

Labyrinths

by Susie Beil

What is it about mazes that makes them so fun? My kids have always loved the books of mazes I'd buy them for road trips or simple home activity time. One of our boys still draws mazes just for fun. Farmers plant and cut down corn specifically for community mazes in the fall. Tourists drive long distances to lose themselves and find their way out of complicated hedgerow mazes. Why are we drawn to labyrinths? Is it because we like that feeling of being lost??

Brain scientists tell us that figuring out a maze activates our hippocampus, that part of our noggin we use to orient ourselves, identify familiar landmarks, and find our way home. We practice on a small scale the skills necessary to move from point A to point B in life, to accomplish goals. Child development specialists note that children learn problem solving and fine motor control when they work on a maze, and grow in confidence when they complete them. Ancient myths tell of heroes finding their way out of labyrinths in order to complete a character defining quest.

Since the early Church, Christians have used labyrinths as a spiritual practice. A physical act which puts us in a place for God to work on us. Ancient labyrinths have been uncovered in early Christian worship spaces, and practices for using them passed down through the centuries. In some cases, a labyrinth was used for people preparing

for baptism, to trace their journey of faith, the turns and routes God has used to lead them to Christ. Other labyrinths were used in celebrating Holy Communion.

Take a look at the maze here on the page. This is a common labyrinth design used since the middle ages. Using your finger, trace the path from the entrance of the maze to the center, and as you do so, consider significant turning points in your life and how God has used them. Reflect on seasons you turned away from the center, events that led you back, people and circumstances that you seem to pass by again and again in life. (really, take a minute and do it – what was that like?)



On March 1, we step into the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. We'll put ashes on our foreheads and hear hard words that remind us that from dust we were born, and to dust we will return. We are each of us on a journey in this life to the center of who we are, and to the center of who God is. As a church, we have a most remarkable opportunity to experience a closer walk with Jesus this Lent through our one day Labyrinth Retreat. Saturday, March 11 for four hours, Rev. Sandy Bochonok will lead us in a time of reflection, prayer, and walking an indoor labyrinth several times. Like

the little exercise above, Sandy will give us direction on what to reflect upon with each walk.

I don't think we particularly enjoy feeling lost. But the reality is that often we do feel out of sorts, disoriented with the demands and voices in our life that turn us in all directions. We need practice on our fine spiritual motor skills, and couldn't we all use more confidence in discerning a healthy path to the center? Most of all, we want to be found. We want to know the way home. I hope you'll join us on March 11, I hope you'll come for a closer walk.



Susie

A CLOSER WALK WITH JESUS
MARCH · 11 · 2017
10AM-2PM

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Desk	1
Worship	2
Youth, Kids, & PW	3-4
Mission	6
Finance	7
Leadership	7

Summit Life is a monthly publication of:
Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church
403 S Summit Avenue
Bremerton, WA 98312
360.377.2740
office@summitave.net
www.summitave.net
Newsletter Articles are due at the church office the 3rd Monday of each month.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am Adult S.S Classes
 9:00am Brass Handbells
 10:00am Chancel Choir
10:30am Worship
 11:00am Summit Kids
 11:45am Coffee Hour
 3:00pm Youth Group

Audio sermons available at www.summitave.net

Every Member a Minister

As Presbyterians, we believe God calls and equips all of us to serve and lead in the church. The following list of names is a reminder to those who have signed up to serve in the coming weeks. Like to be on this list? Give the office a call or mark a blue card with your name and how you'd like to help, and we'll contact you!

