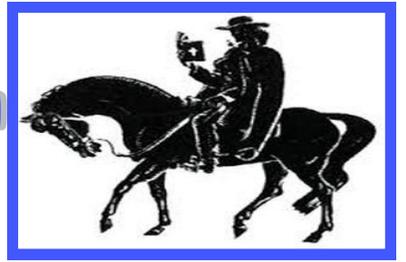




The Circuit Rider



Salmon Creek Church



2020

CERTAINTY
in the UNCERTAINTY.

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Replace your panic
with prayer,
and your worry
with worship



a note from Pastor John

Little darling, it's been a long, cold lonely winter.

Little darling, it seems like years since it's been here.

Here comes the Son! Here comes the Son,

And I say: It's all right.

In this famous Beatles song, George Harrison spelled it “sun,” not “Son,” which I’m sure was just an oversight on his part. Spelled either way, the meaning remains substantially the same: there is light in our future! The ice is slowly melting! Smiles are returning to faces!

As I write this, there have been ten straight days of rain, but the sun is peeking through at last, with a forecast for more. I’m not really a seasoned Northwesterner, so perhaps I have a lower tolerance for rain and clouds than some, but even if nothing else has changed, the appearance of light lifts me up and gives me hope. I suspect this might be true for seasoned Northwesterners as well.

It’s no coincidence that the darkness and light theme is so prevalent in the Bible, particularly in the Gospels and particularly in the Gospel of John. Everything you’ll ever need to know about light is contained in the first few paragraphs. God reflects in our physical world and reiterates in our spiritual lives that darkness is not permanent and cannot win. Even in the midst of darkness, a light shines that cannot be put out.

This is the essence of Christ’s message for all who follow his Way: Faith in the eternal light, and a practice of helping those in darkness to see that light. As was prophesied:

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.*

Was George Harrison inspired by Isaiah? Who knows. The point is, the desire for light is woven into our souls, and God has provided! If you have been experiencing a long, cold, lonely winter, fear not! As the Son rises, so the light will shine. And though the darkness may return, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

I encourage you to re-read the Gospel of John, paying particular attention to the themes of light and darkness. It is a tangible way for us to experience the presence of Christ in our lives, and to give us hope and faith in difficult times. Oh, and if you end up listening to *Here Comes The Sun* again, that would be okay too.

*Blessings,
Pastor John Hiestand*

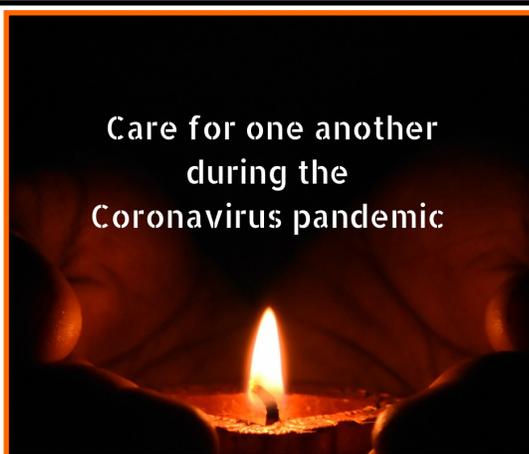




ALL SERVICES AND EVENTS ARE ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE FROM OUR BISHOP AND STATE GOVERNOR DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.

Denominational News

Since General Conference has been postponed until August of 2021, there has not been much change surrounding the denominational issues that were to have been confronted in May of this year. It is encouraging that many United Methodist leaders have agreed to just keep the status quo for another year, rather than use the interregnum as an opportunity to further an agenda. The United Methodist Church overall is facing a significant drop in funding, and many churches around the world are feeling the pinch from the Covid-19 outbreak. Please keep these churches and their congregations in your prayers.



When Will Salmon Creek Church Reopen?

As we move into June and we read about many states around the country beginning to ease quarantine restrictions, many are asking when Salmon Creek Church will be open for in-person services again. In early May, the Administrative Board approved a policy describing the conditions that will need to be met before Salmon Creek Church will begin in-person services again. These conditions correspond to "Phase 3" of Governor Inslee's phased reopening approach, which allows for gatherings of no more than fifty people, properly socially distanced. The church also needs to be prepared with hygiene and sanitary items and procedures to ensure we are taking all reasonable precautions to protect the health of our congregation. The church is continuing to invest in online capabilities, like services and classes, to ensure that those who may want to wait before returning to church are still included in our church family.

