



The Circuit Rider

Salmon Creek Church



NOVEMBER BLESSINGS

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you His favor and give you His peace.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

November 2022



NEW!!!! Click on Content item to go directly to that page!!

- [Message from Pastor John—2](#)
- [Annual Charge Conference—3](#)
- [J.O.Y. Academy—4—6](#)
- [October LOOM Newsletter—7](#)
- [Stewardship Campaign—8-11](#)
- [Counters Needed—12](#)
- [Annual Missions Basket](#)

- [Auction—13](#)
- [Staff Appreciation Day—14](#)
- [Hanging of the Greens—15](#)
- ['Seats & Feets' Drive—16](#)
- [Blessing of the Animals—17,18](#)
- [October Clue Event—19](#)
- [Family Promise—20](#)

- [Habitat for Humanity—21-23](#)
- [Birthdays—24](#)
- [Joyland Christian Church—25](#)





a note from Pastor John

A Meditation on November

On the church calendar, the month of November begins with All Saints Sunday and ends with Christ the King Sunday, with Thanksgiving just before that. It is a period of transition. Just as the trees shed their leaves and go quiet, so do we spiritually slow our souls in anticipation of the holiness of Advent, and the renewal of light and life that comes with Christmas. We remember the past by honoring those saints who have left us. We give grateful thanks to God for the bounty of the earth and the blessings of the harvest, and we bow our knees to the King of Kings. November is not a month of wild parties and shouting: it is a month of praying and thanksgiving.

During November, I will be preaching on several biblical texts regarding how various people, like Jonah, Moses, and Jephthah, kept their commitments to God in spite of difficult obstacles and the unbelief of their followers. These three sermons may leave you feeling a little unsatisfied, as if they weren't quite complete. In the November quiet we will be left to ponder this incompleteness, only to discover that none of their efforts were truly completed until the advent of Jesus Christ, which we will celebrate on Christ the King Sunday, November 20th.

Times of transition, change and quiet reflection; of slowing the spiritual self, can bring about an awakening of the spirit. Just as Elijah only heard the voice of God in the stillness and quiet, so can we, sloughing off the craziness and clamor of the outside world, find that same peace. And, like Elijah, within that peace we can renew our commitment to God. We might find ourselves with a better understanding of our place in God's world, feel strengthened and encouraged in our faith, and prepared to wait with bated breath the arrival of the Prince of Peace on Christmas.

The lengthening nights become not a time for fear, but an opportunity for contemplation and prayer. Instead of fearing the darkness, we can enjoy the stars. Instead of bemoaning the rain, we can give thanks for the life-giving waters.

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' (1 Kings 19)

Blessings, Pastor John



Annual Charge Conference

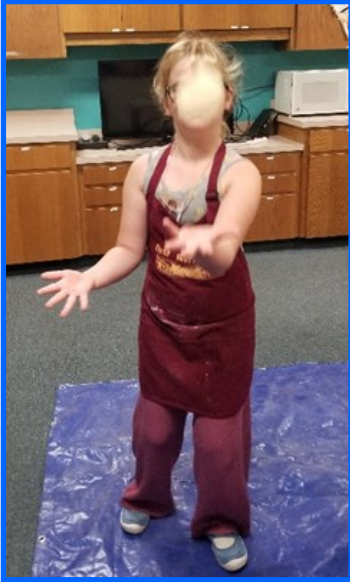
Save the date, Saturday, December 3rd, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, and plan to attend the church's annual Charge Conference. No, it won't be all dry church business, because from 5:00 – 6:00 pm we will be having a chili dinner, some music, and a celebration of the past year and the year to come. Then at 6:00 pm, we will have a service that will, yes, have some dry church business, but will also give us a time to thank God for all the blessings our church has received, and to commit ourselves to continuing our efforts and service into 2023 and beyond. All are invited, including family. Only members may vote during the business portion, but non-members may stay and observe.

