

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Social Distancing Edition Vol. 4

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

November/December 2020

## SAVE THE DATES

Friday, November 13 – World Kindness Day

Friday, November 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance, 7 pm

Sunday, November 22 – Recordings due for Virtual Choir

Sunday, November 22, 4 pm – 12 Angry Men showing

Monday, December 21, 6:30-7:30 pm – Longest Night Caroling, Snoqualmie Gazebo

Thursday, December 24, 8 and 11:45 pm – Christmas Eve services



## STEWARDSHIP 2021 - MORE BLESSED

I bet you've heard it said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35.) Nonetheless, my hope for Snoqualmie UMC this stewardship season starts with RECEIVING.

With football season upon us, I picture a wide receiver carrying a freshly caught ball across the endzone. Touchdown! Jubilation! In order to score of course the ball has to be in hand. It must first be *received*. Are we catching God's blessings?

What blessings do you receive from God through faith community? What have you received, or desire to receive? Have you known love, friendship, inspiration? Have you been blessed with relationships, spiritual stimulation, purpose, moments of real communion? Have you grown to highly value people with whom you disagree? Have you been encouraged by the living word in our midst? Have you been carried by prayers or resources that flow through church community? Are you being drawn further into a fullness of life, even as one prepared to die? These are some of the blessings I receive in community with you. How would you describe the blessings *you* receive?

With that ball in hand, we can run with it in ways that make a difference. Our giving is energized and joyful. God tells Abram (before his name changed to Abraham), "I will bless you...so that you will be a blessing." We know that we are blessed not just for our own delight and deliverance, but *to be a blessing* for others.

So, how do you give, and desire to give? Do you show up and connect? Are you sharing yourself in the learning circle, coffee breaks, or worship breakout rooms? Are you caring for and about each other? Do you pray or knit or send uplifting notes? Do you teach, contribute to a ministry team, or change the lightbulbs? Do you give financially? Do you generously support God's work *outside* the church? These are some of the ways I know you bless with the blessings you receive. How do you hope to give in the coming year? Please be thinking about this, and watch for a stewardship letter in the mail soon.

Participating in Grace involves receiving and giving...giving and receiving. I hope this stewardship season we'll discover ourselves more blessed. More blessed in our receiving, more blessed in our giving, and the whole of God's world more blessed on the way.

Blessings,

Pastor Lee



## WORSHIP FORECAST

Gathering on Zoom Sundays at 10:30 am

We gather on Zoom:

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/801896850> . If dialing in by phone, call 1-253-215-8782 and note meeting ID #: 801 896 850. One can also access the service through the home page of our church website, [www.snoqualmieumc.org](http://www.snoqualmieumc.org).

Need help with Zoom? No problem. Call Greg (425-246-4384) or Toddie Downs (425-208-1470)

**November 8 – More Blessed, part 1: RECEIVING.** Music with Michelle Wilkinson. Genesis 12:1-3, Acts 20:32-36. Is it really more blessed to give than to receive?

**November 15 – More Blessed, part 2: GIVING.** Music with Toddie Downs. Luke 7:36-8:3. *Her sins have been forgiven, hence she has shown great love.* Inclusion Committee's personal story sharing with Ed Morrison.

**November 22 – Thanksgiving!** Message with Rev. Richard Whetsell. Please send faith community participation pledges by mail (Box 458 Snoqualmie, WA 98065) or email (Carol Lawrence, [celawren@centurytel.net](mailto:celawren@centurytel.net)) this week.

**November 29 – Liberating Advent, Sharing the Road to Christmas week 1.** We'll be weaving resources from the UMC's Greater Northwest Area this holy season. **Pick up advent supplies in the church drop box** outside the parking-lot door, available starting Saturday November 28. Or contact Pastor Lee for free delivery! (Lectionary year B begins. Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-17; 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37) **Congregational Conversation after worship** this week (approx. 11:45 am). Bring anything you want to talk about relative to congregational life.

**December 6 – Liberating Advent, Sharing the Road to Christmas week 2.** Home advent wreaths in play. Music this **communion** Sunday with Michelle Wilkinson. Have some bread and juice (or whatever is available at home) on hand for consecration and use during holy communion.

