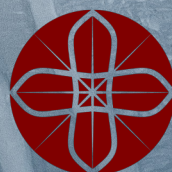


Winter Guide

2018-2019



SAMMAMISH
Presbyterian Church

winter 2019 @spc



Dear SPC Family,

You hold in your hand a great present. No, it’s not wrapped in ribbon. It’s not flocked in white. It isn’t hung by the chimney with care. But make no mistake; in your hand is a gift that can (if you chose) lead you into a place of deep and abiding joy and satisfaction.

How, you say? By taking the contents of this Advent and Winter guide, tearing it open, scouring it’s pages, and plugging in to the abundance of activities we have at SPC. Whether it is worship, service, fellowship groups, one time events (like our annual Longest Night service) or ongoing programs (like a men’s or women’s Bible study) there is something in here for you to open, enjoy, and find hope in..

What better way to celebrate God’s best present to us, the birth of his Son, then to get engaged in your faith this season. Enjoy!

With Hope,

Dr. Jeff Lincicome,
Senior Pastor

advent worship services



Favored One: The Story of Mary

“Greetings, Favored One.” Those were the first words the angel said to Mary upon delivering the birth announcement for the ages. Who was this young woman that God used to change human history? What was it in her that caused God to choose such an unlikely candidate for this incarnational task? What might we learn from her example as God invites us to live favored lives as well? Join us this Advent as we learn from an amazing woman of faith, strength and character, Mary the mother of our Lord.

Advent Services at SPC

Sun, Dec 2	Advent 1	9am & 10:45am
Sun, Dec 9	Advent 2	9am & 10:45am
Sun, Dec 16	Carol Sing	9am & 10:45am
Thu, Dec 20	The Longest Night	7pm
Sun, Dec 23	Advent 4	9am & 10:45am

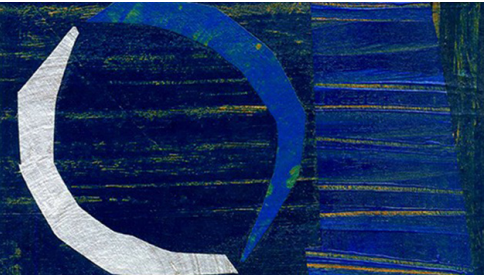
Christmas Carol Sing | Sunday, December 16, 9 and 10:45am

Come worship with us during our normal worship times on December 16 as we sing our way to Christmas! Bring your best voice because at both the 9 and 10:45am services we will raise them high as we join together in a good old-fashioned Christmas carol sing. In addition, we have the privilege to hear a message from the PCUSA's Co-moderator Cindy Kohlmann, sister of SPC members Ryan and Annett Kohlmann.



The Longest Night | Thursday, December 20, 7pm, SPC Sanctuary


Do you ever look around and think, “I’m the only one who is broken, the only one who is a mess, the only one who doesn’t fit here. Everyone else is happy and together and beautiful.... except me. I’m the only one carrying this grief, this loss.” Ever feel like you can’t ask any questions, because our culture is so intent on projecting happiness all the time- especially at Christmas??? At the Longest Night Worship we will come together for liturgy and music, poetry and silence and prayer. We will hold on to one another and the God who suffers and saves.



advent opportunities

Save these dates!

Sunday, December 2	Family Advent Wreath Making Party	12-1pm	details on page 6
Sunday, December 9	Family Christmas Eve Cast Rehearsal	12-1pm	details on page 6
Sunday December 9	Glory Days Preschool Christmas Program	3pm	
Tuesday, December 11	Middle School White Elephant Party	7-8:30pm	details on page 7
Wednesday, December 12	High School White Elephant Party	7-9pm	details on page 7
Sunday, December 16	Family Christmas Eve Cast Rehearsal	12-1pm	details on page 6
Thursday, December 20	College Student Brunch	10-11:30am	details on page 8



Advent Devotional


At SPC this Advent season, our sermon series will focus on Mary. Also during this season of Advent, we are invited to pray and contemplate with Mary with the PCUSA Devotional, **available in Sanctuary Hall during December**. This year’s devotional is very special. The paintings and poems are the work of Andrew Weatherly, a young Presbyterian man born with Down syndrome, who uses his gifts to raise awareness of the capabilities of those with special needs. The rest of the text - reflections and prayers for each day of Advent - is the joint work of Donna Frischknecht Jackson, pastor and editor of Presbyterians Today and sister to a man with special needs, and Krin Van Tatenhove, also a pastor who is father to a son with autism. With great love and joy, Andrew, Donna and Krin bring God’s might and Mary’s “yes!” to life in powerful new ways.

christmas eve

We welcome you to celebrate Christmas with us at any of the following services.

