



The Circuit Rider

Salmon Creek Church

a United Methodist Ministry



JANUARY
2024



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Happy New Year, and blessings of peace be with you friends,

As we enter 2024, I am very excited and hopeful to see all that God will do in and through us in the year ahead!

As I write this today, new flooring is going down in our Preschool! It will look fresh and clean for the new year and is a much-needed update. It is a big project, and I am so grateful to the hard work of our school staff, Trustees, and church volunteers who have been working to prepare the rooms and will have to set everything back up after the flooring is in!

I am also looking forward to the first church-wide book study I will be doing with our congregation beginning this month. Thank you to all our small groups for agreeing to participate! If you are not in a small group but would like to participate in a group for this study, please let us know on the sign-up sheet at the welcome desk, or by notifying Nancy Volgamore or me. We will help you get connected to one of our new groups forming for this study. If you would like to read the book on your own, that is also a way you can participate. We will be reading *Our Purpose is Love*, by David N. Field. Nancy has several copies for purchase that we have ordered from Cokesbury. They are \$17.00 each. It is also available from other places online in both paperback and e-book. Ideally our groups will begin the study on or near January 7th. If purchasing a book creates a hardship for you, please talk with me; we don't want anyone to be excluded from the study because of that.

Link to the book at Cokesbury <https://www.cokesbury.com/Our-Purpose-Is-Love>

Our first Town Hall Potluck of 2024 will be after worship on January 28th. I encourage you to save the date now and plan to join us for a fellowship potluck meal and updates from our Mission and Ministry groups about all we have planned so far for the new year! Bring a dish to share if you can, but if you forget or can't bring anything, please join us anyway as we always have plenty to share!

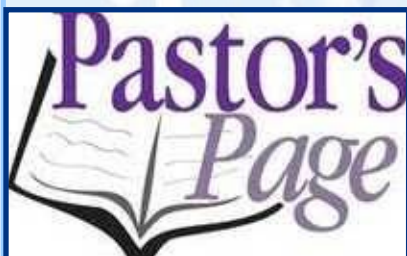
I would also like to invite you to join a new group that will be gathering in the Gym on Wednesdays at noon for a time of walking & fellowship. Join us as we begin the new year, *Walking by Faith!*

Also on Wednesdays, beginning January 31st, is an opportunity to participate in a six-week class for end-of-life planning. Facilitated by Jayne McCarley, this class will have several guest speakers and use a curriculum called *You Only Die Once: preparing for the end of life with grace and gusto*, by Margie Jenkins. Link to the book and Planner on Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/You-Only-Die-Once-Preparing/dp/0996432000>

Looking forward to all of this and so much more in 2024!

Peace and joy,

Kim Poer



***Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing!***
Isaac Watts 1719

De-greening of the Sanctuary

**Mark your calendar as we take down the decorations in the
sanctuary after Christmastide
on Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 am.**

**As always, our mothers were correct In saying, “many hands
make light work.”**

We hope you will join us!



Save the Date!

All Church Potluck

And Town Hall

Sunday, January 28th

after worship service

FMC GYM

***A time to connect, get caught up,
ask questions, keep informed.***

PAY IT FORWARD

SC Christian Preschool and Daycare/Fellowship Hall Flooring Project

Dear Congregation:

This article is intended to let you know about the Capital replacement project underway in December. Hopefully, most of the work will be done by the time this article is released.

The Trustees, with concurrence with the Administration Board, undertook to replace the flooring in Day care rooms, hallways, offices, bathrooms, and the Fellowship hall. The new flooring is LVP – Vinyl flooring planks, easier to maintain.

