

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

JULY/AUGUST 2022

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, July 17 – 9:30 am –
First Sunday with Pastor
Carrie (please note time
change); Fellowship time
starts at 8:45 am

NEW BEGINNINGS

I've been thinking...

About how often I have had new beginnings in my life. What I've longed for is a place to settle down, to put down roots, to make a place my home. Yet I seem to move a lot. The downside to

moving a lot is I never seem to achieve those things I've longed for. The upside is I get to meet a variety of people, make friends in new places, see the world from different perspectives, grow in my understanding of how humans interact with one another, and see just how similar we all are no matter where you go. The one thing I've learned is that no matter where I go, how much things around me change, how different life seems to be, there is always one constant, and that is God. God is always deep within ever community I move to. God is always working through those around me to make sure I feel at home, like I've always been there, and that it's easy to settle into a rhythm once I'm there. This is good as I've accepted Jesus' call to follow him wherever he may lead me. I'm thrilled to be coming to Snoqualmie UMC. I have no idea what to expect, yet I'm filled with a sense that God is going to be doing amazing things with us all. We all are starting on this next part of our journey together. We all will essentially be entering into a new beginning. While I'll be the new person on the block, I know you'll all help me get settled into our church family life quickly. What I would like to know from you is your story. I want to know how you came to your faith. Where were you before accepting Jesus into your life and how has your life changed now that Jesus is guiding you? Over the next 2 months, please let me know when we can get coffee/tea and share our stories.

Blessings, Pastor Carrie



NEW WORSHIP TIME

For the time being, since Pastor Carrie will need to move between SUMC and Fall City UMC on Sunday mornings, our worship time will shift to 9:30 am. We will offer fellowship time (at the beginning, BYOC – bring your own coffee) PRIOR to worship at 8:45.

THIS IS US

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



Pastor Carrie Bland

Pastor Carrie Bland was born in Salt Lake City Utah on January 4, the date Utah had become a state. Her grandparents are her heroes. On her mother’s side, they taught her to work hard and be kind and respectful to everyone. Her paternal grandparents, who served in WWII and gave everything to their church, country, and family, raised her disabled father at home rather than, as was typical of the time, sending him to a group home.

Carrie’s friends would describe her as a good listener, compassionate, encouraging, always there for them, and hilarious. For reading entertainment, she enjoys the *Xanth* series by Piers Anthony, the *Dragonlance* series by Tracy Hickman & Margaret Weis, and the *Stephanie Plum* series by Janet Evanovich. She likes watching *Buffy the Vampire*, *Angel*, *Dr. Who*, *CSI*, *Law and Order*, *NCIS*, *Black-ish*, *Mixed-ish*, “and so much more.”

Carrie’s soul is fed by good conversation, great relational connections, crafting while fellowshiping, and singing. After a “huge process and a long journey,” Carrie is delighted to have been commissioned and so thankful for the opportunity to serve God in this way.

We at SUMC are delighted to welcome and get to know Pastor Carrie.

Juanita Holloway

Juanita Holloway was born in Pittsylvania County in Virginia and was raised in parsonages in Virginia and Maryland. Her father pastored during a difficult time in Methodist history when the Methodist Episcopal Church South (pro-slavery) rejoined with the Methodist Episcopal Church North (anti-slavery). Juanita’s family was forced to move several times during the transition and once ended up in a trade mill town where Juanita (7th grade) had to be in the 8th grade and her brother (12th grade) had to attend 11th grade.

Juanita’s hero is the Salvation Army. When her family was caught in the Red River Flood of the North in 1997, the Salvation Army swept in, set up warehouses that provided hot food and everything a family would need, all “given freely and without having to fill out a bunch of paperwork.”

Juanita is most proud of her children who are good, honest, hard-working, God-fearing people. She laughs easily at her children, her “grands,” and her friends. She loves mysteries by John Sanford and those that have English settings.

Her soul is fed every day when she looks out her window at Mt. Rainier and the beautiful Earth. She says, “I don’t understand why people would want to destroy it.” Her soul is also fed by the many kindnesses that come to her and by the words of a hymn: “God will take care of you; through ev’ry day, o’er all the way.”





Carol Peterson

Carol Peterson has twice been pronounced dead, but she has survived to celebrate her 80th birthday this year. Carol was born in Ellensburg but has lived in North Bend and Snoqualmie for 60 years. She is one of our church's oldest remaining members. Carol is most proud of her two kids and how they turned out. Her other accomplishments are teaching gardening and cooking with herbs, which has resulted in two herb cookbooks. She feeds others from her awesome garden, which at times provides items for the homeless shelter and the food bank. She claims Luke 12:48 as her adopted life scripture: "To whom much is given; much is required." Helping people feeds her soul.

Other than gardening, Carol's two major interests are politics and religion. She claims herself "a political junkie." Her hero is "anyone who makes President Biden look good." She likes it when a person "steps out and does right." She likes to read about religion and usually has a class/discussion going on in her living room.

