



The Circuit Rider

Salmon Creek Church



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a note from Pastor John

Not surprisingly, I have received many questions concerning my early departure from Salmon Creek UMC. Answers boil down to two things. First, when I received a clear vote of no confidence from church leadership during a period of significant growth and revitalization, I realized I didn't really have the personality or inclination to serve in either a caretaker or combatant role for six months. It's a bit like a woman whose husband has said he is divorcing her but wants her to stay and do his laundry until the divorce is final. But during my tenure as pastor, several people who have left the church told me that they weren't so much leaving Salmon Creek UMC as they were leaving the United Methodist denomination, and herein lies the second reason for my departure. I could resist and negotiate the divorce, or I could continue to struggle with the denominational direction, but I can't really do both.

When a United Methodist Bishop declared a few years ago that Jesus had sinned (in reference to the interaction with the Syrophenician woman in Mark 7:24-30) this served as a clear example of a theological direction that is not only contrary to the fundamental Christian doctrine of the Perfection of Christ, but more fundamentally highlights the growing worship of humanism over a theology of obedience to God. Coming from a theologically poorly educated lay-person, this remark might serve as a doorway to a deeper discussion. Coming from a church leader, it represents an influence on Christology and theology that is deeply corrosive to basic Christian principles. And if this Bishop were alone in her thinking, she might simply be dismissed. But secular humanism, albeit dressed up in pseudo-theological language, is frequently expressed by many United Methodist leaders as the prevailing basis for our faith. By elevating humanity as the actuator of faith, God is left gasping and running a distant second. Issues of power and money have come to dominate United Methodist discussions, disingenuously wrapped up in hypocritical demagoguery on human sexuality. It is a direction which I cannot support in my official capacity as pastor, as I find it antithetical to Christian faith.

I am not suggesting that we all pick up and leave the UMC, based on rumblings from a departing pastor. Reform may still be possible. But I strongly recommend that all of us, from our knees, invest in prayer and reflection on just how we want to represent God in Christ in a sinful world. Although I am quite nervous about it, I am embarking on such a journey, trusting that God will lead me to where I am supposed to be regardless of other affiliations. My first affiliation is to Christ, and that affiliation has consequences. Like riding on a spirited horse I am uncomfortable, but I trust I am going somewhere good – somewhere real. I hope and pray that you are too.

Blessings, Pastor John



BECOME A MEMBER

**MEMBERS
CLASS**

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a New Member of Salmon Creek United Methodist Church? We are in the planning stage of a new member class, to be held in the next few months. We would like to get an idea of how many might like to join in.

For United Methodists, membership requires our active participation in our congregation. When we become members, we profess our faith in God, our desire to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, and commit to join with our church community to keep the vows made at baptism. The vows we make include promises to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of our local church congregation through prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Nancy, in the church office, or Lila DeBolt:

360-600-8521 phone or text ok

LJSDEB56@aol.com



Financial Status as of December 31, 2022

A look at the Salmon Creek United Methodist Church (SCUMC) financial position as of December 31, 2022, we remain strong although several interesting bits of information have emerged, both encouraging and concerning.

2022 saw a small increase in congregational giving, although total revenue decreased. Total expenses increased with the largest increase being in staff compensation.

SCUMC has a good store of resources to meet our community outreach as well as to rekindle our membership. We have been blessed with several one-time sources of funds. (Bequests and Federal governmental assistance to support employee retention during the pandemic.) Also, SCUMC is fortunate to have a very desirable physical facility.

Many good things have been occurring at SCUMC that are encouraging from a financial point of view: a) church attendance is rebuilding, b) children and youth programs have been expanding and Vacation Bible School was larger this year than in numerous past years. All of these are encouraging from a revenue perspective. The "capital expenditure" program continues to produce revenue for the projects that are on SCUMC's capital "need to do" list as managed by the Trustees.

There is, however, another side to our position: we have lost a substantial portion of our operating income (pledges) which has decreased 25%. Operating expenses, other than personnel cost, have decreased 23%, while personnel cost has increased 9%. We are using our stored resources to subsidize our daily operations. This, for a brief time, may be acceptable; however, it cannot be sustained over a longer period.

As we budget for 2023, using 2022 as a guide, we are looking at another deficit for 2023. We must look to balancing operating income and operating expense. This can be accomplished by either increasing pledge income or by developing fund raising activities. Little can be done to lower non-staff expenses and still maintain our mission and campus. SCUMC has the current resources to move forward for the immediate future, however, thoughtful consideration is a must for long-term growth.

See the table on the following page.



