

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

MAY - JUNE 2024



Save the Date:

Friday May 3: Laughing Ladies
Lunch at noon at Mt. Si Golf
Club

Sunday, May 5: Fall City's "Bell
Hops" Ringers music during our
worship. Cinco de Mayo Potluck
immediately after worship

Tuesday May 14 at 6:30 Learning
Circle resumes

Sunday May 19: Pentecost (wear
symbolic red, yellow and orange)

May 26: Peace & Justice Sunday
special presentation by guest
speaker + collections for SV
Food Bank and Reclaim Stability

Sundays May 19 – June 9 12:45
– 1:45 Wesley Sermon study

Sunday June 9 at 6:30: Handbell
concert at FCUMC

PASTOR'S MUSINGS

Friends, I've been thinking...

Did Jesus plan his ministry? I don't know. I have no idea if he had a 1-, 3-, and 5-year plan because when I read the gospel, I don't see it, yet at the same time, he sure seemed to know where he was going to go and when that time had come for his earthly ministry to come to a close. Thinking about what he did got me thinking about our path. How do we know where we are going if we have not planned for it? How do we get to where we want to be if we do not think about the steps, we need to take to get there?

What will we look like or be doing a year from now? What about in three years? How about five years? Do you ever wonder about that? When I was a kid, I was always asked what I want to be when I grow up, but I was never asked what I wanted to be doing a year from now. We talk about planning for our future but what future are we planning for? As our larger denomination goes through some big changes it's got me thinking about our local church and what changes we are going through. Over the past year and a half, we've had people pass away, move away, or stop coming. We've started new ministries and restarted old ones. We've had new people begin attending and we've hopefully learned some new things about ourselves and God too. If all that has happened in just 18 months, what more had to change in the past three years, or five years? Did we end up where we thought we would be? Was it intentional?

Our One Board team is asking these hard questions about our congregation. What will be different in May of 2025? Will there be more families? What new ministries will be started? What ministries will end or be modified? What will we look like in May of 2027 or 2029? Do we want to look, act, or be different? Do we

want more families and more ministries? As we discussed this, we came to the realization that we want the whole congregation to work on this with us. We want everyone to answer these questions, to help us create the path we will walk over the next 1-5 years. Who are we, what do we stand for, what do we want people to experience when they join our community, and how will we take this dream and make it a reality?



You are invited to join us each Friday evening for an all-church potluck on May 10, May 17, May 24, 2024, from 5:30-8:00 PM to do some group healing, dreaming, and putting into action. Bring a side dish to share and your answers to the questions above. Our first Friday will be focused on some healing conversations as we discuss the changes of the past, celebrating our successes and grieving our losses. After that we'll move on to the future. The Leadership team will take all that we gather from these nights and develop

a plan forward for us at our July meeting.

Blessings, Pastor Carrie

GENERAL CONFERENCE APRIL 23 – MAY 3 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



FROM PASTOR CARRIE: A large body of United Methodist Lay & Clergy delegates have gathered from around the world to discuss where we will go and what we will become now that the disaffiliation process has finalized. If you are not sure what that means, the group of people and local churches that did not want to change our book of discipline to be more affirming of all people were given an opportunity to separate and form their own denomination by December 31, 2023. Now that has been finished, those who have stayed are continuing the work to make our denomination more affirming and welcoming of all God's children. General Conference will continue until May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, North

Carolina. Please keep all our delegates and bishops in your prayers. If you want to get caught up and continue watching here is the link that will take you to the website for the General Conference: <https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/structure/general-conference>

REVISED SOCIAL PRINCIPLES for the GENERAL CONFERENCE in Charlotte 2024

Our Social Principles are the United Methodist Church's official summary of convictions on the social issues of our day. First adopted by the 1972 General Conference, the Social Principles document stands in the Wesleyan tradition of forthright moral witness and ethical action.

“Taking its inspiration and grounding from both the Evangelical United Brethren's Moral Standards and the Methodist Episcopal Church's social creed, the Social Principles reflect the church's concern for both personal and social holiness in communities across the world.”

For those interested in the UMC position on social issues here is a link that provides background information, summaries and more: <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/proposed-revised-social-principles-for-general-conference-charlotte>



REPORT FROM MARCIA

From Marcia Reinert who is our delegate to Pacific NW Conference and has been asked to be a part of what is referred to as an “Institutional COHORT” task force to research and put together strategies for local churches:

“When I was approached by Kristina Gonzales with an invitation to become a part of the Institutional COHORT (one of two special task forces, the other being the Congregational COHORT), I was humbled to have been considered. I quickly realized that there didn't seem to be groups addressing the ‘M. I. L.’ portions of M. I. L. E. We learned at the beginning of our first session that the determination had been made that racism must be addressed before the first three can be approached.

