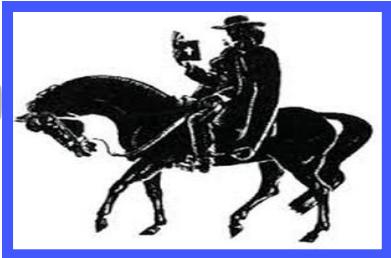




The Circuit Rider



Salmon Creek Church

January



As the deer panteth after the
water brooks, so panteth my soul
after Thee, Oh God.

Psalm 42:1

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a note from Pastor John

The Shawl of Grace

The New Year always brings with it a sense of freshness and promise – our annual attempt to “make all things new again.” For United Methodists, 2020 may also be a year of anxiety and doubt as the denomination faces the possibility of significant change. Please refer to my article entitled “Denominational News” elsewhere in this issue of The Circuit Rider. But here, I want to focus on the new things, the spirit of healing, and a vision for our future.

During Advent, we talked a lot about reality – the foundation of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that God laid out for us in Jesus Christ. This foundation is not a myth, it’s not just wishful thinking. It is the reality of God’s grace inextricably woven into the fabric of the universe and our lives.

In the New Year, we are going to be talking about how to wear this fabric of grace, with a sermon series called “The Arc of Scripture.” Typically, we read snippets of the Bible each Sunday and examine some specific point or topic. In this series, we’ll be looking at how a topic plays out across both the Old and New Testaments, hopefully giving us a broad foundation, not only for reading and interpreting scripture, but for living out that scripture. That is, in fact, the basic nature of the Bible: stories of people not so unlike us living (or not) into the reality of God’s Word. We will be exploring how the Bible leads us in living into the grace that is interwoven in our lives. This will be followed by a series on grace itself during Lent.

Yes, the New Year will bring new things, some joyous and some, perhaps, discomfiting. The fabric of grace, worn like a shawl, is an all-weather piece of clothing, able to withstand all conditions. If you make just one New Year’s resolution this year, resolve to wrap yourself in that shawl, waking and asleep, at all times and in all situations. And while it will be a worthy endeavor for us to wrestle a little bit with the scriptures this winter, when we are tired or just can’t make sense of the words, the gift of grace remains. It requires no analysis. Tall or short, old or young, ill or healthy, the shawl of grace fits everyone.

Blessings & A Happy New Year!



Pastor John Hiestand

January Sermon Series

Sunday January 5th

8:30 "Traditional" and 10:30 "Modern" Services

Sermon Series: "The Arc of Scripture"

Sermon Title: "The Centrality of Scripture"

Scripture: Exodus, Ezra, Matthew

Sunday January 12th

8:30 "Traditional" and 10:30 "Modern" Services

Sermon Series: "The Arc of Scripture"

Sermon Title: "God's Promises"

Scripture: Genesis, Isaiah, Luke, Acts

Sunday January 19th

8:30 "Traditional" and 10:30 "Modern" Services

Sermon Series: "The Arc of Scripture"

Sermon Title: "Obedience to God"

Scripture: Exodus, Samuel, Jonah, Matthew

Sunday January 26th

8:30 "Traditional" and 10:30 "Modern" Services

Sermon Series: "The Arc of Scripture"

Sermon Title: "Ethics, Morality & Sin"

Scripture: Leviticus, Kings, Micah, 1 Corinthians

The Arc of Scripture



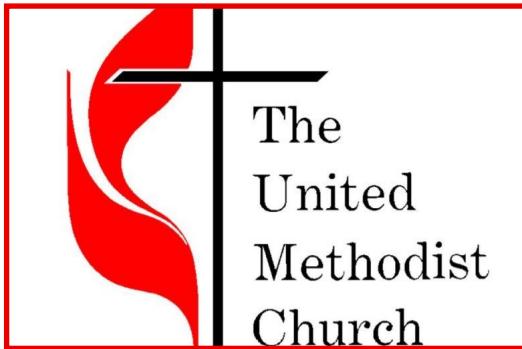
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Thank You for your support! Although we are about even for the year for our 2019 budget, we are now behind in giving. Typically many families catch up on giving near the end of the year while others give a Christmas offering. Please continue to support Salmon Creek Church with your contributions in this coming year. Our Stewardship Campaign for 2020 *Igniting Our Future*, continues. If you have not returned your commitment card for 2020, please do so very soon. The Finance Committee will advise on adjustments to the 2020 budget based on pledges received. If you have misplaced your commitment card, there are more in the church office or on the usher cart.



