

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

MAY/JUNE 2022

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, May 21 – Ukrainian Fundraiser Dinner – pickup is 3-6 pm

Sunday, June 5, 10:30 am – 2022 Graduates honored

Sunday, June 26, 10:30 am - Pastor Lee's final Sunday with SUMC

LANGUAGE-LEARNING AND FAITH - IN COMMUNITY

As you may be tired of hearing, I really enjoyed my two months in Guatemala practicing Spanish and embracing each day's adventures in Grace. One thing

I noticed is how both language learning and spiritual learning rely on community. No sense acquiring Spanish if there's no one to talk and listen to. In Guatemala, my community included the Barrios family who shared their meals and home, including 10-year-old Melissa. For the past 7 years Snoqualmie UMC has been my spiritual community, a faith family practicing life in so many ways around God's proverbial table. This includes our whole worshipping congregation and -

especially since COVID - the Learning Circle, Wednesday prayer friends, & coffee hour connections. What an essential gift to have community with whom to practice. Thank you!

I'm still not exactly fluent in Spanish or spirituality. These are day-by-day and life-long endeavors. I learned a lot practicing Spanish with people in Guatemala, and I have learned all the more practicing faith with Snoqualmie UMC. I've noticed in both language-learning and faith-development the best lessons sometimes flow through mistakes. I will not forget the difference between *piedra* (rock) and *mierda* (sh_t)! I will not forget the difference between talk about God and communing with God. I'm still a long way from fluent, yet I have surely grown in Love. Caring community - light-hearted, steadfast, patient, forgiving, and co-creating - makes learning of all sorts possible. Thank you for being that kind of faith-family.

For me, the point of learning Spanish isn't about mastering vocabulary or grammar. The real joy is simply coming further alive in connection with other peoples. Familiarity with just the basics in whatever language opens pathways to connection. Love in every language and culture thrives in community. Shine on SUMC! - Pastor Lee

Photo: Pastor Lee with host-family friend Melissa, at Finca de las Nubes avocado farm





WORSHIP FORECAST

May / June 2022, Sundays at 10:30 am. We are currently worshipping in person and online via Zoom, meeting ID # 801 896 850. At this time masks are optional in the sanctuary, but required when singing. Thanks for doing what you can to take care of each other and yourselves. Sometimes worship details change. The worship page of our website, www.snoqualmieumc.org, may also come in handy.

May 15 - *Freeing Jesus: Jesus Our Teacher*. Mark 10:17-31. Music with Toddie Downs and Abbie Grimstad.

May 22 - *Freeing Jesus: Jesus Our Savior*. Native American Awareness Sunday. Luke 19:1-9. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

May 29 - *Ascension Sunday. Freeing Jesus: Jesus Our Lord*. Mark 16:9-20. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

June 5 - *Pentecost celebration!* Communion. ***Honoring of 2022 graduates. Freeing Jesus: Jesus the Way.*** John 14:1-17;25-27. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

June 12 - *Trinity Sunday. Jesus the Way*, 2. John 16:12-15, Romans 5:1-5. Guest preacher.

June 19 - *Father's Day. Freeing Jesus: Jesus as Presence*. Music with Toddie Downs and Abbie Grimstad.

June 26 - In Christ. Pastor Lee's closing Sunday with SUMC. John 4:5-42. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

UKRAINE FUNDRAISER DINNER

SUMC will host a drive-through takeout dinner fundraiser for Ukraine on Saturday, May 21, from 3:00 till 6:00, with all proceeds donated to Help Ukraine 22. (Thanks, Toddie, for connecting us with them!)

Francesco Montalto and his staff, of Francesco's Ristorante in Snoqualmie, have generously offered their skills and time to prepare a delicious Ukrainian meal. We have donations to cover the cost of ingredients and packaging. An outside covered dining area will be available for people who'd like their meal heated and brought to them.

We expect some community members to join SUMC in serving the meal and welcome members of the congregation to join us. We may need additional help with receiving and refrigerating the prepared meals on Friday night, transporting the boxes of meals from the Eagles Lodge to the church on Saturday, planning the traffic route in the parking lot, and distributing flyers. If you'd like to join us, please contact Carol Morrison at emiloo@comcast.net or 425-941-0334.

We hope you'll consider buying and eating Holubtsi (Ukrainian stuffed cabbage with rice, chicken, onions, and carrots) and Olivier salad (potatoes, peas, pickle, cucumber, ham, eggs). And please tell your friends about this worthy cause. A page on the church website will be dedicated to the event.

Meals can be ordered through the church's website or through the church's Facebook page.

- Carol Morrison

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SPEAK FOR YOURSELF

Question of the Day: In these past two years of the pandemic, what kinds of self care have you found helpful??

