

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

January/February 2020

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, January 19, 3-5pm –
Interfaith Gathering

Wednesday, February 5, 6-
7:30 pm – Presentation with
Pastor David Parker

Wednesday, February 26,
6:30pm – Ash Wednesday
service



THIS IS US

When we at SUMC are asked what we like about our church, many of us answer, “The people.” This column will focus on the individuals that make up “The people.”

The Welcoming Committee hopes this will bring us a little closer to knowing that person we pass in the church hall or sit two pews behind in Sunday worship or nod to as we pour our Fellowship coffee. We're an interesting assortment.

Connie Edwards

Connie Edwards, born in Laurel, MS, is one of seven children and considers her dad her hero. “He was caring, reliable, generous in a social justice sense, dedicated to our family, and kept us safe.” Connie says her friends would describe her, too, as reliable, and also patient and observing. She served in the Peace Corps in Swaziland, Africa for three years, and in 1989, after moving to the Northwest with her husband Rudy and their two children, she taught at Echo Glen Children's Center in Snoqualmie. Retired now, Connie loves to laugh at a good joke, can laugh at herself, and gets a kick out of seeing people do silly stuff when they don't think they're being watched. A nature lover, Connie delights in being outside with the birds, butterflies, bees, plants, flowers, and with rocks, in which, when she picks them up, she sees pictures. “I love dead trees too,” she says. “I see so much beauty in them.” This Christmas season, Connie will be watching her favorite movie, “It's a Wonderful Life.”



Ed Morrison



Ed Morrison was born in Seattle, spent twenty-five years in the South, and returned to the Northwest in 1985. He greatly admires his mother, who, he says, “overcame incredible hardships and maintained her faith.” His proudest achievement is learning to be a good husband and father, and he delights in laughing at his wife, Carol, on a regular basis. Ed's favorite author is the sage, Keholeth, who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes, because “he addresses the meaning of life so powerfully.” Ed is fed by flyfishing and by “being challenged to think by Carol and other smart friends.” Retired from the ministry and his thirty year career as a psychotherapist, Ed is grateful to be called to SUMC as our Minister of Counseling.

Lewis Williams

Lewis Williams was born in Orfino, Idaho and moved to the Snoqualmie Valley when he was four. At six, he was baptized in Snoqualmie United Methodist Church. He is a Star Wars fan and enjoys works by J. R. R. Tolkien and Christopher Tolkien. Lewis is amused by “sarcasm and unrealistic fear.” He loves and admires Jesus, and his soul gets fed by music, prayer, and community. An expert cook, Lewis feeds the community and the congregation with his creative dinners and his care in taking care of our facility.



Michelle Wilkinson



You may have heard the story about how Greg Downs fortuitously heard Michelle Wilkinson playing the piano at an office event last November and asked her if she would consider interviewing for our accompanist position at SUMC. In short order the Music Task Force, Pastor Lee and a member of SPPR interviewed Michelle and she was hired.

A little more about one of the newest members of our community:

Michelle was born in Edmonds and grew up in Lacey. Education and job opportunities took her to Southern California and then Las Vegas, but now, back in the PNW, she happily states “I’m home.” Her husband, William, who is finishing up his business commitments in Las Vegas, and their

puppy will soon join Michelle up here.

Michelle was drawn to the piano as an 18-month-old, started lessons at age 4, and by 7 had performed her first recital. In addition to composing, accompanying and performing, Michelle is an accomplished Senior Program Manager with extensive experience in the Aerospace industry. Michelle has an Instrument Rating to fly a biplane, once worked as a S. CA hospital security guard, moved up the ranks to become Regional Commander, and is a dressage horseback rider and has shown horses. Oh, and she knows American Sign Language! Welcome Michelle; we look forward to getting to know you and your family better, and to a creative and inspiring musical future with you.

WORSHIP FORECAST

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

January 12 - *Baptism of Our Lord*, Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 10:34-43. Inclusion Committee personal story sharing by Linda Boord. Music with Carol Lawrence.

January 19 - *Baptism with the Holy Spirit*, Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42. Honoring of 2019 and 2020 church leaders. Music with Toddie Downs.

January 26 - *Fruits of the Spirit, Growing God's Orchard* introduction. Matthew 4:12-23, Galatians 5:13-25, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, and other texts. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

February 2 - *Fruits of the Spirit, Growing God's Orchard, Love*. Micah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, John 15:12-19, Galatians 5:22-23, and other texts. Communion Sunday. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

February 9 - *Fruits of the Spirit, Growing God's Orchard, Joy*. 1 Corinthians 2:12-14, John 15:1-11, and other texts. Music with Michelle Wilkinson. Inclusion Committee personal story sharing by Nancy McLean.

February 16 - *Fruits of the Spirit, Growing God's Orchard, Peace*. Deuteronomy 30:15-20, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37, and other texts. Music with Toddie Downs.

February 23 - *Fruits of the Spirit, Growing God's Orchard, Patience*. Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 17:1-9 and other texts. Transfiguration Sunday. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

February 26 - ASH WEDNESDAY, Lent Begins. Evening service with imposition of ashes at 6:30 pm, following community dinner. (Dinner served 5 - 6 pm.)



