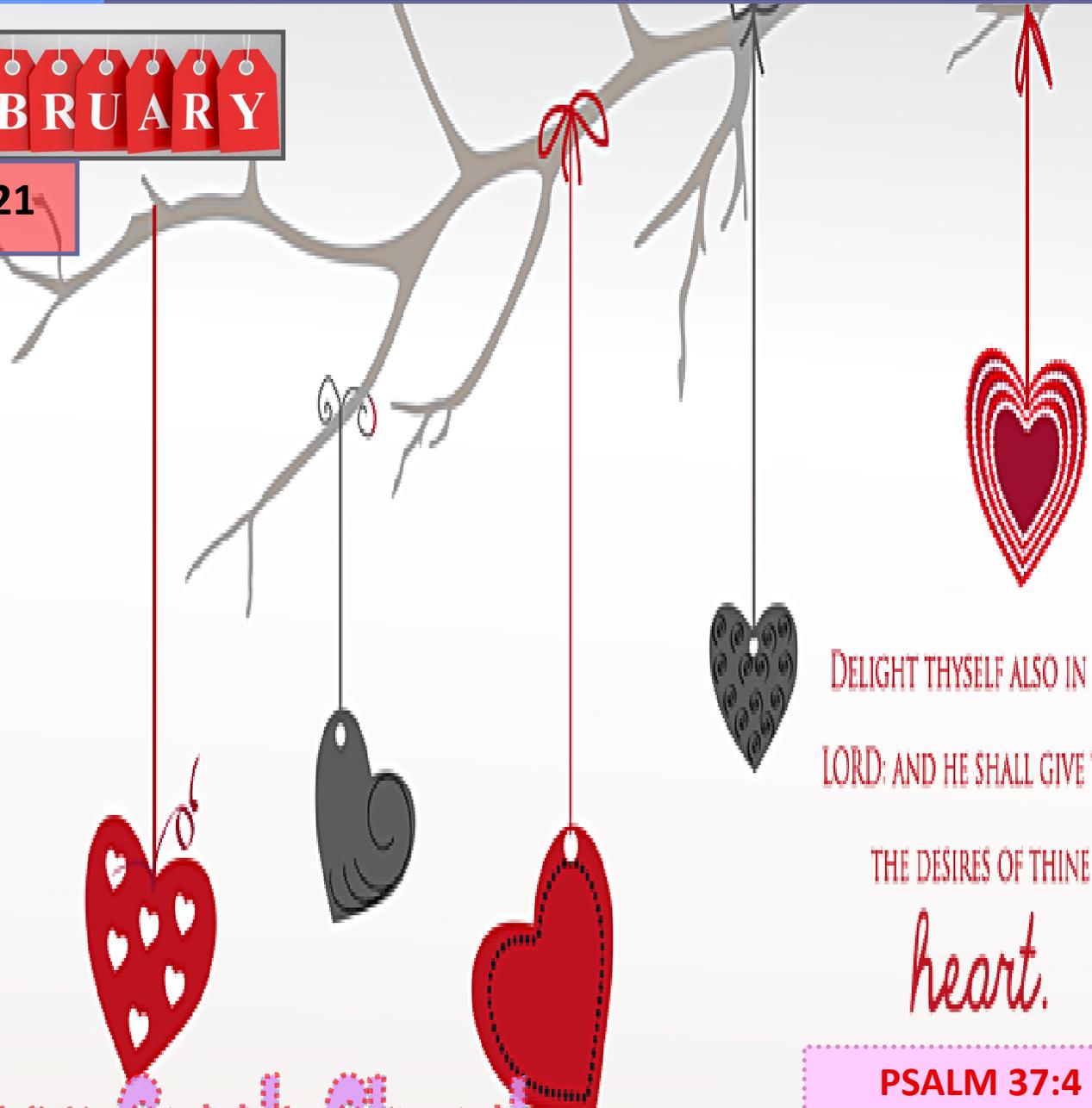




# The Circuit Rider

FEBRUARY

2021



DELIGHT THYSELF ALSO IN THE  
LORD; AND HE SHALL GIVE THEE  
THE DESIRES OF THINE  
*heart.*

**PSALM 37:4**

Salmon Creek Church

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# a note from Pastor John



We've always said that if we had to worship in a field or a barn, we would. You know, "where two or more are gathered." And I think, in extremis, this would be true. But given a choice, we don't. Neither did the ancient Jews. While I imagine they worshipped as best they could upon returning to the burned out shell of Jerusalem after the Babylonian Captivity, the first thing on their minds was to rebuild the temple. Even in earlier stories, for example when they were wandering in the desert for forty years, they took with them a portable tabernacle.

