

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, September 12, 11:30
am – Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 6:30-
8:00 pm – Learning Circle



LISTENING FOR AND TO GOD

We know the instructions: Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind...and love your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27-28). But how?

What does that look like? In the hustle bustle of love in action, we sometimes forget the crucial part of *listening*. Listening for and to God, who speaks to us in various ways. The story below, forwarded by Marcia Reinert, is a great reminder and invitation - to listen.

A farmer lost his watch in the barn. The watch had great sentimental value, so he searched for it to no avail.

He heard some kids playing outside, and explained to them about his watch, and asked if they would help him find it.

They all searched, but could not find the watch. The farmer thanked them for their help and sent them off. As they were leaving, one little boy asked if he could try again. The farmer agreed, and the boy returned to the barn.

About half an hour later, the boy walked out of the barn with the watch. The farmer was amazed, and asked how he could find it when so many had been looking and failed?

The boy replied, "I didn't do anything...I just sat in the silence and listened. Eventually I heard the ticking of the watch and followed the sound."

Sometimes if we just sit quietly we will hear the "ticking" of our Savior's promptings, leading us along the way. (Posted by Stephen Stone, August 2018)

Listening for and to God involves listening to each other and to our deepest selves. Thank you for all the ways you lend an ear. May God bless our hearing as we learn to fully love.

- Pastor Lee



WORSHIP FORECAST

We continue to take covid precautions while in the church building, including mask-wearing and physical distancing between households. Those who prefer Zoom join with **meeting ID # 801 896 850**. Thanks to **Tech Deacons Greg & Toddie Downs and Alma Gomez** as we continue to refine the online option. Extra applause, gratitude and enthusiasm for **Wendy Holloway's children's ministry on Sunday mornings!**

September 5 - Outdoor Worship at Centennial Fields (with communion, followed by food and games. Centennial Field is located at 39903 SE Park Street, Snoqualmie, next to Snoqualmie Elementary School. For more picnic details, see the events page of our website, www.snoqualmieumc.org. In case of rain, watch your email Sunday morning for possible cancellation. Join us via Zoom using the usual worship link: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/801896850> .

September 12 - Acts of Inspiration - *Astounding*, Acts 10:34-48. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

September 19 - Acts of Inspiration - *Christian*, Acts 11:19-30. Music with Toddie Downs.

September 26 - Acts of Inspiration - *Deliverance*, Acts 12:1-19. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

October 3 - Acts of Inspiration - *Co-missioned*, Acts 13:1-12. Music with Michelle Wilkinson. Communion.

October 10 - **New worship series begins:** *Neighboring*. Exodus 20: 15-17, Leviticus 19:13-18

October 17 - *Neighboring*, part 2. Mark 12:28-34. Music with Toddie Downs.

October 24 - *Neighboring*, part 3. Romans 12:1-13. Music with Michelle Wilkinson.

October 31 - **All Saints Day Observance**. Name of beloved saints who have "crossed over" during this past year can be shared with Pastor Lee by Friday October 29 (425-444-5556). Special ribbons will be made in their honor, decorating the tintinnabulum.

- For worship updates and occasional revisions
please visit the worship page on our website: www.snoqualmieumc.org . -



ROSE WINDOW UPDATE

From Trustee Richard Whetsell:

Yea! We have a date for the repair of the wall around the Rose window. The contractor says he can do it one September 15th. Let's get this job done!

At a cost of \$5,600.00 we can put this concern behind us. There are a number of things on the building that need our attention and resources. Let's raise this money and move on to the next concern.

We have an historic location and a great place from which to proclaim God's love for everyone who lives in the valley. What does it proclaim if we allow it to become rundown? Let's join together to keep proclaiming a historic message of God's love. Please let Carol Lawrence know that your donation is for the Rose Window Wall.

INCLUSION COMMITTEE UPDATE

SUMC's Inclusion Committee formed and was approved by the Lead Team in May, 2019, to pursue the possibility of becoming a Reconciling Congregation honoring and fully including people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Since then, we've followed the guidelines set forth by Reconciling Ministries Network.