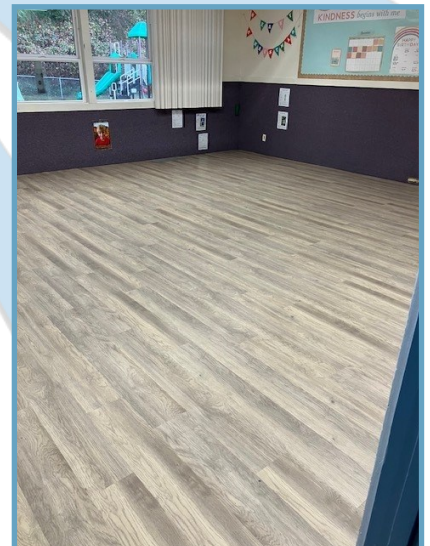
This was quite an undertaking over the last 2-3 weeks of December. Trustees and volunteers had to move all the furniture, bookcases, file cabinets and boxes of Dayschool materials, first to the Fellowship hall 12/15-16, and then back to the classrooms 12/23-24, so the flooring could be replaced in the Fellowship Hall and offices 12/26-29. We also had to move all of the furniture, bookcases, file cabinets and boxed materials out of the offices and clear the Fellowship Hall on 12/23-24 as well, and then had to put them back 12/29-30. A lot of work was involved and many stepped up to volunteer in helping.

The Dayschool teachers and staff are also to be complimented. They cleaned out old files and other items no longer needed and then had to box up all the items in each classroom before the moving days. Afterwards, on January 2nd, they will unbox and make each classroom ready for the children. One final shout out for the Trustees, in addition to moving, we will be reinstalling toilets, putting trim in each room and the hallways, including the Fellowship hall, and painting the office. So, if you saw strange goings on around Christmas, it wasn't Santa Claus!

This brings me to the New Year. We have weathered many storms over the last 5 years. The Pay It Forward Campaign has had to limit replacement work and augment it with volunteer help. This project is a big hit on our PIF funds, the remaining funds will be around \$50,000, barely enough for 2-3 more HVAC units. Of the 12 originally slated to be replaced, we only have replaced 4. We have had several leaks in the flat roof and there are no funds set aside to replace the flat roof in 2026 (10 years after the last roof sealing project). We'll make do, but please consider contributing what you can to the PIF Fund.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

One of the classrooms
with new flooring





Better Together

Better Together is a women's small group here at SCUMC. It was formed about 17 years ago, and before being named "Better Together", it was Sue Lenski's Small Group. The group met at church on Sunday evenings. During COVID, the group continued to meet via Zoom, and now offers ZOOM access each Sunday. Because the members preferred a daytime gathering, it now meets on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. in room 201 of the Family Ministry Center. Kathy Valrejean and Maggie Mikalatos are co-leaders of the group.

The members are strong women of purpose with a desire to know God, grow in their faith, to become more like Jesus in attitude and ministry and to respond to God's calling. They are committed to prayer.

The group does book studies, sometimes including videos. Authors include Max Lucado, Priscilla Shirer, Adam Hamilton, Beth Moore, Matt Mikalatos, James W. Moore, C. S. Lewis, and more. We usually celebrate both Lent and Advent with studies tailored for those times. In January, we will be a part of the church study, Our Purpose is Love, by David N. Field.

Our format is to spend the first part of our meeting in discussing our current assignment for the week and to follow that with a time of sharing praises and prayer needs. We keep our sharing confidential within the group. To help us with our prayer time during the week and to keep those who may have been absent up to date, we send an email to the group that captures the sharing time.

For the last two summers, we have taken a summer break and end the summer with a picnic to catch up and talk about plans for the coming year.

As a group, we look for opportunities to support church and community ministries. As a part of discovering our individual calling, many of our members have found places to serve in our church and/or community.

Service includes providing a meal each month to the homeless at St. Paul's shelter in downtown Vancouver. We also serve as one of the hosting groups for memorial services at church. In the past, we have taken on some of the setup for VBS. We have held prayer walks around our church. For the past couple of years during the Mission Dinner and Auction, we donated baskets for auction. This year we were excited to donate 5 baskets. Sending cards to encourage those who are on the Friends in Faith list is something we try to do several times a year. Basically we look for God's leading in showing us ways we can support our church or community.

Better Together Small Group is open to all women. We would welcome your participation in our group. Come and check us out!

— Maggie Mikalatos



Spotlight on.....