I have been asked why, as we return to in-person worship, we aren't returning to worship in the sanctuary. It's a good question. Our trustees put in a lot of work on the sanctuary last summer, and it looks great. It is our comfortable, traditional place to worship God: our temple, as it were. And, at least theoretically, we might be able to achieve the necessary social distancing that we still need to maintain even as Covid begins to wind down. So again, why aren't we worshipping there?

Unlike many churches, God blessed Salmon Creek Church with a lifeboat – a large, well ventilated, spacious area where we could (relatively) easily adhere to the state's guidelines for health and safety. Perhaps more importantly, we can demonstrate that we are meeting or exceeding those guidelines and not be accused of "fudging" them. The worship team, the ReLaunch team and the Ad Board are in agreement that it is simply too soon to abandon the lifeboat. Because we can worship in an alternative space, even if it is not our ideal space, it meets our obligations of worship to God in a manner that promotes the safety of our congregation.

We will return to the sanctuary. Just as the Jews did, we will return to our temple with joy, gladness and celebration. And, we will return in a way in which no one feels unsafe or unhealthy when we do so. The choir will sing again, the bells will ring again, the congregation will sing together again. Let's all just remember that God is good – all the time – no matter what temple He is in.

***Blessings,***

Pastor John





The church remains shut down, but we try to keep things going, while waiting for you to return. Several of us are there many times a week, but the empty buildings leave me with a sad emptiness: No passing folks headed to a church meeting, the buzzing of folks doing chores in the office. The Trustees continue working to keep our home ready for your return – hopefully soon.

Larry Siewert and Richard Beilsmith have been taking care of the grounds – many thanks to them. Spring is around the corner and trimming has already been done in preparation. Come by and see the Spring flowers next month; and come inside, too!

The Trustees are finishing up cleaning the Fellowship Hall (well overdue), thanks to Richard, Larry, Ron Doering and Greg Berry for their help. (Prayers for Ron as he had a bad fall and is in the hospital as I write this. Greg has become a new member of the Trustees – thanks for joining.) We are also replacing the lights in the Fellowship Hall with new LED type. That may be the biggest project we take on this year.

The HVAC in the St Paul room is still to be replaced. Permits have finally been issued by Clark County, but the weather now needs to cooperate. Replacing roof top units in the winter is not ideal. *Pay it Forward* funds are funding the replacement of 2 units, the second being for the offices in the main building. Funding for *Pay it Forward* campaign has slowed as has other funding for the church. Certainly, this is understandable with the COVID shut down, but it makes replacements-timing based on circumstances and not on planning.

The buildings still have janitorial services each week to keep them clean (including disinfecting) for the few working there and anyone who may enter. Spring will bring on new cleaning efforts for the Victory Outreach staff who provide the janitorial services.

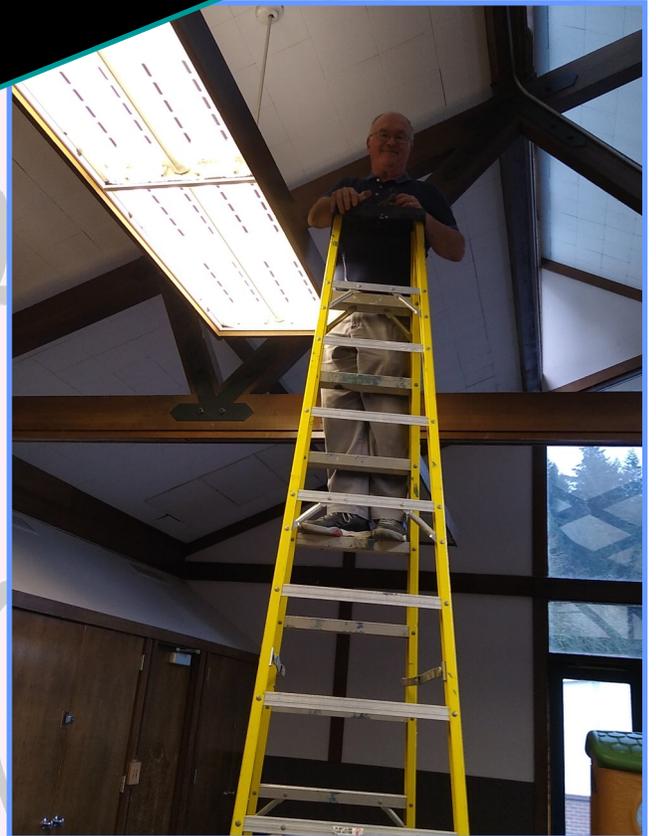
One final pitch: Trustees are short a few members, as are several of the committees. ***We need you*** to help us keep this church and congregation going. I look forward to the days when the buildings are back to the bustle of an active church. ***I miss you. We miss you.***

