusive community, SUMC is committed to serving anyone who comes for counseling no matter their religious (or non-religious) orientation. This ministry is about care for all God's people.

SUMC's Ministry of Counseling is offered on a "give what you can" financial basis, with donations supporting our mission in the Snoqualmie Valley community.

All counseling through this ministry is held in confidence. If there is need for consultation with appropriate others, this will happen only with the consent of those being counseled.

To contact Ed, email him at grzlyhackl@comcast.net.

100 YEARS OF LIFE

Gloria McNeely will be celebrating her 100th birthday in February! As your mind explodes from thinking about all she has lived through, mark your calendars for Saturday February 9 to help her celebrate. An open house celebration will take place from 1-3 pm in the Social Hall.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown



LORNA YOUNG UPDATE

Lorna broke her leg recently and is now recovering at Vashon Community Care Center, near her daughter Jean's home. Lorna can receive mail c/o Vashon Community Care Center, 1533 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon, WA 98070. Thanks for your support! She hopes to move to Snoqualmie Hospital for rehab when ready.

REMEMBERING BOB STROM

Longtime church member and beloved valley dentist **Bob Strom** passed away peacefully December 27th in Hawaii with daughter Sue by his side. He leaves a very positive professional and personal legacy in Snoqualmie Valley. For those who'd like to send a note to Adele, her address is 1010 NE Purcell Blvd. Rm. 310, Bend, OR 97701. We will share memorial service information when it becomes available.



SHELTER GUESTS WILL MOVE TO SALLAL GRANGE

When their 90-day stay concludes at the end of January, Snoqualmie Valley's Winter Shelter moves to Sallal Grange. We hope to keep in touch with the guests we've come to know over Sunday breakfasts, through worship, and coffee hour time. Thanks to all who've offered hospitality and rolled with the occasional burden of unexpected dishes and plumbing issues. Overall we've been blessed by the shelter's presence and aim to stay connected. Thank you!



NEW WORK HOURS FOR PASTOR LEE



Pastor Lee started a fun and very part time job at North Bend Elementary. Consequently, her 20 weekly work hours with Snoqualmie UMC are now Tuesday through Friday, 1:30 - 6:30 pm. Please keep in mind she is off on Mondays and does not tend to emails or non-emergencies that day. Whatever comes up Saturday and Sunday is embraced in volunteer ministry - alongside all of us! With that in mind, Pastor Lee remains available to needs that arise. Her cell number is still 425-444-5556.

Lee's new duties at North Bend Elementary include supervising lunch and recess...i.e. welcoming kids to the table, and shepherding on the playground. Sound familiar? Thanks to some humorous kids, a lot of clean jokes are being added to her collection along the way. (What's a sheep's favorite car? / why, a Lamborghini of course.)

EPIPHANY, CONTINUED

The Three Wise Men, likely Zoroastrians who watched the stars carefully, journeyed to Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

At this point in your journey, what are the gifts that you want to bring to S.U.M.C., Jesus' present-day flock?

What gifts or talents, when shared, make you feel most content, or most alive?

To inspire you to think more broadly, or perhaps more narrowly than you did in 2018, here are some possibilities:



- Prayer Warrior
- Prayer Chain Leadership
- Chancel Choir Member
- Bless This House Musician
- Adult Bible Study Educator
- Mid-week Dinner Helper
- Become a Mentor to the Youth Group, or spend an occasional Sunday morning exchanging ideas on important topics with our youth
- Work with Wendy Holloway to help her make this year's VBS fabulous

- Social Hour Supporter
- Small Group Home Study Host
- Assist the Publicity and Communications Team
- Assist the Website and FB Team
- Begin a Children's Website
- Work with our Neighborhood Ministries Outreach Team
- Help with Sunday Service Participant Sign-Ups

- Support the Lead Team with your Secretarial skills
- Volunteer to be the Church Directory Update Person
- Represent S.U.M.C on the Interfaith Planning Team
- Assist Pastor Lee with Special Events (for example, a Sunday Service in the Park, or Special Celebrations) several times a year

What else? Contact Pastor Lee pastor@snoqualmieumc.info or anyone on the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee: Betty Gildersleeve jlgbsggild@comcast.net; Penny Grady pennygrady@msn.com; Rudy Edwards rvedward002@yahoo.com; Reri MacLean rerimaclean@gmail.com with *your* ideas!

Thank you for your talents, your love, and yes, your epiphanies. This is what makes us uniquely who we are in the Snoqualmie Valley.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH – EPIPHANY



LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 6TH.

Stay tuned for Ash Wednesday service details.





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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