



The Circuit Rider

Salmon Creek Church



December 2023



o Holy Night!

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Grace and peace to you friends,

I write today from Indiana, gazing out the window across harvested fields, prepared to rest for the winter. It is a cloudy misty day here, and is a great day to be inside catching up with family we don't see in-person often enough. The resting of the harvested field is a reminder to me to respect the rhythm of seasons God has given us. It is so easy to feel like we need to be producing all of the time, yet God's gift of Sabbath reminds us to stop, and rest.

Usually in this note I have been listing all the many things coming soon here at Salmon Creek. We truly have a lot to be thankful for with so many opportunities to worship, serve and learn together. Between now and the end of 2023 there will be a lot of special things to participate in, at the church, and out of the church. I pray that you will find the right balance for you between times to join in and times to rest!

Our advent series, *The Gift of Being Present*, will help us focus on the gift of being fully present in the moment as we can share hope, peace, joy and love with those in our life – family, friends, strangers, and even with ourselves. If you are one who likes to read a little more, the book, *Right Here, Right Now* by Dr. Amy Oden is a great resource to learn more about the practice of mindfulness from a Christian voice. An overview of the book shares, “This book reveals the Christian roots of mindfulness and the actual practices that, when reclaimed, deepen the life of faith and the power of our mission of love in the world.”

This mention of, “our mission of love in the world”, reminds me of another book we will study in our small groups beginning in January. The book written by Dr. David Field is called, *Our Purpose is Love: The Wesleyan Way to be the Church*. So far, our small groups, Better Together, Joy Women's Bible Study, and the Men's Thursday Morning Bible Study will all participate, and our Sunday Servants class is already reading it! We also have an opportunity for those not already in a group to join Dave and Lynne Nieda who will be leading another small group through the book. There will be more information and opportunities to sign-up coming soon!

Now I am going to close this brief note so that I can be fully present, right here, right now, with my family!

Peace and joy,

Kim Poer

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Some final thoughts...

As this year nears its end, it's exhilarating to think about all that has happened and how we have survived through all of the turmoil and change. An anonymous writer once said, "Not all storms come to disrupt your life, some come to clear your path." Amen to that! Not only did we survive, but rather,

we have thrived and become even better! I am so proud of the congregation of Salmon Creek United Methodist Church. During our darkest times, you have shown hope, faith, courage and grace. We have all worked together to become unified in thought, purpose and strength. Our goal was, and continues for us to be, "A welcoming UMC congregation that worships together as disciples of Jesus Christ, uniting in fellowship, missions and service". Well, my Friends, we have come together, growing stronger every week, doing Christ's work, and reaching out to those in need. Our congregation is growing in numbers, our enthusiasm is super-strong and our desire to move forward successfully is paramount in our hearts and minds. **WE HAVE THE BEATEN THE STORM!!!!**

Looking ahead, this attitude of survival and betterment must continue for years to come. We cannot stop for a moment to think, "We don't have to work so hard anymore." Quite the opposite: We must still have hope, faith, and courage to go into the future, working hard every day, side by side with our fellow congregants to make SCUMC a great place for worship, fellowship, missions, support and relief. I know it can be done and it will be done! I have seen the spirit of this church come alive and jump into action. It is miraculous and heart-warming.

We have a legacy to continue. The story of SCUMC will continue on for many years. I'm excited to see what happens next!

This past year has been a wonderful opportunity for me personally. Yes, at times, it was difficult. But, I have grown in my faith, dealing with all the adversities, tough choices and many hours of planning, talking and meeting with a fantastic team of caring, hard-working individuals who care about this church as much as I do. I have held close my anchor of hope, keeping me focused and steadfast in my purpose and resolve. I say thank you to each and every member of our staff, leadership and ministry teams. You are a great group of people with whom to work and run together through the rain drops! I will always be grateful for everyone's support, dedication, time and friendship.

To the congregation: continue to have hope, faith, courage and grace as this church goes into 2024 and beyond. Do all that you can, be all that you are. I'm counting on each and every one of you!