AED Program Discontinued

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been removed from Salmon Creek Church; the two AEDs and associated material have been taken down. Due to cost and maintenance issues, many of which are Washington State mandated, the Administrative Board voted recently to decommission the program. One of the considerations on the part of the board in that decision was that the EMS response times to our church are quite low. We are advised that they are about 3-5 minutes in response. It is notable that there are no legal requirements, for either the Church or the Day School, to have this equipment. Questions can be directed to Jim Roberts.



Denominational News

You have probably read, or seen, or heard rumors about some of the issues facing the United Methodist Church. 2020 is likely to be a year in which we see plans for changes in the structure of the church taking shape and, perhaps, being implemented. One thing I want to make absolutely clear at the outset: **as of this date, no decisions that would materially impact Salmon Creek Church have been made.** There are lots of plans, lots of voices, lots of blogs out there, but upon none of those plans has a decision been made. Salmon Creek Church will continue to operate under the rules and guidance outlined in the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline. Some amendments to the BOD were adopted at the February 2019 Special General Conference; these amendments affect only clergy, not laity, under very specific and narrow circumstances.

In preparation for the possible changes in our future, we have formed a team, called the Key Leaders Team, made up primarily of the elected officers of our church, to research, distill and disseminate information about these changes to the congregation. **This team will make no decisions regarding the future of Salmon Creek Church.** The issues at hand can easily become complex and can generate strong emotions. My goal in forming this team is to ensure that the congregation receives information in an organized, comprehensible way from responsible church leaders so that, if and when the congregation must make decisions about Salmon Creek Church, your voice will be heard and we can make an informed decision.

I wish I could look into a crystal ball and tell you how all of this will turn out. I believe I share that wish with about 7 million other United Methodists. We need to remember at all times that Jesus is in the room, and it is upon Him that we need to keep our focus. If we let Him, He will grant us peace and wisdom.

The members of the team are:

- Jim Roberts – Ad Board Chair
- Mark Brandon – Past Ad Board Chair
- Connie Albin-Foster – Lay Leader
- Jim Gahagan – SPR Chair
- Steve Enyeart – Trustees Chair
- Kathy Hardy – Missions Chair
- Joan Stuart – Women's Ministry



On December 12th, the women of Joy Bible Study enjoyed wonderful fellowship, food and entertainment at our annual Christmas brunch. Many thanks to our fantastic preschool staff and children for blessing us with delightful singing, complete with fun hand motions!!



Preschool News: The preschool currently has around 68 students and twelve staff. One of our long-time staff, Dixie Roof, retired this year after 23 years. Our preschool participates in Early Achievers and was rated a Level 3+ and was awarded another \$15,000 for the second time. Monies from the award are utilized for curriculum, devices for record-keeping, and maintaining quality staff. Our goals include encouraging inclusive/trusting relationships, positive problem-solving skills, and school-readiness. We continue to strive to build strength of character and discipleship, while providing quality care in our community for over thirty years. ***"Education with a Conscience"***.

HOW CAN I HELP?
Volunteer Info and
Sign-Ups in the
Narthex

Family Promise

HOST WEEK



JANUARY 12th to 19th

The Family Promise Team wants to thank the Missions Team for sponsoring our graduated families of Family Promise by providing Christmas for them. Salmon Creek continues to touch the lives of these families. The generous gifts of food, clothing and toys brightened their holidays! See more information below.

We will be hosting families again January 12-19th. Signups will begin soon. Look for them at the Welcoming Center.

Have you ever wondered how these families can afford setting up an apartment once they secure it? Think about the cost of setting up house: like furniture, towels, kitchen utensils. There is a hidden jewel out there called the NW Furniture Bank <https://www.nwfurniturebank.org/donate>.