Communion

Mar. 5 TBD

Liturgists

Mar. 5 Mary Fischer
 Mar. 12 John Lemm
 Mar. 19 Nathan Perry
 Mar. 26 Barbara Stark

Usher & Greeters

Mar. 5
 Mar. 12
 Mar. 19
 Mar. 26

Time For Young Disciples

Mar. 5 Nathan Perry
 Mar. 12 Wallace Ross
 Mar. 19 Bethany Nupen
 Mar. 26 Sharon Peterson

Acolytes

Mar. 5 Geneva Kranenburg
 Mar. 12 Jonah Griffin
 Mar. 19 Jayke Kelly
 Mar. 26 Jonathan Beil

Organist

Mar. 5 Woody Bernas
 Mar. 12 Woody Bernas
 Mar. 19 Len Guyt
 Mar. 26 Woody Bernas

Hospitality Team

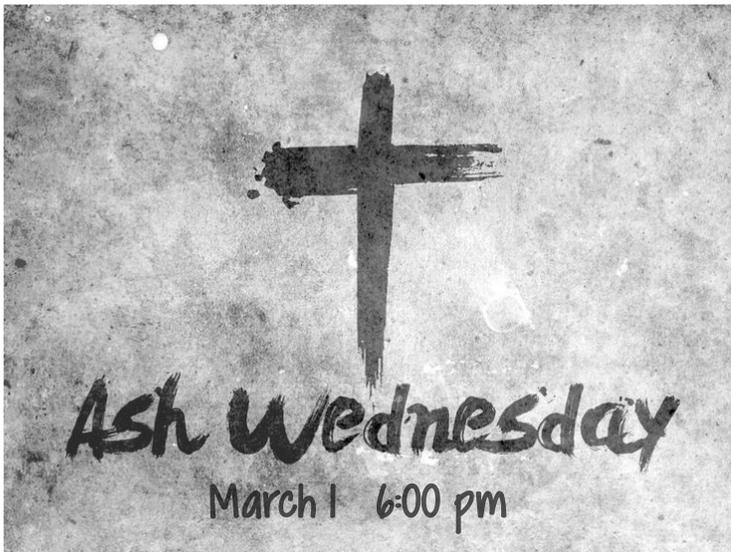
Mar. 5 Tineke Dahl, Ray Goodale, Pamela Morton
 Mar. 12 James & Alonda Droege, Kathy Kuyper, Steve VanHoff
 Mar. 19 Paul & Ellen Middents, Mary Fischer, Ruth Martin
 Mar. 26 Meredith Edwards, Joyce Gearhart, Brett Harrison, Ruth Martin

Following Jesus Into the World

listen online: summitave.net

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Preacher
March 5	Matthew 10	"People of Peace"	Rev. Susie Beil
March 12	Matthew 13	"Garden of Parables"	Nathan Perry
March 19	Matthew 14	"Reception"	Rev. Susie Beil
March 26	Matthew 15	"Sola"	Rev. Susie Beil

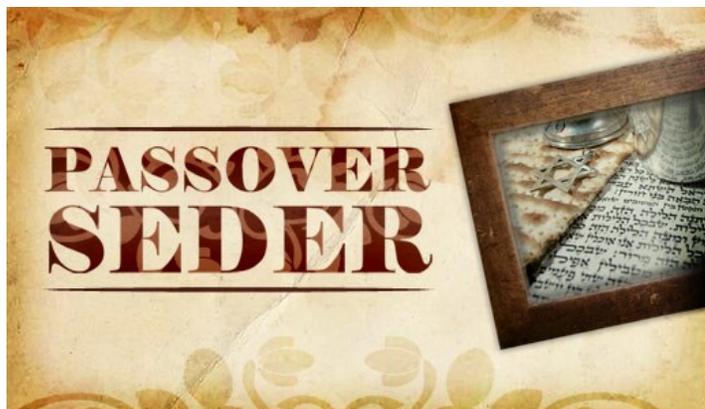
Lent & Holy Week 2017



A
CLOSER
WALK
WITH
JESUS
Lenten
Labyrinth
Retreat

MARCH · 11 · 2017
10-2pm

Summit Ave Presbyterian
Robinson Fellowship Hall
\$10 or a love offering
bring a brown bag lunch
RSVP · 360.377.2740 · julie@summitave.net



Maundy Thursday, April 13
6:00pm
Robinson Fellowship Hall
Free

Join us for a simple spiritual meal commemorating Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Bring nothing and enjoy the evening with friends and your host Rev. Jerry Benjamin.