Respectfully,
Lila DeBolt

*Thank you to Lila, from the congregation!!
We so appreciate and value all you have
done for us! You have been amazing!*

SAFETY REMINDER

SAFETY FIRST

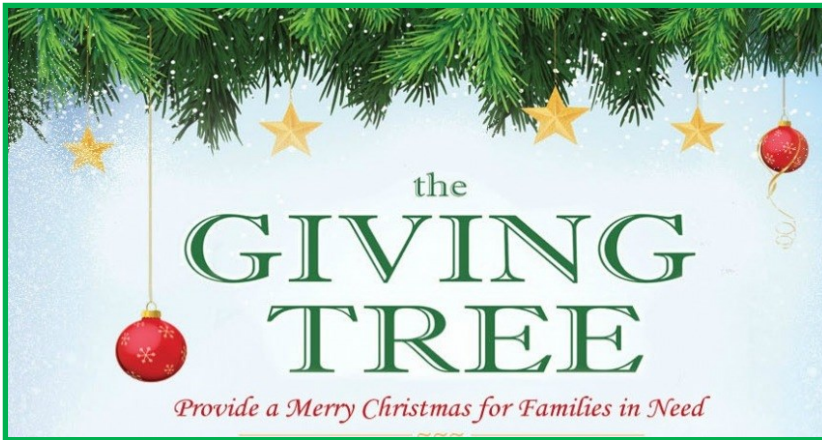
REMINDER --- Just reminding everyone of a few housekeeping items to ensure everyone's safety, especially when our Day School children are on site, as well as to prevent cold weather from coming into the building and minimize unnecessary electric bill expenses:

- 1. Please keep all outside doors locked when on site.**
- 2. Please refrain from "propping doors open" when you are on site.**
- 3. Please test the door to make sure it closes securely when exiting the buildings. The doors have a tendency to not click closed; please make sure doors lock when you go out.**
- 4. Turn off the lights if you are the last one to leave.**

With the onset of colder weather, we have had an increase in interactions with our houseless neighbors, some of them not so pleasant. It is important to keep all of us safe. Thanks for your attention to these small details that do matter. Adhering to these simple tasks will keep our staff, children and congregants safe and warm.

Lila DeBolt

Chairman, Administrative Board



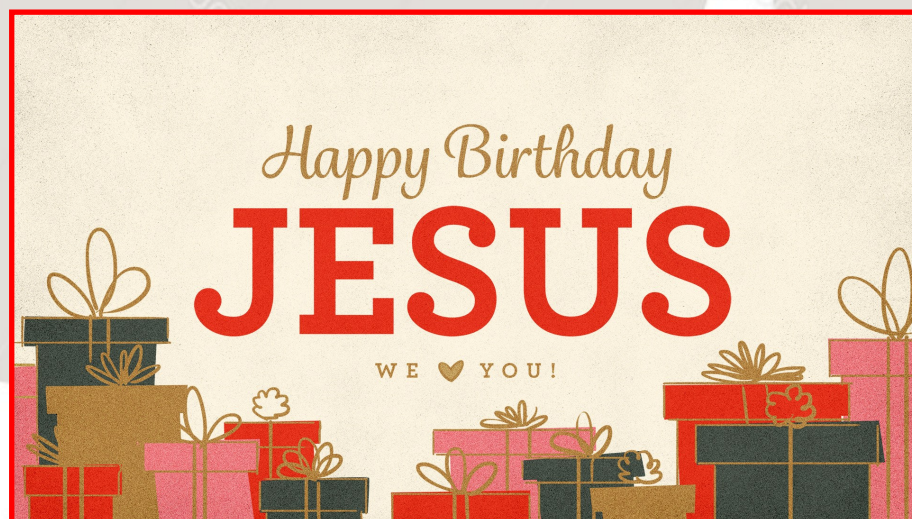
**The most wonderful time of the year...
our Christmas Giving Tree!**

**Once again we will be supporting
graduate families from
Family Promise by purchasing Christ-
mas gifts for the family.
Grab a tag or tags from the tree in the
Narthex and return the unwrapped
gift to the tree by December 3rd.**

Mark your calendars for Friday evening,
December 1st at 6:15 pm.

Join the children's church in celebration
of Jesus' birthday.

The children will delight us with their presence with a sing-along show that everyone will enjoy. And don't forget, there will be cookies after the show to end our party for Jesus.



Cookies, Cocoa, Stories & Photos with Santa!