Please RSVP for this event:

[Click here to RSVP](#)

The J.O.Y. Academy
Jesus – Others – You
Inspiring children to follow Christ

Guess who?*



Children's worship through J.O.Y. Academy has been filled with adventure, fun, and faith! New children joined us this fall as we journeyed with Moses and the children of Israel on their escape from Egypt. We marveled at God's power on display through the plagues that He sent to Egypt. The children made their toy frogs hop, ran from the (toy) flies, and pelted one another with small foil balls to re-enact the hailstorm sent by God!



They learned that God's purpose was not to simply liberate the children of Israel, but to liberate them for a rich, abiding purpose – to worship God as the first and foundational step of becoming God's Chosen People who would make possible God's salvation through Jesus Christ.

The children re-enacted the Passover meal, eating saltine crackers to experience the unleavened bread God commanded the people to make. Then they, with the help of their Sunday Shepherd (Craig) made a cross on the door of the room and wrote their names on it – just as the children of Israel marked the doors of their houses so they would be saved.

Our Sunday Shepherds are important to the success of J.O.Y. Academy. They share their own faith by talking about how Jesus helped them in a real life situation. When Craig helped them put their own names on the cross, and when Greg shared how Jesus helped him be brave enough to jump out of an airplane during paratrooper training, the children were wide-eyed and silent – *this* is how they will catch the faith!

The children made their own bread for World Communion Sunday, then solemnly celebrated it with Pastor Vivian (also an ordained Methodist elder), who explained the meaning of the bread and juice and the words we use for this important Sacrament. They learned about the power of Christ's grace flowing to them through the bread they themselves made – wow!

They experienced getting all wet by accident as they heard the story of how Jesus calmed the storm. And they wrote or drew words of love and encouragement to Jesus when they once again explored the meaning of His crucifixion. They placed their colorful post it notes on the poster of the story – why don't you check it out for yourself in Room 203 of the Family Ministry Center? See for yourself how our children are filled with love for Christ.

The new Children and Family Ministry team met after worship on October 2nd. Tiffiney Nordby, our new Nursery Attendant, provided child care for the children while the team met. Team members (Phyllis Browning, Bob & E-Lois Gebhart, Aaron & Anna-Lisa Miller, Kim Winters, Vivian and Pastor John) will provide feedback to Vivian and Tiffiney, help think through how to improve our ministry to children, and help build support for the ministry within the congregation.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 30th **Children & Youth Sunday** (the children help lead worship)
In Sanctuary, during worship.

Sunday, December 11 **Children's Sunday in Advent:** Presenting Bibles to all children in our church who are in 4th and 5th grades.

Saturday, Dec. 24 @ 5:00 pm -- Children's Christmas Eve Worship Service

and ANNOUNCING

2023 Vacation Bible School

Stellar

SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

Monday, July 31 – Friday, August 4

Learn more at

<https://www.group.com/childrens-ministry/vbs/stellar/>





**Addie makes
Communion bread.**



**Remy and Miracle make
Communion bread.**

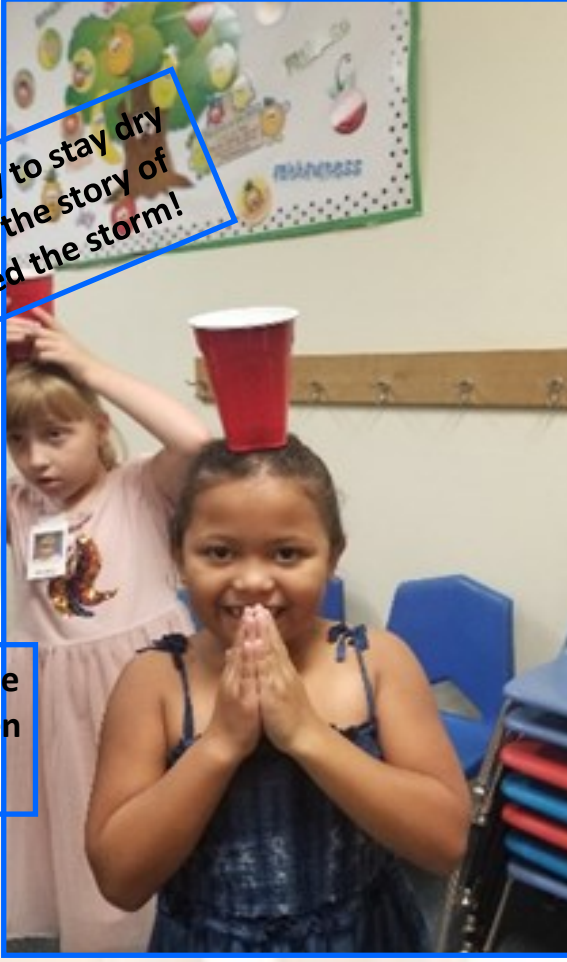
Our thanks to everyone who helps make our Children's Ministry possible.