Steve Enyeart

Trustees



The Trustees and other volunteers continue to work on the interior of the church. Richard Beilsmith and others have tackled dusting the rafters and removing cobwebs in the Fellowship Hall. Larry Siewert commented that it has been over twenty years since it was last done, and the highest places have never been done! Steve Enyeart worked on the lights in the Fellowship Hall.





*Congratulations  
and  
Thank You*

### **THANK YOU, CAROLYN!**

Many of you might not be aware of a recent change to the church functionaries that affected a little-known group of folks who perform a very important job in our church. I'm talking about the "Counters" and I recently became the church's Financial Secretary, the position that works with those folks to ensure operations run smoothly and accurately. Please don't feel I'm "blowing my own horn" here, but for years I have gone around thinking that the donations I made to our church somehow magically were sent to the place which I had indicated, whether it was an UMCOR collection, the general fund, or one of the myriad other reasons we collect money in our church (and which I always made a point of writing on my check or collection envelope!). Well, here I am and I now find that there is a whole set of processes backing up the seamless movement of donations from the generous givers to the host of functions which the dollars support. It has given me a new respect for the counters, and one of them in particular.

As it happens, in taking my new position, I have some big shoes to fill! Carolyn Officer has been our church's Financial Secretary since 1996 and has, to say the least, carried out that function with "grace and aplomb." It is mind boggling to think of how many collections she has supervised, the budget developments she has lived through, or the pledges she has totaled; to say nothing of congregant questions she has answered or hours she has spent counting money and ensuring it balanced against the computer totals! During her time as our FS, Carolyn saw the advent of and supervised the initiation of the CDM+ computer program which allows donation entry and reporting and also the VANCO online donation program which was the advent of internet donations here at SCUMC. Being a "faithful servant" is, perhaps, second nature to many of us; but I doubt any us take it to heart the way Carolyn has demonstrated. When we think about the "Saints in our midst," we would be hard-pressed to think about someone more deserving than Carolyn. *When next you see her, please join me in saying a sincere "Thank-you!"*

**Jim Roberts**

As a side note to Jim's lovely report, I can tell you first hand, being the Administrative Assistant as well as the Bookkeeper for Battle Ground United Methodist Church, the bookkeeping is unbelievably complicated! I have been "training" on the bookkeeping for over two years, and I still find it not only baffling but also completely daunting. A huge thank you to Carolyn, all the counters, and to Jim for taking this on. It is an amazingly elaborate system of finance tracking and it is a job that should be deeply appreciated. In fact, I have recently stepped down from the Bookkeeping position at BGCUMC as it is too much for me, though I continue as the church Administrative assistant at Battle Ground UMC.

**Nancy Volgamore**

I wanted everyone to know how very thankful my son & I are that so many friends at the church reached out and offered to have food brought in to us. This effort was so wonderful.

Pastor John presented a very thoughtful plaque to me from the church honoring my work as Financial Secretary. It was a very special gesture and I appreciate the thought.

*Carolyn Officer*

Thank you

Thank You  
SO MUCH  
Everyone

## Family Promise

***From Karen Beilsmith:***

A huge thank you to the Salmon Creek Mission Team! They provided Christmas Dinner for 3 families who “graduated” from Family Promise, one being a family of nine! In addition to the Christmas dinner for the family, they also provided some special gifts for them.

The Boy Scouts provided a live tree for another of the families. Richard and I had the joy of delivering the tree, with a stand and lights. The mother commented that they had never had a tree before! She later sent me a picture of their tree. UMW donated a quilt that was given to the toddler son for this family.