Saturday, Dec. 2nd
3pm - 6pm



Bring your children
& grandchildren

Please bring unwrapped
toys or cash to donate to
the C.A.R.O.L
Program



Fern Prairie United
Methodist Church

26112 NE Brunner Road

HO-HO-HO!



Lessons
and
Carols

HOPE · PEACE · JOY · LOVE



Our music ministry: Bell
Choir, Praise Team and Choir
are practicing for our
“Lessons and Carols” event on
Saturday evening, **December
9th at 6:00pm.**

Salmon Creek Day Care Flooring Project

We will be replacing the flooring in the Classrooms, hallways, offices, and Fellowship hall between 12/15 and 12/30. Anyone who would like to help with the moves, please contact Steve Enyeart, Richard Beilsmith, or Larry Siewert.

Schedule:

12/15 4PM - Move classrooms and hallways furniture and boxes to Fellowship Hall, Continue Saturday 12/16 if needed.

12/18 – 12/22 – Cascade Flooring work on Daycare rooms, Hallways.

12/22 – 23 Move rooms, hallway furniture and boxes back, and clear Fellowship hall and Offices.

12/26 – 12/29 Cascade work on Offices, rest of hallways and Fellowship hall.

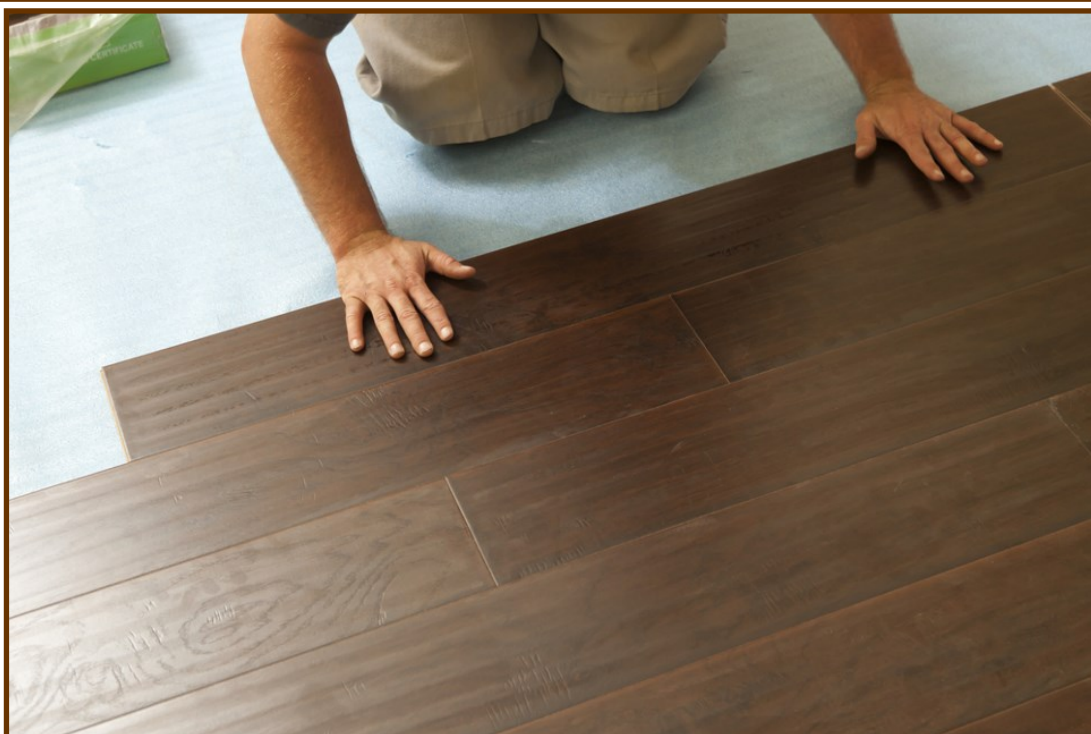
12/29 – 12/30 Move office furniture and boxes back, Fellowship hall items.

We will firm up schedule closer to move days, but if you are available, let us know.

Many hands make for light work.

Thanks,

Trustees






ONCE UPON A DECEMBER

A HANDBELL CONCERT



For more information:

Website: <https://www.bellofthecascades.org/>

 <https://www.facebook.com/bellofthecascades>



CONCERT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER
16th, 7:00 pm
in our sanctuary.

