

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, November 6 –
Daylight Savings Time ends –
roll clocks back

Sunday, November 27, 9:30
am – Stewardship Sunday –
bring your commitment
cards!

Sundays, Nov. 27-Dec. 18, 6-8
pm: Book Study, The Heart
that Grew Three Sizes

Saturday, December 10, 1 pm:
Charge Conference



PASTOR'S MUSINGS

Friends,

I've been thinking...
about family. We use
this term a lot in the
church to describe what
it's like to be part of this
community. What is

family? Well, not only is it a group of people that love one another, it's a group of people that share in the tasks around the house to provide that loving environment. In my home everyone had a job and pitched in to keep the family home ready for guests or our next activity. For example, at dinner time, if my mom cooked dinner, it was my job to set the table and my dad's job to get the drinks. We all brought the food to the table and I would say grace. After dinner I would clear the table and take out the garbage while my dad cleaned the dishes. My mom, because she cooked would go get the living room ready for after dinner tv. If I cooked, well, all the roles would switch, but everyone had a

role to play. It didn't matter what the task was, everyone participated in setup, the activity, and clean up. This is my understanding of being part of the family. When I hear the church is a family I believe that everyone should also participate in the activities in the church. This means when we have a potluck, or coffee hour, everyone understands that they play a role in the setup, activity, and clean up. If you are making the coffee & food, then everyone else is setting up the tables & chairs. Everyone helps with clean up from doing dishes, taking out garbage, putting away chairs, vacuuming... This image comes not only from my family of origin, but I see it in Jesus' ministry when he stayed with people in their homes and I see it in the early church described in Acts. From Classes offered to potlucks to worship, we all have a role to play in the ministry of the church. As we enter into November and then move into Advent, I see the themes of family, gratitude, and partnership being played out over and over again. So what does this look like at Snoqualmie UMC? How do we show what it means to be in our family? How do we take care of one another? I look forward to seeing how we all work together.

Blessings,

Pastor Carrie

Photo by Will Downs

STEWARDSHIP GIVING: NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Every November is a month of focusing on gratitude and giving thanks for the many blessings in my life. It seems fitting that it is also the month churches discuss stewardship giving. What better time than to examine our spiritual lives and discern what kind of financial, volunteer, and prayer commitment we can give to the church. Through this stewardship giving campaign we are able to determine what our budget for 2023 will be. Our budget is what supports our ministry work as we create disciples for Jesus for the transformation of the world. You will be receiving a letter with a commitment card to be returned to the church on Sunday November 27, 2022. We ask that you prayerfully consider what you hope to give to the church. Think about what is comfortable for you to give, what would stretch you a bit more, and what might be too difficult for you to achieve. What we give is how we support one another in this amazing work. It's how we are able to provide a safe, inclusive, loving space for those who often find themselves excluded and in dangerous places. Your contribution means the difference between offering that new ministry or not.



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."

Freda Monroe

Freda Monroe was born to a Jamaican mom and a dad from Texas who also had Caribbean heritage. She was born in France and grew up in Germany and California. Her two older brothers were born in London and California. Freda's parents are her heroes: "My dad is my hero because he made me understand that I didn't have to know everything. My mom is my hero because she reminded my dad that he didn't have to know everything. They were a team. Mom was the source of creativity in the home." Freda ended up here in Washington when she came to college at University of Puget Sound Tacoma.



Freda's accomplishment in life is "still being alive." She is a survivor of cancer, seizures, and 2 mini-strokes. She lives at Red Oak in North Bend with a cat named Sunshine because "She who must be adored is all commanding." Funny things make her laugh. One of her favorites to watch is *Steven Universe*, a totally mindless cartoon where Freda won't be "assaulted with reality." She is happily learning what feeds her soul: doing art and music, growing plants, loving her cat, and engaging with some people. One of those people is Marcia Reinert, who is her hero. She says, "Marcia constantly stands up and supports those who need representation—besides being cool and fun."

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Linda Trombley provides a current list of the items most needed at the Food Bank right now:

Canned Foods

- Vegetables (NO green beans, corn, beans, diced tomatoes please)
- Tomato sauce
- Meal in a can
- Soups (NO mushroom soup please)
- Pineapple
- Chili
- Almond butter
- Jam & Jelly
- Tuna

Dried Goods

- Boxed Side Dishes
- Spaghetti noodles (no elbows please)
- Ramen & Cup Noodles
- Granola bars
- Baking Items (flour, sugar, chocolate chips, cinnamon, cake mixes, ...)
- Spices
- Condiments
- Coffee & Tea



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ALL MEANS ALL: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Santiago, the young Guatemalan man who does excellent work on our house and yard projects, has been in the U.S. for six years. When he waves to us from the yard, sipping the coffee we serve him, his bright smile warms us. He talks to us using Google Translator. He works, he tells us, in order to send money back to his wife and three children, whom he hasn't seen since he moved here. Six years without seeing his family. I can barely imagine. But he is happy.

