



The Circuit Rider



2021

Salmon Creek Church



Message from Pastor John—2
Christmas Eve at SCUMC—3
J.O.Y. Academy news—4, 5
Trustees Update—6, 7
Missions Team Update—8
Taking Down the Greens—9
Our Youth in October—10—13

Farewell Allison King—14
Church Life Photos—15—18
God's Garden—19, 20
Family Birthdays—21
Holiday Office Hours—22





a note from Pastor John

Christmas is nigh upon us, and as we consider the celebration of Jesus arriving in this world in a manger in Bethlehem, we might also consider the arrival of God, in human form, into God's own creation. A web site called "Prince of Peace Anglican Family" gives a nice summation:

*In Christian Theology the area of study dealing with the coming of God to be with us in Christ Jesus is known as **Incarnational Theology** . . . **Incarnational Theology teaches us that God has always revealed Himself to us through the "normal," the physical, the temporal, the mundane things of this life. The created order has always contained within it a window into the agency and genius of its Creator; it has always been true that one can know about God by looking at what God has created.***

The idea that God is revealed to us through the "created order" as well as in scripture, is echoed by Paul in his letter to the Romans:

For what can be known about God is plain to them [Gentiles], because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. (Romans 1:19-20)

Neither of these statements diminishes the central role of scripture in our faith, since creation does not tell us the story of Christ's redeeming sacrifice on the cross. But God clearly is not playing hide-and-seek with humanity – the created order shows us a will and mind far, far greater than our own at work, and visible for all to see. When God incarnates as human, we are given a clear, unambiguous touchpoint with the Divine. The web site continues " . . . we, like the Disciples, have the joy of coming to know God in and through Jesus. This is a critical point within Incarnational Theology: all that we need for our salvation can be experienced in and through our relationship with Christ Jesus, our Lord as revealed in the Holy Scriptures."

I invite you this year to have not only a Merry Christmas, but also a Holy Christmas, experiencing the incarnational nature of God in Jesus, God in the world, God in scripture, and God in your spirit.

Blessings, Pastor John

Christmas Eve at Salmon Creek Church

Christmas Carols

Candle Lighting

Silent Night

Friday, December 24th

Kids and Family Service 5:00 pm

Traditional Candlelight Service 8:30 pm

Latenight Service 11:00 pm

Salmon Creek Church 12217 NE Hwy 99 Vancouver, WA 98686

(360) 573-3111

www.salmoncreek.church

A United Methodist Ministry



The J.O.Y. Academy

Jesus – Others – You

Inspiring children to follow Christ



Guess who has the cookie! The kids did a GREAT job on October 31st, when they helped the youth lead our worship service. When Pastor Vivian asked what they wanted most, one of them said quite strongly, "An M&M cookie the size of my head!" Well - on November 7th that's exactly what they got! Can you guess who's behind the cookie? (And yes, every child got a big cookie of their own!) We now have 9 children who attend our J.O.Y. Academy - not all on the same Sunday, of course, but they come faithfully!

Sunday, December 12

Beginning Sunday, November 28th, **The J.O.Y. Academy** will began to focus on the story of Jesus' birth. The children will learn about why Jesus was born, how the Angel Gabriel announced Jesus' birth to Mary, the dream God sent to Joseph, the story of the journey to Bethlehem, what happened that night—to Mary & Joseph, to the shepherds, and even all about the angels.

Then we'll make a set of beads with pictures on them to help us all remember how the story goes.

And, on December 12th, they will use the Christmas Story beads to tell the story to everyone in church during worship. After they tell the story, we'll all dedicate the food stacked in front of the altar. And then . . . *we'll go to our own rooms to celebrate with a CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!!*

Mark your calendars today and be sure to invite family and friends to this special Sunday event!

You are invited to a special Kids & Family Candlelight Service

Children will help us tell the story of the birth of Jesus through Christmas carols and Scripture. Join us as we hear the story of the Christmas Angel's joy and enter into the wonder of God's Love coming down to us at Christmas by passing the Light of Christ to one another as we light candles and sing "Silent Night."

