

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

MARCH/APRIL 2023

## SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, March 19 –  
Congregational Town Hall,  
directly following service

Saturday, March 25 – Couples  
Workshop, 10 am – 1 pm

Sunday, April 2 – Palm  
Sunday service, 9:30 am

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy  
Thursday service, 6:00 pm

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday  
service, 7 pm, Fall City UMC

Sunday, April 9 – Easter  
Sunrise Service, 6:30 am

Easter Service, 9:30 am

## PASTOR'S MUSINGS

Friends,

### *I've been thinking...*

It's the season of Lent and for many of us, it's a season we don't fully understand. What is this season and what is the point of it? In the simplest explanation it's a time of preparation and practice. It's a time to work on our spiritual life, to improve on being in right relationship with God. What does right relationship mean? It's living your life according to God's two ultimate rules: Love God and Love one another as yourself. It means ordering your life in such a way that God is put first and foremost in your life, and that people and your relationships with them come before all material things.

Why do we need this time though? Lent is a period of 40 days. It's a reminder of the time in which Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and the Israelites wandered the desert. We too experience this wilderness time in our life, we know that we'll be tempted away from God and God's will. This 40-day period is an occasion to reset our lives so that we can live the way we say we want to live. During these 40 days we work on being still so that we may hear God, give to the poor, and seek ways to bring about justice in our society for those who have been pushed out and ignored. We examine our own lives for where we are sinning (breaking relationship with God and others) so that we can weed it out and grow closer to God. Every day we do this we take steps

closer to the very thing that sets us apart from the rest of the world, the resurrection of Christ.

Do you ever think about what it means to be a resurrection people? I do all the time. We celebrate and revel in the resurrection. The moment that transformed all of creation. Jesus died, and rather than death getting the last word he was resurrected. Jesus brought hope back to us, reminded us that no matter how badly we break relationship with God and one another, all hope is not lost because GOD has mercy on us, gives us grace, forgives our wrongs, and continuously invites us into right relationship with them. The resurrection is a reminder that God wants to be in relationship with us. Take this opening to work on your relationship with God. Stand in front of God and let down the walls that separate you from her and let her love you as you are. Invite one another to stand with you and share the good news that our mistakes do not define us, but the grace we have been given. What does the resurrection mean to you and what is the good news for you? Step boldly into the light and share the joy of being loved by a community of those who follow God.

Blessings,

Pastor Carrie





## HOLY WEEK

**Palm Sunday** - April 2, 2023 9:30 AM

Come celebrate the beginning of Holy week by entering Jerusalem with celebration and joy. You are encouraged to bring a cloak to cover the pathway forward, and wave palm fronds as we march around. We'll gather in the fellowship hall, receive our palm fronds and then enter the sanctuary together as a group processing down the aisle out the side door, down the hall and back in through the doors into the sanctuary again.

**Maundy Thursday** - April 6, 2023 6:00 PM

Maundy Thursday will be hosted at Snoqualmie UMC. Please come worship with one another over a simple meal of soup & bread served by Pastor Carrie & church leaders. We begin with handwashing, followed by dinner and a story, then we will participate in communion.

**Good Friday** - April 7, 2023 7:00 PM

Good Friday will be hosted at Fall City UMC. You are invited to step into the tomb as we worship together as the body of Christ. This experience will tap into your sense of sight, touch, smell, and hearing. Please join us as we continue the story leading to the death and resurrection of our Lord.

**Easter Sunday Sunrise Combined Service** - April 9, 2023 6:30 AM

Place – TBD

Let's join together with FCUMC in the wee morning hours as the sun comes up. Experience what the women experience when they found the empty tomb. We will share Communion and a fish meal together. More details as to the location will come out as we get closer to Easter morning.

**Easter Sunday Service** - 9:30 AM

Come celebrate Easter together. Bring some live flowers to place in the cross during our decorating time. Please do not bring any lilies as we have people allergic to them. After worship there will be an Egg Hunt (outside or inside depending on weather).

## SUMC FINANCIAL UPDATE

While we ended 2022 with relative financial stability, we ended the year with expenses far exceeding income by several thousand dollars. While we were able to keep expenses to a minimum, we also needed to pull from cash reserves to meet all expenses and outreach for the year. The 2023 budget is currently being finalized and we expect expenses to be slightly higher than 2022. We have a total of 20 pledges for 2023 and we greatly appreciate your loyal giving and all gifts that you are able to offer.