None of this, of course, has a firm date attached to it. As of this writing (May 21), Clark County has applied for a waiver to enter into Phase 2 early, around the first of June. If that is granted, the earliest Clark County might enter phase 3 would be around June 21, so it is very unlikely that in-person, in the sanctuary worship would occur before then. We are still investigating alternative ways to worship together in the interim, such as drive-in services or outdoor services. Please be sure to look for updates in **The Currents** or e-mails from the Pastor about this.

I've said it many times, and no doubt will say it many more, that although we are physically separated, we are spiritually bound together as the Body of Christ. As Paul famously said to the scattered church in Rome: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Gavin Peterson

Sammy Nieda

Anna Schweppe

Caleb Stokman

Austin McAllister



Graduation marks a major milestone in life, a time when we celebrate accomplishments and transition to another phase. A prayer for Graduates:

As your classes and grading are now complete, may you strive toward excellence in all you do.

As the speeches conclude, may your voices rise up to pronounce justice and peace in the world.

As the fanfares cease, may you sing of joy, even in the dark and lonely places.

As the applause quiets, may you celebrate and lift up those around you.

As you graduate, may your achievements grow and cause growth in your communities.

And may we all know of the overwhelming blessings of the One who created all things.

This prayer was part of a series of resources for graduation time, provided by United Methodist Discipleship Ministries.





Austin McAllister is planning to attend Clark College



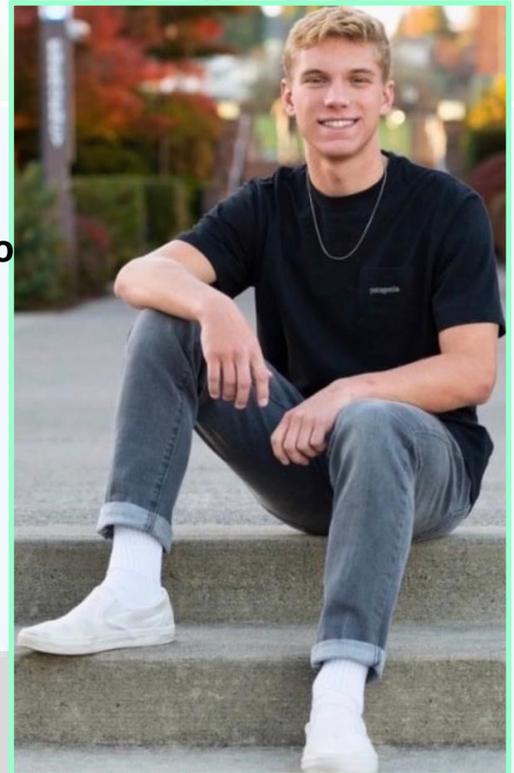
Anna Schweppe is planning to attend North Central College



Gavin Peterson is planning to attend Montana State University



Sammy Nieda is planning to attend Whitworth University next year to study business



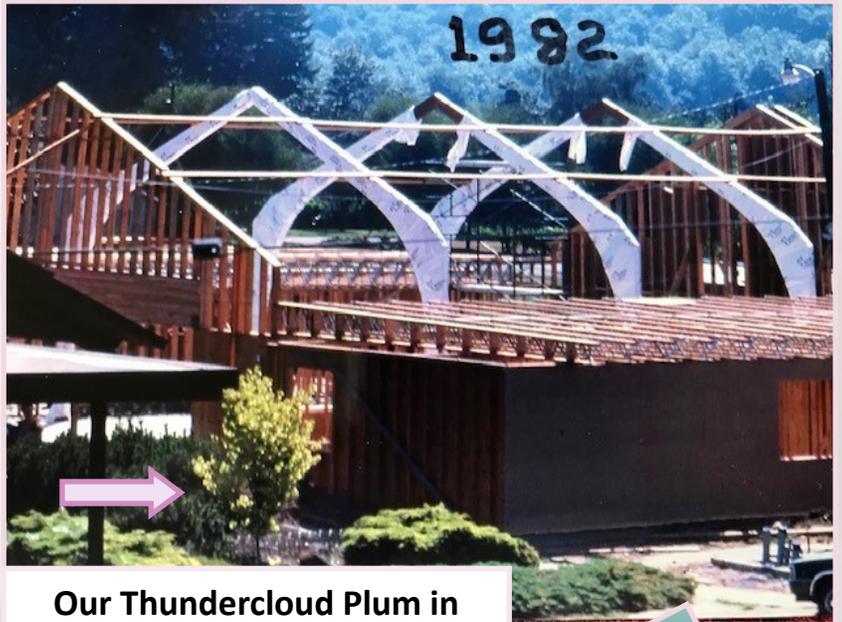
Caleb Stokman is planning to attend Oregon State University

A Moment in History

Back in the early 1980's, the local Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts used our Salmon Creek Church as their meeting location. It was customary that they met on Monday nights in our Fellowship Hall. This was accomplished by dividing the room in half with a large semi-solid curtain that divided the room.