Salmon Creek is currently hosting at Center Point, part of the Seventh Day Adventist complex in Brush Prairie. Volunteers from Salmon Creek UMC and Felida Bible are providing a hot dinner, hosting from a social distance. Some of you donated money to buy gift cards for the families to purchase breakfast and lunch supplies. While we are not able to sit down and share a meal with our guests, they get room service, and it is a joy to serve. The families do say hello and express their thanks and appreciation when you knock on their doors to say that their dinner is here.

Thanks to donations, grants and pledges, Family Promise has been able to expand their services. They have taken on two more rooms at St. Thomas to use for tutoring for our families’ students. With the help of the Camas School District, they are also able to help other homeless students in the area!

Thank you for your support and generosity for our families. We hope that some time soon we will be able to return to hosting the families in our church, where we can visit and share the true Salmon Creek hospitality! Our next host date is March 14-21. While I would love to say we will be hosting at Salmon Creek UMC, most likely we will be back at CenterPoint. However, we should be back to our hosting in our church for June 13-20.

***Here is an update from our Executive Director about what Family Promise was able to do during the pandemic:***

Good Evening Family Promise Friends:

As the clock ticks down on the final moments of 2020, the Board of Trustees and staff at Family Promise of Clark County would like to take a moment and express our appreciation to our supporters for helping us advance our mission during a challenging year.

While 2020 certainly brought its challenges, thanks to your support we celebrated many victories. Since opening our doors in April of 2019 together we have:

- Served 104 Community Members (62 Children, 42 Parents)
- Provided over 5,800 bed nights of safe shelter
- Provided over 17,400 nutritious meals
- Assisted 12 families in obtaining or increasing their employment
- Graduated over 90% of our guests to safe, affordable housing

*Transforming the lives  
of homeless families.  
Because every child  
deserves a home.*



This year we welcomed our first Family Promise of Clark County baby! On August 30, 2020, baby Starr Dawn Marie was born. Soon after Starr's birth, her father was able to secure a full-time job and shortly after the family moved into an apartment. What a blessing it was to serve this family during a very important time in their lives.

On January 20th the Family Promise staff spent the day delivering Christmas cheer to 12 Family Promise families. Holy Redeemer Catholic Church provided Christmas Stockings for everyone. Several of our supporters adopted our families and generously provided Christmas gifts and holiday meals. This was a great day for everyone! Thank you to those who made it possible!

As we look ahead to 2021 we are excited for the opportunity to serve even more families with children in our community. With your continued support we know that we will be able to serve these families who are in crisis and deliver on the *promise* of Family Promise.

If you would like to become more involved in 2021 please contact us at [info@familypromiseofclarkco.org](mailto:info@familypromiseofclarkco.org). We would be happy to talk with you about how your talents could be best used.

If you are interested in supporting us financially, it is not too late submit your 2020 tax deductible gift. Donations can be made online at: [www.familypromiseofclarkco.org/donate](http://www.familypromiseofclarkco.org/donate).

Once again, we thank you for your support and we look forward to serving alongside you in 2021.

Sincerely,

David Cole  
Executive Director  
Family Promise of Clark County





Thank  
you

***A THANK YOU from one of our  
Family Promise families:***

Dear Salmon Creek:

My family and I are so blessed to be in a community where people like you **ACTIVELY** live. It is one thing to say I love God & Humanity - and it's a whole other thing to express it in actions. So, Thank you from the bottom of my heart for Walking the Talk!



Adair & Gabe & my daughters Kenya & Ave

If you know anyone who's interested in supporting my new business venture, check it out on instagram @lovemewaistbeads.



