

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

MAY/JUNE 2023

Monday, May 1 (and following Mondays), 4 pm, SUMC – I AM Enough

Wednesday, May 3 (and following Wednesdays), 1:30 pm, SUMC – Learning Circle

PASTOR'S MUSINGS

Friends,

I've been thinking...

about Bible study. Jesus knew scripture like the back of his hand. He could quote the

Hebrew scriptures left and right. His ability to not only read scripture but also see the deeper meaning is awe-inspiring to me. I've always been intimidated by those who can quote whole passages of the Bible. I know the

Bible well, but I don't have it memorized. I do read it daily. What I love about the Bible is every time I read it, I learn something new. I also love how a passage will come alive or maybe blossom when I'm studying it with other people. When we come together to study these words inspired by God and share our own understanding, our questions, and our frustrations, we help others find the answers to their questions, help them not feel so alone when they don't understand it, or commiserate with one another over our shared frustration. When we learn about where, when, and why a scripture was written we gain a robust understanding of what God is trying to say to us. We appreciate the nuances within the stories, we see the depth of the lesson we are to learn, and we walk away stronger in our relationships with God and one another.

There are multiple ways to study the Bible too. Often, we zoom in extremely close to gain the most insight into one story, but the other way is to zoom farther out so we can gain insight into how they are all interconnected. I love to tell people the Bible is full of examples of how God uses the most imperfect people to share God's love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness with all. If God can use someone like Peter, who made mistake after mistake, then surely, God can use me, as I'm more imperfect. When we examine the pieces of the larger puzzle and forget to look at the whole puzzle we can miss the overarching themes of family life, living with friends, and societal structures. We also miss the longevity of God's willingness to forgive, to give mercy, to love, to see the good in us, and to be with us all the time. When we study only the New Testament and ignore the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) we lose some large foundational pieces of God's plan for us and that impacts how we understand what Jesus is teaching us.

Why am I thinking about this? Well, because I want to encourage you to get involved in studying scripture. If you are not already participating in a class or group, find a few people in the congregation and start a group. It doesn't have to be difficult. My first example of Bible study was my parent's group (that's still meeting 30+ years later). They meet every Wednesday evening for 2 hours. They study/discuss for about an hour and have dessert afterward. They kept a journal that passed from member to member as they traveled to a different home each week. They started with reading and answering, "What did you see, hear, think, feel?" Try it! Let me know how it goes!

Blessings,

Pastor Carrie



THIS IS US

When we at SUMC are asked what we like about our church, many of us answer, “The people.” This column focuses on the individuals that make up “the people.”

Reri Maclean

Reri was born in Zurich, Switzerland. Her mother was Swiss French, and her father was Swiss German. Her family immigrated to the United States in 1951.

What feeds her soul? “Making space for each other. Coming together to create something better. Friendship and laughter. Seeing and being seen. The poets and music.”

When Reri thinks of heroes, she thinks, “Prophets!” She says, “I admire the perseverance of Bible prophets and am inspired by their fierce, often lonely convictions. More recent prophets such as Bishop Gene Robinson, Dr. William Barber, and Greta Thunberg also have trouble being believed. These truth tellers often lead personally dangerous lives because they point out the truth.”

Reri thinks her friends would describe her as “A sap. Fun. Philosophical at times.” She finds herself happy--and sometimes laughing—with the sweetness and unselfconscious behavior of young children.

One of Reri’s proudest accomplishments was establishing a Montessori school in California. Housed in the Presbyterian Church, the school was open to everyone, regardless of faith and ability to pay. Some parents drove 50 miles to school. Families unable to afford the tuition volunteered and helped build a beautiful outdoor climbing structure. The pregnant mothers of the current children even asked to put their unborn children on the waiting list.



Judy Estes



Judy Estes may come from English, Irish, French, and German ancestry but there is no doubt that her southern accent comes from Memphis, Tennessee, where she moved at age four. She was born in a town called Lobelville, Tennessee.

She is most proud of “being able to be a stay-at-home mom with her son and daughter. Then she returned to the workforce. She says, “Small business was good to me!”

Carol Morrison is her favorite author. John Grisham is her second favorite. Tom Hanks is her favorite movie star. She says, “He can do anything!” What makes Judy laugh is southern humor and slang and her grandchildren.

Judy’s hero is her mom. “She had 4 children by age 23 and raised us without all the modern conveniences.”