3:00pm, 4:30pm Family Services (all ages welcome)

Bring your whole family and join us at one of our Family Christmas Eve services. The Glow Angels will proclaim the joy of Christmas, while Mary, Joseph, the wise men, shepherds and sheep, gather together around Baby Jesus in the stable. Children will read the Christmas story and we will sing many of your favorite Christmas songs. If your child would like to participate, please see the Casting Call information in the Children’s section (pg 6) of the Guide.





7:30pm, 9:00pm Carols and Candlelight

Join us as we sing carols, enjoy the inspiring music of our dedicated SPC choir, and feel the warmth of candlelight while we hear the powerful and encouraging messages of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Childcare will be available for infants through 5-years-old in room S-107 during the 7:30pm service only.

10:30pm Carols, Candlelight and Communion

At this final and special service of the evening as we will sing carols, feel the warmth of candlelight while we hear the powerful and encouraging messages of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and share in the sacrament of communion. There will be no childcare available at this service.

worship

worship@spconline.org



Neighbors

Sundays, January 6 - February 3

In the midwest between Thanksgiving and Easter people rarely see their neighbors. The cold is so biting and the snow is often so deep that people go into hibernation, staying indoors and out of elements. People knew their neighbors were there, but did they ever interact or get to know a newcomer? Not on your life. Everyone waited until Spring to open their doors and head back out into the world.

In Washington state, we don’t have to deal with the extra feet of snow and cold (thanks be to God!), but we do suffer from what people call the Seattle Freeze--An inability for people to reach out, make new friends, and engage their neighbors. And here, this isn’t just a winter problem, it’s a social and spiritual problem. And it can happen all year long.

Why is it that being a neighbor is so hard for us? What does it look like to be a good neighbor? How does Jesus want us to treat our neighbors as individuals and as a church? What might God be calling us to do this year as we welcome neighbors from around the world into our community? Join us this winter as we explore our calling as neighbors in and around Sammamish, looking to God’s Word for guidance, direction, and help.

The Songs of Faith

Sundays, February 10 - March 3

Samuel Johnson once wrote, “Poetry is the art of uniting pleasure with truth.” The same can be said of the great hymns of the Christian faith. During this series, we will take a look at some of these great songs of faith (some dating back to the 8th Century) and unpack them in our context. What we will find is a treasure trove of pleasure meeting the truth of the Gospel. Come ready to learn and sing your heart out!

adults

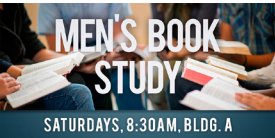
adult@spconline.org



Seniors’ Luncheon

Tuesdays, December 11, January 8, February 12

All seniors from our church and community are invited to join us for a FREE luncheon the second Tuesday of each month from 11:30am - 1pm in the Sanctuary Hall. Together, we enjoy a home-cooked meal, fellowship, and a short program or Bible Study. Mark your calendar and plan on joining us. If you need a ride, just let us know! For more information or to receive our monthly newsletter in the mail, email care@spconline.org.



Men’s Book Study | Saturdays, 8:30am, Building A

All SPC men are invited to join this group which meets every Saturday of the month at 8:30am in Building A (upper level). The group will study *Uncommon Life Daily Challenge* by Tony Dungy & Nathan Whitaker. For more information contact adult@spconline.org.



ABIDE WOMEN’S EVENTS

Women’s Book Discussion | Thursday, November 29, 7-8:30pm, C-201

Join us for fellowship and lively discussion as we enjoy and learn from *A Voice in the Wind* (Mark of the Lion, Book 1) by Francine Rivers. This fictionalized story of the first century church follows the story of Hadassah, a young Jewish Christian girl taken captive after the fall of Jerusalem to her life as a slave in a Roman household, and her struggle to live her faith in the Roman culture. Her journey will encourage and inspire you in your own faith experience. Bring your own copy and join the discussion! No RSVP necessary. For any questions email: women@spconline.org.



Women’s Retreat | January 11 - January 12

Invite a friend and join us at Rainbow Lodge in North Bend, for a fun-filled weekend abiding in God’s strength as we learn about making transitions in our lives with God alongside us. Pastor Kelly Hostetler and her mother, Jeanne Walsh, will be our speakers. Using the stories of scripture as foundation, and drawing on their life experiences, they will reflect with us about the challenges and blessings of life in a constantly changing world. Come laugh and worship together as we are rejuvenated and inspired through God’s word. Questions? Email women@spconline.org. Cost is \$145. Scholarships are available. Register by January 3, at bit.ly/SPCWomensRetreat2019 (space is limited).