At our committee meetings, we learned appropriate terminology and heard inspiring stories from lgbtq+ individuals and from people who study and support them. In our desire to include all congregants in this process, we created the "This is Us" column in the Circuit Rider and loved learning and sharing interesting information about congregants. We welcomed Rev. Dave Parker, a conservative UM pastor, as he shared his perspective related to lgbtq+ inclusion, and we appreciated his emphasis on remaining in loving relationship with those who share different views. We grew personally as we wrote our own stories, remembering and summarizing events and people who led us to believe in and pursue full rights for lgbtq+ individuals, and we were moved and encouraged by the positive responses from congregational members when we told those stories on Sunday mornings.



In September, 2020, we formed a Reconciling Fellowship of thirty four like-minded people, which was formally recognized by Reconciling Ministries Network. Though plans for offering congregational educational opportunities were hindered by the pandemic, we have and will continue to suggest, watch, and discuss movies and documentaries addressing lgbtq+ history and concerns.

Our anonymous survey in July yielded thirty-five Yeses and three Nos in support of adopting this Welcoming 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.

On Sunday, September 12, in the sanctuary after the service, we'll vote on becoming a formally Reconciling Congregation. We are happy to be at this point in our process and encourage everyone to vote, either in person or via Zoom.

My thanks to Linda Boord, Betty Gildersleeve, Reri MacLean, Nancy McLean, and Karolann and Richard Whetsell for their loving spirits, their innovative minds, and their willingness to work to honor and celebrate all God's children.



WELCOME NEW CUSTODIAN SHAWN KUCHYNKA

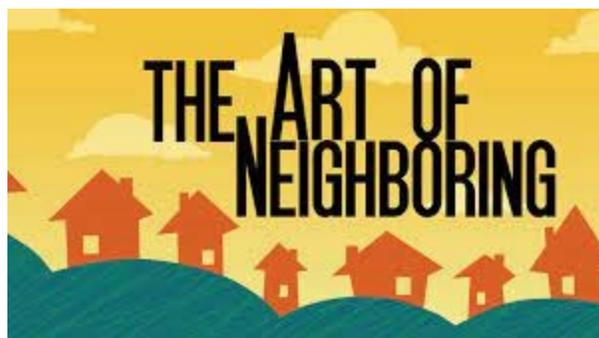
Shawn grew up in the valley and enjoys hiking, biking, and people. First thing Shawn wants folks to know about him? "I'm Christian!" We are grateful to have Shawn trying out this role while Lewis addresses some health challenges. We hope it's a good fit.

TUESDAY NIGHT LEARNING CIRCLE

Learning Circle resumes September 28, 6:30 - 8 pm.

Throughout October we'll be reading and responding to *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon. Bring your wisdom and wonderings on

Zoom: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/99508693698> (Meeting ID #995 0869 3698).



DOOR MOUSE - WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

This little working mouse from Carmichael's is making a big difference at the parking lot door. What shall we call it? Enter your name ideas by Sunday morning September 19, and you might win some cheese! Sunday School kids will choose the winning name.



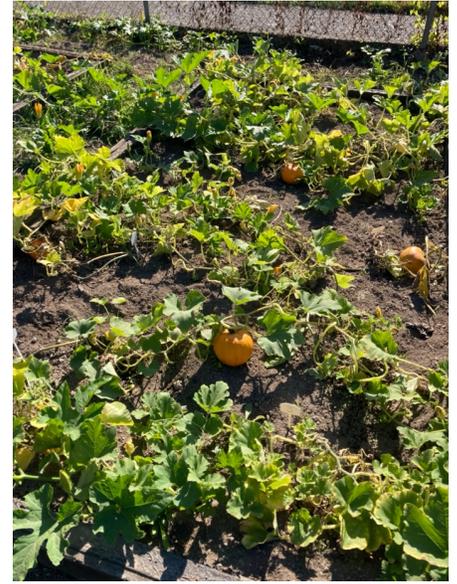
Pumpkin Patch Jokes

Thanks to Alma and Ekaterina's summer-long care, we'll soon have pumpkins to share!

What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?

(Pumpkin pi.) What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?

(Squash.) Why was Cinderella bad at football? (Because she had a pumpkin for a coach.) Who helped the mini pumpkin cross the road? (The crossing gourd.)



Homecoming Service/Picnic



Photos by Greg Downs

Photos by Joanne Royston



In Loving Memory of Harley Brumbaugh



Photo by Dave Battey



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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Snoqualmie WA 98065