What feeds Judy’s soul is:

- a life filled with meaningful relationships
- a sense of purpose
- a brisk walk with nature.

Bob Aldridge

Bob Aldridge was born in Buffalo, New York. His DNA comes out about 25% each of Polish, English, German, and Swiss. His hero is his grandfather on his mother's side. "He only finished eighth grade, but he was very successful and kind."

The accomplishment that Bob is most proud of is that he was able to change careers two times and retire at 65. Other accomplishments are that he has heated with wood for 30 years and that he is handy around the house.

Bob tries to laugh at most things in this world. His favorite author is J.R.R. Tolkien. Harrison Ford is his favorite actor.

What feeds Bob's soul is playing music and singing. He leads music about once a month in worship and leads a drumming class at the church on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2:00. No experience is necessary and you will experience a little group discussion. Drums provided or bring your own.



Shelley Heustis



Shelley Huestis, born in Wilmington, DE, visited and fell in love with the PNW in 1991. She declined admission to the Wharton School of Business to attend the MBA Program at UW, married her husband, Steve, and moved from Seattle to North Bend in 2006, with young children Will, Tess, and Dora. They attended SUMC upon arriving in the Valley.

Drawn to struggling students whose parents had limited time, Shelley was inspired to help others by her grandmother and hero, Dora Rehm, who arrived in America speaking no English, and, before leadership roles for women were acceptable, became a leader in high school, an Olympic-bound swimmer, a highly acclaimed teacher, and an early environmentalist. Dora bought and read books to Shelley and taught her about the natural world and to listen and learn from everyone she meets.

Shelley has been volunteering at Echo Glen Youth Rehabilitation Center for nearly five years. One of her most satisfying experiences has been watching her most recent mentee develop a new sense of identity as a scholar, thanks to the exceptional and inspiring hands-on science education he experienced at Echo Glen School. Shelley believes her friends would describe her as "positive and encouraging." Talking with her 3-years younger sister Kathleen makes her laugh. Her favorite movie is "How to Train Your Dragon—Part 1." Digging in the dirt in her backyard feeds Shelley's soul, as does singing in the SUMC choir.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We gather after worship each Sunday at 10:45 AM in the Library. We share comments, knowledge, and wisdom from our lives. No judgment, no labels, no condemnation, just grace here. Lessons from books, scripture and experience are shared by a variety of facilitators. Come join and share and grow with us.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

ALL MEANS ALL

Youth in our country are experiencing what has been called an epidemic mental health crisis. I read *The Week Magazine*, and a recent cover article highlighted the fact that depression and suicide attempts among young people are at an all-time high. Many causes are cited. The damaging effects of social media, isolation during the pandemic, and general unrest in our country contribute. And the CDC says that the rate of suicide attempts in LGBTQ+ youth is over four times higher than in heterosexual youth.

I spoke with Laurie C, Program Director for Lambert House, an organization in Seattle funded by Best Starts for Kids and supportive of LGBTQ+ youth through the development of leadership, social, and life skills. They are now hosting small group meetings in greater King County, including Snoqualmie.

I asked how we, as a Reconciling Congregation, can help. After telling me she thinks our becoming a Reconciling congregation is “awesome.” she said the best thing we can do now is to be visible and clear about our Reconciling status. Many of the youth supported by Lambert House are homeless, she said, rejected by their parents. Signs on our church, clearly indicating that we welcome everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, will offer inspiration and hope to so many who feel abandoned by their families and society.

As Christians, we are called to care for “the least of these”, meaning our marginalized sisters and brothers. Our Lead Team is exploring how to let our light shine clearly.

- Carol Morrison

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEBINARS

Deconstructing Karen Film Screening & Discussion: Thursday, May 4 |

Free to attend | All ages welcome | Virtual will go live: 5:30 - 8 PM PST

While this event will be open to people of all identities, the focus will be on the specific role White Women play in upholding white supremacy and how these women can begin to do better through community with one another. Register with blue box upper right on this link: <https://web.cvent.com/event/b23b68b3-2bdd-4e3c-abee-b13aaf635e3d>

What It Means to Be an Antiracist Ally: Becoming a white antiracist ally requires more than being a nice Christian who believes that racism is “wrong.” It requires critical thinking, a heart change, and an expansion of discipleship. Join us Wednesday, May 17, at 12 pm Pacific for this important virtual conversation on white allyship. To know more and register, search in your browser: webinar what it means to be an antiracist ally .



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