

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

March/April 2019

SAVE THE DATES

Wed. March 6 – Jambalaya
Community Dinner, 5-6:15
pm

Wed. March 6 - Ash
Wednesday service, 6:30 pm

Sunday April 25 – EASTER

6 am - Sunrise Service at
Snoqualmie Point Park

9-10 am – Easter Community
Breakfast

10:30 am – Easter Worship

LENT, IT'S NOT JUST FOR BELLYBUTTONS

What do the color
purple, repentant
hearts, intensified
spiritual practice, and
40 have in common? Lent, of course!



Following a festive jambalaya community dinner, we'll enter this meaningful pre-Easter 40-day season together on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. Dinner will be served 5 - 6:15 pm in the social hall. Service with song, scripture and ashes will be in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm.

An image for this season arose in our worship committee - sandals. Sandals for disciples' feet, following Jesus uneasily to the cross. Most of us prefer Easter without crucifixion, transformation without loss...but it never actually works that way.

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving truly help prepare and form us in Christ-like paradoxical surrender into Life. There is no uniform prescription for what we "should" do for Lent, what someone should give up or add on for example. Various forms of prayer, fasting, and giving offer a bouquet of possibilities. A little time in reflective prayer or some other inspiration often sparks an inner knowing about what to practice. For a banquet of enriching ideas, noodle around at <http://www.umc.org/topics/topic-lent-and-easter> . Jesus invites his disciples to engage such spiritual practices in *secret* (Matthew 6). We do them to honor, choose, and draw closer to God, not to satisfy the appetites of ego. God knows!

Readers may notice in our worship forecast that we will spend a full Sunday staring at the cross and interpreting it's meaning. The intent there is so fewer of us skip from Palm Sunday to Easter without wrestling with the real challenge and promise that is only found through Good Friday. I am happy to post additional Holy Week services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday if some number of us are interested. Otherwise we may participate together in Holy Week services perhaps at Saint Clare's, Mt Si, or Fall City UMC. More to come on those options.

With you on the Way,

Pastor Lee



WORSHIP FORECAST

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

March 6 - Ash Wednesday, 6:30 pm. Scripture, song, and ashes mark the starting line of Lent's 40 day trek. (Enjoy Jambalaya Community Dinner before the service, served approx.. 5 - 6:15 pm.) Joel 2:1-2, 13-17; Psalm 51:1-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. Matthew 5 - 7, "The Sermon on the Mount," lays out our Lenten path.

March 10 - A Disciple's Identity (We Make the Road by Walking, ch. 27). Matthew 5:1-16. Music with Chancel Choir and Sally Russom this week. (The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5 - 7, lays out our Lenten path.).

March 17 - A New Path (We may the Road by Walking, ch. 28) Mathew 5:17-48. Youth leadership, and music with Toddie Downs. (The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5 - 7, lays out our Lenten path.)

March 24 - Message on the **Lord's Prayer** and more with Minister of Counseling **Ed Morrison**. (We Make the Road by Walking, ch. 29) Matthew 6:1-18. Music with Chancel Choir and Sally Russom. (The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5 - 7, lays out our Lenten path.)

March 31 - Guest message with **Rev. Dr. Beryl Ingram**!

April 7 - Palm Sunday flows to Holy Thursday. (We Make the Road by Walking, ch. 32 and 32a.) We are evoking Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday a little ahead of schedule! This will allow greater attention to Christ's crucifixion next week. Zechariah 9:9-10; Psalm 122, Luke 19:29-46, John 13-17 (excerpts). Music with Wendy Yee.

April 14 - The Crucifixion. "Good" Friday? (We Make the Road by Walking, ch. 32b.) Psalm 22, Luke 22:39-23:56. Music with Chancel Choir and Sally Russom.

April 21 – Easter! *Dawn of an Uprising*. (We Make the Road by Walking, ch. 33.)

Sunrise service 6 am at Snoqualmie Point Park. **Easter Community Breakfast served 9 - 10 am** benefits Guatemala mission trip. Traditional **Easter Worship** in the sanctuary, 10:30 am. Music with Chancel Choir and Sally Russom.

April 28 - An Uprising of Fellowship (We Make the Road by Walking, ch. 34.) Psalm 133, John 20:1-31, Acts 8:26-40. Music with Toddie Downs.

