

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

July/August 2018

## SAVE THE DATES

July 13-16 – Mission U,  
Ellensburg

Sunday, July 22 – Interfaith  
Gathering 3-5 pm

July 23-27, 9 am-3 pm –  
VBS/Community Day Camp,  
Faith UMC, Issaquah

Monday August 27, 6:30-8  
pm – Book Discussion Group

## THE WAY FORWARD

### Moving from Hearts at War to Hearts of Peace

Given the state of conflict in our world and even in the global church right now, learning how to move from hearts at war to hearts of peace is a great gift.

For all its ultimate promise in the One Body of Christ, diversity of understanding, experience, and backgrounds often spurn division. The temptation to villainize the "other" and separate from persons with opposing views is rampant and typical, but NOT reflective of the mind of Christ. Rather in Christ's church we learn to love a whole span of neighbors as we love ourselves. We learn even to love our enemies, for real! The political crossroads in our nation and the theological crossroads in

our global church both invite us toward perfection in love.

We hope the upcoming worship series - *A Way Forward* - will give us tools in the "how to" of authentic love across barriers that often arise. Included will be a look at what the Bible says about human sexuality, and room for you to interpret for yourselves from an increasingly informed perspective.

Meanwhile if you want to see the best video I've viewed so far concerning our global church predicament, I pass along this recommendation from Richard Whetsell: Bishop Sue's address to the North Georgia Annual Conference concerning the future the church: <https://vimeo.com/276351658>. The first few minutes are about a survey they took locally. After that the heart of the matter rings gentle, loud and clear for every UMC conference.

### Background on Special General Conference of the global UMC planned for February 2019:

At our most recent congregational conversation we got caught up on the United Methodist denomination's work to stay together despite deep differences of perspective on whether homosexuality can be compatible with Christianity. As a conference, the Pacific Northwest voted overwhelmingly in 2016 to DISREGARD the still present restrictions in the UM Book of Discipline that limit full inclusion of LGBTQIA persons in church life. Not everyone agreed with that action, but the conference vote was over 3 to 1. Likewise not everyone in our congregation favors this direction, though many of us do.

After months of prayerful dialogue and work with the Commission on a Way Forward, our Global Council of Bishops is recommending what's called "the one church plan" as a way to move forward together. If delegates to the special General Conference in February 2019 affirm the Council of Bishops recommendation, the restrictive language in our Book of



Discipline will be removed. Each annual conference will be authorized to ordain whomever they choose. Clergy will be allowed but not required to marry same sex couples. All of that is in keeping with what our Pacific Northwest Conference has tried to establish for itself since 2016.

It's also possible that delegates to General Conference will choose a different option. Another model developed by the Commission on a Way Forward is called the "multi-branch model." That approach would invite conferences to identify as "progressive", "traditional", or "contextual." Local churches could affiliate differently than their geographic conference if they so chose.

Another plan called the "traditionalist plan" was not developed by the Commission on a Way Forward, but for the sake of inclusion the Council of Bishops agreed to honor it as an option at February's General Conference. The "traditionalist plan" is punitive toward clergy and local churches that disregard any part of the UM Book of Discipline.

We are all invited to pray and fast in support of the Spirit's hand in this work.

Glad to be with you on the Way,

Pastor Lee

## WORSHIP FORECAST



Sundays at 10:30 am; see [www.snoqualmieumc.org](http://www.snoqualmieumc.org) for possible updates and adjustments.

**July 8 - *Gifted!*** with message by Linda Boord. Music with Sally Russom.

**July 15 - *Gifted!*** with message by Marcia Bennett Reinert.

**July 22 - *Gifted!*** conclusions. Youth report from community service days.

**July 29 - *A Way Forward:*** From hearts at war to hearts of peace.

**August 5 - Communion Sunday. *A Way Forward:*** From hearts at war to hearts of peace, continued.

**August 12 - *A Way Forward:*** The Bible and family values.

**August 19 - *A Way Forward:*** The Bible and human sexuality

**August 26 - *A Way Forward:*** The Bible and human sexuality, continued.

## THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

*The Poor People's Campaign, A National Call for Moral Revival* is a faith-based response to the impacts of poverty, racism, militarism, and environmental degradation. Many of us contribute to these ongoing problems by default. All of us suffer from their impacts, yet "the poor" suffer most.