Family Promise<sup>®</sup>  
of Clark County



## ***Our Henry Russell makes Eagle Scout!!!***

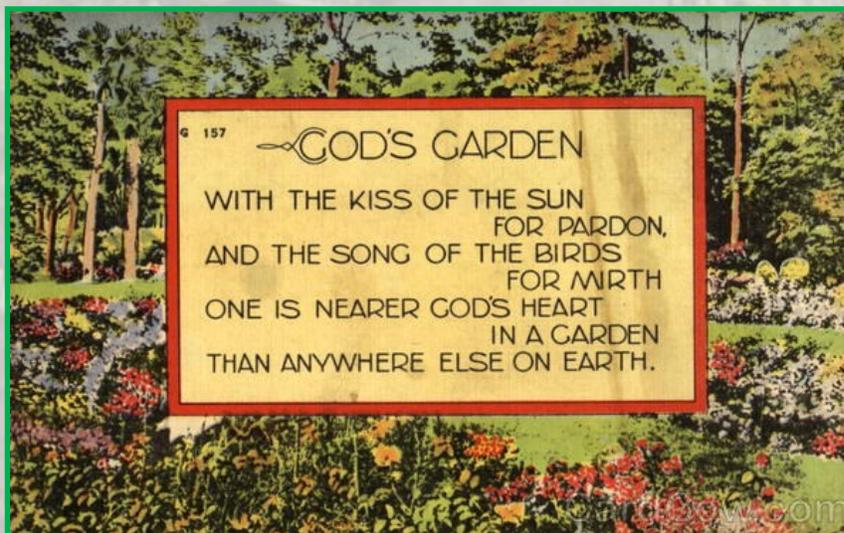
Henry Russell earned the rank of Eagle Scout on December 18, 2020. In his nearly three years as a Boy Scout, Henry has earned 38 merit badges including 13 Eagle required badges on topics such as first aid, personal fitness, and citizenship. For his Eagle Scout Project, Henry led a team of 12 Scouts and volunteers to make requested playground improvements at Salmon Creek Elementary School.

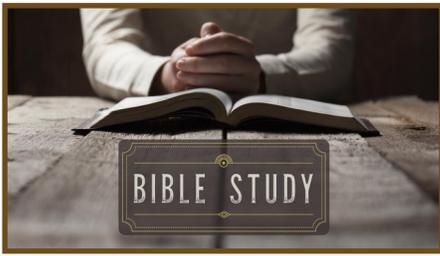
# ***We're very proud of you, Henry!***



# Growing in God's Garden

We have plenty of room in our church gardens for more gardeners this year! Each 4' by 8' plot costs only \$10 for the entire year to help cover water expenses and some repairs. If you have never gardened, this would be a good time to try gardening, as we have several gardeners with several decades of experience who have been using the church gardens. We hook up the water in mid-April, but you can do soil preparation before then if you want to. Currently, each plot is bedded down with few, if any weeds. We have all the garden tools you can imagine! If interested, contact Jim Selby at 828-508-5094 or [westerlunds2006@outlook.com](mailto:westerlunds2006@outlook.com)

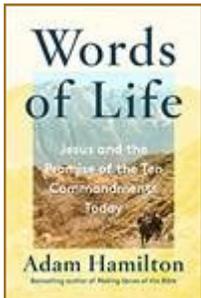




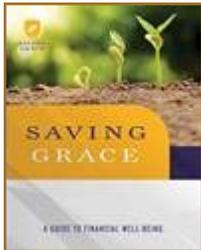
Have you always wanted to do a Bible Study but just never started? Here are some suggestions from UMC.org to help you choose.

The beginning of a new year is a popular time to dive into a new Bible study, as is Lent, which is coming up soon. During the pandemic when we may not be meeting in person, many United Methodist churches are offering online groups. Other United Methodists are going the independent study route, finding a book and moving through it at their own pace.

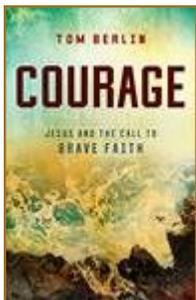
Whether you're with a small group or going it alone, consider these recommendations from our friends at the [United Methodist Publishing House](#).



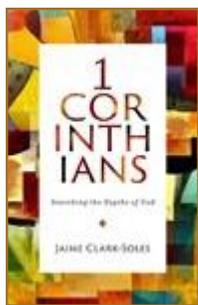
Taking something old and giving it a new perspective, Adam Hamilton, United Methodist pastor and prolific author, shows the reader how to use a set of ancient rules as a guide for experiencing a joyful life in “Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today.” In addition to the book, the study features a leader guide, youth study guide, DVDs and a Ten Commandments card pack. A virtual kit and streaming videos are available.



Address the topics of saving, earning, giving, spending and debt in “Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being,” where money management from a Wesleyan perspective is the focus. Authored by various United Methodist leaders, “Saving Grace” features videos, workbook, leader guide and a six-week devotional.

