



The Circuit Rider

March
2022

Transcendent Points of Reference

A Lenten Study of Moorings

Salmon Creek Church

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"CREATE IN ME
A PURE HEART."

- PSALM 51:10a



a note from Pastor John

My Lenten sermon series is called “Transcendent Points of Reference.” I have taken this unusual title from an article I found in the Catholic magazine “First Things,” but much of the content has been influenced by a book by noted Methodist Theologian William Abraham called “Key United Methodist Beliefs.” It was definitely a “God-thing” that I happened to be reading both at the same time!

I don’t want to give away too much of the content – come to church and find out! – but in the magazine article, the author (George Weigel) is discussing the interface between society and culture and suggesting that the Catholic Church really needs a Pope who can stand firm on foundational Catholic beliefs in the face of the vicissitudes of society. He calls these foundational beliefs “transcendent points of reference” – those key elements of the faith that are given by God, not people. Weigel asserts that when a society is no longer moored to these points of reference, it begins to disintegrate.

You don’t have to be a Catholic to understand the importance of these points of reference. They undergird all of our structures of morality, justice, and what it means to be humans loved by God. When we no longer share common points of reference, or worse, try to proceed by inventing our own points of reference, things fall apart as people no longer have a common language, nor even a common worldview. As Christians in particular we, through our understanding of Christ’s redemptive work on the cross, are convinced that the goodness of God is transmitted through these points of reference. When we abandon these points of reference, we, in effect, are abandoning the goodness of God.

William Abraham’s book sets out a set of points of reference as the foundational beliefs of Methodism. It is not surprising to see how his topics and those of Weigel’s overlap, as both traditions share a common heritage. Of particular note is both author’s emphasis on the dignity and nobility of humanity, not out of some political or societal formula, but simply because we are all created in the image of God and are imbued with God’s foundational truths – we all carry the image of God. It is through the lens of Abraham’s Methodist viewpoint that we will examine these transcendent points of reference, with a particular emphasis on how they lead to the cross, the empty tomb, and salvation.

Blessings, Pastor John

Transcendent
Points of
Reference

A Lenten Study of Moorings

The J.O.Y. Academy

Jesus – Others – You

Inspiring children to follow Christ

Circuit Rider articles – March 2022

J.O.Y. Academy Shepherds – A big THANK YOU to all those who signed up to serve “Shepherds” for our Children’s Ministry on Sunday mornings during worship. It’s not only a lot of fun, but the children love getting to know the adults in our church. They truly enjoy it when you take part in the songs, crafts, lessons, and activities. We are covered through the month of July, so once again – THANK YOU!



ANNOUNCING A SPECIAL FAMILY EVENT: Rise Up with Jesus!

During this 2-hour interactive event, families will experience the miraculous truth of what really happened that morning when Jesus conquered death. The sights, sounds, and smells of Easter morning will draw kids and families closer to God...and to each other!

They will journey from darkness to light by entering “the tomb” and making a dazzling discovery. They will help roll away the stone and experience the amazing truth as they “rise up with Jesus!”

Our youth group is partnering with the J.O.Y. Academy to help lead this special family event. **We need adult volunteers to help us** – set up, provide refreshments, and clean up. **The event will take place here at church on Saturday, April 9th, from 2-4 pm.** We will set up in the morning, enjoy lunch together, finish setting up, enjoy the event, then clean everything up.

Look for more information as well as online registration and volunteer sign ups at <https://salmoncreek.church/> as well as at the Welcome Center beginning March 6th.

Our goal is to grow our Children’s Ministry by providing the kinds of events and experiences children will enjoy and parents will value. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to invite your friends and neighbors to experience the joy of being a part of Salmon Creek Church!

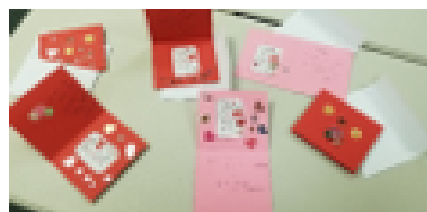


J.O.Y. Academy is fun and filled with love!

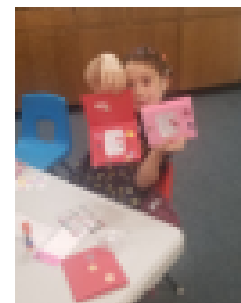
Our children have been learning about the Fruits of the Spirit through acting out Bible stories and living the love! Braedon and Amelia learned about Faithfulness as they fought King Saul with “arrows” (crumpled up paper) and “spears” (pool noodles) on David’s behalf. Mila helped make Valentine’s Day cards for our Friends in Faith to take to those who cannot leave home as a way of living into Love as a Fruit of the Spirit. Our Sunday Shepherds were an important part of our fun and success – thank you!



