



The Circuit Rider

Salmon Creek Church



May
2022



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Do no harm. Do good.
Stay in love with God.

John Wesley





a note from Pastor John

On Christmas Day, 1784, the Methodist Episcopal Church was established in Baltimore, headed up by its first (and self-anointed) bishop, Francis Asbury. Methodism spread quickly, as noted by Fenwick Scholar Paula M. Kane:

... in 1784 when the Methodists were organized as a distinct American denomination, they numbered fifteen thousand members and eighty-three itinerant preachers. By 1844, Methodists counted 1,069,000 members, 3,988 circuit riders and 7,730 local preachers. In the same year, there were 632,000 Baptists.

This growth was fueled by several religious revival movements that swept across the new nation in the first half of the 19th century. Those revivals sprang out of a culture that had become more secular amidst a movement later called the American Enlightenment, led by figures such as Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. This movement sought to bring scientific reasoning to all aspects of life, including religion. This led to the spirit of religious tolerance that was reflected in the Constitution, but it also led to a rejection of prophecy, miracle, and revealed religion, resulting in an inclination toward deism. But people then as now didn't just want to think about God – they wanted to touch God, be with God, feel His presence and come into a relationship with God unmitigated by church or clergy.

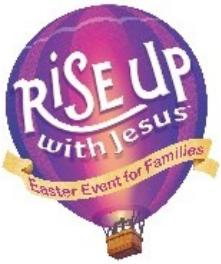
The revivalists used exuberant preaching, like that of George Finney, and a new type of inspiring music called "Gospel" that would inspire musicians throughout the century, like Fanny Crosby, and even into our own times. The current United Methodist Hymnal still has seven Fanny Crosby hymns. People didn't want only to converse with God – they wanted, and still want, to dance with God.



Blessings, Pastor John

Jesus – Others – You

Inspiring children to follow Christ



WOW! Rise Up with Jesus was a hit!

The church was filled with laughter, amazement, and wonder as children and their families experienced the miracle of Easter. Although a few of our families had to miss out due to sudden cases of COVID, we had plenty of children on hand to enjoy the fun – including two **NEW** families.

The day began at 11 am with enough **“SCUMY”** (**“S**almon **C**reek **U**nited **M**ethodist **Y**outh – *the name our youth group created for themselves!*) on hand to decorate the church and set up all the “discover stations.” Many thanks to Jessica, her husband Juan, and the members of **SCUMY** - Clare, Dakota, Angel, and Skylar – who all worked hard to make sure everything was ready on time. And extra thanks to Jessica who helped Pastor Vivian gather and organize the countless items and help with the planning that needed to be done ahead of time.

There were more helpers on hand – Jessica’s little sister, Michelle pitched in, as did Jean Berkheiser, who kept everyone on task and organized. Zach Scott worked with Jessica’s brother, Angel, to decorate the walls of the Fellowship Hall. Pastor John helped move tables and chairs, then served as the photographer of the event. Michelle put the hot air balloon stickers on the windows and doors leading to the courtyard. And Juan led the SCUMY as they put up hot air balloon paper lanterns in the Fellowship Hall and Entry.

The children and their families began to arrive a little early (around 1:45) which was perfect since Pastor John took a portrait of every family in front of the giant Rise Up! Balloon logo. The portrait was printed out, placed in a special frame and mailed to the families on Monday, inviting them to our Easter worship services. After having their picture taken, the families could go to the Jerusalem Café set up by SCUMY in the St. Paul Room! Families enjoyed coffee, tea, lemonade, and snacks while they waited for everyone to arrive.

A little after 2 pm the event began as the children and their families poured into the Fellowship Hall. Each child received a puzzle frame and 2 pieces of the Easter story puzzle as they entered the event. The youth led the activities at each station, where they told the children about one part of Jesus’ death and resurrection story, then led them through an activity that brought the story to life!



Clare leads “Dark to Light” using markers and water to show Holy Week travels from dark times to God’s light.



The children decorated special glasses so they could see the world differently – just as Mary did on Easter morning when she saw 2 angels! Ask them what they saw!



The Tomb of Jesus was set up in the hall of the preschool. To prepare for this experience, the children took off their shoes and socks and put on a special blindfold. Then Dakota led them as they entered the tomb through an entrance covered with a black cloth. Dakota told them to feel the rough walls with their hands and the sand under their feet.



As they walked further into the tomb Dakota asked them to feel the ledge upon which the body of Jesus had been laid – a rough, burlap cloth was there. Then they were to feel for His shroud-covered body – but it wasn't there! An empty, crumpled sheet lay where the body should have been! As the children left the tomb their feet felt the tickle of grass between their toes until they finally emerged into the sunlight!



The children rolled the stone away from the tomb and through an obstacle course (with Oli figuring out the toy donkey at the end was just his size!). Then Skylar helped them put together special flyers and they had a contest to see who could rise as high as Jesus!



Then, everyone gathered at the last station to shine a special light onto a white wristband – and watch it be transformed – just as the grace of Christ transforms us every day!