**Small
groups**
life's better in groups



SMALL GROUPS:

Better Together—Maggie Mikalatos & Kathy Valrejean

JOY Bible—Sandie Hollister

Sunday Servants—Jim & Betty Selby

Morning Men's Group—Jim Roberts

Evening Men's Group—Richard Beilsmith/Larry Siewert

(Book Study Group—being planned) - David Nieda



Coffee Fellowship

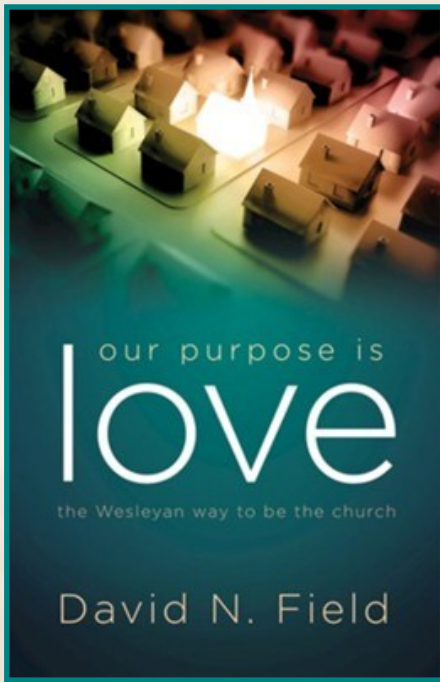
**We really need more coffee fellowship hosts!
Would you be able to host this gathering after
worship service once every 4-6 weeks? If you are
interested, please talk with Karen Beilsmith about
what is involved.**

**Think about serving your church family
in this capacity.**

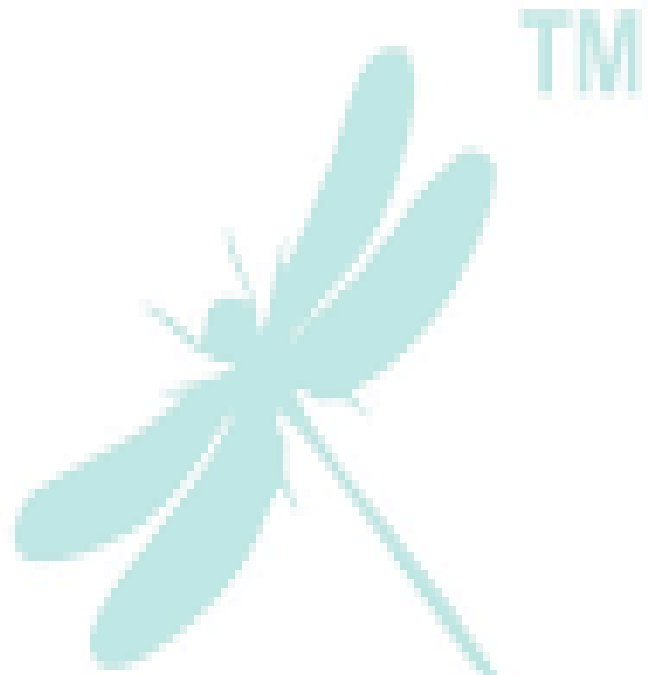
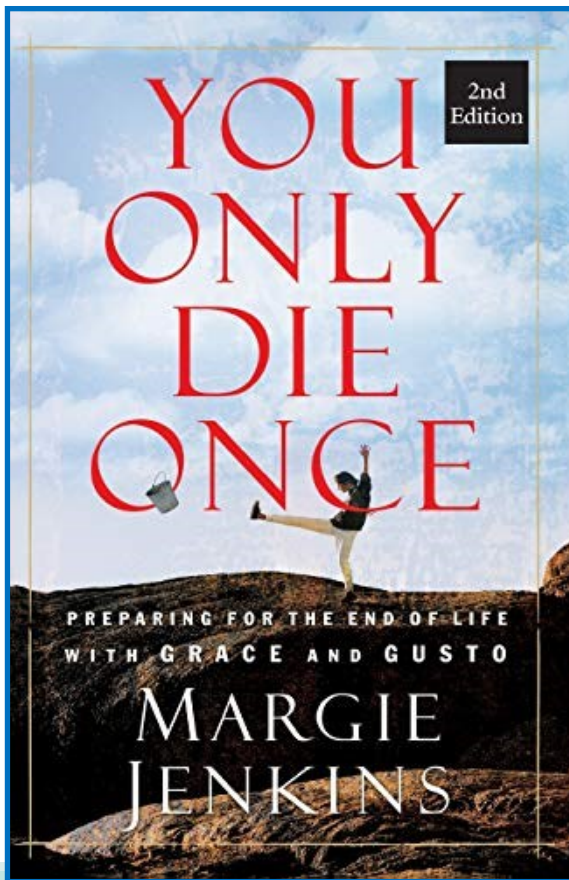


Beginning in January, we will have a group walking together in the gym on Wednesdays from 12—1:00 pm. Come join us! We know how to beat the rain in the Pacific Northwest. Enjoy visiting with friends and getting some exercise at the same time!