Elimination of racism is a daunting vision. These days, racism/discrimination seems to have become a part of our cumulative DNA. However, by tackling it one person or group or institution at a time, we have to believe it is possible. The Institutional COHORT is made up of lay people, pastors, district superintendents and conference administration.

I will say it is hard work. There is study and reflection, teaching and discussion, laughter and tears. Sometimes we acknowledge frightening realities and at other times discover reasons for hope. In the future, I hope to share with you some of what I am learning. In the meantime, please keep all COHORT members in your prayers. Trust me, we need it. There is much work to be done.”

This link, by Kristina Gonzales from the Pacific Northwest Conference, describes the work of the task force Marcia is serving on: <https://greaternw.org/news/equity-cohorts-across-the-gnw-begin-the-work-of-eliminating-racism/>

THE UNITED METHODIST BUILDING ON CAPITOL HILL, WASHINGTON D.C.

Erected in 1923 the United Methodist Building, adjacent to the U.S. Capitol and the Supreme Court, has been a center for Methodist social witness on Capitol Hill for over one hundred years.

The United Methodist Building is the only non-government building on Capitol Hill. It houses the Washington offices of a number of ecumenical groups: the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, Lutheran Services of America, Church World Service, Islamic Society of North America and a host of others. It also houses offices of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, United Methodist Women, and the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race.



For more about this historic building see the Church & Society page of the UMC: <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/the-united-methodist-building>

WORSHIP COMMITTEE



Our expanded All-Things-Worship committee met on April 20th to make plans for the special Sundays in May and June:

Mother’s Day, Pentecost, Peace & Justice Sunday, Father’s Day and a combined service with FCUMC that we will host the fifth Sunday in June.

Please note: at the beginning of each July, we “trade worship times” with FCUMC. **On July 7 this year, we will begin our worship service at 9:00 a.m. and Fall City will return to the 11:00 worship time.**

Choir Practice is every Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Singers of all skill levels are invited to join us!

Photo by Karolann Whetsell with apologies for Mel’s turned back. We are grateful to her for conducting our choir!



CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION

Cinco de Mayo traces its origins to the Mexican army's unlikely defeat of the far better equipped French forces of Napoleon III at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. It is celebrated in Mexico and in the United States with dancing, music and traditional Mexican cuisine. We will celebrate with a potluck featuring Mexican food.

Still needed:

- * Chopped green onions
- * Chopped green peppers
- * Ground beef cooked in taco seasoning
- * Rice
- * Refried beans
- * Tamales
- * Enchiladas
- * Guacamole
- * Corn
- * Flour tortillas
- * Corn tortillas



Karolann Whetsell is compiling signups please text or call her at [918-978-3274](tel:918-978-3274) to let her know what you will bring.

(Signed up for already: Velveeta cheese dip; Rotel (tomato cheese dip); Chopped black olives; Chopped tomatoes; Grated cheese; Pinto beans; Chicken cooked in taco seasoning; Corn chips; Ranch dressing; Salsa.)

SNO-VALLEY WOMEN'S COFFEE

Mondays, 10 am-12



It's a fellowship time where we enjoy coffee and treats, talk about everything under the sun, and get to know one another. Open to all women.

LAUGHING LADIES LUNCH

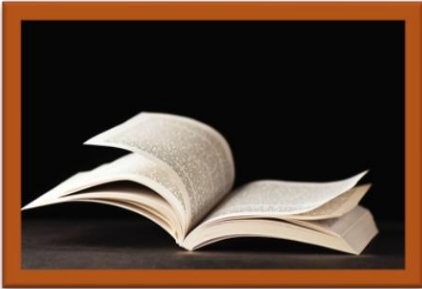
Friday, May 3rd at 12:00 p.m. at the Mt. Si Golf Course Restaurant

All women are cordially invited to gather for lunch and lively, entertaining conversation on the first Friday of each month at the Mt. Si Golf Course Restaurant. If you would like more information, contact **Carol Lawrence at (425) 985-1784.**

TUESDAY EVENING LEARNING CIRCLE

Resumes Tuesday May 14 on Zoom from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Come join the Learning Circle for a 6-week discussion about Hope and Redemption in the novel *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom. If you would like to sign up or want more information, contact Jacque Lindstrand, Karolann or Richard Whetsell or Pastor Carrie.



WESLEY SERMON STUDY

Sundays after worship May 19 – June 9, from 12:45 - 1:45 pm

Pastor Carrie will provide the John Wesley sermon that we will be discussing each week. We'll meet in Pastor's Carrie's office.