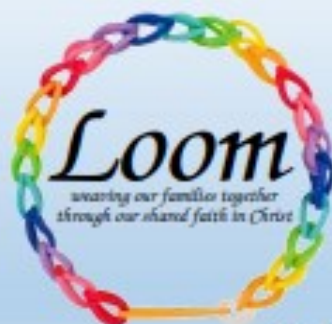
*** The mystery baker is Clara Miller – who caught that ball of bread, baked it, and ate it!*



Melody tries to stay dry as she experiences the story of when Jesus calmed the storm!

Remy and Miracle try to stay dry as they experience the story of when Jesus calmed the storm!





NEWSLETTER

October 2022

October 30th is Children's Sunday

Whenever there are 5 Sundays in a month, our children and youth take on some of the leadership tasks of the Sunday worship service held in the Sanctuary. October 30th is the next 5th Sunday.

On that Sunday our children will lead the congregation in ringing the small brightly colored bells for TWO songs. Don't worry - we'll practice the songs this Sunday!



They will also lead the congregation in singing the Doxology as the offering is brought forward - the same Doxology they've been singing on Sunday mornings - complete with the video they know.

And, of course, they'll lead the congregation in singing and signing the Lord's Prayer, just as they do every Sunday.



So - please arrive a little early and meet Miss Vivian at the back of the Sanctuary to get your name tag - just like we used to. She'll have a bag for each child with interesting things for them to do when they aren't leading worship.

Then sit as a family where it will be easy for them to get up and come forward because, when it's their turn to lead, Miss Vivian will ask them to come to her at the front of the church. They'll return to their seats in between their leadership times.

And, as always, a yummy treat will be provided after worship!

2022 Mission Dinner & Auction

Saturday, November 19th

Last year Children & Family Ministries donated a family-themed basket to the silent auction portion of this important event. The basket included 2 movie DVDs, hot cocoa, snacks, and soft blankets in an attractive wicker basket.

We need ideas and donations for this year's basket! If you can help, please contact Vivian - call or text her at 360-844-0440, or email her at

Vivian.Hiestand@salmoncreek.church

PAINTER SMOCKS WANTED

We have a few smocks for children to wear when they bake or paint or do other crafts. But we could use a few more. If you have any adult sized button-up shirts you don't need, we can use them as smocks! Just drop them off one Sunday.



Christmas is coming!

On Sunday, December 11, we will present Bibles to our children who are in the 4th and 5th grades. Look for more information in late November.

keep going - there's more →

Renew - Remake - Regrow

2023 Stewardship Campaign

MESSAGE TO YOU FROM PASTOR JOHN

Sometimes, it seems like things just don't line up right. We are beginning our stewardship campaign for 2023 in the midst of what may be the worst economic downturn since 2008. With fixed incomes seeming like they're shrinking and home budgets tightening, it seems important that we be very clear on why we are asking you to continue and increase your generous giving to Salmon Creek Church. But instead of making the economic argument of rising costs and operational expenses, which you can find elsewhere in this brochure, I want to talk about the importance of the mission of this church in your family, our congregation and in the community.