Women’s Winter Bible Study: Morning and Evening Options Available

Join us as we work through the study, *We Saved You a Seat*, by Lisa-Jo Baker, a seven-session study unpacking women’s friendships. We’ll learn what Jesus meant when He invited us to love others and explore how to create and maintain intimate, authentic friendships with the women God places in our lives. Both morning and evening options are available: Tuesday mornings, January 15 - March 5, 9:30–11am, or Thursday evenings, January 17 - March 7, 7-8:30pm. Cost is \$15. Register online at bit.ly/WinterStudy2019. If you have any questions email women@spconline.org. Join us... we saved you a seat.

Women’s Snowshoe Walk | Saturday, February 9, 10 am

Come join us for a fun walk in the snow and time to fellowship along the beautiful trails of Gold Creek Basin. Enjoy the views as we walk around a small pond and stop for a picnic lunch in the snow. The well-used trail is three to four miles round trip with very little elevation gain. We will hike and picnic rain or shine, but in the event the pass is closed, we may make alternative plan. We are looking forward to having you abide in God’s beauty with us. Register online at bit.ly/SPCSnowshoeHike2019 by February 6. For more information email: women@spconline.org. Carpools will meet at 10am at Issaquah Highlands Park and Ride on the top floor - 1755 Highlands Dr. NE, Issaquah. Cost is free if you bring your own lunch or \$10 for a warm picnic lunch.

Women’s Supper Club | March 15

Supper Club is an informal gathering. We meet several times each year in members’ homes to connect in a relaxed conversational setting. Any woman eager for the blessing of good food and fellowship is invited and we would love to have you! For more information, and to get your name placed on the distribution list for times and details, please email women@spconline.org.



care and support

care@spconline.org

Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And, the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22

Caring for One Another at SPC

Though our culture tries to deny it, we are made for community; we are not meant to live in isolation! God calls us to walk with one another through all of life’s seasons. We seek to be a family of faith where the love and grace of God are obviously at work, as we listen, grieve, laugh, and love one another. If you are going through a difficult time and need encouragement, resources, prayer and/or the presence of a caring person, we want to help! See below for specific care ministries available.



SPC Parish Nurses

This team of compassionate parish nurses are available for our church family by providing care and support whenever it is needed. They will also be offering quarterly blood pressure checks and several support groups for caregivers and others. For more information email: parishnurses@spconline.org or call 425.868.5186.



Deacon Ministry

Team of compassionate church leaders providing care and support for the church & community through prayer, encouragement, phone calls, and resources (transportation, meals, church & community information.) Contact: deacons@spconline.org.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry offers one-to-one Christian caregiving providing hope and healing to those facing varied life transitions. Need help or want to learn more? Contact 425.868.5186 x138 or stephenministry@spconline.org.



SHARE

SHARE is a group of volunteers who provide support such as home-cooked meals, running errands, or transportation for those in need. Interested in being a SHARE volunteer? e-mail share@spconline.org.

Praying for one another at SPC

Going through a difficult season in your marriage or with your child? Health concern? Job at risk or in a challenging place? These are all reasons to reach out to a Pastor, or request prayerful support. Nothing is too small, that God can’t use your family of faith in meaningful ways to bless you and the community through difficulty. We are meant to journey together! To ask for prayer or share a concern, contact Kelly Hostetler, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care & Families, at kelly@spconline.org or 425.553.1402.



mission

mission@spconline.org



All-Church Christmas Mission | Now Through December 2

SPC is partnering with the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank’s Holiday Gift Barn which supports Issaquah School District children, ages birth to 18-years-old, and their families. Pick up a gift tag in Sanctuary Hall and return new, unwrapped gifts no later than Sunday, December 2 (stocking stuffers and gift wrapping supplies are also appreciated). Items will be delivered to Pickering Barn which will be transformed into a store for clients to choose gifts for their family members. To volunteer at the Holiday Gift Barn visit www.issaquahfoodbank.org/volunteer/. If you have questions, please contact mission@spconline.org.

Swaziland/eSwatini Trip with World Vision Planned for Summer 2019

This next summer (likely mid-July) join us for the trip of a lifetime to visit our World Vision sponsor children and community in eSwatini (formerly Swaziland). Led by Pastor Jeff Lincicome, participants will get to see the work World Vision is doing firsthand through SPC’s sponsorship funds, as well as having the chance to meet your sponsor child(ren) there. If interested, email Pastor Jeff at jefflincicome@spconline.org by January 15.