Ron Sumners—Since I spent most of the Pandemic visiting doctors, wearing a mask to doctors' offices and hospitals was an important part of my self-care.

Karolann Whetsell—My counselor suggested “soothing” choices from the 5 senses.

Particularly fine were sharp cheddar cheese and hot chocolate and warm sweaters.

Ed Morrison—Watching sports and snuggling with Carol, instead of chewing on news, keep me in the moment.

Cathy Brumbaugh—Every morning, when I wake up, I sing “Anyone Can”, a song Harley wrote and he and I sang together. I sing it three times. It lifts my spirits.

Abbie Grimstad—Petting animals. I've been known to approach and pet dogs on the street.

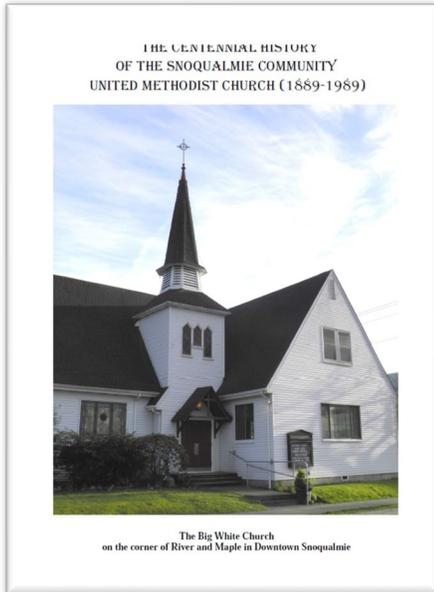
Linda Boord— I got overwhelmed to the point of panicking and began talking with a counselor, which has been very helpful.

Nancy McLean-- Zoom became an important factor to my mental and spiritual well-being. It made that important personal connection possible and still does now.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Linda Trombley reports that the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank currently has a great supply of shelf-stable items, and has no room at the moment to store more canned goods. Coffee is still requested.

SUMC HISTORY BOOK REISSUED



Good news!! *The Centennial History of the Snoqualmie Community United Methodist Church (1889-1989)* has been reprinted and is available for purchase from the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society Museum. This 150 page book, which had significant involvement from our own Gloria McNeely and Dave Battey, is \$20, and covers not only SUMC's history, but Charles Wesley's life and the migration of Methodism to the West Coast.

The Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society Museum is located at 320 Bendigo Blvd. S in North Bend, and is open Mondays and Tuesdays during business hours. The book can also be purchased online at <https://snoqualmievalleymuseum.org/product/snoqualmie-community-methodist-church/>

LIVING WITH DYING

I regret concluding my time as pastor without having offered a third "Living with Dying" workshop. I hope the words below will whet some appetites for another round with this topic, an exploration of which would benefit the surrounding community as well.

I died as a mineral, and became a plant.

I died as a plant, and rose an animal.

I died as an animal, and I was man.

Why should I fear?

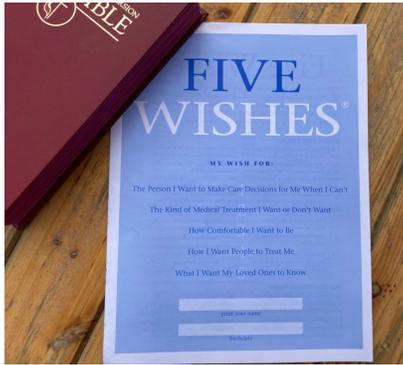
When was I less by dying?

- Jalaluddin Rumi, Sufi Muslim, scholar, poet, and more



Living Wills, and Dying Well - Resources

Copies of the *Five Wishes* living will pamphlet are available for free in the church building lobby, and can be mailed by request. This can be a helpful discussion starter in our families, and can also serve as a legal document if desired. A DVD titled *Speaking Dying* shares the stories of a few people who are in the midst of their conversations. It's in the church library, for anyone who still has a DVD player! Jesus teaches us how to live and how to die. We can gift our families and ourselves with some meaningful and practical preparation.



NEWS OF THE CHURCH



Linda Boord accepting Advocating Faith Community certificate on behalf of SUMC from Elyse DeGooyer, Executive Director of Faith Action Network; photo by Karolann Whetsell

Easter Sunrise Service



Anna and Andrew Heuser educating congregation on Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; photo courtesy of Reri MacLean



Friends from the Snoqualmie Mosque stopped by during their Ramadan fast to bless us with a food basket. Eid was celebrated on the evening of May 1 through the evening of May 2. We hope to return to occasional Snoqualmie Valley Interfaith gatherings as covid concerns subside.





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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