

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

November/December 2018

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, Nov 6 – Election Day – VOTE!

Saturday Nov 17 – Chili Dinner and Talent Show, 5:30 pm

Sunday, Dec 16 – Children's Christmas program, 10:30 am

Friday, Dec 21 – Longest Night Caroling, 6:30 pm

Monday, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve services, 7 and 11 pm

TAKING CARE

May the LORD bless and keep you. And by "keep" I mean tend to... protect... take care of.

We are in a heavy yet potentially promising season. Tensions are high and triggers are sensitive in our national politics. In the United Methodist denomination, we are struggling to *agree to disagree* on matters of theology and scriptural interpretation. In the Pacific Northwest people want to be spiritual but not religious - somehow unaware that the church *is* spiritual. Even as we dare to follow God through the fears of our time, we still have a wilderness before us. Good thing God provides! Good thing God takes care.

God clothes Adam and Eve as they leave the garden, nourishes the wandering ancient Hebrews with daily bread, reminds Elijah to "be still and know", sends a shepherd who gives living water, counts everyone in, heals the wounded, and seeks the lost. There are many more examples in scripture and in each of our lives about God taking care.

Grounded in God's universal caring, may this autumn be a season of *taking care*. God is yet inviting - and providing for - the taking care of ourselves, our relationships, our planet, our nation, and our church. I hope you will participate in this November worship series. It will include some attention to our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure - which is all about taking care - and accepting God's ever-present care for us all.

The LORD bless you and keep you. - Numbers 6:24

- Pastor Lee





WORSHIP FORECAST

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

November 4 – All Saints

Celebration with communion. *Taking Care* series begins. Clocks fall back one hour. Revelation 21:1-6a. Music with Wendy Yee.

November 11 – *Taking Care* Part 2

Music with Chancel Choir. Matthew 25:14-31.

November 18 – *Taking Care* Part 3.

Mark 12:28-34

November 25 – Gratitude Sunday. Consecrating our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. Commissioning for ministry in the church and neighborhood. Music with Chancel Choir. Psalm 100. Romans 12:1-8.

December 2 – Advent begins. *Alive in the Adventure of Jesus.* Promised Land, Promised Time. Daniel 7:9-28; Isaiah 40:9-11, Luke 1:67-79. Communion. Music with Wendy Yee.

We are drawing from Brian McLaren's *We Make the Road By Walking* throughout advent and Christmas. See related article, *A Cross Over Year*.

December 9 – Advent continues. *Alive in the Adventure of Jesus.* Women on the Edge. Music with Chancel Choir and Sally Russom. Luke 1:5-55, Isaiah 7:14, 9:2-7, Romans 12:1-2. (We are drawing from Brian McLaren's *We Make the Road By Walking* throughout advent.)

December 16 – Children's Christmas Program. Advent continues. *Alive in the Adventure of Jesus.* Keep Herod in Christmas. Jeremiah 32:31-35, Micah 5:2-5s, Matthew 1:18-2:15. Music with Bless this House or Toddie Downs. (We are drawing from Brian McLaren's *We Make the Road By Walking* throughout advent.)

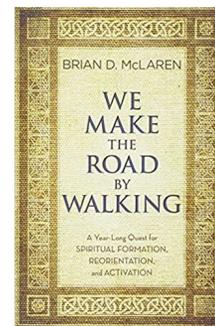
December 23 - Advent 4. *Alive in the Adventure of Jesus.* Surprising People. Psalm 34:1-18, Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 2:8-20. (We are drawing from Brian McLaren's *We Make the Road By Walking* throughout advent.)

December 24 – Christmas Eve. 7 pm and 11 pm. *The Light Has Come.* Isaiah 60:1-3, John 1:1-5, 9-10; 3:19-21; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35-36,46. 7 pm service features Chancel Choir and extra kid-friendly elements. 11 pm offers late-night smaller group setting. Carols and candle lighting and at both services.

December 30 – Christmas continues. *Sharing Gifts* Psalm 117, Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:25-32.

January 6 – Epiphany celebration with communion for the new year. Shred fears and other forms of resistance, and follow God's given dreams. Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:25-32.

A CROSSOVER YEAR – WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING



A Year-Long Quest for SPIRITUAL FORMATION, REORIENTATION, and ACTIVATION

Our Worship Committee is excited to engage us with a refreshing resource by Brian McLaren, starting with Advent, Dec. 2. We hope many of us will purchase the book and follow up on our worship experiences with small group opportunities in the coming year. *We Make the Road by Walking* offers 52 weeks of stimulating *catechesis* so to speak, centering us in the life-giving basics of Jesus. This is an intentional faith development opportunity that we think newcomers and old-timers alike will find rewarding.