BEGINNING CROCHETING

Join Pat Warner from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. every second and fourth Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. That's May 8th & May 22nd and June 12th & June 26th. This is open to everyone, especially those who like to learn how to crochet.



SNOQUALMIE VALLEY FOOD BANK

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church has a long history of donating non-perishable food to the food bank. Our donations are needed more than ever, especially as families prepare for the summer months when their children will not be getting lunches at school.

FOOD DONATIONS:

What to bring to the church: food items like canned SpaghettiOs, power bars or cereal, nutritious foods that will help families with children over the summer. Other kinds of canned goods, juices, bottled water, and coffee are also always appreciated. Make sure your donations have not been opened and that the freshness date is not expired.

OTHER ITEMS:

Pet food is distributed on the first Wednesday morning of each month. The food bank seems to receive regular donations of diapers, but convenient baby wipes packs appear less frequently.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Volunteer to drive to pick up groceries, unload trucks, sort, and stock food during the hours when the food bank is not open for shopping, or volunteer to assist Food Bank clients during their hours of operation. A link that describes these options more fully: <https://www.snoqualmievalleyfoodbank.org/volunteer-1>

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS WHERE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

<https://www.snoqualmievalleyfoodbank.org/programs-new>

If you have questions feel free to reach out to Reri MacLean 818-635-5856 or contact the food bank directly

<https://www.snoqualmievalleyfoodbank.org/contact>.



SUMC FINANCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The March 31, 2024 Profit and Loss Statement reports income for the first quarter was \$22,729. Expenses for the same time period were \$25,458. A net loss of \$2,729 was recorded.

Continued financial help from the members helps keep the doors of SUMC open to all. Thank you.



MORE NEWS OF THE CHURCH

One Board Leadership Team



It has been brought to our attention that there are some questions about how our board works. It still works the way in which our old system did, but in a simplified manner. We have three people who guide our conversations in a specific administration area (SPRC/Trustees/Finance), and they keep tabs on what needs to be done. But everyone on the team handles all three administration areas. Meaning if you want to know something about these three topics, you can speak with anyone on the team.

For example, if you have concerns about Pastor/Staff/Parish relations you can talk with anyone on the board, or simply the three people listed as SPRC representatives. If you notice something around the church that needs to be fixed or you want to do something, please bring it to any of our board members or you can direct it to one of the three listed as Trustees. Same with our finances.

There may be times throughout the year in which we reach out to the whole congregation to assist us in these areas for special tasks. Outside of these administrative tasks there are ministry action teams, such as worship team, choir, women's luncheon group, hospitality, missions & social justice, education and more. When it comes to the work of the church, we turn to the larger congregation to help make our ministries run smoothly. Currently we do not have formal ministry action teams meeting other than choir and worship. We would like to begin holding gatherings of people interested in these areas. **If you would like to partner with Pastor Carrie in organizing these teams, please feel free to write her a note and put in her box/email her/text her.** If you have an idea for a new ministry, please reach out to Pastor Carrie and share it with her.

Thinking about our recent Native American Sunday, Earth Day 2024, ...and Us All



In his book, *In the Footsteps of Francis: Awakening to Creation*, Father Richard describes Francis of Assisi's early days of ministry and how he related to nature:

“Francis sets out on the road, excited because he knows his vocation is to be a contemplative, spending time in nature in solitude and prayer, and to be in active ministry and to preach to people what he’s experienced. Along the way, he sees a tree filled with birds. He approaches the tree, and the birds don’t fly away, so he starts talking to them. We have several accounts of this first sermon which is not to human beings but to animals, to birds. Maybe it’s been romanticized, but the story is that they stayed and listened to him. At the end of the sermon he says, “Now go off, because I’ve told you who you are”.

“For the rest of his life, Francis is in relationship with a variety of animals, birds, fish, trees, and flowers. He always tells these creatures, **“Do you realize that by your very existence, you are inherently giving glory to God? So just be who you are. Every animal, every created being has a unique thing to do. Each of you, do your thing; and in that doing, you are giving glory to God!”** He would take delight in everything doing its thing. This is a mutual mirroring and I think it allowed him to do his own thing. He realized that just by being Francis, in all his freedom and joy, he also was giving glory to God. He has no trouble being alone because mirrors are everywhere.”



Excerpt from Fr. Richard Rohr's book, *In the Footsteps of Francis: Awakening to Creation* (Albuquerque, NM: Center for Action and Contemplation, 2010) taken from the 4/26/24 online newsletter, meditations@cac.org, put out by The Center for Action and Contemplation <https://cac.org/>.



COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

If you have any suggestions or ideas for me for future issues, please let me know!

Thanks, Reri MacLean (rerimaclean@gmail.com)

Contact Us

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