When I was arrested in Olympia on Memorial Day for a small act of civil disobedience with Washington Poor People's Campaign, it was a spiritual experience. I felt extremely vulnerable and deeply grounded in God. I was charged with a kind of disturbing the peace called pedestrian interference. I recently went to court alongside others with whom I'd been arrested. Thankfully the charge against us was reduced to a small fine, and we had the opportunity to explain our actions to the judge, on the record. I said:



*I am guilty of hearing the cries of poor, the oppressed, and the earth. I am guilty of hearing Melvin and other veterans lament their part in wars they have no honorable explanations for. I am guilty of significant tax contributions to a war economy that devastates so many while neglecting the things that foster real peace and security. I am guilty of knowing God's call through this chaos, and of starting to respond to it. I am NOT guilty of disturbing the peace. On the contrary, I am deeply committed to true peace for all. What is passing as peace in our society is not Peace. May the scales fall from our eyes.*

Protesting our collective sin seems silly and pointless at times, but in the great spiritual tradition of lament I find it personally necessary. I'm not encouraging everyone to take to the streets. I respect and appreciate that we have different perspectives and styles in our congregation, and that's so important to the Body of Christ overall. For those who are called to it however, engaging in non-violent protest can be a spiritual discipline.

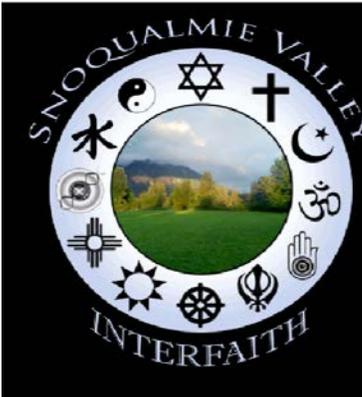
Participants in the Poor People's Campaign, a National Call for Moral Revival commit to honoring and respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. They pledge respect towards all, recognizing that the sanctity of life flows in each and every one of us. It is not a partisan movement; it *is* a faithful one.

I recently heard someone comparing the reality of various theological and political perspectives to walking a prayer labyrinth. Several people can walk a labyrinth at the same time, but at any given moment they have very different perspectives from each other. Nonetheless as each continue the labyrinth walk with Jesus, all eventually end up in the same communing center, together.

## DISTRICT NEWS

As of July 1, **Snoqualmie UMC is part of the Puget Sound District** with new District Superintendent **Rev. Mark Galang**. The change was planned at the conference level and we learned of it at last fall. A number of churches previously in Seattle District have been re-districted to Puget Sound for conference re-structuring and local ministry reasons.

## INTERFAITH GATHERING: THE PATH AHEAD



The next meeting of the Snoqualmie Valley Interfaith Group will be on **Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.** at the home of Steve Boyer and Reri MacLean, 46923 SE 130th SW, in North Bend, WA 98045.\*

Our informal meeting will have a “what’s next” theme.

Based on the number of times the Interfaith group has met, how we have grown to know and trust one another, and our commonalities, - for example, our shared convictions about charity, hospitality, and welcoming the stranger - what is next for us? What are the wisest strategies to bring about greater understanding, compassion and collaboration? What can we do to increase our reach? What can we do personally or

collectively to make this a more loving world?

We would be happy to have you join us for a time of friendship, food and discussion. Whether you are a newcomer or a regular participant, we welcome you!