Pew Research has speculated that Christianity may not be the majority religion in the United States by 2050. That could mean that your grandchildren or great-grandchildren, through the deadening forces of secular culture, may not have access to the Word of God. They may know nothing about the grace of Jesus Christ. The little town church, which has always served as a doorway into the joyful, meaningful world of God and Spirit, may simply no longer exist. I can not think of anything more dire than a world without Jesus.

Today, Salmon Creek Church stands, with other churches, as a bulwark against such a future. In this post-Covid world, we are growing in all of our ministries. We have enough reserves to invest in continued growth – continued witness in our community for Jesus Christ – for a little while, but eventually the financial realities of operating a 21st century church will assert themselves. Simply put, the church relies on the voluntary donations of congregation members for nearly all of our operational costs. Your increased pledge for 2023 isn't only for our immediate needs – it will help us continue to be a meaningful voice for Jesus Christ in years to come, help reverse the dire predictions about the future, and ensure a place of praise, prayer and worship for your grandchildren. Thank you for your generous pledge.

Blessings,

Pastor John

Commitment Sunday is October 30, 2022

The Mission of Salmon Creek Church
is to make and engage
disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world.



SALMON CREEK CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST MINISTRY
12217 NW Highway 99
Vancouver, WA 98686



FINANCE

A brief look at Salmon Creek United Methodist Church's (SCUMC) financial position shows several interesting bits of information both encouraging and concerning.

SCUMC has a good store of resources to meet our community outreach as well as to rekindle our membership. We have been blessed with several one-time sources of funds. [Bequests and Federal governmental assistance (PPPL: Payroll Protection Plan Loan) to support employee retention during the pandemic]. Also, SCUMC is fortunate to have a very desirable physical facility.

There is, however, another side to our position: we have lost a substantial portion of our operating income (**pledges**) which have **decreased 25%**. Operating expenses, other than personnel cost, have **decreased 23%**, while **personnel cost** has **increased 9%**. We are using our stored resources to subsidize our daily operation. This, for a brief time, may be acceptable; however, it cannot be sustained over a longer period.

Taking our current year trends produces another deficit of \$84 thousand for 2023. We must look to balancing operating income and operating expenses, which can be accomplished by increasing our pledge income, or by developing fund raising activities. We hope you will do your share by stepping up to the plate and increasing your pledge, or by making that new pledge.

Historical and Projected Finances

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Projected 2022	Draft Budget 2023	5 year Total
(In thousands)						
Income						
Pledges	393	311	296	296	300	
Other	28	54	245	24	25	
Total	420	365	541	319	325	
Expense						
Ops & Admin	97	90	102	79	85	
Apportionments	63	55	45	44	43	
Program	12	6	8	9	13	
Staff & Related	226	223	224	251	268	
Total	397	374	379	382	409	
Net Inc (Loss)	23	-9	162	-63	-84	28
Less PPPL		30	45			
Bequests			174			
			219			-219
Net Income(Loss) less grants & bequests	23	-48	-57	-63	-84	-191

HOW CAN I HELP AND DONATE?

By Brian Ernster, Counters Team

During our annual pledge drive, it is useful to review the various ways we can deliver our donations to the church. So, how do we perform this important work?

We all know the activity of “passing the plate” during our Sunday worship Offertory. When the plate comes to us, we can put in cash or a check. These are the least complex ways to donate. Checks can also be mailed to the church (For an additional 58 cents in postage!).

Another way, online giving, is popular and becoming more so. The church’s online giving platform is VANCO and can be reached online directly or through the church website, Salmon-creek.church. Click on “More” and select giving. There is a link to take you to the VANCO site.

Electronic giving via VANCO is convenient and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. There are several ways to utilize the VANCO site to donate to the church:

1. **Debit your bank account:** Direct debit giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church’s bank account on a one-time basis or a pre-determined schedule. You will need the routing and the account number of the account from which you want the funds transferred. This option generally has no fees associated with the contribution.

2. **Credit or Debit Card:** Credit and debit card giving also allows you to make offerings one-time or automatically on a pre-determined schedule using the card you choose. This option commonly has a 3% fee that you can choose to offset using an electronic button on the site.