UM GENERAL CONFERENCE 2019, THE TRADITIONAL PLAN

A narrow majority of delegates to the recent denomination-wide General Conference favored the "Traditional Plan." The summary below was published before the conference convened but is still helpful in communicating the Traditional Plan's intent. It's unclear at this point what modifications to the plan may have been made in conference deliberations. Aspects of the plan were deemed unconstitutional by the church judiciary during the conference.

Summary:

- Traditionalist Plan retains, strengthens and enforces current prohibitions on same sex marriage and gay ordination.
- This plan both invites and forces Annual Conferences who are progressive on matters of same sex marriage to leave the UMC to create new denomination.
- This plan allows other Annual Conferences and/or Local Churches to leave and create new denomination(s) for any reason.
- These new "Self-Governing Methodist Churches" would be eligible for concordat relationship and token representation at General Conference.

Rules regarding ministry with and by married gay persons:

- The UMC would continue to proclaim that "practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."
- Current definition of "self-avowed practicing homosexual" would be further detailed so as to tighten up enforcement.
- Minimum penalties established for pastors to be suspended for one year on first violation and expulsion for a second violation.
- Accountability for bishops would move from regional Jurisdictional College of Bishops to new global structures to enforce uniformity.
- Annual Conference (by vote), Bishops and members of Boards of Ordained Ministry would all certify that they support and enforce these rules relating to same sex marriage and gay ordination.
- Taken together, these rules will increase the number of trials.

Freedom of Conscience

- Annual Conference (by vote), Bishops and members of Boards of Ordained Ministry will be required to certify that they support and enforce these rules relating to same sex marriage and gay ordination.
- Annual Conference must certify that Bishop and Boards of Ordained Ministry are following through.
- Bishops who dissent or who fail to lead their Annual Conference (AC) to follow through may be reported for disciplinary proceedings.
- General Conference on Finance and Administration (GCFA) to track and enforce this requirement on Annual Conferences including withholding funds and barring use of UMC name and cross-and-flame logo.

Impact on Central Conferences outside of USA

- No change regarding to same sex marriage or ordination is forced on a Central Conference by this legislation. Structure remains the same.
- Annual Conferences, Bishops and Boards of Ordain Ministry have the same obligation to certify as described above for Jurisdictional Conferences.
- This legislation creates new options for individual Annual Conferences or even Local Churches to opt out of the choice made by Central Conference.

Impact on Annual Conferences (AC)

- No change to structure; however, it is anticipated that 10 or more Annual Conferences would either opt out or be forced out of the UMC.
- It is further anticipated that each Annual Conference would need to cope with some number of Local Churches opting out the AC's alignment – some churches would opt to go back to the UMC and others would opt to leave altogether to join a new Self-Governing Methodist Church.

At this writing (February 28) there is a lot we don't know yet about how the Traditional Plan will play out in our Annual Conference or local congregation. By Grace, may all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to God's purposes! (Romans 8:28)

WHAT I'VE LOVED ABOUT BEING UNITED METHODIST



Early in my Christian life I did not identify with any particular denomination. In my mid-twenties I met Jesus for real, and in community. I suddenly found myself in youth ministry working for a mix of congregations: Lutheran, Episcopal, Congregational, and United Methodist. Each of those congregations was special and spiritual, and each had their strengths and weaknesses. With Christ as the heart of the matter, denominational identity hardly seemed relevant.

As my calling developed however, I discovered a strong resonance with Methodist people and Methodist history. Here are a few of my favorite things from the Wesleyan tradition that grew into the United Methodist Church:

* From John and Charlie's Wesley's earliest small group study days, their **faith expressed itself in social action**. Their study of scripture and honest life reflections drove them to care about the pain in their neighborhoods, and to respond to it. They worked in soup kitchens, founded hospitals, schools, and orphanages. Their personal piety shaped them for social action, and vice versa.

* The Wesleyan movement respects **scripture, tradition, reason and experience** as dependable sources of God's revelation. (This came to be called *the quadrilateral* at some point.) Scripture is paramount, but also is held in conversation with the other sources. This fosters a "big tent" theology, with room for a diversity of perspectives. John Wesley is known for sayings such as, "Though we cannot all think alike, may we not all love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?"

