

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

March/April 2020

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday March 8 – Daylight Savings Time

Wednesdays March 4, 11, 18, 29 – 6-7:30 pm Lenten Series: Praying Our Way Through Lent

Sunday March 22 – Church Work Party, noon-4

Sunday April 12 – EASTER Sunrise Service, 6:15 am, Snoqualmie Point Park; Traditional worship 10:30 am

NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

At a time when many are understandably pre-occupied by COVID-19, stock market declines, presidential primaries, climate change, health challenges, denominational tensions and/or other stresses - Lent invites us to *be still and know that I am God* (Psalm 46:10). We sanctify a fast, grieve our wrongdoing, encourage our bodies and minds to go beyond where they have gone before, all in the care of a benevolent and reconciling God.



Lent offers us a crucial season for returning to God with all our hearts. It's an annual opportunity to re-set our spiritual lives, to humbly align with God's loving will for all creation, to accept and offer forgiveness, and to know our true identity in the great beloved whole. So we follow Jesus into the wilderness and we make ourselves vulnerable to transformation. We commit to fasting, praying, almsgiving, or other spiritual practices - a kind of "yes" to

God's ongoing presence and call. For these 40 days we're especially intentional, even radically intentional, about tending to our connection with the Father/Spirit/Son. Lent is anything but business as usual!

In worship this season we are continuing our emphasis on Growing in God's Orchard. As we abide in God, the traits that God exemplifies and shares with the world come to fruitful expression in our lives too. That is the purpose and joy of discipleship! I think it fits well for Lent. Fruit knows how to fall to the ground and die, a necessary part of our life cycle in God. (John 12:24)

"Lent Boxes" are available in our sanctuary because for some of us, having a tangible/physical/material altar of sorts can really enrich our spiritual connecting. Suggested directions on how to use the Lent Box are enclosed in each. 40 days = 40 offerings. Remember to bury or compost your box on Holy Saturday, April 11!

With you on the Way,

Pastor Lee



WORSHIP FORECAST

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

March 1 - *Growing in God's Orchard, Kindness*

Holy Communion, music with Michelle Wilkinson, and message by Marcia Reinert. (Lent 1)

March 8 - *Growing in God's Orchard, Generosity*. Music with Michelle Wilkinson. (Lent 2)

March 15 - *Growing in God's Orchard, Faithfulness*. Music with Toddie Downs, message by Linda Boord. Our liturgy will include a retirement blessing for Tom Boord. (Lent 3)

March 22 - *Growing in God's Orchard, Gentleness*. (Lent 4) Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

March 29 - *Growing in God's Orchard, Self-Control*. Special music with Hannah Mowry of Mount Si High School. (Lent 5)

April 5 – Palm/Passion Sunday- Facing the cross. (Lent 6)

April 12 - EASTER - Sunrise service at Snoqualmie Point Park, 6:15 am. (Snoqualmie Point Park is located at 37580 Winery Road, Snoqualmie 98065.) **Traditional worship** with flowering of the cross and chancel choir, 10:30 am. Please stay tuned for announcements regarding Easter breakfast and egg hunt.

April 19 - Easter season continues with *Festival of God's Creation*. Lectionary readings include Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31. Music with Toddie Downs.

April 26 - Easter season continues. Lectionary readings include Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

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. [Editor's note: I so apologize for cropping out family members in the photos I received. Since these are just short pieces, family pictures tend to make individual faces too small to view well when part of the whole group. I've attached the family photos in the Life of the Church section at the end of the newsletter, because your families are in fact fabulous.]

Tom Boord

Tom Boord, a “Navy brat” from Kingsville, Texas, moved to the Northwest in 1960, when his father was transferred here, and has lived in the Snoqualmie Valley since 1985. Tom's heroes are Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks. “As I get older,” he says, “I realize their sacrifices to try and improve everyone's life.” Tom enjoys military and detective fiction by WEB Griffin and adventure novels by Clive Cussler. He hopes his friends see him as “caring and friendly.” He gets a kick out of cartoon and animal posts on Facebook, and his spirit is fed by his “amazing” wife Linda and his “awesome” daughters Molly and Dayna. After fifty-five years of working, Tom is “finally” retired.



Mila Tyumneva



with her family.

Mila Tyumneva, half Russian and half Turkic, was born in Moscow and came to the United States four years ago when her husband was recruited for a local company. Mila is grateful for the people who facilitated her move. She admires Stephen Hawking and Helen Keller for showing remarkable strength of spirit in spite of their limitations, and her favorite author is Henry Cloud. Mila says she's an “easy audience” and that pretty much any good joke makes her laugh. She says her friends would describe her as something between a “pain in the neck” and “caring” and sees her greatest accomplishment as having and raising her daughter. Her soul is fed by reading and spending time

Dawn Finney

Dawn Finney, born in Cleveland, Ohio to first generation immigrants from Croatia and Italy, feels quite at home in the Snoqualmie Valley. Her maternal grandmother is her hero for living through hardships without complaints. One of Dawn's most notable accomplishments was being promoted to Captain in the U.S. Air Force and managing their Family Advocacy Program. She's read everything by Bishop Shelby Spong and particularly likes “Why Christianity Must Change.” Dawn's friends would describe her as spontaneous, compassionate, and patient. She loves to laugh at her husband's “brilliant, yet silly” sense of humor, and meditation and prayer feed her soul, along with sunsets in the Florida Keys.