Finally everyone met at the front of the Sanctuary with Clare and Pastor Vivian. The children had received a new puzzle piece at each station – but as they put the puzzle together they discovered that they were still missing one piece! Clare read the story of Easter Day itself, and the children helped act it out. Until finally, the children heard about the **miracle of the resurrection of Jesus!**



Whoosh! the top of the blue tarp was thrown open and balloons rose into the air as brightly colored crepe paper flew over the children's heads! Laughter and shouts of joy rang out as the children jumped up and reached for the balloons and then received the final piece of their puzzle – Jesus conquered death on Easter!

Everyone had a blast as the Gospel was embraced through fun and mystery and science and friends!



Be on the lookout for our next adventure – Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School!

This year's event will take place **August 8-12**. How can you help make that event even more wonderful than last year? Look in our weekly *Currents* newsletter for requests for team leaders. And **SAVE THE DATES!**





We are currently searching for a volunteer (or several volunteers!) who would like to join the Media Team ministry. The Media Team are those wonderful folks sitting in the booth at the back of the church who livestream and project the service on Sunday mornings. This enhances the experience not only for those who attend the service in-person but also makes it possible for our members and visitors at home to view the service in "real time." This is a fun job and there are no particular qualifications. Training is part of the process and some useful learning takes place. Computer familiarity is helpful. Come join a ministry that positively affects both our church and community! If you feel led to this call, please contact Jim Roberts at jimpamrobert@gmail.com or see Pastor John.

Among the many duties of the Worship Committee, two are so important and need many volunteers. These are securing readers for EACH Sunday and having servers when Communion is served the first Sunday of each month. We are thankful to have many faithful members who volunteer to fill these important roles. We may not know if you might be a person who would like to experience reading the Word of the Lord or being humbled to serve Communion.



If you would like the opportunity to serve as a reader, please contact Lynne Nieda, 206-499-9860 or e-mail Lflown@gmail.com

Communion server volunteer, contact Jim and Betty Selby, 360-597-3294 or e-mail bettysselby419@gmail.com

Together we serve our Lord and our church.

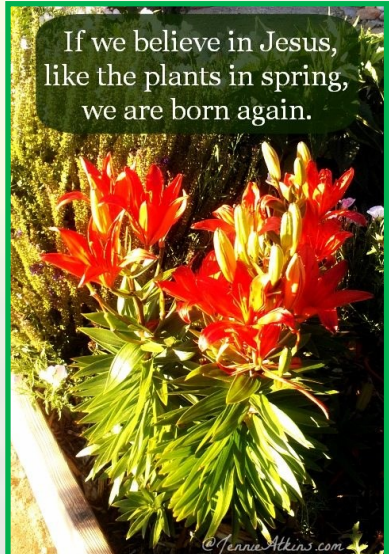


In God's garden of
grace, even a broken
tree can bear fruit.

Rick Warren

We currently have 11 garden plots available for this gardening season. Water will be hooked up around April 1st, so that early crops can be planted any time after that. Very few soil amendments will be needed, and I have extra dirt in my three plots that can be moved to other plots. Thanks to Richard Beilsmith, we now have a nice new metal gate on the East end of the garden, which opens out to the area where we take unwanted plants, weeds, etc. Our garden shed is very well equipped so that you should not have to buy any tools. We will be doing a thorough check of the fencing to make sure we can keep rabbits out as well. These gardens really produce with the way they catch sun, and have some breeze to keep insects and fungus at bay.

If you want to rent a plot for \$10 (includes the water costs as well) please contact:
Jim Selby, 828-508-5094.



If we believe in Jesus,
like the plants in spring,
we are born again.

You may not know that Echo Langley and her sister are hosting a family from the Ukraine. Echo writes of the experience below:

For Such A Time As This....

In late March, I was doing a nursing visit at an Adult Family Home. I was talking with a caregiver, a lovely woman from Moldova, about my wish to host a refugee family from Ukraine but the US wasn't yet admitting them. She told me her Ukrainian church was bringing refugees in through Mexico. The conversation ended there, but that evening, the owner of another adult family home called, saying there was a family of five arriving in 3-5 days. She came to the house I share with my sister and we decided the extra bedrooms, bath and separate living/dining room would be perfect. She also told us there would be six, as the mom's sister wanted to stay with her. We had a mad rush to get everything cleaned, and all the unused "stuff" taken to ReTails and Goodwill. On Wednesday, Nick 37, Natalya 34, Alina 17, David 12, Evelina 11 and Emma 7, arrived. Only Alina had any use of English so we learned to use Google translator in a hurry.

In a small town near the Romanian border, this family and their parents and grandparents lived and raised their families. Nick and Natalya were farmers, raising vegetables from seed, and trucking them to market. The cabbages were nearly ready for market when the war came. Nick called a relative here in Washington and asked if they could pay for the family to get to the US, a debt to be repaid when he got work. The woman who bought their tickets was the same woman who came to my house that night. She had no idea where they would stay but prayed and trusted God.

Following the death of my daughter, I saw no purpose for my life and frequently wished for death. I prayed daily for God to show me his purpose for me. That Friday in early April, He did. Those little ones hug me every day and I am feeling my heart start to heal.