**December 13 – Liberating Advent, Sharing the Road to Christmas week 3.** Music with Michelle Wilkinson. (Lectionary readings: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8)

**December 20 – Liberating Advent, Sharing the Road to Christmas week 4.** Music with Toddie Downs. (Lectionary readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38)

### **December 24– Christmas Eve, Sacred Story, Songs, and Candle-Lighting**

(Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20)

**8 pm** - Family Gathering for All Ages

**11:45 pm** - Midnight Mass (shortened version, with communion)

**December 27– Christmas Continues,** music with Michelle Wilkinson. (Readings: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40)

- For worship updates and occasional revisions  
please visit the worship page on our website: [www.snoqualmieumc.org](http://www.snoqualmieumc.org) . -



**Thanks to our creative and thoughtful Worship Committee: Betty** Gildersleeve, **Jacque** Lindstrand, **Marcia** Reinert (chair), **Ron** Sumners, and **Richard** Whetsell. Thanks **to Shelley** Huestis for coordinating Sunday readers and liturgists. Call or text Shelley (425-283-6007) if you want to read scripture, guide the service, or offer special music!

## **THIS IS US**

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

The Welcoming Committee hopes this will bring us a little closer to knowing that person we pass in the church hall or sit two pews behind in Sunday worship or nod to as we pour our Fellowship coffee. We're an interesting assortment.

### **Diane Keener**

Diane was born in Painesville, Ohio, but moved to Washington when she was just one year old. She's one of five children and has a twin brother. Diane grew up in the house next to the church, became a member in 1958, and has blessed the church with singing (both Junior Choir and Chancel Choir) for more than fifty years!



Diane worked at the Transitional Health Center from 1971 until her retirement in 2012 in a variety of positions. She says, “I feel that this was God’s calling to me to help these people. I love the elderly so much and I still love to visit them when I can.” Diane collects items with cats and enjoys word puzzles, Scrabble, listening to music and playing the harmonica. Diane lost her beloved cat Rudy in 2019, whom she'd had for 16 wonderful years, but currently has also has a beautiful “very spoiled” gray and orange tabby who's two years old.



### Linda Trombley

Linda Trombley, born in Newport, Oregon, is interested in her German and Native American heritage and would like to research them more thoroughly. She moved to Washington when she was four—her Dad worked at Weyerhaeuser Mill—and she's been a Valley girl since. Twenty years ago, a friend took Linda's children to Sunday school at SUMC, and when Linda decided to try church service there, she was drawn by people's friendliness and by the sermons, every one of which spoke to her. She's been inspired by many people in her life and is most proud of raising two children who've grown up to be good human beings. Fun times with family and friends make her laugh, as do comedic movies, particularly ones with Meryl Streep or Tom Hanks. An avid reader, Linda recently read *Where the Crawdads Sing*, *The Woman in the Castle*, and Michele Obama's *Becoming*.

### Carol Sumners

Carol Sumners was born in Napoleon, Ohio and lived there till she was twenty two. She came to SUMC in 2011, after her husband, Ron, started attending and singing in the choir, and she enjoys the openness and acceptance she finds. Her hero is her sister-in-law Rita, whom she admires for keeping her wit and humor through great adversity. Carol likes to laugh and seems to often encounter family, friends, and neighbors who amuse her. She's a fan of Anne Tyler's books and has read them all many times over. Described by her friends as kind, quiet, and dependable, Carol loves the outdoors and is fed by walking at least an hour every day. Her "little competitive streak" is spurred by the awards she's gotten from her exercise instructor, and she's proud to have logged in over a thousand hours since 2004.



### Carol Lawrence

Carol has lived in Snoqualmie for 57 years and been a member of SUMC for 53 years. The "Two Carols" joined the church the same day in May, 1967—Carol Lawrence by transfer and Carol Peterson by confession of faith. (Diane Keener is the only member still attending who joined before they did.) Born in Grand Forks, North Dakota, Carol spent her first and second birthdays in Florida, third birthday in Anchorage, and fourth birthday in Minnesota. She is a proud graduate of the University of North Dakota.

Carol's hero is her mother, a city girl who ended up on a farm with her husband's large extended family. She taught in a neighboring town which required a 40-mile round trip in -40-degree weather. Carol credits her mom with giving her self-confidence. Carol says her proudest accomplishment is "rearing a son" and "her 35-year career in education."