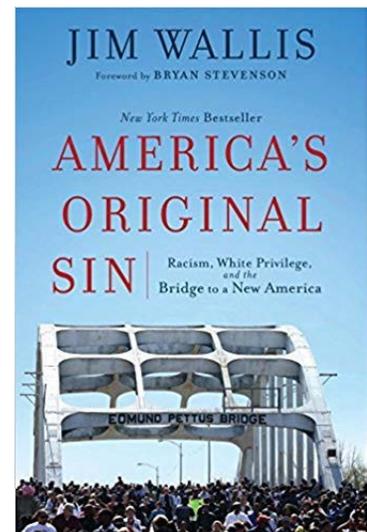
RSVP to [rerimaclean@gmail.com](mailto:rerimaclean@gmail.com) or [stboyer1966@gmail.com](mailto:stboyer1966@gmail.com)

\*From the juncture of North Bend Way and SE Mt. Si. Rd. follow Mt. Si Rd approximately 3 miles. At about 1/4 mile past the Mt. Si trailhead, turn right onto 470<sup>th</sup> Ave. at the entrance to "Riverpoint". Follow 470th Ave. several blocks to the back of the community. When you see the entrance to a gated community up ahead, turn right onto 130th St. Our yellow house is on the corner.

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

All (men, women, youth) are welcome to join us on Monday, August 27, from 6:30-8:00 pm, for a book discussion! We will be reading a book by Jim Wallis with copies available through King County Library (Call No.305.800973 WAL and downloadable audio book and ebook) or you may purchase your own.

***America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis. The author has grasped with amazing clarity and insight the persistent pain and sin of racism in America. In the book, we have not only a recounting of the pain of racism and xenophobia but also a hope-filled map for a new, reconciled reality. In this powerful book, he calls for a new conversation in our homes, churches, sports arenas and schools – conversations our nation desperately needs right now, especially parents and grandparents raising our next generation of children – and action on the ground.**



This activity originated out of the Women’s Ministry Meeting held June 15. We are choosing books from the United Methodist Women’s reading list and considering the ones that have multiple copies available through King County libraries. The next book will be chosen at the August discussion. You may direct questions to Karolann Whetsell, coordinator.

Come with your thoughts and questions prepared to share.

## BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

A message from your Nominations and Leadership Development Committee

We're not sure what your individual and collective responses are when we recite together the “**What are We Doing Here**” statement on the back of our Sunday bulletins. But we do know that, as dedicated and loving as we on this committee believe we are, we are at times overwhelmed by the depth and breadth of this call:

*We are becoming the voice, hands and heart of Christ, fostering discipleship that transforms the world. We are practicing*

- ✦ *Radical hospitality*
- ✦ *Passionate worship*
- ✦ *Intentional faith development*
- ✦ *Risk-taking mission & service*
- ✦ *Extravagant generosity*

*Together in Christ we are caring for our congregation, welcoming the stranger and empowered for our callings in community.*

One way to approach ‘overwhelm’ and to move forward, is to break down what challenges us into smaller parts. On Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>, Pastor Lee reminded us of the Biblical basis for doing this in terms of our unique God-given gifts and how we might choose to use them: **we are *individually gifted* members of the body of Christ. We can honor the gift that God has given us by using it to serve others.**

What a relief; we need not do it all. As we meditate on this summer’s sermon series on spiritual gifts, and pray for guidance, each of us has the opportunity to revisit what we have always taken for granted, -- and also what may be a new realization. How *has* God gifted you?

## VBS / COMMUNITY DAY CAMP

VBS will be run this year by Faith UMC in Issaquah, July 23-27, 9 am - 3 pm. Campers grade 1 – 6 can enroll, and youth volunteers are also welcome. Carpool from Snoqualmie UMC will be available. For more details and registration, follow the link on our website ([snoqualmieumc.org](http://snoqualmieumc.org)) or visit Faith’s website directly: [www.faithunited.org](http://www.faithunited.org). Community Day Camp is under the Events tab.