The next day was an amazing day for them. Mom had no idea what a clothes dryer, toaster, dishwasher or microwave were. The little ones couldn't get enough of Harry Potter and cartoons. My sister and I had grocery shopped, but they did not like American food, so their church family brought in a lot of food. We turned the kitchen over to Natalya. They went to get social service resources and to get signed up for social security cards so they can work. I can only imagine how exhausting their days navigating government offices must have been.

Watch this space for the next chapter in their adventure. You will never believe their first trip to Costco.

God Bless Echo and her sister!

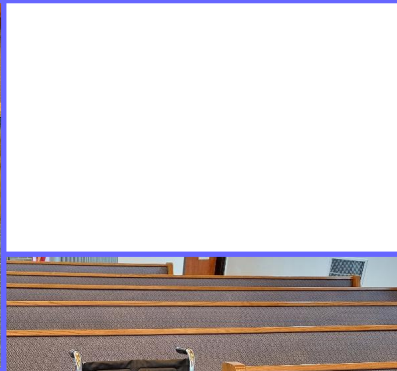


Sanctuary Reconfiguration

During Covid, the Trustees painted and recarpeted the Sanctuary. They also put in a ramp for those using walkers, wheelchairs or who find steps physically challenging to be able to access the chancel area.

The pews were also reconfigured. You will notice that, on both side in the middle of the center aisle, there are shorter pews. This is to allow someone using a walker or wheelchair to be able to sit closer to the front with family and be able to park their chair or walker close to them. The front pews and a back pew are also off set for the same reason. The center aisle was chosen for the offset because navigating through the side doors and the narrow side aisle is challenging with a wheelchair or walker.

If you are worshiping with someone with a walker or wheelchair, please keep this in mind. If you don't need the assistance of a walker or wheelchair, please keep in mind the needs of those who do when selecting your pew. The ushers might be asking you move for those who need the space.



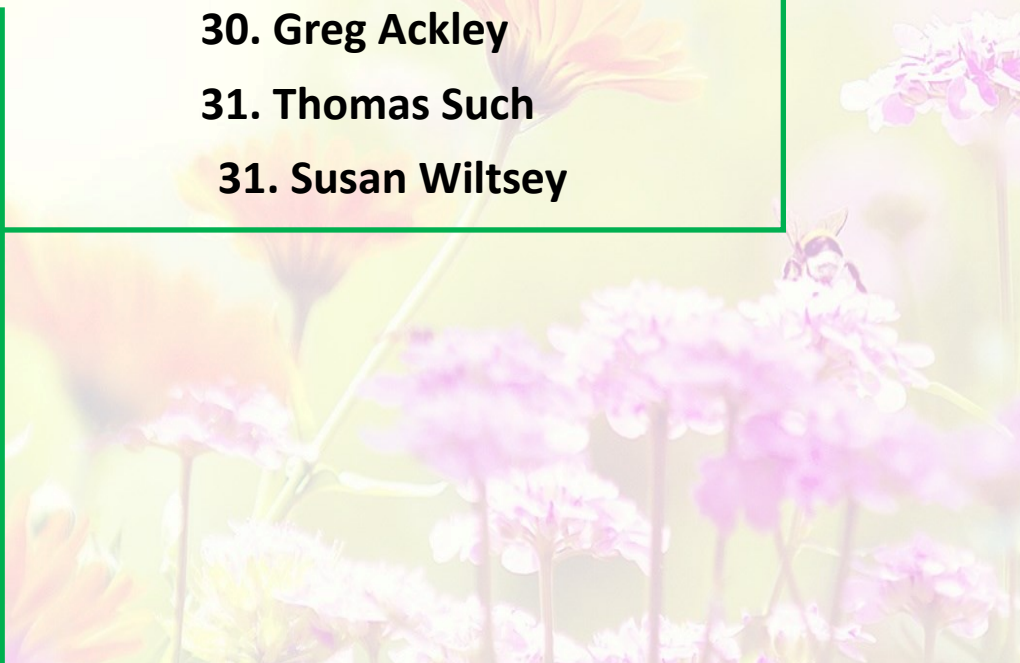
Youth Group



Youth Group outing April 3, 2022; a hike at Salmon Creek and a trip for frozen yogurt, and photos of the group practicing music and hanging out.

Happy May Birthdays!

- 3. Laurie Doering
- 7. Art Burges
- 7. Gail Levitt
- 7. Joseph Mammarella
- 9. Pat Kelly, Jr.
- 11. Sally Bowlin
- 11. Jerry DuPree
- 12. Nancy Mullen
- 12. Carolyn Officer
- 19. Claire Davis
- 22. Caleb Feb
- 22. Lisa Stokman
- 23. Daphne C. Russell
- 24. Austin McAllister
- 27. Susan Knowles Berry
- 29. Jeannine Marks
- 29. Nancy Volgamore
- 30. Greg Ackley
- 31. Thomas Such
- 31. Susan Wiltsey





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 dalemv@att.net. Deadline for each month for submission varies and is announced at the beginning of the prior month.

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