Carol's favorite book series and author is *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Montgomery, and she has made the journey to Prince Edward Island where the stories take place and from where her father's family originated. She would hope her friends would describe her as friendly, caring, and loyal. What feeds her soul is sitting on a beach, but she also added reading and playing music on the piano.





## VIRTUAL ADVENT CHOIR INVITATION

*Greetings, I'm James Payne, Music Director at Clarkston UMC, in Clarkston, WA. During this time we long to be together. Although we cannot physically be together, we can join together in song and worship from a distance. I am inviting you, the choirs – singers – and musicians, in the PNW Conference of the United Methodist Church, to join me in a Mass Virtual Choir to celebrate the season of Advent. – James Payne, Clarkston UMC*

Check out all the details at <http://www.pnwumc.org/adventchoir/>. Recordings are due on or before the end of the day Sunday November 22.

SUMC Choir Director Michelle Wilkinson's encourages those who want to participate:

"It's easy to practice. You just download and print the music, and then practice with your part. I think the most difficult aspect is recording yourself. Having a tri-pod or having someone hold your phone to perform the recording would work the best. Then you just send it from your phone to the link provided..."

The outcome will be available for us to share with Snoqualmie UMC sometime before Christmas. All the more wonderful if it includes voices from our congregation in the mix.

## INCLUSION COMMITTEE INVITATION

12 Angry Men – Sunday November 22, 4 pm

Some of you may remember 12 Angry Men, the 1957 courtroom drama film, or the remake in 1997. On **Sunday, November 22 at 4:00 p.m.**, the Inclusion Committee invites you to watch a new production of *12 Angry Men* put on by Acts on Stage Theater, a global but Seattle-based theater company dedicated to centering the creative talents, initiatives and works of people of Color and people of faith. We'll have an online discussion of the production the next week (date TBA). The cast of this staged production is made up entirely of men of Color and, though we haven't seen it, we expect it to support our vision of diversity and inclusion. Info here at [www.ActsOnStage.com](http://www.ActsOnStage.com). View with SUMC at <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/91293365936>.



## RECONCILING FELLOWSHIP FORMED

# Reconciling Ministries Network



The Inclusion Committee at SUMC, guided by Reconciling Ministries Network since April, 2019, has formed a Reconciling Fellowship consisting of members of our congregation who support full inclusion of lgbqt+ individuals and who agree with and honor this statement:

*“We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity,*

*gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.”*

Everyone is invited to be a part of the Fellowship, though we understand that some may not agree with our goal to eventually become a reconciling congregation within a fully inclusive denomination. So far, thirty of our congregants have joined. For further information or to join us, you are welcome to visit [rmnetwork.org](http://rmnetwork.org)., and/or to contact members of the Inclusion Committee (Carol Morrison, Reri MacClean, Karolann Whetsell, Betty Gildersleeve, Nancy McClean, Richard Whetsell, and Linda Boord), and/or to bring questions to the Congregational Conversation after church service on November 22.



## SONGS AND LIGHT ON THE LONGEST NIGHT

**Caroling at Snoqualmie Gazebo (or Wherever You Are)  
6:30 - 7:30 pm, December 21st**

Sing outdoors with masks and extended social distancing around the Snoqualmie Gazebo (7071 Railroad Ave. SE, Snoqualmie 98065) or wherever you are. Free songbooks will be emailed ahead of time with optional soundtracks, and will also be available on the church website [www.snoqualmieumc.org](http://www.snoqualmieumc.org). (Thanks to M. McFee's Worship Design Studio for those resources!) Alternatively, you can sing wherever you are. If safe to do so, consider inviting neighbors for a COVID-careful caroling presence on the longest night of the year: in downtown Snoqualmie, or on your local sidewalk!

## SNOQUALMIE VALLEY WINTER SHELTER

Snoqualmie Valley Winter Shelter is requesting use of the church building for up to 90 days while they await the completion of renovations at the American Legion Hall. They hope to open in November before cold rainy days settle in. The shelter plans to be open 24/7 this year instead of only overnight, and would be adhering to all the COVID precautions for homeless service providers (which are more strict than even the church's) as well as the county's usual sanitation and hygiene requirements.