Look



for



new life in J.O.Y. Academy starting March 8th

— A New Curriculum

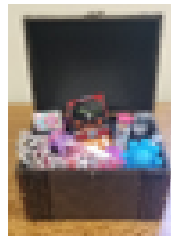
The Family Ministry Team met on January 31st and reviewed several different resources for our children to use on Sunday mornings. Our criteria was something that would be easy for volunteers to bring to life, be cost effective, but most importantly, a resource that would inspire children to give their lives to Jesus and follow in His footsteps.

"Simply Loved" met all those goals. It's a dynamic resource that includes vivid visuals, lively music, great decorations, plenty of digital content & resources, and solid Bible-based lessons that bring our faith to life for children. Combine all that with the loving support of the people of Salmon Creek Church and we'll offer a meaningful experience that children won't want to miss!

— Speaking of missing . . .

Due to the constraints imposed by COVID, we haven't been "officially" keeping track of attendance at J.O.Y. Academy – but that will change on March 6th. Beginning that Sunday those who are present will have a star next to their name on the Simply Loved Attendance Chart. **But wait – there's more!**

Children will earn PRIZES from our new Treasure Chest simply by attending J.O.Y. Academy. They will be able to choose a prize from the Treasure Chest whenever they:



- 🌟 attend 3 Sundays in a row **OR**
- 🌟 attend 5 times **OR**
- 🌟 bring a new person with them to J.O.Y. Academy

Drop by any Sunday to [take a look](#) at what we're doing – you're always welcome!

Our children are learning how to love through giving

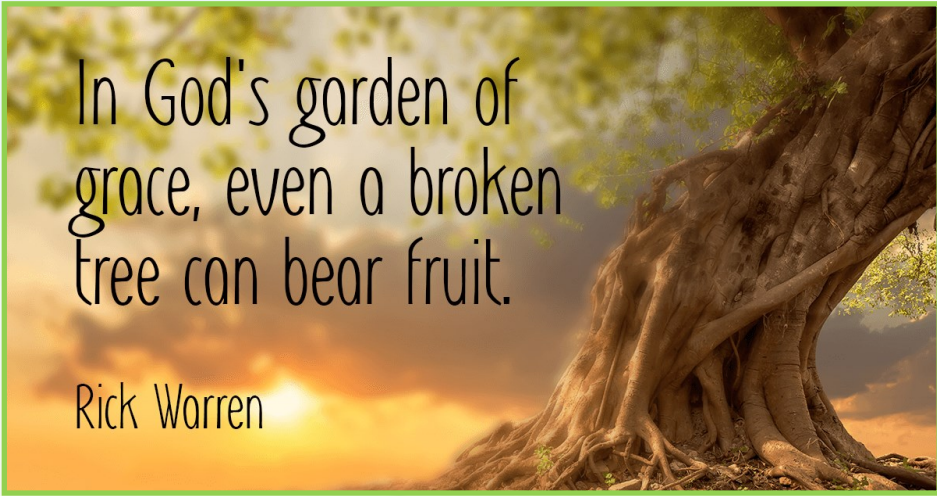
Last fall our children set a goal of buying a flock of chickens through Heifer International to give to a family in need elsewhere in the world. Well – by Christmas they had met their goal! We have submitted a request to our church Treasurer and Finance Secretary (who have faithfully counted those coins every month – thank you Ed and Jim) for a check to be sent to Heifer International on behalf of our children. Be sure to congratulate them for learning a something the people of this church value highly – giving to those in need in the name of Jesus Christ. Let's see what they set as their new goal for giving!

Youth Bowling Event



February 20, 2022





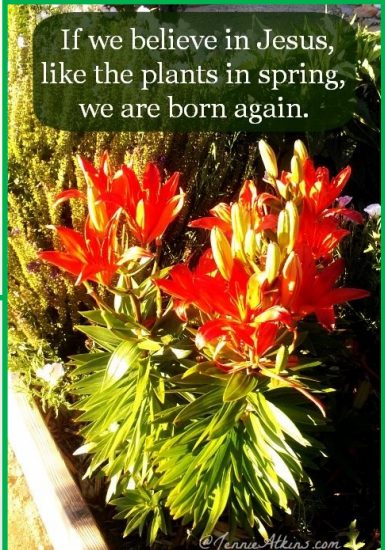
In God's garden of
grace, even a broken
tree can bear fruit.