All are welcome.
Please RSVP to the office:
360.377.2740 or office@summitave.net

Join Us
Easter
Sunday 10:30

FOLLOWING JESUS
into the world

Lenten Study Guides Available Now

WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS

I've heard this phrase often and isn't it so true both literally in the Pacific Northwest and figuratively in life. These last few weeks we have had torrential rains, stormy weather, loss of power and floods. In the mountains and in the passes we have had avalanche watches and overwhelming snow that have shut down some of the road ways to Eastern Washington.

The timing of these storms seemed all too appropriate as these last few weeks I've been blown away at tragic news hitting close to home with family, friends, and our community. I've had family who had scary visits to the hospital, and multiple friends impacted by the tragic loss of loved ones. When asked how I am doing I've often responded with, "I'm doing ok, but I personally know many who are not."

It is like our stormy weather we've had lately. The storms have hit close to home but I have not been as drastically impacted by them as others have been. Many in our community lost their power. But I never did. Though I am impacted in some form and fashion by the storms, I can go home to a house with a running heater, a way to cook food and do laundry and to still function normally when many others right in our community weren't so lucky. Though I can sym-

pathize, grieve with, or walk alongside my friends and family hurting, I feel like I can still go home to a warm house. They have to go home to a cold house and endure the winter temperatures without electricity. I can and have "opened my home to others", if you will, but my home is not deeply impacted. In all fairness, I do not know what it is like to walk through some of the pain some dear friends are now facing. So, how am I doing? I am ok, but I personally know many who are not. And my heart is heavy.

JOY IN SORROW

In times like this we can either be resentful towards God and the world for losing someone we love. Or we can rejoice and be grateful for the time we had with them. Often we will swing from both ends of that pendulum but no matter which end you are at, its in these times we stop taking for granted the simple joys in life.

When you have been sick, you are more thankful for your health the day after being sick. When I had been on crutches for a long time, I was more grateful to be able to carry groceries up the stairs when before I resented those stairs! When you've lost a loved one, all of a sudden there is an incredibly deep and profound

gratefulness for even the simplest times you had with them as you now grieve their loss. It makes you hold the ones you love even closer.

Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." If we numbered our days and numbered the days of those around us we'd be more purposeful. We'd find more joy in the simple things. We'd be less keen to hold grudges and quicker to forgive. Our minds can easily focus on the struggles and demands of life and they can often blind us from having grateful hearts in the moment. The enemy wants to rob us of our joy, but Jesus came to bring life and life to the full. I leave you with the words of Paul who is writing from prison.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things." -Philippians 4:8

In Christ's Service,
Nathan Perry



Save the Date!

VBS Kids Camp 2017

June 26-30

Come join us and bring your friends as we step back in time with the Apostle Paul and experience what life was like in first-century Rome!



Youth Skymania Outing



Youth Serve Group

Saturday, March 4th

10am - 1pm

385 Nollwood Ln Bremerton

For this month's Serve Group we will be assisting Seeds of Grace in putting in a community garden in the new Nollwood neighborhood community. Come help dig, plow, plant, and serve lunch. You will be a part of creating a sustainable organic garden that will be able to feed a community.



Sunday, March 12 & 19

6:30 - 8:00pm

Youth Room

The Summit Youth Gathering

Sunday, March 26

6:30 - 8:00pm

Youth Room

KEEP CALM AND GO TO YOUTH GROUP

Family Night Unplugged!

Family Night Unplugged is a night of family and friends to get together and unplug! The catch, you have to leave your phone at the door. With all of today's technologies these "unplugged" nights are gaining in popularity.

The Summit Ave MOPS moms decided to start an unplugged night of their own. They recently had 14 families (about 40 adults and kids!) join in the fun this past February 17. They enjoyed a chili cookoff dinner and then joined in conversation as littles ones played.

Next Families Unplugged Night:
March 17 @ 6 pm (location TBA)



Maddie & Annie—winners of the February chili cook-off!