Carol also enjoys the works of Victor Borge, a Danish-American comedian, conductor, and pianist. She has a collection of his vinyl LPs and enjoys laughing with him. Her favorite movie is a 1961 hit—*West Side Story*, and she is glad it's back. Meryl Streep is her favorite actress. Her favorite author is the Apostle Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament.

Joanne Royston

Joanne Royston was born in the very small town of Gurdon, AK. She remembers that she and her family used the back door of the local post office and says she is "happy that things are changing." She could not, she says, have become a nurse, a Christian, nor an adult without the help and guidance of her mother, Lillian, who is her hero. Joanne is most proud of her two children, who survived the "single mom" script after her divorce, and that she finished her BA degree while her children were very young. After working as an RN for fifty years, she is now enjoying making hats for men and women who experience hair loss.

Joanne says her friends would describe her as outgoing, determined, confident, nurturing, and sensitive. She loves the book *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. Her second favorite is *The 1619 Project* (Nicole Hannah-Jones), a retelling of the roles played by African Americans in U. S. history. Listening to Lizz Wright's "I Believe" and James Cleveland's "God Is" feeds Joanne's soul, as do little children laughing, sunsets that bring tears to her eyes, and loving and being loved.



Gary Daubert

Gary Daubert was born in Seattle at The Doctors Hospital. He says his friends would describe him as a fun-loving, honest, nice oddball, and a helper and giver.

Gary's favorite book is *The Bible*. His hero is Jesus Christ. His favorite movie is *The Rifleman*. His favorite author is Ernest Mendel (*The Vitamin Bible*). He pays attention to his health and finds that praying for people has helped lower his blood pressure.

Gary's proudest accomplishment is marrying Freda, and his soul gets fed by Freda's love and the love of his son.



ETIENNE AND LAUREL SPEAK OF SNOQUALMIE UMC



Though they are not generally "church people", Etienne and Laurel wanted to prepare their ceremony with a pastor and to get married in Snoqualmie UMC's sanctuary. In hopes of explaining this unexpected choice to their friends and family, here is what they posted about Snoqualmie UMC on their wedding website:

Founded in 1889, Snoqualmie United Methodist Church is a very pretty and humble local church located in downtown Snoqualmie near the train depot. It is a very welcoming and open-minded place that preach social justice and donation to good causes. Rich and poor, young and old, gay and straight, spiritual and religious, progressive and conservative, everyone is welcome in this sanctuary. This is what convinced us to tie the knot at Snoqualmie UMC. We hope that you will appreciate this place as much as we do.

Thank you, bold people of God. And shine on!

- Pastor Lee

Pastor Melissa is Appointed to Harborview

Pastor Melissa will be serving at Harborview Medical Center this year, and her ministry is recognized in our PNW Annual Conference. She is now a licensed local pastor, affirmed in serving communion and other sacraments. Go Melissa! We appreciate you and celebrate your gifts.

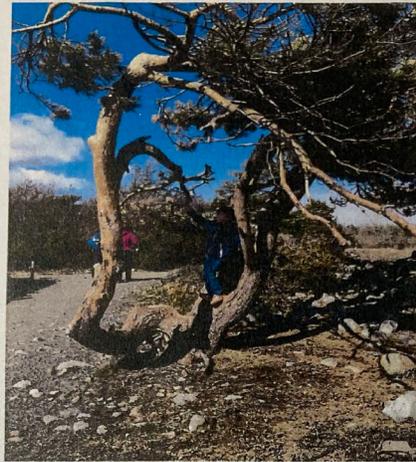


SUMC FAMILY RECOMMENDS

Jeanie Mandas-Huling recommends *Found*, a Netflix documentary about three Chinese girls adopted by American families who discover they're cousins and travel back to China to try to their biological families.

Attempting to Meditate

I close my eyes to sit in silence.
But I am interrupted by
The noise of quickly moving cars
As they pass by my window,
And the steady hummm of
The refrigerator
Letting me know it is hard at work.
I try again
And there it is!
The silence
But no!
It is the sound of the
clock... clock... clock... clock
As it ticks away the hour.
And there is the twittering and chirping
of birds busy with their day,
Whatever am I doing wrong?
Birds continue to sing their songs
A constant murmur plays in the background.
Does silence even exist!
Again, I close my eyes
But now hearing
A symphony of sounds
As they chirp
And tick
And swish
And hum
And help to quiet my mind
As I realize
It is I who must be silent
As I sit
Being present in the moment.



Nevlunghamn, Norway

Silent Friend

My friend the tree stands silently
Gnarled and old
So many stories it holds.

I wonder
Did it choose to grow in that exact place?
Does it even know the importance it has
In that space?

Does it understand
How it offers shelter from the sun,
A safe haven for a squirrel
On the run?

Has it counted
How many birds have made a nest
Or simply stopped there
To take a rest?

I wonder
If it realizes that
In the simple act of living,
It is constantly Giving.

The message for me
From my friend the tree,
is simply to be.

THANK YOU, PASTOR LEE!!!!





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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