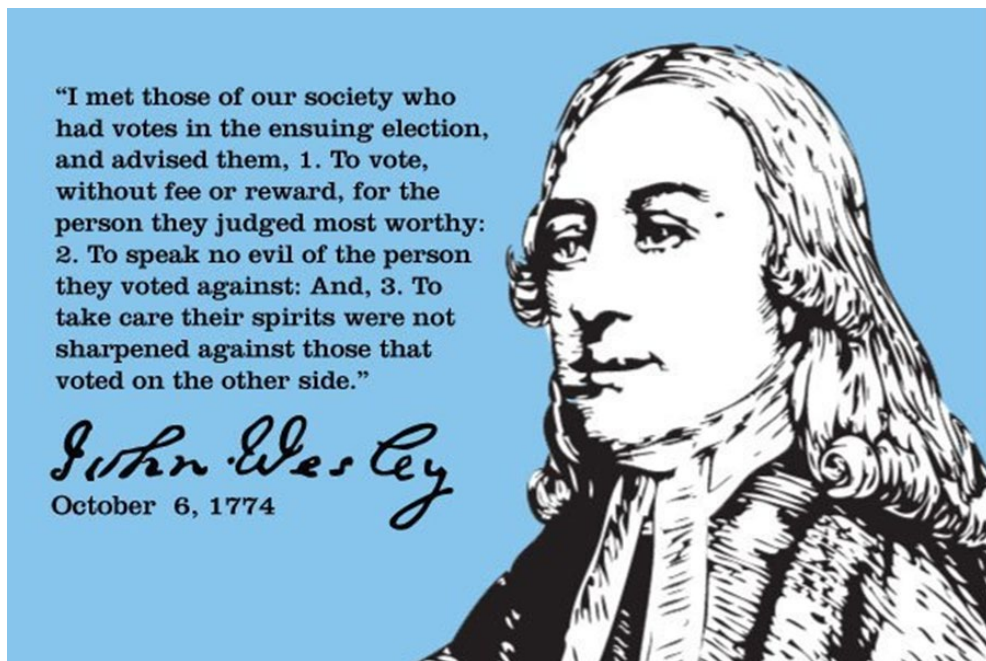
## TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (TDOR)

Friday, November 20th at 7 pm

An invitation by way of **Laurie Edwards**, Director of Catalyst Ministries, Bellevue First UMC:

Join Emerald City Social Club, First United Methodist Church (Bellevue) and our community to honor the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence since last year. This webinar will include a reading of the names during which we would like you to light a candle, so please plan to have one handy. There will also be a time for sharing and support after the presentations. Registration Link:

<https://bellevue.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/category/25624>





## NEWS OF THE CHURCH – THOUGHTS FROM OUR MEMBERS

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*Last night I was so excited to hear that the NW Conference of our United Methodist Church is challenging each congregation to confront racism in their community. Yes, the time is now! The Spirit is calling me to listen, listen, listen. Hear their stories. Begin dialogues. Also hear the story of others feeling unheard.*

*The challenge is before us. May we be guided by the Holy Spirit as we move forward. The church is at it's best when we work for justice and reconciliation. When, where and how to start??? – Jacque Lindstrand*

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Gene Pollard reminds us that World Kindness Day is November 13. From the website InspireKindness.com, we learn: World Kindness Day is a global day that promotes the importance of being kind to each other, to yourself, and to the world. This day, celebrated on November 13 of each year, has the purpose is to help everyone understand that compassion for others is what binds us all together. This understanding has the power to bridge the gap between nations.

Go to their website for ideas on how to participate in this day (other than simply ... BE KIND!)



“ I took this picture [in October] while walking in Snoqualmie Valley. I was inspired by the beauty of the area and the day. How blessed we are!” Nancy McLean

Photo by Nancy McLean

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*The best Netflix series I've seen is The Queens Gambit. I loved the documentary movie on the life of Dolly Parton, Here I Am. This was spiritually uplifting, and so is the new season of The Voice. – Jeannie Mandas-Huling*

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*Charley and Bernard, Blessing of the Animals Bow-Wow at Three Forks Off-Leash Dog Park, October 24; photo by Toddie 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**

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