Sanctuary Upgrade Coming Along!

Notice anything in the sanctuary? You may have seen a couple of holes in the walls behind the banners on the front right and left. Yes, we know those are there! They are actually tiles that have been removed in order for our Sanctuary Upgrade team to access the inside area. 1) to put down wiring for our new screens. And, 2) to install brackets to mount the swinging arms that will hold our screens on both sides of the sanctuary. You will also noticed they have raised the sound board. This was done to give the sound techs, a greater range of sound.



TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our Treasurer's report reflects what was approved at the previous month's Session meeting, giving us a month's lag time. So for this newsletter, we report on January 2017

January 2017	Actual	Monthly Budget (expected)	Year to Date
Income	\$31,709.16	\$19,136.94	\$31,136.94
Expense	\$21,817.56	\$23,584.06	\$21,817.56

2017 Pledge Update: Thank you to all who turned in your 2017 pledges! We are grateful for your generosity and faithfulness. We have increased our Special Capital Projects giving for 2017, but we are still short in our Operations pledges. If you have not turned in your pledge, we encourage you to do so. It is so helpful for our ministry planning.

As of February 23, 2017:

2017	# of pledges	amount pledged	operations budget
Operations	76	\$ 203,843	\$260,000
Special Capital Projects	27	\$ 15,013	
*Presbytery Grant	1	\$ 5,000	
<hr/>			
2016			
Operations	76	\$209,820	\$260,000
Special Capital Projects	24	\$ 9,374	
Sanctuary Upgrade	37	\$ 14,330	
*Presbytery Grant	1	\$ 10,000	

Summit Leadership

Session

Bethany Nupen	Worship/Kids
Brett Harrison	Mission/Outreach
Russell Warren	Groups
Paul Du Fresne	Finance/Stewardship
Ken Davis	Mission/Memorials
Ruth Martin	Outreach/Hospitality
Dan Kranenburg	Personnel/B&G
Rick Chapman	Finance
Bev Kelly	Youth/Personnel
Steve Royce	
Lori Hamilton	Clerk

Deacons

Moderator: Delcea Wills	
Joyce Hersch	Jeannie Lemm
Mary Fischer	John Lemm
Audrey Robinson	Jerry Dick
Ann Sveen	
Sue Davis	
Louise Royce	
Dennis Kurzrock	

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Susie Beil
Parish Associates: Rev. Jerry Benjam
Youth & Kids Ministry Director: Nathan Perry
Childcare Ministry Leaders: Ida Kendall, Aphroditis Howell
Choir Director: Gary Dahl
Handbell Choir Director: Cheryl Sanlin
Organists: Woody Bernas, Joann Richardson, Len Guyt
Office/Communications: Julie Mirth
Custodian: Darlene Randall
Treasurer: Cathy Best
Kitchen Facilitator: Sue Kela
Sound Technicians: Rick Walker, Tineke Dahl, Karl Jensen, Rick Chapman, Oliver Dahl, Teagan Taafe
Choir Director Emeritus: Audrey Robinson

Desk Volunteers:

Monday	Aggie Schultheis & Bethany Nupen
Tuesday	Sharon Plowman & Terese Edmonds
Wed.	Judy Wieck
Thurs	Mary Urwin & Sue Kela

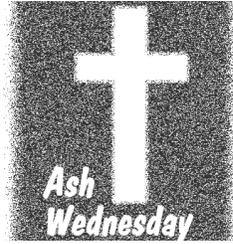
Subs: Ray Goodale, Bud Taylor

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 1

6:00pm

Invite your friends and join us for Ash Wednesday service.



Directory Update

Sundays in March

After worship

Robinson Fellowship Hall



We will be updating the directory Sundays in March. If you have anything that needs changing let us know. We will also be taking new pictures. If you have any questions contact the office.

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am - 2pm

Check out our website at:

www.summitave.net

Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church
403 S Summit
Bremerton, Washington 98312

Phone: 360-377-2740

E-mail: office@summitave.net

Return Service requested

