



The Circuit Rider

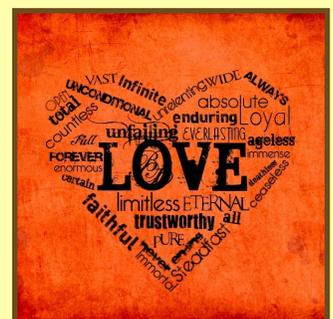
Salmon Creek Church



November
2020

Then all things will be given to you. | **Matthew 6:33**

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a note from Pastor John



I am in the process of organizing a forum on racism at Salmon Creek Church, which will take place on Monday, November 23rd at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Watch your e-mails for more information. A few groups in our church have already begun reading up on the topic, including looking at the currently popular book “White Fragility,” which is an expression of an underlying rubric called “Critical Race Theory.” Since this has become the norm these days for teaching about racism, I wanted to present an alternative. What follows is an excerpt from an article from “The Press”.

Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker was a legend in the American Civil Rights movement. Executive Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the critical years of 1960-1964, he was a co-founder of CORE (the Congress of Racial Equality), chief of staff to King, and King’s “Field General.” Walker compiled and named King’s “The Letter From Birmingham Jail.” He was with King for the march on Washington that produced the “I have a dream” speech, and in Oslo for the Nobel Peace Prize.

In a 2015 article, Dr. Walker wrote:

“Today, too many ‘remedies’ -- such as Critical Race Theory, the increasingly fashionable post-Marxist/postmodernist approach that analyzes society as institutional group power structures rather than on a spiritual or one-to-one human level -- are taking us in the wrong direction: separating even elementary school children into explicit racial groups, and emphasizing differences instead of similarities.”

“The answer is to go deeper than race, deeper than wealth, deeper than ethnic identity, deeper than gender. To teach ourselves to comprehend each person, not as a symbol of a group, but as a unique and special individual within a common context of shared humanity. To go to that fundamental place where we are all simply mortal creatures, seeking to create order, beauty, family, and connection to the world that -- on its own -- seems to bend too often towards randomness and entropy.”

To teach that a person only has value and meaning as a member of a group (called "collectives" in White Fragility), and that they do not have an individual identity, only a collective one, is pointedly and explicitly contrary to the Gospel. Problems with racism, within systems or individuals, can only be solved by the continued teaching that all individuals have value and meaning – and accountability – as holders of the Image of God - “unique and special within a common context of shared humanity.” We cannot expect to make any inroads on racism by reducing the Gospel message to a collective secular social justice issue: as Dr. Walker says, "the answer is to go deeper."

Blessings, Pastor John Hiestand



COVID-19 UPDATE

We all hoped that Covid-19 would fade over the summer, but as we can all see, it has not. Here is some information on how Salmon Creek Church is responding to the continuing pandemic.

- ◆ We will continue with limited indoor worship in the FMC gym. We are operating strictly within the guidelines set by the State of Washington, and with the full knowledge of the District Superintendent.
- ◆ We are committed to providing online services for any and all who need to stay home. If you have any symptoms or have been exposed to the virus, or have travelled out of state, please self-quarantine for 14 days and enjoy our online service.
- ◆ As of now, we anticipate continuing services in the FMC gym at the very least through December, and probably beyond. Our trustees did a magnificent job in remodeling the sanctuary in anticipation of an earlier move-in date, but our experience in the FMC has shown us we would have difficulty maintaining the required health parameters in a space that is more enclosed.
- ◆ We have limited capacity in the gym to 60 (the state says we could have 125) to again ensure distancing and ventilation. We are in the process of configuring the St. Paul room and/or the sanctuary for a small amount of overflow.
- ◆ We will continue the prohibition on congregational singing for now. Oddly, the state actually allows congregational singing, but the entire worship team, based on the latest studies, does not believe this would be wise. We are limiting the worship team's singing to only one or two voices, properly masked, and at least 15 feet away from the nearest congregant, as is recommended by these studies.
- ◆ Sue Wiltsey will be in the office on a limited basis: 10:00 – 1:00, MWF. Please try to conduct your business with Sue by phone or e-mail.



I hate to admit it, but I suspect you all know its true: we have been scrambling so much to create meaningful online and in-person worship, that it has been a little hard to plan ahead. Fear not! Our team has come up with worship plans for November and on in to Advent. For November, we are celebrating some of the gifts that we have received from God. The last Sunday in November is the 1st Sunday in Advent, so that is almost upon us!

- * Sunday, November 1 – The Gift of Ancestors (All Saint’s Day)
- * Sunday, November 8 – The Gift of Freedom (Veteran’s Day)
- * Sunday, November 15 – The Gift of Forgiveness
- * Sunday, November 22 – The Gift of Peace (Thanksgiving)
- * Sunday, November 29 – 1st Sunday in Advent (Hope)

Also, we have changed times slightly for Christmas Eve in order to accommodate cleaning the FMC between services. We will also have a reservation system in place for Christmas Eve, so stay tuned.