One final consideration: Should you give by cash donation and do not put it in a donation envelope (found in the pews) with your name on the envelope, you will not be credited by the church. All other types of donations (online or by check) are annotated by the counters and credited to the giver and will show on giving statements.

Please consider the best and most comfortable way for you to donate. If you have questions or would like to discuss your giving method, please feel free to consult with one of the Counters, myself, Pam Roberts, Elaine Gilbert, or Jim Roberts...we’re in the directory!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group is a space where our youth can be themselves and grow their relationship with God. During youth group, we get to do a little bit of everything, prayer, games, studies and food. We meet every Sunday after service from 11am-1pm and Wednesdays from 7pm-8:30pm. We keep things uplifting, engaging and safe. All are welcome, regardless of your faith background.

We love to adventure together: Laser Tag, Mini Golf, Hikes, Bowling, challenging ourselves with new adventures. We can't forget the fun Lock-In's we've had as well. We make new friendships and strengthen them along the way. Also, we started our Youth Band. Join us in praising the Lord!

We have a rich tradition in serving our community. Come and serve with us as we support our local organizations like Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity and more; some of the many moments to work as a team!

Your Pledges support these ministries,
among others ...

MUSIC MINISTRY

At Salmon Creek Church, we boast a thriving and fulfilling music ministry in which about 50 musicians (both from the congregation and the community!) are involved in some capacity! Gathering together in ministry for choir, praise team, or our handbell ensembles, you can hear music thread together a community of Christians to enhance the worship services. There are few things that connect people together like music does!

I know from personal experience that the community which a music ensemble provides is some of the most rewarding you can feel! We come together each week for moments of music making, fellowship, and a focus on what the music means and how it relates to scripture and our faith!

We've also done a handful of outreach events and concerts, both locally, and in northern WA! We're partnered with Family Promise, the Flames Basketball teams, and other groups to create a cohesive network of people in our community sharing our love of music with many others!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Just over a year ago church leaders took a bold step by launching a new approach to children's ministry. The church was moving out of the restrictions of COVID. Leaders worked with Pastor John to identify the key ministries and traditions that form our identity and find ways to renew them in strength and purpose. Towards that end they hired Vivian (an ordained Elder) to lead Children and Family Ministries because she had a different approach that seemed promising.

When Vivian began in July, 2021, only one or two children attended on a regular basis. Our people responded as she put together a team to provide ideas and feedback as well as volunteers to be present on Sunday mornings to provide a safe environment. Together they offered a one-day Vacation Bible School in August. Six children attended, had a blast, and the ministry was launched!

The "J.O.Y. Academy" offers worship and Bible instruction every Sunday. The year saw children participate in a Christmas program, 85 people attended the Family Christmas Eve service, and a new curriculum was purchased. As more children began to attend, Vivian provided a pre-Easter day of Bible fun. By May at least five new families were attending regularly, and plans moved forward for a full week Vacation Bible School in August.

That Vacation Bible School stretched us to the max! We had 27 children attend and sure enough, more families are now a regular part of our community as a result. We now average about 6 children in J.O.Y. Academy every week. God has shown us the harvest is ripe! We at Children and Family Ministries trust that the people of the church will continue to be generous with their time and money so that we can continue to "be fruitful and multiply!"

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise provides members of our church an opportunity to be the hands and feet of God right in Vancouver. About every three months, Salmon Creek UMC hosts 3-4 houseless families in the Family Ministry Center. We provide a safe place to sleep, a warm meal with GREAT hospitality, and the gym is an amazing place for a houseless child to safely run and play.

Volunteers set up the rooms for sleeping, cook the meals, do the dishes, provide hospitality, restore the rooms from sleeping areas to be ready for Children's Church on Sunday morning. There are the invisible angels who wash the sheets, pray, bring snacks for the families or donate money so we can buy milk, fruit or breakfast items.

Families love the private space they get with our rooms, while also enjoying the warm interaction they receive with volunteers.