When: 5:00 pm on Friday, December 24th

Where: Salmon Creek Church, 12217 NE Hwy 99, Vancouver



“Hide the Altar” FOOD DRIVE CONTEST

The holiday season is coming and too many families won't have enough food to celebrate together. Let's come together to help families in our community!

Every week, when the children gather in the church to sing with Pastor John, they will stack their donations in front of the altar. The J.O.Y. Academy kids will do the same on Sunday mornings.

**If we all bring enough donations by December 10th
the children will enjoy a party and prizes on December 13th!**

The food will be delivered to SHARE VANCOUVER.

Here's a list of what they need most:

- Canned - vegetables, fruits, beans, soup, ravioli, chili, spaghetti sauce
- Canned meats—tuna, chicken, etc.
- Dried rice, beans, pasta
- Cereal, oatmeal, mac & cheese, boxed dinners, shelf stable milks
- Snack items: tuna packets, tuna salad & chicken salad snack kits, cheese and/or peanut butter crackers, chewy granola and/or snack bars, squeezable packets of apple sauce, fruit cups, fruit snacks, protein/nutritional beverages, juice
- Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, shaving cream, razors, tooth brushes, tooth paste
- Menstrual products, personal wipes, toilet paper
- First aid items, band aids, anti-bacterial cream, compression roll, gauze pads, isopropyl alcohol wipes/bottles, hydrogen peroxide
- Diapers (all sizes), wipes, creams, powder (not talcum)



Dear Congregation:

Here is the Trustees 2021 Year-End Report

COVID continues to limit church activities, including Trustee projects, but some activity and building usage returned. The Flames youth basketball program returned now using the gym 3 nights per week. Boy Scouts returned in April to use of the gym and some meeting rooms. Sunday service moved back to the Sanctuary in June after holding service in the Gym to start the year. Several small groups have returned to the church meeting rooms and a new AA group started meeting October. The Bell choir has expanded and had several practices and performances in the church buildings. Hopefully, this is a start to more member gatherings at our church.

The YMCA held 4 weeks of youth activities at our church using the gym and meeting rooms in the FMC. A cub Scout troop was added this fall. In July, the Flames basketball organization put on a 3 on 3 basketball tournament with 50 teams. Attendance for the 2-day event was over 1000 for the participants, family, and friends. The Bell Choir provided food and drink and raised funds.

Trustees replaced the lights in the Fellowship Hall in January – some 96 fluorescent lights were replaced with LED lights. The light fixtures and woodwork were cleaned and stained, while we were up there. In September, a second security camera system was added. In December, the daycare doors will be removed, refinished, and repainted by contract. The Trustees will also undertake to replace lights in 5 of the school rooms and paint the ceilings.

The extreme heat wave caused much damage to the shrubs around the church. This fall Richard Beilsmith and Larry Siewert spent much time trimming the shrubs. In January, the water main for the FMC building broke again – different spot. The Boy Scouts added an Armed Services memorial consisting of flag poles, lights, and a meditation area next to the Bamboo and the front parking lot – quite impressive.

The Trustees awarded contracts for replacing the HVAC units in the Chapel and Daycare. Work will not likely be completed until next year.



Pay-It-Forward update: 2 HVAC units have been replaced, have committed to replacing 2 more HVAC systems, the Sanctuary was cleaned and repainted by the Trustees and other volunteers (rather than contracting to do so), and carpet replaced in the Sanctuary and Narthex. Total expenditures - \$85,000.

For the first 2 years, donations have been \$90,000 to date.

Projects completed (carpets, HVAC, and Sanctuary) have reduced the funding required from \$385,000 to ~\$290,000. \$15,000 for 5 years from the Grace Jones/Willis Slack fund will be added to the PIF account as approved last year. This leaves \$215,000 as our goal for the fund drive. More details will be provided later in 2022

We give all honor and glory to our God and this wonderful congregation for all that has been accomplished this year.

Steve Enyeart, Chairman 11/19/2021



From the Missions Team:

2021 Mission Auction Report

It was so fun to get together and support local missions!

How did we do?

83 people attended, including 8 excellent youth servers!