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- * Children’s Service: 5:00 pm (Praise Team)
- * Candlelight Service: 8:00 pm (Bells)
- * Midnight Service : 11:00 pm (Special Music)

Sunday Service In the Family Ministry Center





The Iris beds on the south side of the parking lot have been transformed! The Iris Rhizomes originated from Carolyn Officer's flower beds, and the old beds were all dug out and weeded, and 90 irises and 150 daffodil bulbs were planted back in. Many thanks to Karen and Richard Beilsmith, Jim Selby, Dorrie Estribou and Debbie Troyer!! They will look so lovely this Spring!!





Thursday, September 17, 2020

Lay Delegate Annual Conference Report



As your delegate to the Annual Conference, one of my functions is to provide a report on the conference. Normally, the two-day affair would provide a great deal of information to pass on; this year was anything but normal. Instead, the four-hour online Zoom meeting accomplished only the “required business” of the PNW Conference which was principally to approve the budget and “sign-off” on the various reports. A

special Clergy Session was held in June to conduct other business such as approving clergy for election to membership and ordination. Here is a more specific summary of the work done during the four-hour session:

Throughout the day, members focused much of their time upon the “essential business” of the Annual Conference as determined by Bishop Stanovsky in consultation with conference leadership. This included approving existing Advance Specials, updates to minimum compensation and moving expenses for clergy in addition to annually received petitions relating to pensions, retirements and disability benefits.

The conference also approved the closure of five local churches, with superintendents honoring the history and 565 years of Methodist ministry these faith communities represented. A related motion was passed asking the Conference Board of Trustees to establish a policy around the usage of closed properties in ways consistent with the Social Principles *and* “conference values of inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people and dismantling white supremacy.”

The final resolution approved by members was the conference budget. Members approved a \$4.6 million budget as recommended by the Conference Council of Finance and Administration (CF&A). Despite relatively stable apportionments given by local churches through the first half of 2020, the approved recommendation reflects a 10.02% annual decrease anticipating financial challenges posed by coronavirus-related closures and denominational conflict.

I have provided links to the materials that were distributed to each of the delegates for your review. Please review these as you might have interest. As you transit these reports, it will become clear that COVID 19 has affected us all. Virtually all reports commented on the slowing of direct business and pivot to an online mode of operation. At the same time, although much of the “pageantry” was missing in this year’s conference, I thought it commendable that the transparency and connectionism of our denomination was clearly on display.

As you go through these reports, keep in mind that we “share” a Bishop with two other conferences, the Alaska Conference and the Oregon-Idaho Conference. The meeting this year included all three conferences with combined reports. In some of the reports, you will want to look for those sections that apply to the Pacific Northwest Conference.



**2020 Pacific Northwest
Annual Conference Session**

September 17, 2020 | Online

Bishop Stanovsky's address to the September 2020 online Annual Conferences was issued in written form in three parts before the sessions that were held on September 15, 16 & 17.

Part 1, which is also COVID-19 Notice #8,

Part 2, Dismantling Racism, and

Part 3, Reimagining United Methodism: Alaska, the Greater Northwest, the Western Jurisdiction and The United Methodist Church.

[Episcopal Address part 1](#)

[Episcopal Address part 2](#)

[Episcopal Address part 3](#)

The Bishop's "Call:" <http://gnw-email.brtapp.com/viewinsite/32a65ed8730b339138e1d57c38506a44>

<https://www.pnwumc.org/ac2020/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/PNWAC-2020-AGENDA.pdf>

<https://gnw-email.brtapp.com/!yeLPCvWk77C7rBWym+AzALvs6JGQ52gLIC3EV1APTthgXfbdQT2cagK6Fw4hrJCdw>

<https://www.pnwumc.org/ac2020/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Connectional-Reports-2020.pdf>

<https://www.pnwumc.org/ac2020/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Financial-Reports-2020.pdf>

<https://www.pnwumc.org/ac2020/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Recommendations-to-PNWAC-2020.pdf>

<https://www.pnwumc.org/ac2020/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DS-Reports-2020.pdf>

<https://www.pnwumc.org/ac2020/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Memoirs-Churches.pdf>

It was a pleasure serving you as the Lay Delegate. If you have any questions whatsoever or wish to discuss something, please do feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Roberts

What does **Love** Require?

Do No Harm:

Fighting COVID-19

Do Good:

Dismantling Racism

Stay in Love with God:

Reimagining Life Together





November is a month of missions at Salmon Creek Church!

This year we won't be holding our annual basket auction, however, we want everyone to be in the same giving mindset!



We won't be making baskets, but think about - what would you have spent on creating a basket?

We aren't selling tickets for dinner – but how many tickets would you have purchased at \$15 apiece?

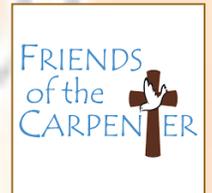
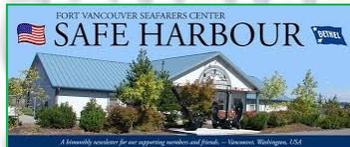
We aren't holding an auction, but how much would you have bid to take home a basket?

How much should you give this year?