"If a spiritual community only points back to where it has been or if it only digs in its heels where it is now, it is a dead end or a parking lot, not a *way*," McLaren knowingly writes. "To be a living tradition, a living way, it must forever open itself forward and forever remain unfinished - even as it forever cherishes and learns from the growing treasury of its past." (xii.) Yes!

Jesus comes that we may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

Here's to coming further alive, together!

With you on the Way,

Pastor Lee



IN FAITH WE VOTE

The kingdom of God is not a democracy per se, but we're encouraged to approach voting as an act of faith. As our United Methodist Social Principle's suggest: *The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust.* (Paragraph 164, Book of Discipline)

What is "just" verses "unjust" is not always obvious of course, but our Social Principles and Book of

Resolutions offer the global UMC's best guess. What would Jesus do in the face of current crises and opportunities? The General Board of Church and Society lays out such considerations on the "What We Care About" section of their website: <https://www.umcjustice.org>. Check it out for Biblical connections and Social Principles suggestions that apply to some of the electoral decisions before us, including Washington State initiatives 1631 and 1639.

Our shared desire to please God has plenty of room for political diversity. We can expect and accept that our completed ballots will reflect differing conclusions as to what is most faithful. But if politics involves how we hope to live together, and how we use our power to that end - then faith is political. Let's vote faith-fully.

- Pastor Lee

A sample prayer with ballot in hand:

God Most High, Restorer of Souls, Governor of the Universe, come and have your way with us. Our allegiance is to you.

Guide our discerning as we choose electoral candidates and decide on initiatives with your kingdom in mind. We ask your blessing on these candidates, the work and heart behind them, and all who serve according to your will. We ask your guiding of our efforts to care as you care and to act as you call us into action. We ask your revealing in the darkness of current deceptions and distrust as we reach anew for Life in you. God of all nations, known to us in Jesus the Christ - your kingdom come, your will be done. Amen.

A MESSAGE FOR YOU ON ALL SAINTS DAY

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee

As you think about your experience of our church family what do you treasure? Is it what you receive by giving or what you receive by getting? We suspect it is both. This Community of Saints that happens to be **us** is known for its expressions of love, support and guidance, sustenance, and opportunities to learn and grow. It is all of **us** that makes it so.

As you think about your own part in creating and sustaining who we are and what we do, what enlivens you? Are you feeling fulfilled in your role in one or more of these areas?

Prayer Warrior Prayer Chain Leadership Chancel Choir Member Bless This House Musician Church School Coordinator Adult Bible Study Educator Mid-week Dinner Planner & Preparer Social Hour Planner & Supporter Trustee Lay Leader Study Leadership Publicity and Communications Rep. Website and FB Manager Children’s Website Manager Lay Member to the Annual Conference Neighborhood Ministries Sunday Service Participants Sign-Ups Winter Shelter Coordinator SV Food Bank Liaison	Congregational Care Coordinator Supporter/Mentor to the Youth Group Finance Committee Worship Committee Staff Pastor Parish Relations Comm. Nominations & Leadership Dev. Comm. VBS Coordinator Lead Team Secretary Committee Chair//Lead Team Member Church Directory Update Person Stewardship Planning Interfaith Planning Team Representative Special Events Coordinator Alpine Co-op Pre-School Connection Building Use Liaison Small Groups Coordinator Occasional Preaching ...And... <i>we probably have not listed everything!</i>
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Or, as you read down the list (or add to it) is there something else that is calling you? Is there a small voice that is nudging you to try your hand at something different? If you are enlivened by the way you participate in our Communion of Saints that is wonderful.

If, however, you’d like to explore other possibilities, take some time to reflect on these questions:

At this point in your journey, what do you consider to be your greatest spiritual gift? How would you name it?

What gives you energy? What do you love to do and share? What kinds of work or activities bring you to life?

Which of our five congregational practices resonate most with your gifts and energies? (Radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity)

Is much of your time and energy spent doing things that you're not well gifted to do? What might you stop doing in order to bring your stronger gifts to fuller expression?

What are you currently doing that brings joy to you and helps others thrive? How can you imagine further developing and sharing your gifts in our congregation or the surrounding community?

We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. Feel free to contact anyone of us (on the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee):

Betty Gildersleeve -- jlgbsggild@comcast.net

Penny Grady -- pennygrady@msn.com

Rudy Edwards -- rvedward002@yahoo.com

Rei MacLean – rerimaclean@gmail.com

Pastor Lee Carney Hartman – Chair pastor@snoqualmieumc.info

Thank you for your part in the giving and receiving which makes us uniquely who we are in the Snoqualmie Valley.