Our own Exultation
Ringers will be playing
with BOC!! Don't miss it!

Concert Program

- Allegro Glorioso - Arnold B. Sherman
- Angels We Have Heard on High - Traditional French Carol, arr. Kyler Brengle
- Savior of the Nations, Come - Gregorian Chant/Veni, Emmanuel, arr. Sandra Eithun
 - Fantasia on Forest Green - Traditional English Melody, arr. Lloyd Larson
 - Meditations on the Theme of Peace - Derek Hakes
 - Inspiring Presence - Alex Guebert
 - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came - Basque Melody, arr. Joel Raney
 - Once Upon a December - Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, arr. Matthew Compton
 - Reverie - Karen Lakey Buckwalter
 - A Child is Born - Traditional French Carol/George Fredric Handel, arr. Matthew Compton



A Night of Hope

A Christmas Worship Celebration

Monday, December 18th

6:00 pm

Pioneer Chapel

**A very special service for anyone experiencing loss
during the holiday season.**



Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24th

Candlelight Service for all times:

**5:00 pm—Family Oriented Service,
including a children's message**

8:00 pm—Choir, Bell choir

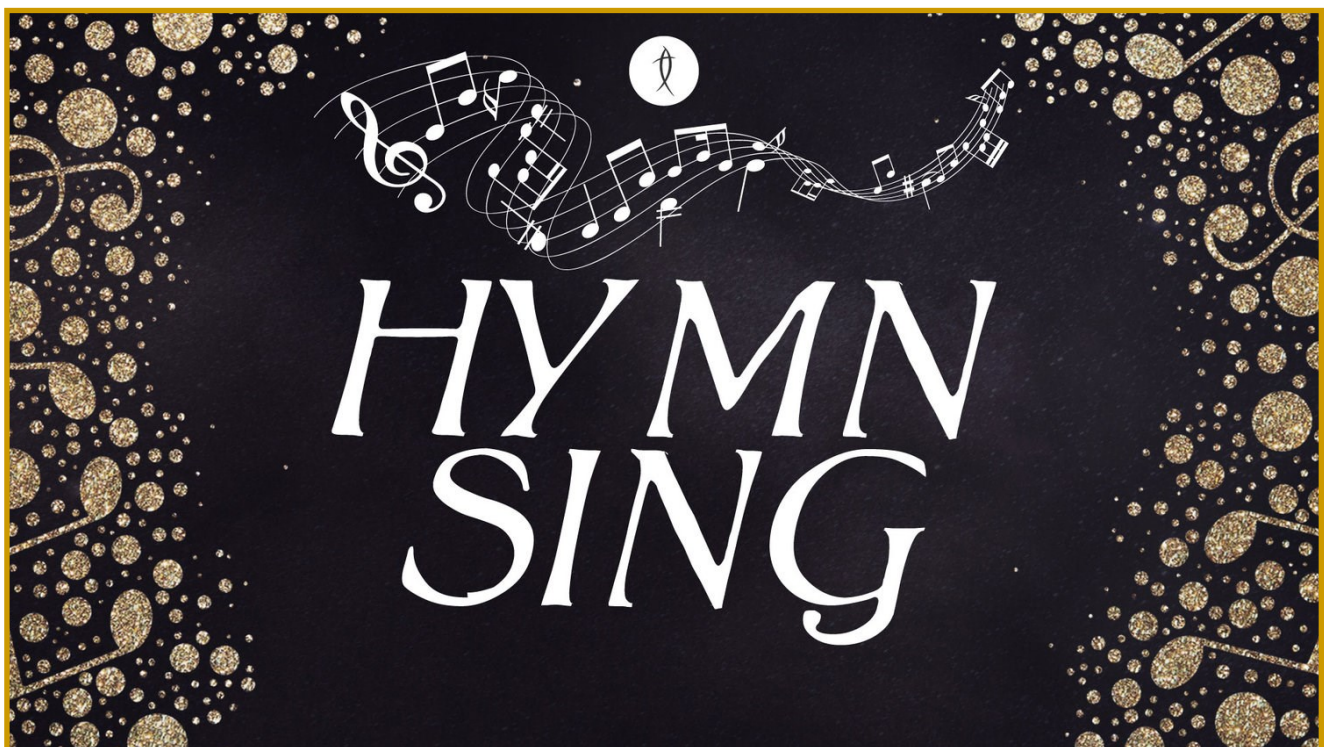
**11:00 pm—For those wanting to meet Christmas
morning ...**