Please give generously! The pandemic has increased the community needs met by the agencies we support!

Each week in November we will highlight a different agency at church service and online!

You can donate to support our Month of Missions any time by going to the church website and donating through Vanco (mark "missions basket auction") or by bringing or sending a check to church (be sure to write "basket auction" on the notes line).



Thanks to everyone who donated to the Share Seats & Feets Drive in the month of October! We were able to deliver many pairs of socks and underwear as well as several boxes of diapers to help folks in need!

A moment in History

It was 7pm on January 4th, 1956 and 16-year-old Fred Smith was walking north on Old Highway 99 to his Boy Scout meeting at the Salmon Creek School. Back then, there was no Interstate 5 freeway and all traffic north from Vancouver had to use Highway 99.

It had been an unusually wet winter and Salmon Creek was now at flood stage with a constant roar of the water echoing through the canyon. When Fred got to the bridge, he heard the passing cars making a thumping sound with their tires as they passed over the center of the bridge. Upon close examination Fred observed that the center of the roadway had a wide gap in the middle and that the south section was lower than the north section. Fred decided he had to do something, and at that very same moment, his neighbor Herm Miller drove by in his car. Fred yelled at him to call the cops, and then Fred proceeded to stop all vehicle traffic from crossing the bridge. Of course, this action caused a lot of drivers some irritation, having some kid make them stop while they just wanted to get home for the night. By the time the Washington State Patrol arrived, all traffic was backed up in both directions and tempers were high. The yelling and cursing at Fred had finally stopped, especially when they realized how dangerous the bridge was. Just before 10pm that night the bridge did collapse and crash into Salmon creek!

The next morning, the Washington Highway Department decided to make arrangements to have the U.S. Army Engineers from Ft. Lewis bring down a temporary, "Bailey Bridge", which was secured in two days. A new bridge was rebuilt and served the community for another 52 years. Weeks after the collapse, Fred Smith and Herm Miller did receive a letter from Washington State Governor Arthur B. Langlie thanking them for their selfless and courageous actions to save the lives of others that night. I do hope that Fred Smith did also receive his life saving award from his scout troop! The accompanying photos on the next page were taken by Gary Larsen, a photographer for the Oregon Journal.

By Larry Siewert

The Salmon Creek Bridge Collapse!
1956

WATERFURNISHED
SALMON CREEK



The Salmon Creek Bridge Collapse! 1956





Family Promise of Clark County needs your help!

Because of Covid 19, some churches are struggling to meet their commitment of volunteers to Family Promise in November. The guests are staying at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver, 4505 E 18th St, Vancouver, WA for the month of November.

They need help in all areas. To help refresh your memory of what those areas are, here is a quick reminder:

1 - Evening Shift - Nightly from 5-9:30, there need to be two volunteers at the host site. These volunteers deliver the meals to the guests in their rooms and are there to intervene in an emergency. Sometimes these same volunteers provide the dinner, see below. During normal times, this is when volunteers and guests interact with each other. Currently, you see them from a distance. The families wear masks when not in their rooms, as do the volunteers. The area is sanitized by the volunteers and guests daily, so Family Promise likes to hope that they have made it safer than going to the store.

2 - Dinner Volunteers - Nightly, a nutritious, hot dinner is provided for the guests. Dinner is prepared off site and delivered in family-sized containers for each of the families by 6 PM. Those preparing the meal are notified a week before of the family sizes, ages and if there are any food allergies. These volunteers can be the same volunteers that are hosting from 5-9:30. This can be one person preparing food, or a few friends, or a small group. Some groups have purchased Kentucky Fried Chicken, or Olive Garden this summer when there was a two-for-one special. Others have done a Costco rotisserie chicken, so the families could use the leftovers for lunch the next day.

3 - The overnight shift - I like to call this the "sleep while volunteering shift", unlike volunteering at the WHO; you can sleep. You arrive at 9:30 and leave after the guests are picked up at 7AM, except Saturday, when they get an extra hour of sleep. Preferably, we need two volunteers. Cots are provided, you bring your own bedroll.

Family Promise likes to think that volunteering is safer than going to the grocery store. Guests, staff and volunteers are screened daily. Masks are required, as is social distancing.

If you can help, please go to the Signup Genius link. I am not involved in coordinating for the month of November.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4FA5AE2BA1FA7-november>

Salmon Creek is scheduled to host December 27th thru January 3rd. We will be sending out our sign-ups mid November.

Karen Beilsmith



Salmon Creek used to have "Pack the Shoebox" parties. If you miss those days, you can still participate. Our Family Promise support church, Felida Bible, packs between 3-4,000 boxes every November. They are having their packing party November 13-14. You do need to sign up for a shift. If you are interested in helping, go to <http://felida.org/>

**SALMON CREEK
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**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
PERMIT #610
VANCOUVER, WA**

*He hath made
every thing
beautiful
in his time. Ecclesiastes 3:11*

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 circuitrider@salmoncreek.church. Articles and announcements are due by midnight on the third Sunday of each month.

Editor: Nancy Volgamore