ARE YOU AN ACCURATE COUNTER?



Money Counter

The church is currently recruiting a Counter to join the existing group. If you are not aware, the Counters are those wonderful people who work behind the scenes to count church donations and ensure they are credited properly to the donor and put in the correct church fund. The group currently has openings for up to three people, having suffered some recent resignations.

Counters generally work on Mondays and, as the schedule works currently, work a two-on/two-off schedule. Normally, the counting function takes about 90 minutes on any Monday morning. There is some computer work involved but it is not overly complex; lots of folks have mastered it over the years. Two people work together weekly as required by the Methodist Discipline. We do offer a comprehensive orientation.

If you can help the church by joining this very important group, please contact Jim Roberts at:

jimpamrobert@gmail.com or at home at 360-573-0446.



OFFERING COUNTERS



BASKET AUCTION

Salmon Creek Church Annual Missions Basket Auction

All monies raised go to Friends of the Carpenter, Ft. Vancouver Seafarer's Center, Share, Open House Ministries and YWCA Safe Choice Women's Shelter, all located in Vancouver, WA.

November 19, 2022

Doors open at 5:00 pm - Come early and bid!

Dinner at 6:00 pm – Cost - \$15.00 per ticket - Menu: pork loin roast, yams, fresh green beans and dressing.

Dessert Dash after dinner – Each table will bid a dollar amount for the chance to pick out the dessert for your table.

Live auction at 7:00 pm

Tickets are available now. Remember to sign up and let us know if there are special dietary needs.





Save the Date --- November 13th !!

To recognize and celebrate our great staff here at Salmon Creek Church, we will have a special honor time during the Worship Service on Sunday morning, November 13th. Then, following the service, there will be cake served during the Coffee Fellowship hour. The staff will be present so that you may offer your personal thanks and praise for all the great work they do!

Please, come and thank them for all they do to keep our Church alive and working!!

If you have any question, please feel free to contact Lila DeBolt:

360-600-8521



The
Hanging
of the **Greens**

SAVE THE DATE

The Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 26th

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

In the Sanctuary

Many hands make light work!

All are welcome for this festive gathering!

*Hanging
of the
Greens*



It's time for Share's annual *Seats & Feet* drive!

We are asking for:

- **New underwear (all sizes, for men, women & teens).
Please keep in mind that a range of sizes is needed, from
small to 3XL.**
- **New diapers (newborn to size 6, plus pull-ups) & wipes.**
 - **New socks (all sizes, for men, women & teens).**

There is a bin at the back of the sanctuary for your donations. When the bin is full, Share will be contacted to come and pick it up.

Thank you in advance for your caring and concern! This is one of many ministries we support and we have participated in this drive in the past.



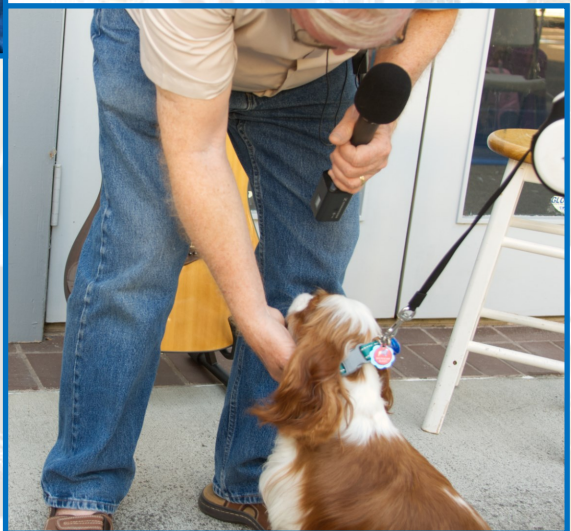
Blessing of the Animals



On Saturday, October 8, 2022, Salmon Creek Church held "Blessing of the Animals"

This service is often held on or around October 4th because that's the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis lived over 800 years ago, yet his love for all people and all creatures of God was so strong that it echoes through the centuries into our own time. St. Francis swam in the currents of love founded by God at the Creation of the world. That love enjoyed its most complete expression in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We celebrated that love by blessing the animals that were brought by their human companions, honoring the special bond we feel with our non-human friends. Pastor John blessed 3 cats, 1 fish (virtually) and 6 dogs.