Sunday, December 31st—Normal 10:00 am

**No Service on
Christmas Day
Merry Christmas!**



***CHRISTMASTIDE* Hymn Sing**
December 31st—10:00 am





United Methodist Church
 9700 9th Ave, Vancouver WA, 98686
 admin@salmoncreek.church

SALMON CREEK CHURCH

Fall Missions

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Basket Auction a great success - we brought in over \$18,500!

Thanks to the 111 people who attended!

Thanks to those who donated our 78 auction items!

Thanks to those who donated our 20 dessert dash items!

Thanks to the volunteers who set up the auction - Larry Siewert, Greg Berry, Tom & Bonnie Jacquemin - and Laura, Cathy Melson, Kathy & Don Hardy, Linda Sloan, Sandy Shatto.

Thanks to our fabulous kitchen volunteers - Gay & Steve Enyeart, Jan & Winston Asai, Dan & Lynne Kingsley, Kathy Bachman, Linda Sloan, Larry Siewert.

Thanks to our Youth Group servers - Teddy Ernster, Charlie Ernster, Kate Olivette, Natalie Shumaker, Zach Scott.

Thanks to those who helped with check in and running the auction - Pastor Kim Poer, Kathy Scott, KD Hardy Caballero, Greg Berry, Andres Caballero, Don & Kathy Hardy, Ken & Lisa Budnick from TheAuctionEvent.

Thanks to the many hands who helped clean up!

Thanks to God from who all blessings flow!

What a blessing it was to be able to hear from and support our ministry agencies - Share Vancouver, YWCA Safe Choice, Open House Ministries, Battle Ground Health Care, Ft. Vancouver Seafarers Ctr, Friends of the Carpenter

The Missions Team

Coffee/Tea/Cider

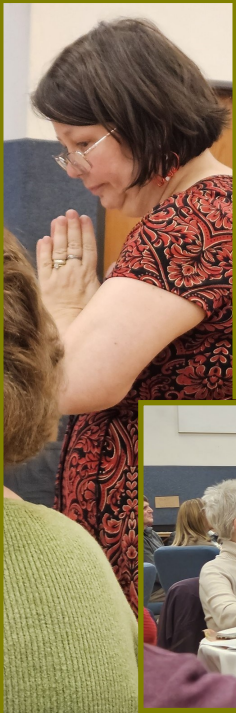
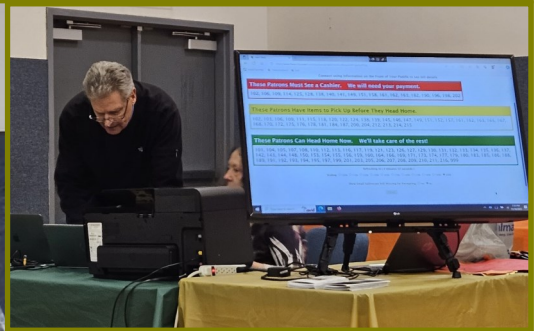
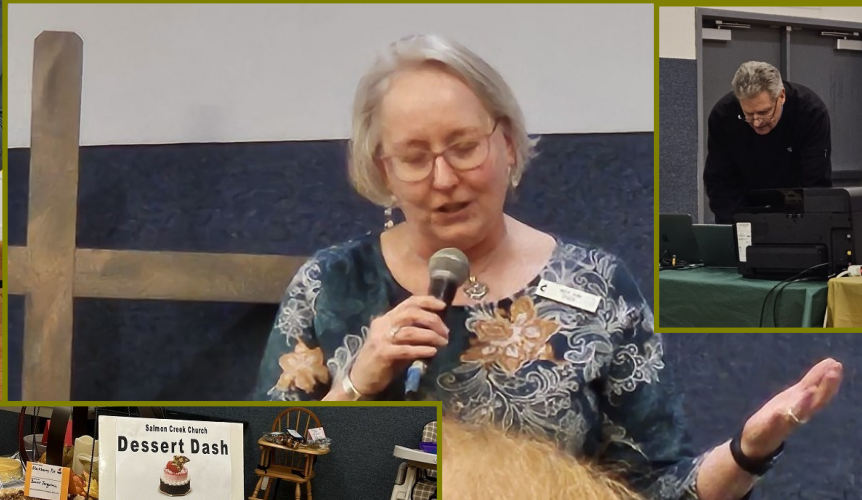
Battle Ground HealthCare