DIVIDED METHODISTS MIGHT AGREE

On the Friday before Epiphany, news services announced that a tentative agreement had been reached that would free the United Methodist Church from decades of crippling debate concerning the full inclusion of LGBTQIA Christians. **If** the agreement gains acceptance at the upcoming General Conference in May, conservative churches within the UMC would form a new denomination. The draft is called *A Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation*. Congregations and regional conferences wishing to join the new conservative denomination would vote to do so. Others would remain in the UMC, presumably after removing language in our Book of Discipline that discriminates against LGBTQIA participants. All of this is still quite preliminary but may be an amicable way forward. Apparently the conservative Wesleyan Covenant Association has been preparing to launch a new denomination for a while.

Our Pacific Northwest Bishop Elaine Stanovsky writes:

"While this is not the resolution I hope for, I believe it may be the best next step for the people called United Methodists who have been unable to find a way forward that maintains the unity of the Church. It does not move the Church toward Christ's vision that we 'may all be one...so that the world may believe' (John 17:21), but it is a

faithful effort 'to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4:3), even as we find it necessary to walk separate paths for a season.

"I trust this proposal is designed to unbind us from our 'irreconcilable differences' and free us to focus on the future. It does not guarantee a particular outcome, but it appears to offer United Methodists in the United States the opportunity to choose a future that is fully inclusive of LGBTQ persons."

Bishop Stanovsky requests we each read the proposal "asking prayerfully whether it offers Life and Light as we seek to create a new movement of Wesleyan faithfulness in the Northwest and around the world."

Interested individuals can read the proposal and frequently asked questions online through <http://greaternw.org/greater-nw-area-blog/>, through the Snoqualmie UMC Facebook page, or linked in weekly email updates. Paper copies will be in a manila folder in the church library, top shelf in the right-hand bookshelves as you enter.

- Submitted by Pastor Lee

CONSERVATIVE UM PASTOR / THEOLOGIAN DAVID PARKER TO VISIT SUMC

Wednesday February 5
5 - 6 pm Community Dinner
6 - 7:30 pm, Presentation with Q&A

A significant majority in our congregation appear to favor full LGBTQIA inclusion, including Pastor Lee and most of our leadership team. That dynamic has been lacking the insights and fullness that a well-informed "conservative" theological perspective might bring. With that in mind, Rev. David Parker of Oak Harbor UMC has accepted our invitation! Please join us Wednesday February 5th to hear from his point of view. Rev. Parker is active in a local chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and long appreciated by Pastor Lee.



Whatever one's faith-based convictions concerning LGBTQIA inclusion, United Methodists value, respect, and remain in communion with people who hold opposing viewpoints. There is opportunity for Spiritual growth as each of us endeavors to engage theologically. What do you think? Why? And what are you going to do about it?

- Submitted by Pastor Lee

FOOD BANK FOOD OF THE MONTH

Food of the Month:

January - canned soup (except tomato & chicken noodle)

February - canned meat, chicken, tuna, etc.





PASTOR LEE'S PODCAST RECOMMENDATIONS

Podcasts can be a fantastic resource for Spiritual growth. For a congregation practicing intentional faith development, here are some recommendations:

- * *Another Name for Every Thing* with Richard Rohr.
- * *Parenting Forward* with Cindy Wang Brandt.
- * *The Bible for Normal People* with Pete Enns.
- * *The Liturgists*
- * *Queer Lectionary* Podcast

Find links to all of these on the Grow page of our website - snoqualmieumc.org - or search online or through a podcast phone app.

What are you listening to that stimulates your spiritual growth and practices? Others will want to know. We can grow this list, and spiritually, together.

LOCAL INTERFAITH GATHERINGS RESUME

Honoring Rev. Martin Luther King

Sunday January 19, 3 - 5 pm

Mujeeb invites us to their family home to celebrate Martin Luther King's influence and to share faith-based teachings relating to social justice. For security reasons please see our Sunday bulletin or contact Pastor Lee for his address. From Mujeeb: "Greetings and Happy new year dear friends. Let's gather on Sunday Jan 19th 2020 at our place to honor this great leader and his influence around social justice. We will follow

usual program format; please feel free to bring and share your thoughts and beliefs on this topic. We will also watch together a five min video of his 'I have a dream' speech that inspires many around the world even today."



Over the past couple of years we've enjoyed many semi-monthly interfaith gatherings in the valley, but (due to over-busyness) this will be the first since summer break. The purpose of these get-togethers is to foster relationships across faith-lines that enrich our understanding of each other's faith traditions and strengthen community around the valley. We are blessed to get to know each other as neighbors and people of faith. So far, these gatherings have connected local Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Baha'i, and agnostic neighbors. Newcomers and additional faith representations welcome. There is much good to learn from and with each other.

- Submitted by Pastor Lee

SUMC CHANCEL CHOIR: ON THE BRINK OF NEW CREATION?

We enjoyed a variety of special music offerings over the Advent and Christmas season, including Chancel Choir, temporarily directed by Ron Summers. We anticipate the choir settling into renewed rhythm in 2020, though our next regular director has yet to be determined. Thanks to all singers and musicians who are discerning their call and awaiting our hiring process. Meanwhile, blessings in the ongoing songs we share. - Submitted by Pastor Lee



THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH –



Photo by Jeanie Mandas-Huling



Photo by Reri MacLean



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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