Historical and Projected Finances

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Projected 2022	Draft Budget 2023	5 year Total
Income	(In thousands)					
Pledges	393	311	296	302	300	
Other	28	54	245	24	22	
Total	420	365	541	326	322	
Expense						
Ops & Admin	97	90	102	86	92	
Apportionments	63	55	45	44	47	
Program	12	6	8	10	13	
Staff & Related	226	223	224	240	235	
Total	397	374	379	382	387	
Net Inc (loss)	23	-9	162	-56	-66	54
Less PPPL		39	45			
Bequests			174			
			219			-165
Net income/(loss) less grants & bequests (one time events)	23	-48	-57	-56	-66	-227

FREE TAX PREPARATION

TAX PREP SERVICE: These are the same people who have used our church facility as a set-up for their business during Tax time. They are still available for you to help,



FEBRUARY 1 - APRIL 18

HOURS & LOCATIONS

CLARK COLLEGE

1933 Fort Vancouver Way,
Vancouver, WA 98663

Mon & Wed 1PM-9PM

(Exceptions: Feb 20 & 22,
March 8, 20 & 22)

THREE CREEKS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

800-C NE Tenney Rd
Vancouver, WA 98685

Fri & Sat 10AM-6PM

(Exception: March 18)

BRIDGEVIEW RESOURCE CENTER

505 Omaha Way
Vancouver, WA 98661

1PM-9PM

February 20 & 22

March 8, 20 & 22.



WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT


A new tax credit for Washington workers



Washington State Working
Families Tax Credit,
money back to you!



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renlocus.org/vita


360-230-8030

(Español 360-726-3755)

 info@renlocus.org

 360-230-8030

 www.renlocus.org

 PO Box 2752, Vancouver,
WA 98668



A benefit breakfast was held for Family Promise on Sunday, January 22nd.

We raised \$1400.00!

Family Promise was the recipient of a Benefit Breakfast held on January 22nd in the FMC. Many hands made this possible. A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who helped! A lot of work goes into the set- up of tables and chairs, decorating, and of course the food prep on Saturday, plating the food and getting it back to you in a timely manner. Claire Davis was a great help as she kept the adult servers informed. Some of our youth were not available due to a conflict, so adults stepped up to help.

I am very happy to announce that a little over \$1400.00 was raised Sunday morning! We served 70 breakfasts: 35 before the service and 35 after the service. Your generosity is amazing.

There were 70 forms filled out as follows:

Egg Casserole	59
Cheesy Potatoes	63
Pancakes	33
Link Sausage	50
Fruit Cup	45
Orange Juice	32
Apple juice	6
V-8	1
Coffee	22
Tea	3
Water	1



Again, thank you, from Gay Enyeart and the Missions Team!







WINTER HOSPITALITY OVERFLOW (WHO):

Everyone, for years our church has supported the WHO (Winter Housing Overflow) for the Homeless of Clark County. Covid has prevented volunteering until just recently. Ways to volunteer are as follows:

(1). People may sign up to bring a meal to feed 24-30 men. This can be done by googling *The Outsiders Inn Meal Train Plus*. Please look for The St. Paul Site Icon.

(2). Volunteers are also needed Monday- Friday for the following shifts: 2 people for the 6-9pm shift and 2 people for the 5-7 am shift. Both shifts are at the St Paul Church site located in downtown Vancouver almost directly across from the Courthouse and Administration buildings. Signing up can be done by calling Joy Gault at 360-901-5230. She probably could sign you right up or provide a means to do so.

Thanks everyone!

Greg Berry





Good news, Salmon Creek Church volunteers now have a workday scheduled for Saturday February 18th. Those volunteers who have indicated that they would like to help in the build should put that date on their calendars. The Habitat building has already started thanks to a construction company who volunteered to frame in two houses. I will contact all those who want to help and see if you are available for the 18th.

For those who have not signed up, and want to volunteer, please contact me soon. Larry Siewert

Want to know more?

[Johnson Village – Evergreen Habitat for Humanity \(ehfh.org\)](http://Johnson Village – Evergreen Habitat for Humanity (ehfh.org))



February 18 Volunteer Work Day



February 18 Volunteer Work Day

On this page and the next, photos of progress at our Johnson Village project for our church's upcoming volunteer work day on February 18th. If you've never served before, we highly recommend signing up!







YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

“Fat” Tuesday dinner - February 21st from 6-9 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come celebrate Fat Tuesday and support our youth as they host a fundraising Pancake Dinner (not breakfast) on Tuesday, February 21st! What a great way to get ready for Lent with bacon and pancakes served in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm.

Activities for kids and New Orleans jazz will be happening too so bring the kids, the grandkids, and the neighbors kids too!





BAGS FOR THE HOUSELESS:

The food pantry is working toward a new model. We want to help houseless people by creating “grab and go” bags. The bags are made up so that the office staff can easily grab one and hand it out to someone. The recipients **do not have a kitchen to prepare a meal or have the means in which to heat up food**. These bags are designed to give them nourishment more easily.

We could use your help by donating items to help fill the bags.