VITAMINS FOR SOROTI, UGANDA

Our congregation recently participated in a project collecting multi-vitamins bound for Soroti, Uganda. Troy Hallamore, a long-time Snoqualmie Valley resident, and his brother delivered 135,000 vitamins in six days in the Soroti District of Uganda. In this region, the majority of the population have sickle cell anemia and the folic acid in the vitamins is an effective method of controlling this incurable disease. Most of the pills can be split in half as they contain 200% of daily folic acid needs. This turned 135,000 pills into 225,000 doses. The multivitamins benefit the entire population, as nearly all suffer from malnutrition. Between 1,100 and 1,300 people suffering from sickle cell anemia received multivitamin help and 20 infant babies at Amachet shelter are now receiving multivitamins.



In addition to vitamin distribution, 20,000 lbs of sweet potatoes will be harvested from land purchased 4 years ago by Troy's brother and given to needy families.

Troy visited 650 prison inmates, giving them hope that someone, somewhere, is praying for them every day. And, maybe best of all to the participants, "22 street children played their weekly game of soccer with two big ugly white guys and ate a full meal afterwards."

This was Troy's first trip to Soroti; his first 'mission-like' trip ever. He did not realize that he had huge and significant gifts to give. The gift of companionship shared with his brother; the gift of hope and comfort to prison inmates; the gift of laughter and time spent with homeless street kids; the gift of inviting our congregation to share with him in this life-changing work.

His life has already changed in ways he could never have imagined. Priorities have changed. Different things are now important; the amount of urgency placed on projects to be completed has been rearranged; his perception of the world around him has shifted. He has accidentally discovered the true meaning of, “In His Time” and “Give it to God.” He has found, “A Peace that passes understanding”.

He deeply appreciates the prayer support and vitamins collected among our congregation.

We are thankful he gave us the gift of sharing in the process.

Marcia Bennett-Reinert



SPPR STATEMENT REGARDING PASTOR LEE'S SCHEDULE

Your Staff/Pastor/Parish Relationship Committee has been working with Pastor Lee to develop a more workable schedule for both her and our congregation.

Since she joined us in 2015, Lee has served as a half-time pastor, but has mostly worked full time. Both our current district supervisor, Mark Galang, and his predecessor, Rich Lang, have cautioned us that this is problematic for SUMC, and our committee agrees. Having a half time pastor who works full time gives us a false sense of security, in that Lee has kept things going that would fall by the wayside if we don't pick them up. It risks burnout and makes it less likely that we could find a pastor willing to serve here if Pastor Lee needs to move on.

After conversation with our district supervisor and our committee, Pastor Lee proposed a work schedule that we believe is reasonable and workable, *if* we find ways to do some of the things she has been taking care of. We believe our congregation has the resources to do this.

Our current plan is that Pastor Lee will be in her office on Wednesdays and Thursdays and working at home a half-day on Fridays. That totals 20 hours, and doesn't count Sunday morning time.

Exact office hours on Wednesday and Thursday will vary depending on pastoral visits, committee meetings, and other scheduled appointments. She will, of course, respond to emergencies and continue to make herself available for congregation-related activities when they come up. Saturdays and Sundays would also not be work days except for her time with us on Sunday mornings.

Our church is going through significant changes at a denominational level; there are new initiatives and alliances being formed at a district level; and we in this congregation must be open to new ways of being the Church for each other and for our neighbors in the Valley. As we encourage Pastor Lee to care for us by caring for herself, we commit ourselves to partnership with her to fulfill Christ's mission in the world, and especially in our valley.



WELCOME SNOQUALMIE VALLEY WINTER SHELTER

November 3 - February 3

We are pleased to host Snoqualmie Valley Winter Shelter for 90 nights, starting November 3rd. The shelter is open nightly 8 pm to 7:30 am, staffed and managed by Snoqualmie Valley Shelter Services. If you'd like to volunteer a dinner for shelter guests and staff please sign up through their website at <http://www.svshelterservices.org/> or call them at 425-505-0038.

Anyone wishing to join our congregation's "bridge team" please contact Marcia Reinert (425-281-1953, sno-river@comcast.net). When ready, we hope to again offer breakfast and extra rest on Sunday mornings, *bridging* the time between the shelter closing at 7:30 am and the church opening at 10 am.

We anticipate a smooth transition as the shelter season gets underway, but good communications will help address whatever hiccups arise. Please contact Trustee Chair Tom Boord (425-495-2805), Pastor Lee (425-444-5556) or Marcia Reinert (425-281-1953) with any concerns as promptly as possible. If you'd like to participate in this year's semi-weekly email communication loop with shelter staff, please let us know and we'll gladly welcome you to the group.

FOOD OF THE MONTH DONATIONS

We are bringing back the Food of the Month donation box to help support the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank. The collection box will be located in the narthex.