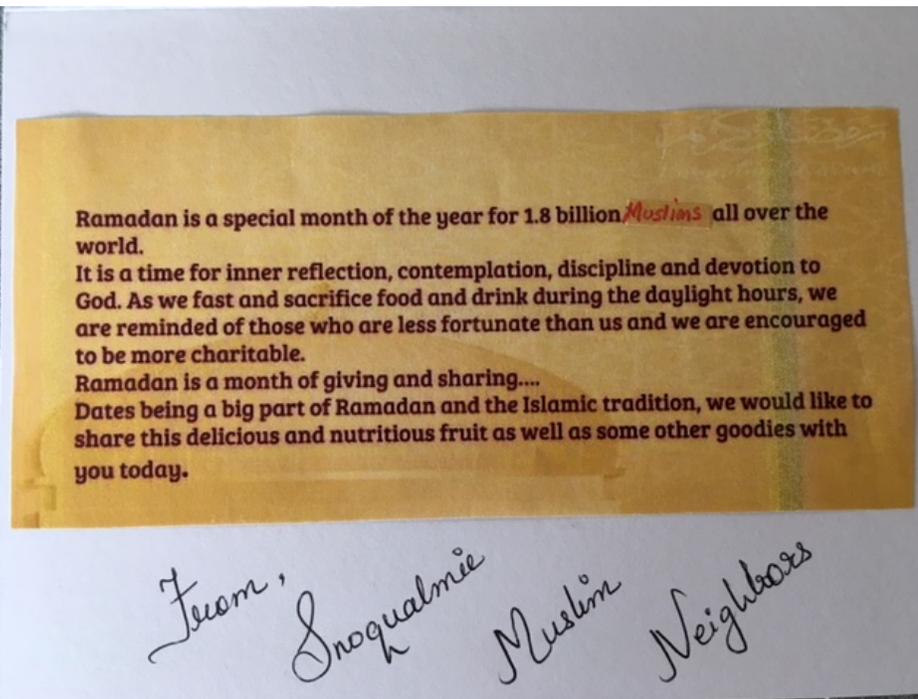


## CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

If you or someone you know in the congregation would benefit from the boost of prayer, a visit, card, meal, ride, or other errand...please contact Wendi Wales (215-622-7597, momg2x@yahoo.com) or Pastor Lee (425-444-5556, pastor@snoqualmieumc.info). The extended team includes Wendi Wales, Kathleen Sharp, Carol Lawrence, Marcia Reinert, Carol Peterson, Pat Warner (prayer shawls), Ron Sumners, Nancy Lane, and Lorna Young. New team members also welcome.



## THANKS FROM OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS AT THE SNOQUALMIE MOSQUE



## THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Father's Day 2018



*Photo by Reri McLean*

## Historical Review Library Committee



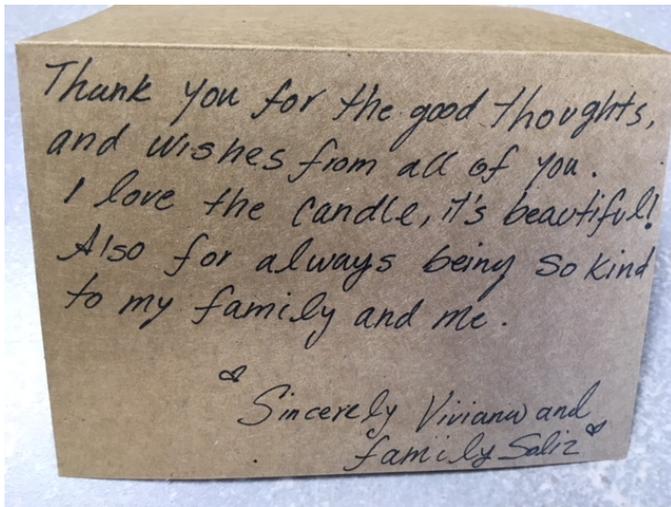
*Photos by Reri McLean – Gloria McNeely, Dave Battey, Lorna Young and Diane Keener*

## Annual Conference

*Marcia Bennett-Reinert with friend*



## Wedding of Viviana and Ramon Soliz



## Baby Shower

Megan and Dave Narrance; photo by Carol Lawrence



## Youth Service Project

*Andrew Oakley, Liann Downs, Will Downs, Ani Nelson, Dora Heustis and Pat Warner*





## 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@snoqualmieumc.com](mailto:pastor@snoqualmieumc.com)

[www.snoqualmieumc.com](http://www.snoqualmieumc.com)

---

### **SNOQUALMIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

38701 SE River St.

Snoqualmie WA 98065