On Arbor Day in April of 1982, Girl Scout Troop 122 wanted to thank us for allowing them to meet at our church. They wrote a note that stated, "Thank you, your warm reception and acceptance has been very much appreciated by everyone." In that honor, the troop donated and planted a Thundercloud Plum Tree near the church front door. That tree continues to flourish and has provided much enjoyment for our congregation for these past 38 years.

By Larry Siewert



Our Thundercloud Plum in 1982



Our Thundercloud Plum in 2020





Spring at Salmon Creek Church

Photos brought to you by Steve Enyeart





Help Needed! Volunteer for the Share Hot Meals Program

Are you looking for ways to help out in the community during the COVID-19 crisis? Consider joining our team of staff and volunteers at our Hot Meals Program. Guests to our Share House for 'to-go' meals have doubled since the beginning of March. Last month we served over 6,000 meals! We are so thankful

for the support from our team of volunteers. It is because of your big hearts and helping hands that we continue to serve our neighbors 365 days a year.

Sign Up to Volunteer: <https://www.sharevancouver.org/volunteer-hub/hot-meals/>

Salmon Creek Church Food drive for the Share Backpack Program

Schools may be closed but Share continues to provide food to students and their families. The demand has increased during the pandemic. Help out by giving a donation of non-perishable food or make a financial contribution at sharevancouver.org or write a check to ShareVancouver.

May 31 – June 5, 2020 Two ways to participate:

Drop off donations at the back of Salmon Creek Church:

Friday, June 5th 11am – 1pm

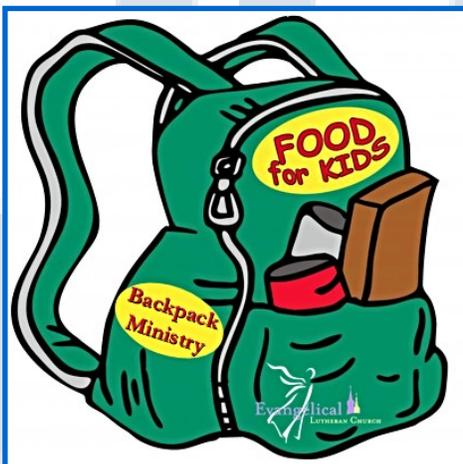
Have donations picked up from your home the week of June 1st – 5th – contact a mission team member to arrange a pick up time.

Greg—(360) 521-6528

Mary—marymountain825@gmail.com

Larry—lmjsiewert@comcast.net

Tina—christinahunter@me.com



What to donate – Put Protein First!

Peanut Butter
Chili, high protein soup or ravioli
Canned meat - tuna, chicken, ham, spam
Rice and beans – canned or dried
Boxed dinners – mac & cheese
Reusable bags to hold food – easy open cans
are best



Trustees Lighting Program Update

The Trustees, with help from others, continue

to replace fluorescent lights with LED fixtures in the main building. Lights in the work room, Sue's office and the little office next to hers have been replaced and each room has been painted. Gay and I, with help from Ron Doering and Richard Beilsmith, completed the painting of these rooms. Jim Roberts, Rich Bippes and Nelson Copeland have replaced the lights in the Choir room and painted it as well. Our goal is to replace the lights in the main building and Daycare, over the next year or so. These fixtures are very old and some were not safe any longer. The shutdown of the church has given us the opportunity to clean up these rooms with minimal disruption. We had so many fluorescent lights and by removing some of them and saving the tubes and ballasts, we now have a stockpile to use on the remaining 140 or so fixtures.

Hoping we all can return to church soon, safely of course, and hope this article *brightens* your day!

Thanks,

Steve Enyeart, Trustees



Richard Beilsmith



Steve Enyeart and
Ron Doering



Difference in color on the ceiling!



Richard Beilsmith and Steve Enyeart, busy painting!



The Choir Room—all freshly painted!



Thank you, Trustees!





OUR CHURCH FAMILY SHARES YOUR LOSS

Care Basket for the Rapp Family

Please pray for the Rapp family - Marla, Amy, Hayden & Julia at the sudden loss of husband/father Charlie. Friends have set up a care basket with suggestions for gifts for each member of the family. The link is available on *Sign Up Genius* by typing into your browser:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084faeae2ba20-care>



Cards are welcome - Marla's birthday is **June 6th**.