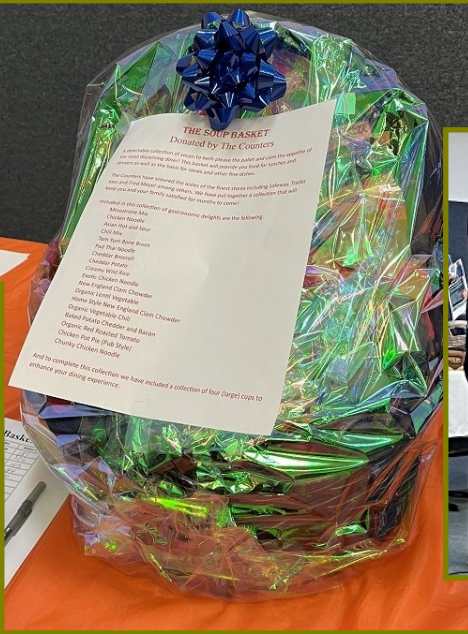
FRIENDS OF THE CARPENTER

SEAFARERS

Missions Basket Auction

Thank you so much to everyone who made our Missions Basket Auction a big success! We couldn't have supported these important community ministries without everyone who attended, donated baskets, bid on baskets, helped set up, helped serve and supported the event in so many ways!







**Baptism of Jake Braun
Schoeneberg 11-12-23**





Habitat Dedication Day: November 12th, 2023



On Sunday, November 5th, we celebrated 170 years of Salmon Creek ministry!





Habitat Build Day: November 4th, 2023



Salmon Creek
United Methodist Church
East Vancouver Build
Nov. 4/23 Finishing Up



EEK at the Creek

October 29, 2023



EEK at the Creek

October 29, 2023



EEK at the Creek

October 29, 2023



WINNERS OF BEST TRUNK
Matthew Compton and Josh Billings





A note from some of our guests during our host week of October 22—29th, 2023.

Dear Volunteers,
 thank you so much for
 the meals + hospitality
 you all provide. And
 thank you for treating
 us as equals. Your work
 + support is everything!
 You are super heroes!
 heroes

- Ally + Ryan ☺

TENTATIVE

2024 UPCOMING HOST DATES

February 4—11

May 5—12

August 4—11

October 27—November 3

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Many thanks to all who helped decorate our sanctuary for the Advent season. The Worship Committee is grateful to the Administrative Board who approved our request for a new (much needed) Christmas tree and outside lights for the gazabo.

Funds were used from our Memorial account.



De-greening of the Sanctuary

**Mark your calendar as we take down the decorations in the
sanctuary after Christmastide
on Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 am.**