Our silent auction had 45 baskets – thank you to everyone who donated!

Our auctioneer extraordinaire auctioned off 9 baskets!

We earned.....\$12,628 before expenses!!!

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in making the auction a success!

We will be sending contributions to Share, Ft. Vancouver Seafarer's Center, Open House Ministries, Safe Choice Women's Shelter and Friends of the Carpenter.

Christmas Sharing Tree

This year Salmon Creek Church is supporting the Family Promise graduate families through our Christmas Sharing Tree. If you would like to participate, grab a tag from the tree in the back of the Sanctuary, purchase the item (gift receipts are appreciated) then bring the unwrapped item back on or before Sunday, Dec. 12th. The gifts will be delivered to Family Promise on Monday, Dec. 13th.

Wrap and Rolls! Do you love to wrap gifts, need a jump start into the holiday season? Join us in the Family Ministries Center after service on Sunday December 12th as we wrap all the gifts from the Christmas Sharing Tree. We have paper and tape but if you have any fun ribbons and bows please bring them along. We will have Cocoa, Cider and Cinnamon Rolls to fuel our efforts!

Christmas Eve Offering for Jamaa Letu Orphanage

The Administrative Board has decided that this Christmas Eve our offering will be donated to the Jamaa Letu orphanages in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

What is Jamaa Letu?

“Our Family” in Swahili, Jamaa Letu provides a safe haven for young Congolese victims of war, famine, poverty, and abandonment. Jamaa Letu is a secure compound for the girls and boys, in addition the orphanage pays their school tuition, and provides their food, water, a bed, and medical needs. Efforts are made to reconnect families with abandoned children, often successfully.

Once the children complete the equivalent of high school, they are no longer eligible to live at Jamaa Letu. College scholarships are established to help these young people become successful adults through education. To learn more about Jamaa Letu, visit their site through the PNWUMC -

[Jamaa Letu](#).



Christmas Decorations Look Great!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped decorate our sanctuary Saturday, Nov. 27. The results speak for themselves; both meaningful and festive as we enter Advent and celebrate the Birth of Christ!

We hope to see an equally large group on Saturday, January 8, at 9 a.m. as we put away our Christmas decorations and prepare the Sanctuary for the winter season.

Worship Committee

Children's Bell Choir



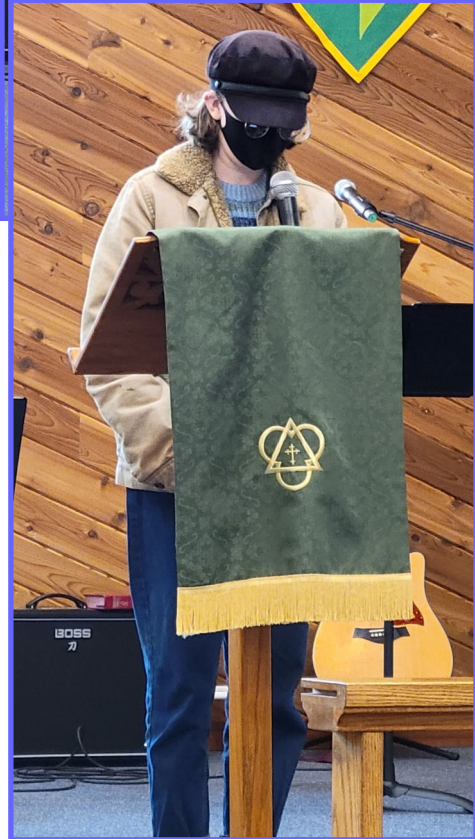
CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR, LED BY BRIAN AND JANICE ERNSTER