November Food of the Month - Cranberry Sauce and Stuffing

December Food of the Month - Chili



CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE

As of month's end September, pledged giving is on track. Thank you, pledgers! Meanwhile non-pledged giving is significantly behind what we anticipated during the budgeting process. Non-pledging participants who've been waiting to make a gift - now would be a great time! Currently our 2018 expenses exceed income by \$8,548. Some (\$2300) is due to costs from two surprise water leaks. In any case we are currently drawing on savings to cover bills as needed. Thanks to all for your faithful generosity as able. - SUMC Finance Committee (Bryan Holloway, Chair; Carol Lawrence, Financial Secretary; Nancy Hayes, Treasurer; Carol Peterson, and Sandy Simms)



MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT TO SUMC

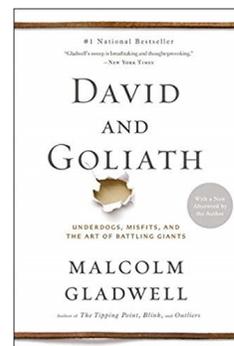
If you are at least 70 1/2 years old, make a tax-free gift of an IRA Charitable Rollover.

- Funds must be transferred directly to SUMC from an IRA.
- Donors recognize no taxable income on the transfer, but they cannot claim an income-tax deduction for the gift.
- The gift can count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution for 2018.
- The gift must be made by December 31, 2018, to qualify this year.

BOOK REVIEW: DAVID AND GOLIATH

Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants, by Malcolm Gladwell

I've read several Gladwell books. He has brilliant, creative ideas about how things work and gives detailed examples from history and science to support them. I'm usually very engaged at the beginning, then bog down with too many lengthy examples illustrating the premise, and I often don't finish. But, these days, I'm battling a few giants myself, internal and external ones, and I gravitate towards reading that comforts and gives me hope. When I saw DAVID AND GOLIATH on the congregational sharing shelf of our church library, I grabbed it.



I love Gladwell's interpretation of the biblical account of David and Goliath, especially since I'd just read Rob Bell's phenomenal WHAT IS THE BIBLE?, which gives much the same account. DAVID AND GOLIATH was worth reading for just this piece.

As with Gladwell's other books, I did tire a bit from overload but stayed fascinated by his premises. He explains how and why the size of the classes in schools affects learning and dispels the idea that smaller is always better. He tells us why attending an elite college doesn't always lead to success. He uses incidents from Lawrence of Arabia and Martin Luther King, Jr., to show how their “underdog” status served them well. He does a great job of describing Emil Freireich's unrelenting fight against the giant of cancer.

I especially liked the account of how Londoners' dealt with the German bombing offensive (The Blitz) during WWII. We complicated humans are “afraid of being afraid”, Gladwell says, and then, when we face that fear and find out we can handle the unthinkable, we gain courage. That's been my experience, and Gladwell expresses it well.

This Gladwell book I finished. And I came away from it, as I'd hoped, with a bit more belief in the power of the underdog and of innovative strategies and of my own ability to fight back and to win. *You never know*, DAVID AND GOLIATH keeps showing us. *Upsets and reversals and amazing things can happen when we battle giants. You just never know.*

Carol Morrison



CHILI DINNER & TALENT SHOW

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17TH -DINNER AT 5:30 PM, TALENT SHOW AT 6:30 PM

Join us for an evening of stewardship, celebration and fun for all ages. What favorite chili or topping might you want to bring? What silly or polished act might you share? We know you've got talent! Sign up your potluck item and/or act in the social hall, or email the church office at office@snoqualmieumc.info.

COMMUNITY CAROLING ON THE LONGEST NIGHT

Friday December 21st, 6:30 - 7:30 pm at the Gazebo in downtown Snoqualmie

Songbooks with traditional Christmas Carols will be on hand. Cocoa and cookies provided.

Dress warmly and bring friends of all ages.



What's new in Sunday school?

Some of our Youth Group have expressed interest in teaching Sunday school and are teaming together to teach on a rotational basis. Below is the current schedule noting the lesson and Lead Teacher for each week.

Everyone seems to be enjoying it so far and we're looking forward to a great Children's Christmas Program December 16th.

November 4th

All Saints Day – Dora
Christmas program practice -
Wendy

November 11th

Veterans Day – Ani

November 18th

Jesus Can Do Anything! - Carol

November 25th Introduce
Christmas Program, Costumes
& Music – Wendy

December 2nd

Advent Begins – Dora

December 9th

Jesus Our Way – Beth
Christmas Program dress
rehearsal – Wendy

December 16th

**Christmas Program & Hot
Cocoa Party - All**

December 23rd

Jesus Our Way – Alex

December 30th

Jesus Brings Peace - Rachel



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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