“Who We Help: NW Furniture Bank provides gently used furniture and household items to families at, or below, the poverty level, struggling with fire, flood, job loss, domestic violence relocation, foster child aging out, or someone moving from transitional housing. If you are sleeping, eating or living on the floor, we want to help provide the items you cannot afford to purchase. We do not replace or upgrade furniture you may already have.

All of our furniture is gently used and the inventory changes daily. Each household accessing our services is subject to a \$75 processing fee, payable at the time of your furniture selection. We ask that you be able to transport the furniture you've selected in one trip, at the time of your appointment, or utilize our delivery service for an additional fee of \$125.”

This is another way you can help a family. If you have some gently used furniture for which you are wanting to find a home, this would be a great place to donate. Several people have donated money to Family Promise of Clark County as scholarships to cover the cost purchasing or delivery.

The Family Promise team thanks all of you for your support of this ministry!



Christmas Families

Our church adopted 4 families who recently graduated from the Family Promise program. Your love and generosity is providing these families with gifts and food to help them celebrate Christmas in their new homes. Joy Bible ladies had a gift wrapping party after their study on Thursday December 12th, and the gifts were all wrapped and packed to be distributed to these families. THANK YOU to all who participated in making Christmas brighter for these families!



Sidewalk Landscape Project

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With the County's completion of the sidewalk improvement this fall, the church trustees placed its attention on a landscape plan to dress up the visual appearance along that area, while enhancing the view of the historic chapel. The decision was made to plant some small shrubs near the driveway entrance and space a couple of small trees, that would not hinder the view of the chapel, as they grow. A landscape ground fabric was put down to block weed growth, and larger bark nuggets were applied as the ground cover. Large landscape timbers were placed as the dividing line between the grass and bed areas. This allows for easy grass trimming of the lawn and keeps the bark contained where it belongs. The donation of the trees, material and time by those involved to complete this project was very much appreciated.



Sunday Servants needed: You have likely noticed fellow church members participating in worship services. All are welcome to join in this service. We can always use Lay Readers to read scripture, Communion Servers and Communion preparers. Please indicate on your Connection Card if you would like to participate in one or more of these ministries. Or call Phyllis Browning or the church office to indicate your interest. We will get together for a short training session at a time convenient to you. Thank you!

Trustees 2019 Summary:

Pay It Forward Campaign: The big effort this year was to get the congregation behind funding the effort to address several major replacement and repair needs for the coming 5-7 years. The campaign has started and the Trustees are very happy with the response of the congregation.

We had another busy year – thanks to all those who volunteered!

Some lighting in the Sanctuary was replaced. We painted and replaced lights in the Narthex. The FMC AC unit was fixed and is operational. The Chapel furnace failed and was repaired. The Daycare furnace failed and was repaired as well this year. Parts were replaced on 6 AC units in FMC to extend life, toilets repaired. Six sinks were replaced in Day school rooms. We added Security cameras and monitor in the Main building. Other activities include replacing filters on 15 furnaces several times per year, cleaning appliances, yard work, replacing bulbs and ballasts, and misc. repairs. A special note - Richard Beilsmith has been doing wonders at the Cemetery, cleanup, and updating lists and markers.

For 2020 - Lights remain a concern, as ballasts on the over 300 light fixtures keep failing. A program continues next year to replace bulbs and fixtures with LED lights and fixtures. Other projects – repairs will pop-up. And we will start discussing prioritizing major projects with the Pay It Forward funds.

Thanks,

Steve Enyeart, for the Trustees

Projects performed by the Trustees:

- Sanctuary Lights and Controller Revisions - \$400
- Add Security Cameras and Monitor - \$550
- Sidewalk Landscaping - \$1000
- Replace Parts in 6 FMC AC units - \$450
- Narthex Painting and new LED lights - \$975
- Remodel of Sanctuary Sound Booth
- AED/CPR Devices Renewal - \$450

Major Maintenance Services:

- Chapel Furnace Repair - \$1500, Daycare - \$700
- Miller's HVAC Annual Maintenance - \$1700
- Church and Cemetery Lawn care - \$600/mo = \$7200 + \$350 misc.
- Repair / Recharge FMC AC unit - \$900
- Victory Outreach Contract 2019-20 - \$19,600 per year
- Computer and System Upgrades - \$2500 (Server \$1500-\$2000)
- Fire Marshall Safety inspection, fire extinguishers and Fire Alarm maintenance - \$1,800



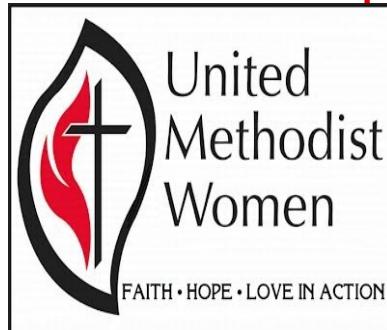
ALL CHURCH EVENT COMING UP - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Do you know where to go to get questions answered for a loved one? What are options for an elderly person when they must leave their home? These are tough questions for a family to answer and often an expert is needed to help us navigate through the various options.

Stephen Ministry is sponsoring an **ALL Church event** on Sunday afternoon, **January 19, 2020**. Our guest speaker, Shanti Potts, has many years of experience in helping families find the right living solutions for their loved ones. She has worked closely with the Agency on Aging Council in Clark County, facilitating workshops and support groups. Her topic on the 19th will be "**Elder Care Options**."

We will have a light soup lunch starting at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us on the 19th and hopefully you will get some answers for your questions.





Salmon Creek United Methodist Women will meet on January 21, 2020, to hear a program by our treasurer, Martha Hager, called "Women in Strength." Martha will help us learn how United Methodist Women—numbering nearly a million strong—contribute powerfully to the survival of millions of women, children, and youth throughout the world by our Pledge to Mission. Our giving goes to help free people from disease, hunger, violence, homelessness, and hopelessness while teaching and demonstrating the love of Jesus.

Come join us and catch the excitement of being part of a huge organization that does so much good through the power of God's Holy Spirit. That's **Tuesday, January 21, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.** in the St. Paul Room, followed by coffee and refreshments.

MISSIONS BASKET AUCTION REPORT

Many reasons to give thanks!

Give thanks for those who set up and decorated 21 tables!

Give thanks for the team who peeled, chopped and cooked and served the delicious food!

Give thanks for those who provided yummy desserts for the Dessert Dash!

Give thanks for those who donated over 80 baskets to be auctioned!

Give thanks for 20+ youth servers!

Give thanks for the team who had everything cleaned up Saturday night!

Give thanks for over 160 tickets purchased!

Give thanks for those who bid and raised their paddles to contribute almost \$13,000!

Give thanks to our agency representatives for reminding us about the very important work they do in our community every day!

Give thanks that we were able to support these ministries financially for another year!

To God be the Glory!



Missions 2020

Here are just a few of the exciting opportunities to be in service to our community in the new year...

Winter Hospitality Overflow - January 2020

Mini Muffin Cafe to benefit Family Promise - February 9, 2020

Mini Muffin Cafe April/May 2020

Gaiser MS supply drive - August 2020

Missions Basket Auction - November 21, 2020

The missions team is always looking for new members and new ideas - please join us at our meeting, the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 6pm in the library.



Auction photos next pages!





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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2. Steve Erkkila 9. Pam Copeland 11. Phyllis Browning 11. Muriel Buriff 11. Greg Hazen 11. Barbara Sime 112. Gay Enyeart 12. Hannah Hawn 12. Ann Tham-Pearson 13. Cathy Gerber 13. Jean Westfall | 14. Dannielle Tognetti 17. Kristin Reeves 18. Hannah Bachman 19. Amanda Koeltzow 21. Pam Roberts 22. Caroline Wisegarver 25. Ken Heup 26. Bob Gebhart 27. Sam Murie 30. Mikala Williams 30. Anna Yotsuuye |
|--|---|



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 Monday of each month.

Editor: Nancy Volgamore

**Happy New Year to you!
May every great new day
Bring you sweet surprises--
A happiness buffet.**

**Happy New Year to you,
And when the new year's done,
May the next year be even better,
Full of pleasure, joy and fun.**