Santiago loves Jesus. He is grateful to Jesus. Grateful for the work Jesus helps him find and for the people who hire him. Ed's a little uncomfortable that he refers to him as "Boss". Ed asks him, "If I'm 'Boss', what are you?" Santiago replies, "Worker." His smile beams even brighter when he points to the sky and says, "Big Boss. Jesús," and then points to the two of them. "Workers." Ed says Santiago is one of his spiritual mentors.

One day, when Ed was helping Santiago carry an old mattress down our stairs, I heard a distressing noise. When I ran to look, Ed was sprawled at the bottom of the stairs, his left leg extended. Santiago knelt beside him, very still, his hand on Ed's leg and a look on his face that was so sweet, it moved me. I joined them, placed my hand on Ed's shoulder. We waited, quiet, and Santiago's composure helped me stay calm.

When Ed decided he could get up, Santiago helped him. "You okay, Boss?" he said. The concern on his face was clear. Ed assured him he was all right. Santiago hugged him, and the obvious love between them made me tear up.

I heard recently that immigrants from Central America may lose their work permits. "Immigrants from Central America" no longer brings general, blurry pictures to my mind. I see Santiago. I see his family. We haven't attended a church service together, but he is part of our broader church family. Maybe someday we can worship together. I pray to the Big Boss that Santiago will stay safe, trusting, and happy.

- Carol Morrison

CHARGE CONFERENCE: December 10, 2022

Every year we have an annual charge conference in our congregation. During this meeting we elect new officers, present our budget for the coming year, discuss all church business, vote on Pastor's Salary, celebrate our ministry for the past year, and learn about upcoming opportunities from our District Superintendent. Below is the schedule of our meeting for December 10, 2022. All are welcome to attend the meeting. The only people who can vote on items presented are those on the Lead team.

Schedule

11 am- Snoqualmie SPRC

11:45 am- joint SPRC

12 pm- Fall City SPRC

1 pm- Joint Charge Conference

UPCOMING WORSHIP AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Photo by Karolann Whetsell

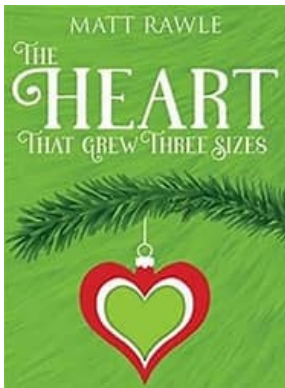
5th Sunday Joint Worship

The end of October we introduced a new ministry opportunity with the addition of our 5th Sunday Joint Worship with Fall City UMC. Not only did we worship together, we combined our choirs for a beautiful offering to God, and we had a delicious meal to share. Fall City hosted the first one. There will be four 5th Sunday's a year, and the next one is January 29, 2023. We will be hosting this worship at our church during our worship time with a brunch to follow. Let's pull together to create a spiritual worship and an amazing fellowship opportunity. Contact Pastor Carrie to find out how you can help with designing worship or assisting with hosting the meal.

Echo Glen Worship

Our congregation has committed to leading worship on the 5th Sunday's of the year out at Echo Glen Children's Center. Our commitment stems from a desire to positively impact the youth in our community. We are creating a group who will help lead this endeavor. Please contact **Pastor Carrie Bland** or **Jacque Lindstrand** to get more information. This will start January 29, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

All Church Study: The Heart That Grew Three Sizes (Matt Rawle)



Sundays, November 27, 2022 – December 18, 2022

6 PM – 8 PM

Book Cost: \$12.00

Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Join Fall City UMC for a 4-week study of the Grinch Who Stole Christmas beginning with dinner and a movie Sunday November 27, 2022. Each week bring a dish to share and settle in for an all ages advent study. This is a fun study to invite people who are just starting out in their faith all the way to those who have seminary degrees. Email **Pastor Carrie** at pastor@snoqualmieumc.org to sign up for the class & order a book.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Chore & Chortle

Meeting time: Wednesday's 9:00 AM in the fellowship hall.

Purpose: Do you like to fix or repair things? This group appreciates a short social time and then completes general upkeep work on the church facilities and grounds. No skills required and work tools are usually provided by the group members. The crowd usually meets for a couple hours and includes pastries, coffee, sharing of joys and concerns, a short prayer and then work. Email **Wendy Holloway** if you would like to **ASSIST** our church in this way.



Greeters/Ushers Needed

It's Coming Back!