Beginning in January, we will be offering an all-church book study for the book, "**Our Purpose is Love**" by David N. Field. If your small group has not already talked about this, or if you are not in a small group, but would like to participate, talk with Pastor Kim about a group that is forming specifically for this study. Books are in, they are \$17.00 each—pay your group leader or Nancy in the church office.



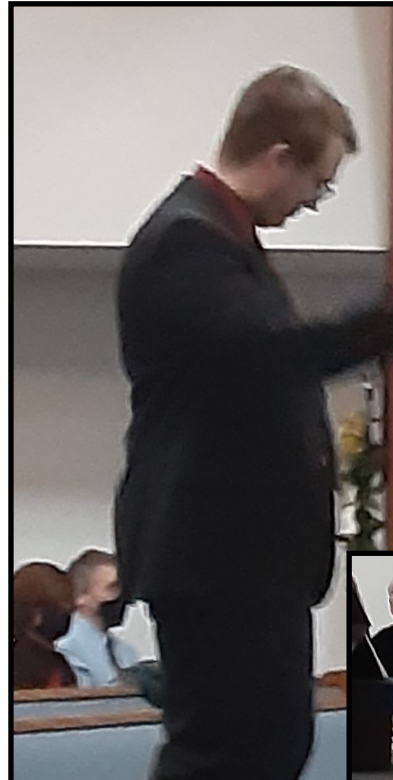
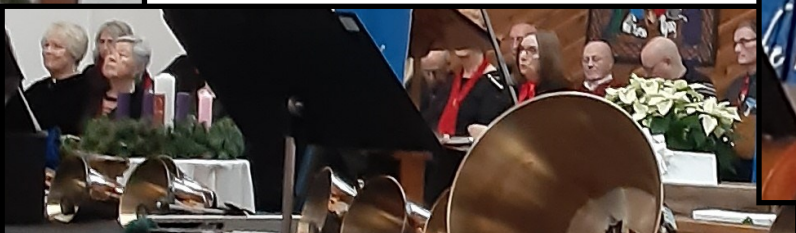
End of Life

Beginning January 28th, we will be offering a 6-week course on end of life preparation using the curriculum of Margie Jenkins' "You Only Die Once". The group will meet on Wednesdays from 1—3pm in the St. Paul room. Sign up with Pastor Kim. No class on Wednesday, February 14th. Come and learn about all the ways you can prepare for all those details that need to be covered; make your wishes known to your family. Take the worry out of the equation!

Lessons
and
Carols
HOPE · PEACE · JOY · LOVE



Saturday, December 9th, 6:00 pm
Music Ministry: Praise Team, Choir,
Exultation Ringers, guest cellist
Kathryn Pearson





Tiffiney and Elise Nordby



**Sunday, December 10, 2023
Lighting of the Advent Candles**



Santa's helpers, Kristy Huckins and Karen Beilsmith getting the many gift donations ready to deliver to Family Promise from our Giving Tree this year. Many thanks to all who donated!

2024 UPCOMING HOST DATES

January 28-Feb 4

April 28-May 5

August 4-11

October 27-Nov 3

Not only did we purchase a new Christmas tree for the sanctuary this year, but one of our “elves” hand made this beautiful tree skirt for the tree!! Such exquisite handcrafting and such an honor for us to have this donated!



A Night of Hope

A Christmas Worship Celebration

A big thank you to Sally DuPree for taking these beautiful photos of our chapel and the candles during our “Night of Hope” service on Monday, December 18, 2023.



*Happy
January
Birthday*

Steve Erkkila—January 2

Phyllis Browning—January 11

Greg Hazen—January 11

Sharon Regier—January 11

Gay Enyeart—January 12

Pam Roberts—January 21

Sue Richard—January 24

Leah Emery—January 25

Ken Heup—January 25

Bob Gebhart—January 26

Don't see your birthday?

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

May God bless you in 2024



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

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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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