Here are some suggestions:

Tuna or other meat that comes in a pouch with a tear off top, ready to eat

Any protein that can be opened without a can opener and does not need to be drained or heated

Protein bars

Crackers (the kind that come in sleeves works the best)

Peanut butter (16 oz size or smaller)

Soup that is pop top and ready to eat (no need to add water or heat)

Pop top fruit or fruit cups

Jell-o cups

Applesauce cups or pouches

Cheese/cracker snack packs

Cracker/peanut butter snack packs

Snack bars

Individual packages or boxes of nuts,

raisins, dried fruit

Water bottles

Small juice boxes

Travel sized toiletries

Tooth brush/tooth paste

Small tissue packs

Hand warmers



A special note to say THANK YOU for the donations that we have already received. Without your help and support we would not be able to reach as many people who can use our assistance.

Do you crochet or knit? We could use some new non-gender specific hats and/or scarfs to add to our bags during this winter.

If you have any questions, please let me know! Thank you.

Angie Williams

**POSITIONS
AVAILABLE**



We need someone to step into the position of “Women's Ministry Coordinator”. This requires only about 8 hours a week and is a paid position. If you are interested in filling this role, or if you know someone for whom this would be perfect, please talk to Pastor John or to Joan Stuart.



We are seeking a Family Ministry Coordinator to direct the Children's programs, including Children's church. Details about hours and pay will be available at the beginning of 2023. Please see Dan Kingsley or Jim Roberts for more information.

We need volunteer "shepherds" to help out in the nursery and Children's Church. Please see Jim Roberts for more information.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS NEEDED

“Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.” -- Helen Dyer

The Laity Leadership of Salmon Creek United Methodist Church is an outstanding, hard-working group of people with a strong, dedicated desire to further the mission of our church. Serving in these roles does take some time and effort. But, the reward of serving is given back many times over. We need your help NOW!

Currently, we are in dire need of a Lay Leader and a Chairman of the Finance Committee. These positions are extremely important to the operation of our church. The Lay Leader serves as a liaison between the congregation and the Pastor. This person serves on the Administrative Board, Finance Committee and Staff-Parish Committee (SPR), as well as other tasks designated by the Pastor. The role of Lay Leader puts you in the heart of the church. The Chairman of the Finance Committee oversees the operational budget and expenditures. This person will also attend the Admin Board meeting to present the financial report of the church.

Both of the positions are critical to fill. Please, prayerfully search your heart and volunteer to serve in either of these 2 positions. We need to go forward into 2023 with a fully-staffed Leadership Team.

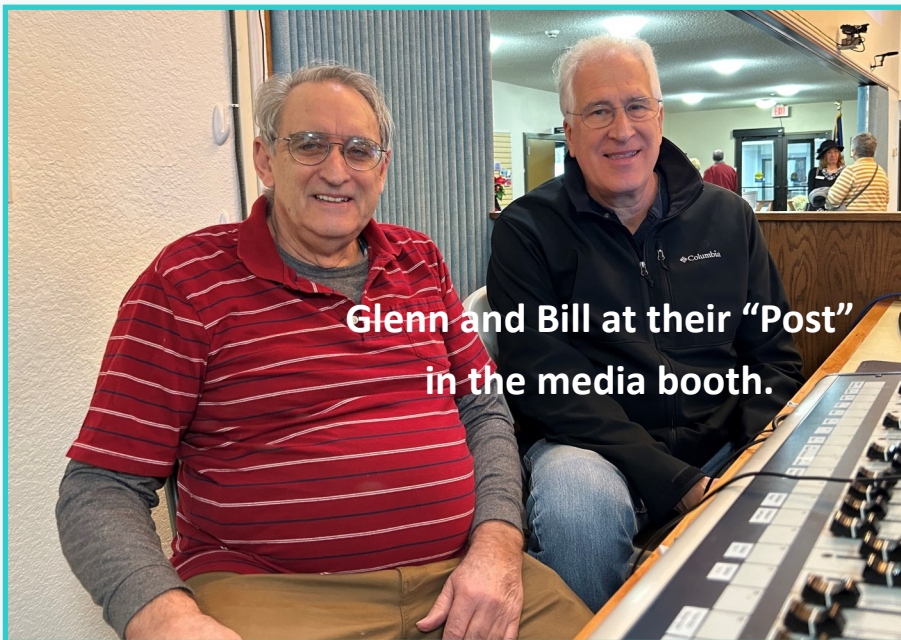
Other volunteers are also needed in other areas of the Church – Sunday School and Nursery, Coffee Fellowship, Music Ministries, Greeters and Ushers, Stephen Ministers, Communion servers and Scripture Readers, Membership Secretary – just to name a few. There is a place for everyone to help. And we need everyone’s help to make our church successful and desirable.

Please contact Pastor John, Nancy in the church office, or Lila DeBolt.