Mel Woodworth

Melvin Woodworth, born in Vancouver, Washington, takes satisfaction in the things he's helped build—Camp Indianola, Seattle First Tongan UMC, church mission ministries, and Jamaa Letu orphanage in the Congo. Mel admires Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Sojourner Truth, and Elsie Marburger, an elderly parishioner in his first congregation, Capitol Hill UMC. Mel enjoys works by Louis L'Amour, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Agathie Christie. He and his wife Candice garden, paint, write, and love playing with their grandkids. Candice's “impolite honesty with me,” little kids, animals, and “God's sense of humor” make Mel laugh. Friends describe him as a present, engaged, calming listener. Though Mel has been “terrifyingly aware” of the hateful and destructive, he “works and prays for God's Holy City to be built on earth as it is envisioned in the heavens.”



DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LENT?

What form of fasting, praying, almsgiving, or other spiritual practice are you committed to? For those still discerning what to practice, ask God for guidance as you consider some possibilities. **Fast** - refrain from a physical or mental routine or other habit, e.g. fast from eating meat, or fast from judging others, or fast from watching Netflix... **Pray** - talk with God and listen intentionally, e.g. light a candle each morning, or use Pray as You Go or other app, or participate in SUMC's Wednesday night Praying Through Lent series... **Give** - share with the poor, e.g. prepare dinner for SV Shelter guests, volunteer with SV Food Bank, donate money to Hopelink.... **Whatever** you do in dedication to God is likely to bear spiritual fruit.

Ideally, you'll be led to something that helps you grow in Love toward God, others, and self. The point of such spiritual practices is to give God greater access to us. Of course God won't love you more for taking Lent seriously. But *you* may know, trust, and reflect God better, as a result of intentionally drawing near.

PRAYING OUR WAY THROUGH LENT

Join our Wednesday learning circle for time with scripture and different ways of praying. Jacqu Lindstrandt will facilitate this four-week Lenten series, Wednesdays 6 - 7:30 pm, March 4, 11, 18, and 29. Come connect with God and each other!





NEW CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir embraces new beginnings with Michelle Wilkinson directing. Newcomers and old-timers needed! Rehearsals will be on two Sunday mornings each month, 9:15 - 10:15 am. Rehearsal dates will be available after the choir's initial practice, March 1. The choir will contribute in worship when ready, including Easter we hope!



UNITED METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

May 15 - 20, in Minneapolis

Our international United Methodist Denomination is meeting again in May to decide, among other things, what to do about our differences when it comes to the ordination of LGBTQIA clergy and the marriage of same gender couples. Potential changes in our global church structure and polity will be considered.

Though not speaking for the denomination as a whole, the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church has been committed to full inclusion of LGBTQIA people for some time. The broader Western Jurisdiction of which we are a part reflects a similar commitment. An Inclusion Committee has formed in our congregation, in keeping with those values and the theology

behind them. While the committee's work flows from what seems to be the majority perspective at SUMC, we also value, respect, and remain in communion with those people among us who hold opposing viewpoints. *"¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body."* - 1 Corinthians 12:14-16

Interested readers can use our Pacific Northwest Conference website - www.pnwumc.org - to connect with extensive information relating to the upcoming General Conference. As usual, an equal number of lay people and clergy will participate as voting delegates. Delegates from the Pacific Northwest are Elizabeth Schindler and Skylar Marston Bihl (reserves Gregg Sealey, Brent Henshaw). Delegates from the Western Jurisdiction are Kathleen Weber, Joseph Kim, DJ del Rosario, Jenny Phillips, Shalom Agtarap and Falisha Hola, Dionica (Nica) Sy, Kristina Gonzalez, Marie Kuch-Stanovsky, Noriko Lao (reserves Nancy Tam Davis, Erin Tombaugh, Benjamin Sparkman, Austin Adkinson, Nico Romeijn-Stout, & Kay Barckley,). Please keep them and the whole UMC connection in your prayers.

FOOD BANK FOOD OF THE MONTH

Food of the Month:

March - canned vegetables (except peas)

April - healthy snacks (such as granola bars, whole grain crackers, etc.)

Please leave non-perishable food donations in the marked basket in our narthex/foyer. Linda Trombley delivers these offerings for distribution through Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank each month. Thanks for participating!



LENTEN CHURCH WORK PARTY

On Sunday March 22 after church, the trustees will be throwing one of their legendary church work parties, from noon – 4-ish. On the Honey-Do list will be sprucing up the church for Palm Sunday and Easter. There will be work to do both inside and outside. All are not only welcome, but entreated to come for as short or long a time as you wish. If you have any suggestions for the work list, contact any Trustee (Greg Downs, Chair).

PLANT SALE APPROACHES

Spring is just around the corner, which means SUMC's yearly plant sale can't be far behind. Start thinking about your plants or garden accessories to share. All proceeds will benefit on of our many church projects.



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THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



Dave Battey writes in to celebrate the occasion of our own Gloria McNeely's **101st birthday**!! He writes: Kathy and I took her to lunch last week to celebrate her 101 and my 80th (Valentine's Day). She said folks are more celebratory over her 101 than they were her 100th :)





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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