We will have a panel discussion on the state of SUMC on Sunday March 19 directly after church, where the congregation will be able to weigh in and ask any questions they may have.

- *Cristen Heuser*



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## ALL MEANS ALL

We at SUMC are blessed to have several Black members in our congregation. In honor of Black History Month, they offer us suggestions as to questions white folks can be asking about race and topics with which to familiarize ourselves.

Connie and Rudy Edwards suggest we learn more about the multitude of unrecognized contributions Black people have made to science, education, technology, and the arts. They'd also like us to be aware of how the extreme economic disparity between Blacks and whites has led to entire Black communities suffering when "progress" in a city occurs, i.e., a major thoroughfare that, when built, ignores the needs of the Black residents and destroys their community. For movies and documentaries on these subjects, Connie recommends *The Green Book*, *Hidden Figures*, *Emmett Till*, and *Tulsa Burning*.

Freda Munro hopes we'll understand how much hurt she and other Black individuals have suffered by white people's mistreatment. Currently, when she feels mistreated or slighted due to her race, she does not feel obligated to clarify the reasons for her hurt to anyone, nor does she need their agreement as to whether hurt was justified. Her need to feel safe is a priority.

Joanne Royston suggests we reflect on one thing we learned during this Black History month that we didn't previously know and to ask ourselves if Black History Month makes a difference in how we see Black Americans. She wonders if Hispanic Heritage Month (mid-September) or Indigenous Heritage Month (June) should also be more noted in America. And, with the focus on Ukraine and other white populations, she's interested in whether we're aware of crises in our world that have grave impact on Black people, such as the current situation in Haiti. Joanne likes and recommends *Passing*, *The Great Debaters*, and the Baldwin/Buckley Debate, 1965.

We were also blessed to have Joanne Royston and Paul Bland speak to us during church service this month. SUMC is grateful for their forthrightness, personal sharing, and willingness to help us learn and grow. And many thanks to Wendy Holloway for the wonderful centerpieces honoring influential, often unrecognized Black individuals for our Fellowship Room tables. Wendy began making her "Table Tents" for our Wednesday night Community Dinners in 2015, in hopes they'd be good conversation starters, and was happy to design and create ones for our edification and enjoyment during the month we honor Black contributions and culture.

- Carol Morrison

## LIFE RESUMES AFTER THE PANDEMIC



I was just checking in with folks at church on Sunday and asked them what they have most enjoyed since the pandemic is sort of over.

*Betty Gildersleeve* – Being in-fellowship in-person and being able to “see” the pastor. (Betty has been struggling with her Zoom view.)

*Toddie Downs* – Singing in church.

*Marcia Reinert* – The love I have felt in that space in there. (Pointing toward the sanctuary.)

*Ron Sumners* – Singing without a mask. I really enjoyed singing with the joint choir with Fall City.

*Greg Downs* – Going to live music concerts.

*Karolann Whetsell* – The freedom. I felt like my face was in jail.

*Carol Morrison* – Going out and spending a normal day: shopping, seeing people, eating out, going in and out of buildings.

*Carol Lawrence* – Singing in church!

*Tom Boord* – I can go out and walk the dog.

*Linda Boord* – Coming here to the building, being here, seeing everybody.

*Lewis Williams* – Actually I was living here in the church during the pandemic and nobody was here. So glad things are back to NORMAL.

- *Karolann Whetsell*



### THREE DAY WEEKEND CONCERT

Toddie Downs and Abbie Grimstad make up the duo Three Day Weekend. They will be performing at The Black Dog on Sunday, March 12, from 12 noon to 2 pm. They hope to see some of you there!

### COUPLES WORKSHOP

Carol and Ed Morrison are holding a Couples Workshop on Saturday, March 25, from 10 am to 1 pm. RSVP by calling Carol M. or emailing Ed at

[sumc.mincounsel@gmail.com](mailto:sumc.mincounsel@gmail.com). You can learn:

- A research-based introduction into the psychobiology of couple communication
- The benefits of a secure relationship
- What gets in our way and how to get through stuck places
- How both of you can get more of what you want.



## NEWS OF THE CHURCH

### Gloria McNeely's Celebration of 104 Years of Life

Gloria McNeely turned 104 years (!!!) in February. She celebrated with family and a few close friends at Wildfin. Dave Battey provides a picture of the two of them from that day.



### Chore and Chortle

*Photo by Carrie Bland*



### Congregational Dinner and Discussion

*Photo by Carrie Bland*



### Fifth Sunday Combined Worship

*Photo by Carrie Bland*



## 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

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