“Those who can do, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.”

**Lila DeBolt
Chairman, Administrative Board
360-600-8521 (phone or text)
LJSDEB56@aol.com**





**Glenn and Bill at their "Post"
in the media booth.**



There is a ministry I think I've come to take for granted.....the audio - visual "background" ministry, aka "The Media Team".

It was such a blessing during Covid lockdown (and even now) to be able to turn to YouTube and connect with our church family. We owe a real debt of gratitude to Pastor John for instigating and extending his expertise to make sure our church kept together in worship. Now it seems a given that churches will continue with offering virtual worship services.

But that is a big commitment for the folks who enable this. At one time, there were 5 volunteers who rotated the Sundays. Now there are but two. These dedicated men have given a lot to make sure our church is there for us, even when we can't be. In person church services are enriched because of their efforts. Operating a sound board takes 2 people. According to Glenn, it's not rocket science and because it is sequential and procedural it is not difficult to learn. Perhaps some of us grandparents could encourage our grandkids to try learning and serving with the soundboard. Maybe you've been thinking you'd like to learn a new skill. There is a real need to come alongside these guys. They would surely love to sit and worship with their families. So, who are these guys.....?

Bill Berta has been at Salmon Creek for 28 years. He grew up in Virginia in a wonderful family. His dad's second career and calling was to be a Methodist minister. He was rather like a Circuit Rider, traveling every weekend to Atlanta (6 hours one way) to preach.

Glenn Ekberg grew up in this church. He and his wife, Jan, were married in the chapel by Dorothy Norcutt. After retiring, he and Jan returned to Salmon Creek. They were only at worship two weeks before the lockdown. He offered the skills he learned in mobile production right away and has been faithful to this ministry ever since. Glenn is very willing to spend time with anyone who wants to join this ministry.

**Thank you, Bill and Glenn, for helping us to worship together!
By Sandy Bippes**



Media Team

CRITICAL NEED FOR MEDIA TEAM HELP

We are currently searching for a volunteer (or several volunteers!) who would like to join the Media Team ministry. The Media Team are those folks sitting in the booth at the back of the church who livestream and project the service on Sunday mornings enhancing the experience for our home audience and those who attend the services in-person. There are no particular qualifications and training is part of the process. Some computer familiarity is helpful. If you feel led to this ministry, please contact Glenn Ekberg at gekberg@gmail.com or via home phone at 503-936-1101 or contact Pastor John at the church.

The Church Library has had a bit of a clean up. So, books have been moved to accommodate more being added. If you are a user of the Book Club books or the UMW Reading Program books, those have swapped places. The UMW Reading Program is located on the shelves under the TV monitor between the windows in the Library. The Book Club books are now on the shelves closest to the window. You are welcome to check out books anytime, even though there is limited access time. Happy reading! Thanks to Elaine Gilbert and Faye Wells for taking on this task!!

COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY



MARCH/APRIL COPIES OF “THE UPPER ROOM” ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

Celebrating
FEBRUARY
Birthdays

Jim Roberts February 1

Lila DeBolt February 3

Linda Sloan February 3

Sue Sloan February 4

Bill Forrester February 5

Pete Mikalatos February 5

Joyce Murphy February 9

Roger Brindle February 18

Allison Hogan February 18

Carolyn Fox February 21

Kathryn Bachman February 24

Cindy Harrington February 26

Don't see your birthday?

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

For God So LovVed the world

That He gAve

His onLy

BegottEn

SoN

That whosoever

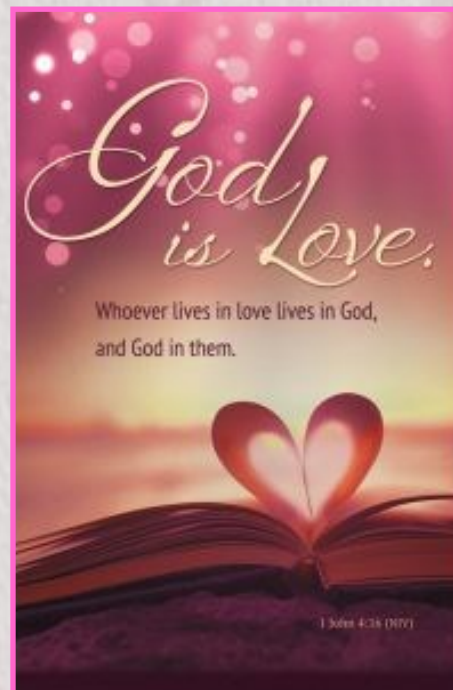
Believeth In Him

Should Not perish

But have Everlasting life

Maguska D

John 3:16





The love of God



is a dwelling place
where my heart
can find its home.

God's love has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:5 (NIV)

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

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Vancouver WA, 98686
360-573-3111 www.salmoncreek.church

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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