I know you've missed it, but it's coming back! I have to admit that most of the requests have come from the Finance Committee, but we always used to do it. That's right! The Offering is coming back to our weekly Worship. This means that we have to have Ushers to pass the plates every Sunday.

So the first idea is to ask the Greeters each week to also serve as Ushers. That keeps the recruiting about the same. However, some of the people who have been serving as Greeters are not as mobile as they would like to be, but we want them to keep on Greeting. So if you would like to be an Usher whenever you are there just let me know. I will recruit for Greeters/Ushers giving every person the opportunity to say if they only want to Greet.

Here is the Job Description for the Greeter/Usher:

Greeters/Ushers need to arrive at the church by 9:15 AM on Sunday. Smile and welcome each person. You can take a seat about 9:35 or during the first song. When the Ushers are called forward please go and take the offering plates from the Pastor. When the Doxology is sung, take the Offering plates back to the Pastor and return to your seat. Thanks!

– Richard Whetsell



Echo Glen: Transforming Youths' Lives

Snoqualmie is the home of Echo Glen Children's Center, a place where members from our church are able to offer friendship and support to youth who are incarcerated. Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities.

Our church offers a worship experience at Echo Glen on 5th Sunday months from 3:30-5:00. January 29 is our next opportunity. Participants include Jacque Lindstrand, Richard & Karolann Whetsell, Alma Gomez, Shelly Huestis, and Pastor Carrie, who has great skills with youth groups. We never know how many youth will choose to attend as they must agree to come as a "cottage" with their supervisor. One of the boys' cottages has faithfully come and asked questions and shared their personal needs for prayer. We need help to continue this ministry.

Go to echoglen.org to see a more complete list of ways to volunteer. For example, people are needed to sit with students while they are doing online work in the library or computer lab. Jacque Lindstrand from our church has been volunteering with a sewing class.

Check out the Facebook page for “Friends of Echo Glen” to see photos of “Socials,” which occur in each cottage once/month on Thursday at 6:00. In October, they were making cards and survival bracelets to honor our veterans. So easy to spend time working alongside each other doing a craft project.

To find out about the volunteer process, please talk with any of the above people or call Karolann at her cell-- 918-978-3274. Golf carts are available for transport if disabled.

Photo of Echo Glen Sewing Class by Karolann Whetsell

Mentoring at Snoqualmie Valley Schools

In comparison to their peers, youth who have a mentor are 52% less likely to skip a day of school, 46% less likely to start using illegal drugs, 37% less likely to skip a class, and will experience fewer depressive symptoms. Just by showing up faithfully, a mentor makes a difference. Mentors from our congregation include Carol Morrison, Reri MacLean, and Richard and Karolann Whetsell. Talk with one of them if you're interested, as more mentors are needed. Good training and lists of ideas and an activity box at the school provide resources for you as you mentor. Check out the video on YouTube - “Youth Success Mentoring” - for what to expect and how to get involved.

Here are some comments from those already involved:

Karolann Whetsell: I have mentored 3 elementary age girls, and visiting them has been a “call” to discipleship. As a senior citizen aka active adult, this is a way to be involved in my community and still have purpose for my life. This grandmother is a safe place for my girls to have someone really listen to everything they say.

Richard Whetsell: It's pretty simple. I just show up and my mentee decides what activity we will do.

Carol Morrison: I'm continually aware of how much I enjoy my 13 year old mentee. She fascinates and delights me with her array of interests, her creative mind, and her resilience in the face of a tough family situation. I get to see a child approaching her teens with both the doubts those years bring and a growing confidence she's getting from the helpers in her life. I've often thought of how much it would have meant to me to have a grownup I could relate to and trust during my turbulent young years. Mentoring is a win-win-win. My mentee gets much-needed support, I get to spend time with a precious, deserving child, and the world gets the benefit of her healthier, happier self. Win. Win. Win. I am grateful.

Help an Afghan Refugee Family

Reri MacLean reports that her daughter, who attends Snoqualmie Valley Alliance Church, is part of a committee that has been assisting a family forced to flee Afghanistan. The original commitment was to work with the family for the initial 90 days of their relocation, although the support can continue afterward. While the family is settling into the Snoqualmie Valley community, there is still need for assistance, including legal immigration advice and tangible items. To learn more about this, contact Reri MacLean or Pastor Baly Botten (info@svaonline.org) at SVA.



NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Blessing of the Animals



Photos by Reri MacLean

Church Music – Bob Aldrich



Photo by Reri MacLean

Parsonage Socials/Fixing Up the Parsonage



Photos by Joanne Royston, Karolann Whetsell, Reri MacLean and Will Downs





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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38701 SE River St.
Snoqualmie WA 98065