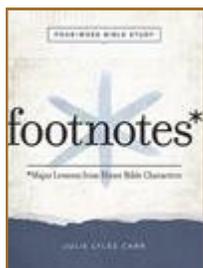


Jesus was often called upon to be brave, a virtue United Methodist pastor and author Tom Berlin examines in “Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith.” Berlin challenges the reader to unlock the courage we possess as Christ followers on our way to discovering the remarkable life Jesus offers. The book is part of a six-week study, with leader guide and DVD.

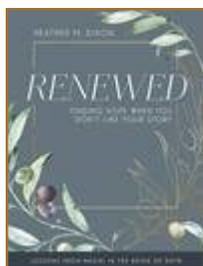


In “1 Corinthians: Searching the Depths of God,” Jaime Clark-Soles, Perkins School of Theology professor and author delves into the breathtaking world of the first-century church as Paul addresses a community dealing with a myriad of challenges not unlike the church today. The six-week study includes a leader guide and DVD.

For women who may be short on time, two four-week studies from the Abingdon Women imprint are available.

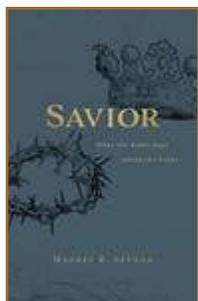


Let some of the lesser-known people in the Bible inspire you to be more intentional in your life in “Footnotes: Major Lessons from Minor Bible Characters” by Julie Lyles Carr, a speaker and author. Resources for the four-session study include a Facebook on-demand discussion, prayers, leader helps, discussion questions and a DVD.

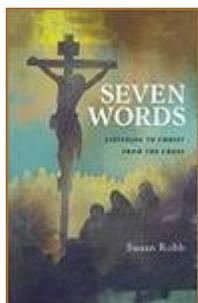


Naomi’s story in the book of Ruth serves as the basis for “Renewed: Finding Hope When You Don’t Like Your Story,” by Heather M. Dixon, Bible teacher, speaker and author. Women who, like Naomi, find themselves living a story they want to change, are encouraged to lean on God while charting a new path to renewed hope and joy. A Facebook on-demand event titled “What you can (and can’t) do when you are carrying a difficult story” is available for the four-week study, along with a study guide (with leader helps) and a DVD.

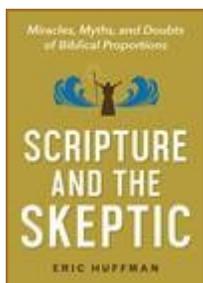
As we approach Lent, a number of studies focus on Jesus’ death and resurrection.



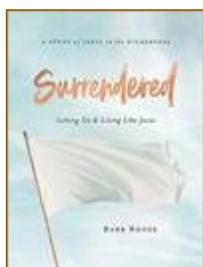
“Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross” by United Methodist pastor and author Magrey de-Vega tackles questions about Jesus’ resurrection, introducing the reader to biblically based ways of understanding Jesus’ death beyond explanations you may have heard before. The six-week study offers a book, leader guide and DVD presentations by the author.



United Methodist pastor and author Susan Robb looks at Christ's final words from a biblical and historical perspective in "Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross," showing how we can find life and hope in them. The six-week Lenten study includes a book, leader guide and DVD featuring the author.



Understanding and pushing through the confusion readers often have when reading the Bible is the basis for "Scripture and the Skeptic: Miracles, Myths, and Doubts of Biblical Proportions" by United Methodist pastor and author Eric Huffman. Huffman interprets the entire Bible through the lens of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Each chapter includes questions for personal reflection or group study.



"Surrendered: Letting Go and Living Like Jesus" is a six-week study, with a perfect-for-Lent companion devotional titled "Surrendered: 40 Devotions to Help You Let Go and Live Like Jesus." Barb Roose, a speaker and author, wrote the study, which includes a workbook and DVD teaching segments.

Amplify Media offers streaming of many of the studies listed.