10-31-21

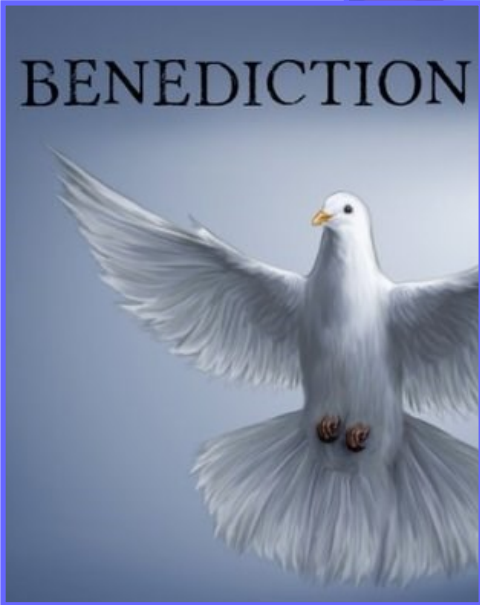
PASTOR VIVIAN, MILA SCOTT ORTEGA, PENNY AND ESTON HANSEN

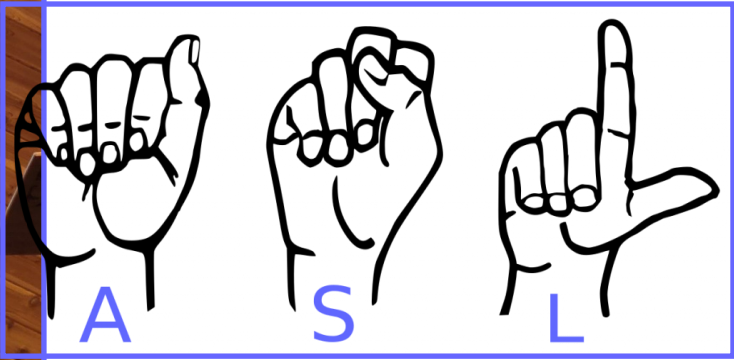


10-31-21
YOUTH LED OPENING SCRIPTURE AND
MORE ON MARTIN LUTHER:
TEDDY, CHARLIE, ISABEL AND CAM



10-31-21 YOUTH BENEDECTION





PASTOR VIVIAN LEADS MILA AND PENNY IN SIGNING THE LORDS PRAYER 10-31-21



ALLISON KING



WE WILL MISS YOU



Coffee Fellowship

10-31-21



Praise Team

The logo for the Praise Team is centered at the top of the page. It features the word "Praise" in a blue, cursive font at the top, and the word "Team" in the same font at the bottom. In the middle, there is a graphic of a red treble clef on the left, with a red and orange musical staff extending to the right, containing several red and orange musical notes.



CHOIR





God's Garden

Harvesting new beginnings from seeds sown on rocky soil.
Luke 8:6



Twelve Boy Scouts from Troop 14 and their leaders helped the gardeners of God's Garden in hauling and raking mulch, pulling weeds, taking out an overgrown herb garden, and cleaning the parking lot afterward. The weather mostly held out for the crews, some rain which did not slow down the projects but made cleanup a bit more difficult. Anyone interested in one of the \$10 garden spots for 2022 should contact Jim Selby: 828-508-5094, bettysselby419@gmail.com.

The gardeners give a shout out and special thanks to Assistant Scoutmaster Michael Heurlin and the Scouts and Leaders who got this project done in under an hour.






December Birthdays

1. Donna Johnson
- 1 . Kat McAllister
2. Martha Van Male
4. Clare Kennedy
12. Bill Howell
16. Doris P Howell
20. Rick Scott
22. Dorrie Estribou
24. Sharon Koeltzow
25. Jim Gahagan
27. Steve Enyeart
27. Ronald Lien
29. Madison Hawn
30. Susan Lenski
31. Jackie Miller
31. Tarisa Tognetti





"The Advent journey:
Hope becomes peace.
Peace becomes joy.
Joy becomes Love.
Love becomes Christ."

- Bobby Schuller

Office Schedules for December

The Salmon Creek Church office will be closed on Friday, December 24 through Friday, December 31. For any emergencies or notifications, please send e-mail to pastorjohn@salmoncreek.church, admin@salmoncreek.church or send a text to (360) 838-3161.



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

12217 NE HWY 99
Vancouver WA, 98686
360-573-3111 www.salmoncreek.church

Submissions for the Circuit Rider can be sent to nancy.volgamore@salmoncreek.church. Deadline for each month for submission varies and is announced at the beginning of the prior month.

Editor: Nancy Volgamore