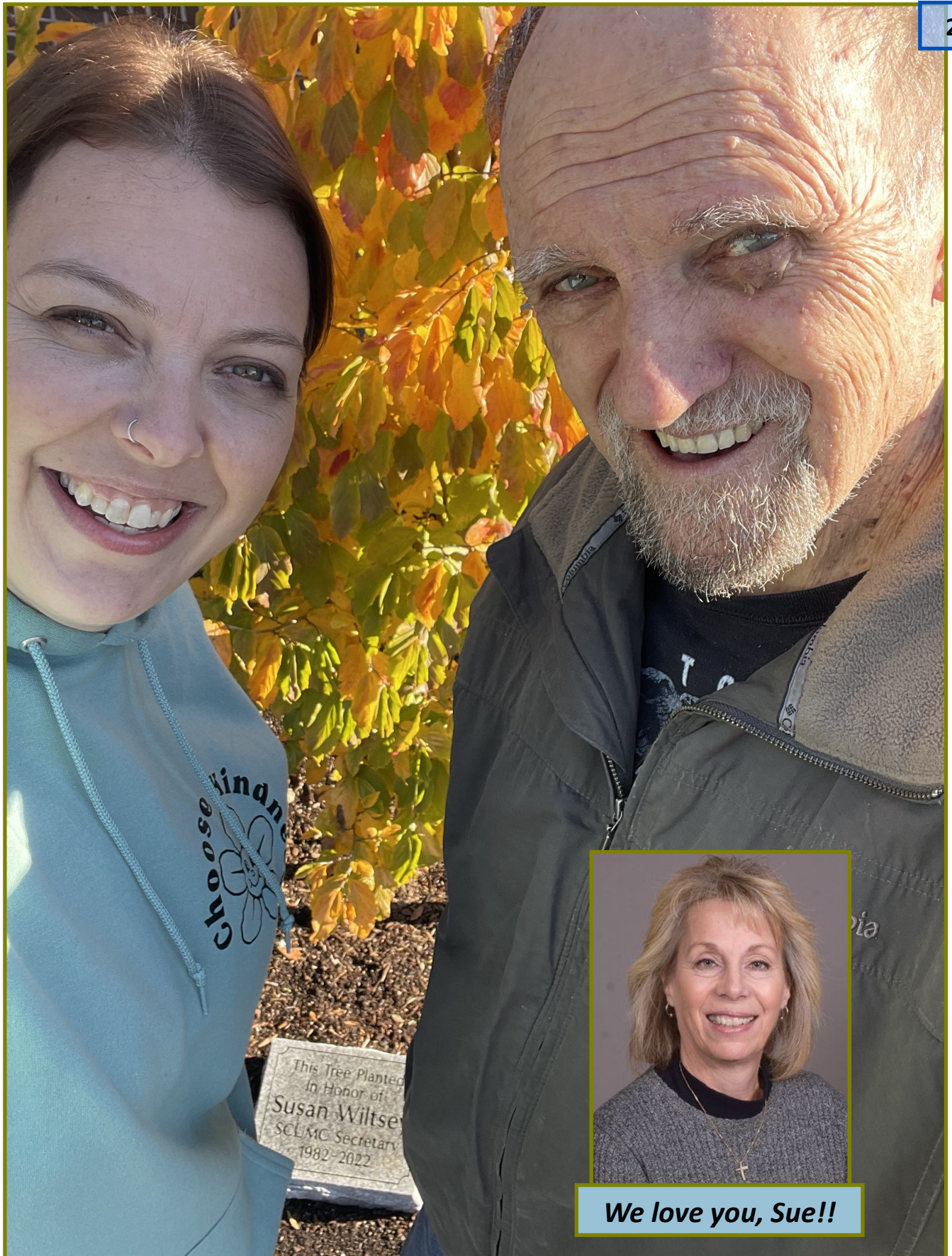
**As always, our mothers were correct In saying, “many hands
make light work.”**

We hope you will join us!



Quilts

These quilt blocks were appliqued by Betty Selby's grandmother, Ruby Westerlund, in the 1930s. They were given to Betty Westerlund Selby. Sadly, Betty never got to meet her grandmother as she died before Betty was born. The Westerlund family gave the precious blocks to Betty. She contacted a quilt group here at our church and they created these two quilts. Pictured above are the quilters, left is Sandie Hollister, Sharon Bishop is on the right side with Betty Selby in the center. These quilters did a beautiful job of making the quilts.



Sue Wiltsey's daughter, Ashley Skelton, and Sue's husband, Ron Wiltsey, by the tree planted in honor of Sue's many years of service at Salmon Creek United Methodist church. 11-14-23



Donna Johnson—December 1

Martha Van Male—December 2

Clare Kennedy—December 4

Josh Billings—December 15

Doris Howell—December 16

Rick Scott—December 20

Dorrie Estribou—December 22

Jim Gahagan—December 25

Steve Enyeart—December 27

Gavin Huckins—December 30

Susan Lenski—December 30

Jackie Miller—December 31

Tarisa Tognetti—December 31

Don't see your birthday?

**Let us know when it
is and we'll
update records!**



Thank you for reading the Circuit Rider! If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

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Submissions for the Circuit Rider can be sent to admin@salmoncreek.church Deadline for each month for submission is the 15th of the prior month.

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