Rick Warren

It is that time of year when we start digging and planting. That means we are lining up gardeners for God's Gardens. Each plot is 4x8 feet with about a foot of soil. Most have plenty of soil depending on what you are growing, but there is too much soil in some of my gardens which can be moved to any other plot with less soil. We will be working on the fences this spring to keep the bunnies out and we put down new mulch around the gardens last fall to keep weeding outside of the plots to a minimum. The cost per plot is only \$10 to cover the watering expenses, payable in April.

Water will be hooked up by the end of March. Right now the West half of the gardens are set up on a sprinkler system which waters on a regular basis while the East gardens need to be hand watered (some gardeners prefer tight control on when to water) but we can set up watering for half of those gardens as well. Altogether there are 18 plots available and we have plenty of availability. We also have some experienced gardeners who are glad to work with anyone new to gardening. We share our bounty on the table outside the East entrance to the Sanctuary as typically we raise way more than we can use just for our families and friends!

To sign up contact Jim Selby 828-508-5094 or selbyjb@comcast.net.



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

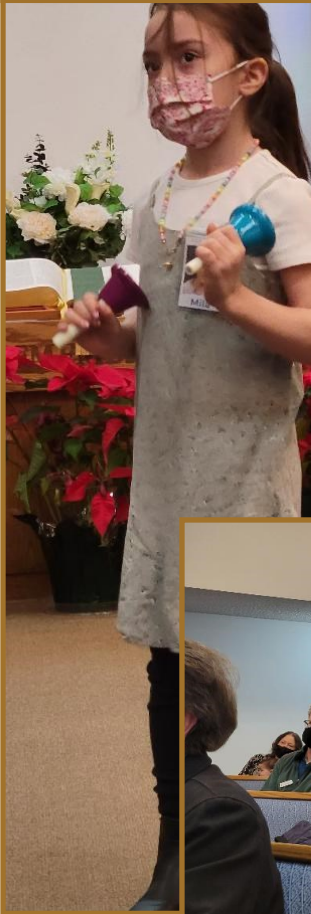


Sunday, 2-20-22



Exultation Ringers and Chancel Choir

EXULTATION RINGERS AND CHANCEL CHOIR



YOUTH SUNDAY

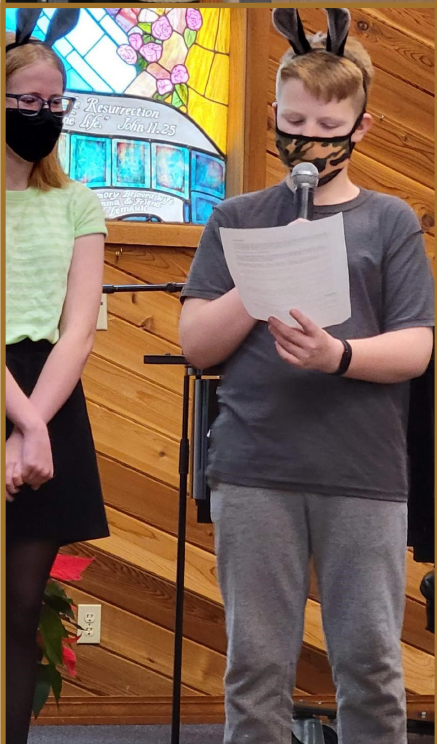
1-30-22

O God, I know You're everywhere!
If I'm a bird, then You're the air;
if I'm a fish, then You're the sea –
Inside, around, upholding me.