The family's address is 9201 NW 28th Ct., Vancouver, WA 98665.

As a church family we are hoping to provide ongoing support to the family.

Contact Betty Shelby with questions: selbyjb@comcast.net



Family Promise[®] of Clark County

Salmon Creek and Felida Bible hosted Family Promise for the week of April 12-19. With social distancing in place, the guests were housed at Extended Stay America. We provided their meals while the county affiliate paid for their room expenses.

We gathered food donations for breakfast and lunch. The families have kitchenettes so they could store the food and fix it at their pace. Dinners were either prepared by volunteers or some purchased either Kentucky Fried Chicken or Olive Garden. The families are very appreciative of our care.

Since hosting, one family was able to move into an apartment. Family Promise of Clark County was a recipient of a stimulus grant to help cover the added costs of hotel rooms.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our week!

Your Family Promise Team of volunteers!

Family Promise received the following grants:

May 19—\$9,000—from the Camas Washougal Community Chest.

February 19—\$12,735—again from Camas Washougal Community Chest.





Announcing New Executive Director for Family Promise of Clark County

A little over three months ago, the Board began the search for a new Executive Director for Family Promise of Clark County following the announcement by our current ED, Linda Winnett, that she wished to step down to spend more time with her family. Today we are excited and pleased to announce that David Cole has accepted our offer to be the Executive Director for Family Promise of Clark County beginning June 1, 2020. We are excited for the skills and experience David is bringing to the program, which include over 10 years serving our community through leadership positions in non-profits, on executive boards, and volunteerism. He is a 2003 graduate from Washington State University with a degree in Social Science. When you get to meet David, you will find that he has a great amount of enthusiasm for helping address the needs of our most vulnerable community members.

The Board is extremely grateful for Linda's commitment to remain in place as Executive Director during the three-month search for her successor. Thanks to her professionalism and resolve, we were able continue operation of the program during the COVID-19 virus outbreak and stay on course with our mission to help Clark County children and their families in a homeless situation acquire permanent housing. The Board wishes Linda all the best in the future for her and her family.

We greatly appreciate your support and prayers as we move into the next chapter of the story for Family Promise of Clark County.

Gratefully yours,
FPCC Board of Trustees



I just watched a wonderful video from the Washington Post. Children who were stuck at home were sharing their feelings. For most of them, what started out as something somewhat exciting, has now become boring. They are missing their friends and teachers and are slightly annoyed at the number of work calls their parents have to make! Sound familiar?

Then I watched a video where parents were also interviewed about what this “new normal” has been like for them. Most of them expressed frustration over being ill-prepared to take on the challenge of homeschooling – keeping track of what needs to be done, motivating their child to do the work and needing to practice patience, patience, and more patience. Any of this sound familiar?

This pandemic has disrupted lives in so many ways and I can't imagine how difficult it has been for families with school-aged children. Parenting is demanding enough without added chaos.

Focus on the Family has a number of articles devoted to helping families plow through this season. You are not alone, though at times, it may feel that way. I hope you will check out some of these.

If your child/children are bored silly, you and I both know there are countless activities online to help. If it is easier than doing a broad search, feel free to check out my Pinterest page. I have a number of boards with various educational/entertaining activities that I have compiled over the years of working with school-agers.

There is an excellent video on YouTube titled ***Dealing with Ourselves in a Time of Crisis*** by Carter Conlon. The main idea in the video is be gracious to yourself. Easier said than done, but this is definitely worth watching, you know, when you have time to sit down and put your feet up and do something for yourself!

I am praying for you and hoping you stay well.

Diane Reid

Sheltering in Love is an Advance special through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Advance specials are projects designated for a specific task where all administrative costs are covered, so your entire donation goes into ministry!

<https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-2025-umcor-covid-19-response-fund.aspx>



**SALMON CREEK
CHURCH**

**12217 NE HWY 99
Vancouver, WA 98686-3621
(360) 573-3111
www.salmoncreek.church**

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
PERMIT #610
VANCOUVER, WA**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FAMILY MEMBERS:

Due to the closure of the office, the list of family birthdays is unavailable this month. Our apologies for not being able to acknowledge your special day!

KEEP ME SAFE, MY GOD, FOR IN YOU I TAKE REFUGE

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 communications@salmoncreek.church. Articles and announcements are due by midnight on the second Sunday of each month.

Editor: Nancy Volgamore

Refuge in an Age of Uncertainty

Psalm 16