*Crystal Caviness, who works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications, compiled this list of books based on recommendations by staff at The United Methodist Publishing House. You may reach her by [email](#) or at 615-742-5138.*

*This article was published on January 15, 2021.*



**1—Jim Roberts**

**2—Lila DeBolt**

**3—Linda Sloan**

**4—Sue Sloan**

**5—Bill Forrester**

**5—Pete Mikalatos**

**7—LaRoy Herndon**

**9—Joyce Murphy**

**14—Dick Garrison Steinbrenner**

**17—Aiden Horner, Jr.**

**18—Roger Brindle**

**18—Allison Hogan**

**20—Jackie Youngblood**

**21—Carolyn Fox**

**23—Steven Schweppe**

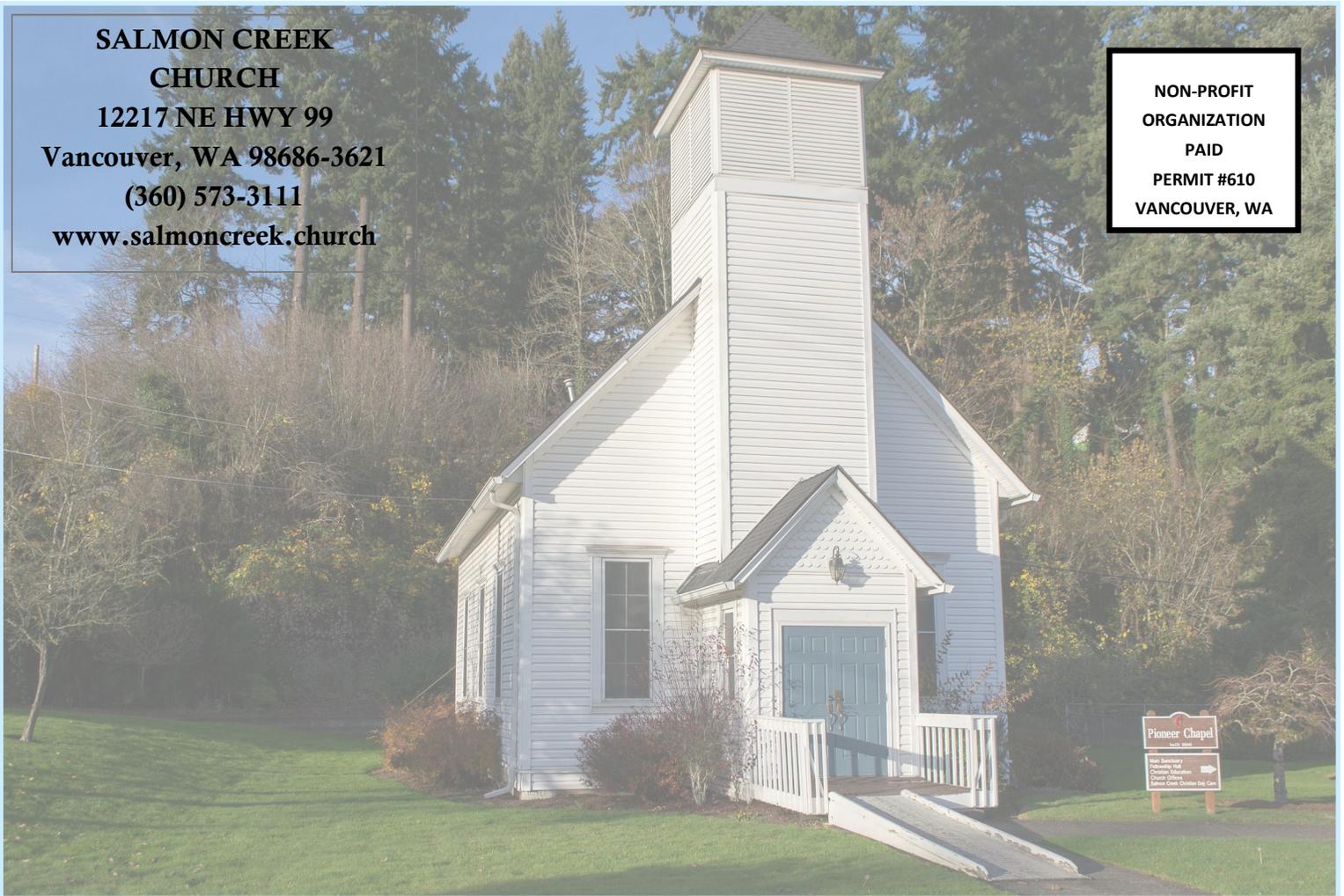
**24—Kathryn Bachman**

**25—Zachary Scott**

**Happy *February* Birthday,  
Brothers and Sisters!!**

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**Editor: Nancy Volgamore**

  
**Love**

*How great is the love  
the Father has lavished on us,  
that we should be called children of God!*

*1 John 3:1*