* The Christian journey is seen as a life-long adventure in **sanctifying Grace**, all heading toward "perfection" in love.

* John Wesley was a **practical** theologian. Christian ideals are put into practice, thereby changing our lives and world. He espoused "**three simple rules**:" 1) Do no harm. 2) Do all the good you can. 3) Tend to the ordinances of God (i.e. engage the means of Grace which help keep us connected and in love with God.)

There's more, but that's enough of my favorites for now. What are yours I wonder? In the wake of General Conference 2019 a denomination called "United" Methodist may need a new name. I'm not called to Divided Methodism, but I'll continue to celebrate aspects in our Wesleyan tradition that compel my discipleship toward Love's fullness. I bet we all will!

Here's to Adventures in Grace,

- Pastor Lee



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

SUMC READS

Carol Morrison

Reading something you love? Have a favorite book you'd recommend to fellow congregants?

Ron Sumners recommends a science fiction trilogy by C.S. Lewis: *Out Of The Silent Planet*, *Perelandra*, and *That Hideous Strength*. “The stories are written from a Christian perspective,” Ron says. “I haven't read them for years but remember they were excellent.”

Linda Boord's all-time favorite is J.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. Linda says, “It's really a story of good over evil, and how the smallest among us can be the greatest.”

Reri McLean likes *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science*, by Atul Gawande, about how the science and practice of medicine is not as orderly and straight-forward as many of us believe. Reri says, “The stories are compelling, and though I admire Gawande and nearly every physician I have met, this is a great reminder to question, obtain second opinions, and to be a watchful advocate for yourself or a loved one.”

In the Library: Antoine de Saint Exupery's *The Little Prince*. A gorgeous classic about looking beneath the surface to find real truth and meaning.

This section will be a regular part of the Circuit Rider. Please contact Carol if you'd like to share a favorite book or what you're currently reading.

CANNED FOOD DONATION DRIVE

March: Canned veggies (except peas)

April: Healthy snacks – granola bars, dried fruits



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author ilicensed under CC BY-SA



A LENTEN ADAPTATION

The Worship Team

Notice when entering the sanctuary during Lent that something has been moved. The altar is now placed within the worshipers. With this change, symbols of our faith on the altar are more present to the worshipers. And may God's presence continue to flow among us.



SNOQUALMIE VALLEY INTERFAITH

The purpose of the Snoqualmie Valley Interfaith Group is to foster relationships across faith lines that enrich our understanding of each other's faith traditions and strengthen community around the valley.

Our next Interfaith gathering will be on Sunday, March 17th, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the home of Steve Boyer and Reri MacLean, 46923 SE 130th Street, North Bend, WA 98045.

Our discussion topic on Sunday March 17th will be Racism. We ask that everyone come prepared to discuss how their faith traditions have addressed racism, as the US as a whole struggles with this issue.

Please join us. Bring your friends, faith and insights!



LIFE OF THE CHURCH – A 100 YEAR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



As most of us know, Gloria McNeely turned 100 years old on February 11. In addition to the tea held for Gloria here at SUMC on February 23, she also was honored by the City of Snoqualmie on her birthday before their council meeting.

How much do you know about Gloria? The following fun facts were provided by Dave Battey as part of the City of Snoqualmie celebration:

- Gloria moved to the City of Snoqualmie in January 1940 with her husband, Denton.
- She was employed at the Snoqualmie Valley Record as Full Charge Bookkeeper/Associate Editor from 1951 to 1962; and for the King County Department of Public Works – Flood Control Division, as Administrative Services Officer from February 1962 to February 1981 when she retired.
- Gloria has served on the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum Board since 1987 and on Snoqualmie Arts Commission since it was established in 2000.
- She has been a driving force of Snoqualmie Valley Arts Live, a local volunteer non-profit group of Snoqualmie Valley citizens (established in 1993 and sold in 2007) dedicated to bringing live high quality performing arts and entertainment to the Snoqualmie Valley.
- Gloria was presented with a key to the city in 2010 in honor and recognition of exceptional leadership and public service, and on January 28, 2013 was appointed as the City of Snoqualmie's first Honorary Life Member of the Arts Commission.



Photo by Dave Battey



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
www.snoqualmieumc.com

SNOQUALMIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

38701 SE River St.
Snoqualmie WA 98065