The Live Action Clue Event on October 9th was a success! We had over 60 youth come together. It was such a pleasure being able to host this event. Thank you so much to everyone who helped!

Jessica Santillan

Coordinator of Youth Ministries



Youth Group



Are you looking for a way to be missional? If you are somewhat new to Salmon Creek, you might be hearing about Family Promise but aren't sure what we are talking about.

Family Promise is a national, nonprofit that has local affiliates. Family Promise of Clark County started around Easter of 2018. Family Promise works with families who are homeless. They coordinate with local churches for a place to sleep and get hot meals, while their staff works with the families to address the issues which led to their homelessness. Salmon Creek UMC hosts the families about four times a year. We need volunteers to cook and host meals, volunteers to spend the night (you get to sleep) and volunteers to help set up and breakdown.

Volunteers also help with laundry.

Our affiliate has an 85% success rate of assisting families in returning to homes.

This is a great mission opportunity for families of all ages. If you want to learn more, ask Karen Beilsmith. Our next host dates are December 4-11th.

UPCOMING HOSTING DATES FOR 2023

February 19—26

April 16—23

August 6—13

October 22—29

December 30—January 6, 2024

Habitat for Humanity

By Larry Siewert/Missions

On September 22nd, I had the pleasure to represent Salmon Creek Church at the annual Habitat for Humanity benefit breakfast. This fund-raiser and celebration was to launch the nine-home subdivision called Johnson Village. The families have already been picked, but Habitat is still waiting for the County permits to be issued in order to start the foundations. The Mission team donated \$5,000 from the Habitat Mission fund, which was matched by the *GiveMore24* nonprofit special giving.

Please continue to give to the Habitat mission fund. For those of you who have investments that require Minimum Distribution withdraws, please consider requesting that they be sent to the Mission fund for Habitat. Hopefully, we will be able to volunteer next spring in the actual building.



Your Mission Team would like to send a big THANK YOU to all of you for supporting the Benefit Breakfast on October 16th for Salmon Creek United Methodist Church Habitat home.

We served 70 breakfasts and raised over \$1,300.00! Those funds go towards our goal of raising \$75,000. Building construction may start next spring.

A lot of folks helped in this event - so thank you to those who helped: Don & Kathy Hardy, Larry Siewert, and Kevin Hunter for setting up tables and decorations. In the kitchen on Saturday, Linda Sloan and Christina Hunter helped Gay and Steve preparing egg casseroles and cheesy potatoes. For Sunday morning the big event: Our youth, lead by Jessica and Juan, took your orders and brought you your beverages and meals. Steve Enyeart was busy in the kitchen making pancakes while Linda Sloan and Christina Hunter dished up your food and Gay made sure orders were filled and everyone was happy. Lots of folks pitched in at the end and helped put away the tables and chairs. Larry Siewert was our coffee maker and dishwasher. It was a job well done by all and we are so grateful!

BENEFIT BREAKFAST for Habitat for Humanity on OCTOBER 16th



BENEFIT BREAKFAST for Habitat for Humanity on OCTOBER 16th



humanity®

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Katy Bachman November 2
Richard Bippes November 5
Becky Kelly November 6
David Koeltzow November 6
Mike Pervere November 6
Greg Berry November 7
Art Retzlaff November 7
Alice Love November 8
Mariah Williams November 10
Heidi Hawn November 11
Rhet Young November 12
Courtney Beyer November 14
Diane Rae Arp November 17
MaryeJo Siewert November 21
Ellen Ives November 22
Joy Olsen November 23
Stacey McAllister November 27



**Service combined with
Joyland Christian
Church on 10-23-22**



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 admin@salmoncreek.church Deadline for each month for submission is the 15th of the prior month.

Editor: Nancy Volgamore