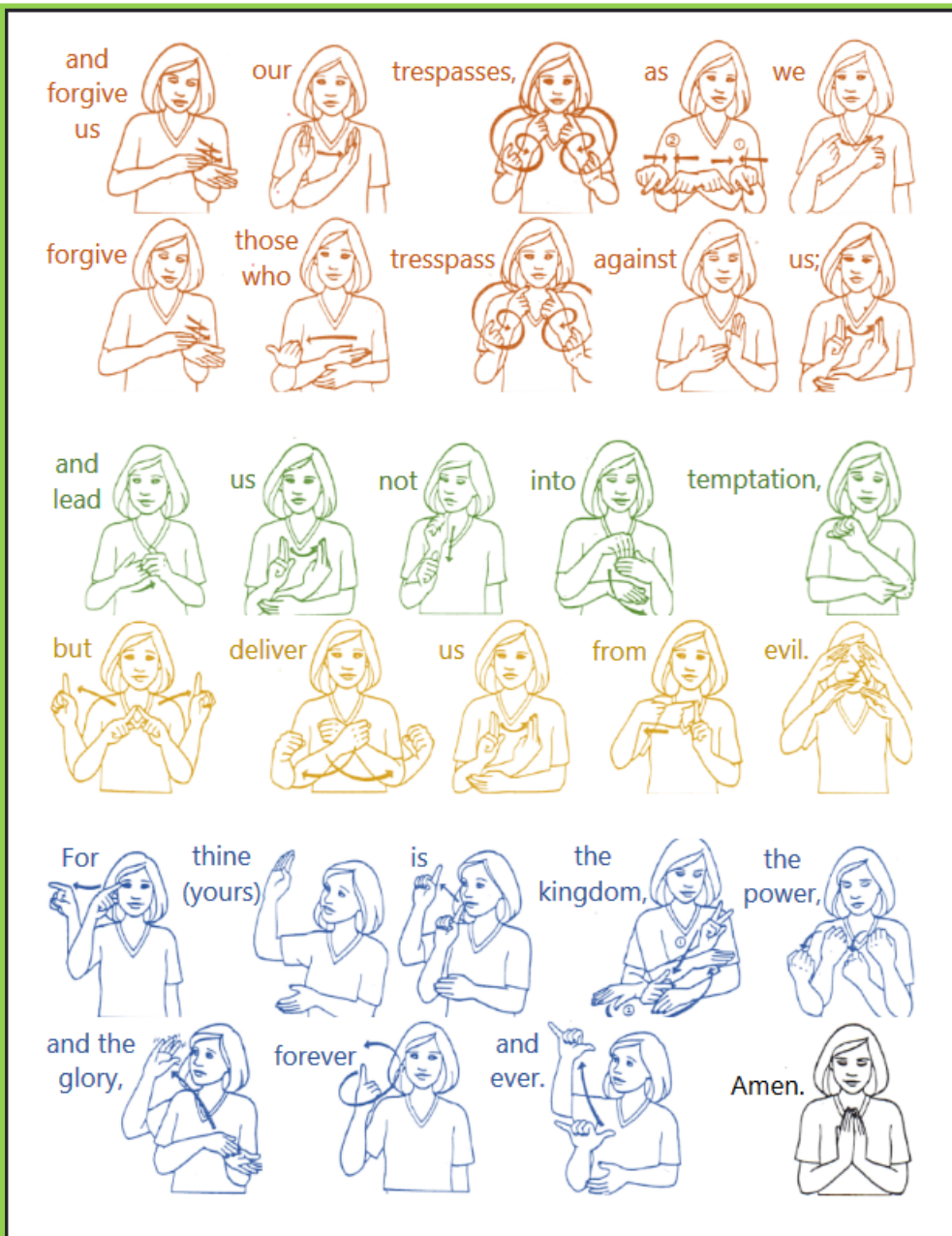
YOUTH SUNDAY



The Lord's Prayer In Sign Language



Pastor Vivian and Mila signing
The Lord's Prayer.



Pastor Vivian and Mila signing The Lord's Prayer.



Fruit of the Spirit Brunch!

Come support Family Promise and enjoy some wonderful food and fellowship at brunch on Sunday, March 6th. We will have community mission opportunities for those who want to "bear some fruit!" Served in the FMC from 9am - noon.



Tax Preparation service at our church

A group is providing free tax preparation for low income folks thru 4/14/2022 on Tuesdays and Thursday 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Please be aware of folks looking for them – they are meeting in the FMC building. You can reach them at info@renlocus.org to make an appointment. *Ed and Heidi will provide free tax service to Church members.*

To set up an appointment call 360-230-8030.




Ren Locus is a non-profit in Clark County, Washington that provides programs, offers connections to resources, and assistance obtaining services for underserved people.



SCHEDULE
YOUR DONATION

Salmon Creek Church will be hosting Bloodworks Northwest, our local blood collection agency, on April 28 – 29 in the Family Ministry Center Gym. The gym will be unavailable for other activities from April 28 at 7:30 AM to April 29 at 6:00PM. In the past, Bloodworks Northwest has held their blood drives at Legacy Hospital. Due to Covid restrictions, they have not been able to do so and have been searching for a suitable location; obviously, Salmon Creek Church, with its locale so close to Legacy, is well suited! Bloodworks will be drawing blood on willing volunteers by an appointment basis. If you would like to sign-up to donate, please call 1-800-398-7888.

- 
- 2. Ken Brandt**
3. Alex Longshore
6. Jane Clark
8. Kevin Hunter
10. Roberta Gapsch
11. Aaron Hawn
11. Jan Ward
13. Jim Selby
14. Ross Hollister
15. Karen West
16. Phyllis Deaver
17. Pat Prichard
19. Lance Bachman
19. Nancy Brandon
19. LaVeta Scherer
23. Katie Albrici
24. Patricia Petersen
29. Ron Doering
30. Joan Hackett





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 nancy.volgamore@salmoncreek.church. Deadline for each month for submission varies and is announced at the beginning of the prior month.

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