

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Snoqualmie United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

Save the Date:

Sunday, October 1 – World  
Communion Sunday

Saturday, October 7, 9 am-12  
noon – Worship Committee  
meeting

Saturday, October 14, 6:15 pm  
– Charge Conference

October 29 – Fifth Sunday  
Worship at Fall City UMC

## PASTOR'S MUSINGS

Friends,

*I've been thinking...*

...about this whole “Go and do likewise,” thing that Jesus said to do. How can I think about anything else when I've watched 5 sermons on this topic? Bishop Cedrick is really calling us out

where we have been lax on our duties as Christians, challenging us to move beyond where we've been, and inspiring us to become who God sees we are. Whew! My head is all over the place, full of ideas, excited about where we could go and what we could do, but... here's the thing... I'm stuck on the whole mirror talk vs. window work thing. If we are honest with ourselves, and we need to be, we sure do spend a lot of time looking in the mirror

instead of out the window. Clearly, we are all called to be the Samaritan, right? Maybe I don't have the resources or the skills to do what the Samaritan did. I don't think that's what Jesus or the Bishop was saying. I think what we are being encouraged to do is look at our own personal skills, talents, and calling, then gather to take stock of what we have to offer. Once we know what we have, we start looking out those windows to see what needs are out there. Again, we gather up and discern where best to use all our resources, (skills, talents, & callings) to create ministry that matters, ministry that is life-changing, relationship-changing, and soul-healing. Let's be radical and strategic in our ministry. How can we best lead the community of Snoqualmie Valley towards the Kingdom of God?

The Bishop has asked us to focus on the M.I.L.E. over the next year or two. How do we create Ministry that Matters in Snoqualmie Valley? How do we move to where the ministry will happen (Itineration and Location)? How are we aware of lay ministers within our community, and how do we support them (Lay Ministry Enhancement)? In all that we are doing, how are we eliminating racism? As you discern these questions in small groups or as individuals, please don't hesitate to share your ideas. No idea is too small or too big. Bring them all. Let's be radical and do it all! We can plan it and then invite the community of Snoqualmie Valley to join us in our work. We are not alone, and we don't have to do it all ourselves, we just have to spark the fire.

Blessings,

Pastor Carrie





## **NEW LEADERSHIP MODEL**

The Lead Team voted at our last meeting to move to a new leadership model called a One Board Team. The Book of Discipline (BoD) mandates every United Methodist Church to structure its leadership model in such a way that it can make it difficult for small congregations like ours to fulfill the roles. The current multi-board model (Lead Team, Trustees, Staff/Parish/Pastor Relations, Finance, Nominations) requires 6-10 members on each one of those boards that are not related or duplicated. This means there must be 45+ people on administrative boards. That leaves very few people to do the rest of the important work of the church – the MINISTRY that Matters!

The new leadership model, while still meeting the expectations of the BoD, allows us to reduce the number of people on the administrative teams the number of hours spent in meetings, and increases the number of people available to do the MINISTRY that MATTERS! The One Board will have 15-17 volunteers, we will meet quarterly (January, April, July, and October).

In addition to the new leadership model, many of our current leaders will be stepping down as their time has come to an end. This means that new leaders will be elected to take their place at the Charge Conference in October. They will step into their new roles on January 1, 2024. Begin praying and discerning now how you might serve over the next few years. We have positions as Trustees (those who care for the land & building), Staff/Parish/Pastor Relations (those who attend to the relationships between our staff, Parish, and Pastor), and Finance (those who guide us in creating a meaningful & inspiring budget for ministry that matters).

## **PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT TEAM**

Snoqualmie UMC has a philosophy statement, which is: What are we doing here? We are becoming the voice, hands, and heart of Christ, fostering discipleship that transforms the world! We are practicing radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission & service, and extravagant generosity. Together in Christ, we are caring for our congregation, welcoming the stranger, and empowered for our callings in the community.

The leadership team is asking for those who are passionate about grounding our philosophy in scripture and action to join a team that will work together. This team will search for our guiding scriptures that will inform the decision-making process that will determine the ministry that matters in our community, how we create thriving leaders within the congregation, and how to stamp out racism in the Snoqualmie Valley.

Join this team to help guide our congregation into the next phase of our life together. Email [pastor@snoqualmieumc.org](mailto:pastor@snoqualmieumc.org) or call Pastor Carrie at 360-350-7652 to get involved.



## NOTABLE CONNECTIONS

Writing notes has become a bit of a lost art, but we are going to give it a go. Starting in September, Marcia Reinert will set up a table in the Social Hall for writing notes before and after worship. These notes are a tangible way to express Christ’s love through us to our neighbors. Most of us have received a sweet note from time to time from Betty Gildersleeve, and we know how that connection feels.

September 10 will be recognition in worship for those heading in to class to teach and to be taught. A list of schools will be on the table as well as any

prayer needs that could use a card.

October 15 will be Laity Sunday and our church leadership will be recognized as well as those who are involved in the community—through their job or volunteerism.

Cards will be available every Sunday for those who are sick, who are celebrating an event, and for those you would like to encourage. Our connections make us church together.

## CHARGE CONFERENCE

District Superintendent Mark Galang is calling our annual charge conference to be held on Saturday, October 14 at 5:00 PM with SPRC and 6:15 PM for a conference with Fall City and Snoqualmie UMC combined. Those on the current leadership teams are required to be in attendance. Each Charge conference is open to all members of the congregation; only those on the leadership team will be able to vote. During these conferences, we discuss the business of the church, such as accounting for our finances, voting in new leaders, auditing our membership rolls, voting on pastor salary, and hearing about the vision for our district and conference.

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

What does it mean to be a member of this church vs. an attendee? How will being a member of this congregation change your spiritual life? Who should become a member of this beautiful congregation? You are invited to coffee & dessert with Pastor Carrie to discuss becoming a member of the Snoqualmie UMC. The class will be held on October 4, 2023, at 7 PM. If you would like to participate, please email [pastor@snoqualmieumc.org](mailto:pastor@snoqualmieumc.org) or call Pastor Carrie at 360-350-7652.

## HEARING ASSISTANCE

Do you wish you could hear better in the sanctuary? You have options. If it’s a one time issue, catch the eye of the tech person on the sound board and ask them to turn up the volume. If it’s a more persistent week to week problem, we have another more personalized solution. During worship, we are broadcasting on FM 87.7 via a low power FM transmitter with a range of about a mile. You can bring your own radio and use headphones for a better sound signal; we are also looking into buying a few radios/headphones to keep in the sanctuary for those who need it.



If you have hearing aids with either Bluetooth or a T-coil, we have researched whether either of these solutions would be suitable for the church. Unfortunately, Bluetooth would only serve a single person at a time, and T-coil would require us to install equipment whose cost is currently beyond our financial reach.

## SNOQUALMIE CHURCH FAMILY RECOMMENDS

Jeannie Mandas Huling recommends a YouTube series by @PeterSantanello, who presents videos about a world that the media generally fails to capture.

## NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Pat Cokewell at the dedication ceremony for the RR neon light

*Photo by Jeannie Bowers*



Friday Potluck at the Parsonage

*Photo credits unknown*





## COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

If you have any suggestions or ideas for me for future issues, please let me know!

Thanks, Toddie Downs (toddiedowns@yahoo.com)

## Contact Us

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