English As A Second Language | Mondays and Thursdays, 9:30-11am, Building A

Two years ago, SPC took a step forward in mission to serve our community by offering English Language classes here on campus. If you are interested in being a regular/substitute teacher, we are always welcoming new team members to this exciting ministry of relationship and care. Please e-mail mission@spconline.org.



Issaquah Meals | February 21, March 21, April 18

Meals are served each evening, Monday through Friday, at the Issaquah Commuinity Hall (between the police station and the fire station on Sunset Way) with no questions asked and is free of charge for anyone attending. On the third Thursday of each month, groups from SPC serve a meal from 5-6:30pm for approximately 40 people. The menu and entrée are provided, and the group purchases the items to supplement the main dish. If you are interested in serving a meal please contact mission@spconline.org.

Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank

The Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank is committed to providing aquality food, clothing and other items each week to hundreds of families in our community, and SPC has the opportunity to be a part of this effort. Each Sunday, food can be dropped off in Sanctuary Hall and we will deliver the items to the food bank.

WORLD VISION

Child sponsorship

SPC began its partnership with the people of Mahlalini, Swaziland in 2009 and to date, we are supporting over 250 children. Sponsorship allows for a deep bonding experience as your child grows up, offering the security of financial support until s/he turns 18. Sponsorship folders are on the letter writing table on the first Sunday of each month.

Letter writing the first Sunday of each month

The first Sunday of each month, SPC offers community letter writing events. Just stay after church for a few minutes on these Sundays. All the supplies are available for you to write a letter to your sponsored child, and we will do the mailing for you!

Knitting for Mission | 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 1pm-3pm, Quiet Room

All are welcome to join this knitting group. Together, we knit items that are donated to World Vision, who distributes them to people in need around the world. Patterns are provided. Please bring your own supplies. email mission@spconline.org for more information.

Team World Vision | Seattle Rock’n’Roll Marathon/Half Marathon | June 9

In the developing world, half of children between the ages of one and five will die from lack of clean water. Did you know that World Vision is the largest non-governmental provider of clean water on the planet? We invite you be a part of Team World Vision while we train for the Seattle Rock’n’Roll Marathon/Half Marathon and ask our friends and family to support us as we strive to end the clean water crisis. All levels of fitness are welcome to this “Couch to Course” training program! We’ll gather for training every Saturday at the Lake Sammamish State Park Boat Launch, 4455 E Lk Samm Pkwy SE, Issaquah, at 8am beginning February 9. A Discover Pass is required. Come train with us! Questions? Contact mission@spconline.org.



childrens (infant-5th grade)

childrens@spconline.org

JAMCity on Sundays

Kids are welcome at JAMCity on Sundays! When you arrive at church on Sundays, you may drop off your infant, toddler or preschooler in their classrooms. Elementary-age kids (kindergarten-5th grade) will attend worship service with you for a short time before being released to their teachers. For more information on classroom location and/or to register your kids for classes, please visit the Children's Welcome Table in Sanctuary Hall when you arrive on Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

Family Advent Wreath Making Party | Sunday, December 2, 12-1pm

This is a wonderful family tradition that will help you pause and capture the true meaning of Christmas during the Advent season. Your family will enjoy a light lunch, assemble a wreath, sing some Christmas carols and receive your own Family Devotional Guide for the Advent season. Register now at bit.ly/SPCWreath2018. The cost is \$25 and you may choose to assemble a live wreath (good for families with older kids) or decorate a pre-assembled wreath (good for families with children under age five). Upon registration, you will be emailed a link to sign up to bring a lunch or dessert item.

Calling All Cast Members For Christmas Eve!

We are assembling the cast and readers for our Family Christmas Eve services and we would love for your child/ren to participate! Here are the ways they can be involved: Glow Angel, Shepherd, Wise Men, Stars, Sheep or Scripture Readers. Cast members must be elementary-age (kinder-5th grade) and be able to be at both Family Services on Christmas Eve (services are at 3pm and 4:30pm). Some parts have age requirements. Email childrens@spconline for more information and to sign-up. We also need adult helpers to participate with costumes and organization behind the scenes. Rehearsal dates are Sunday, December 9 and 16, 12-1pm.

Glory Days Preschool Christmas Program | December 9, 3pm

Please join us as Glory Days Preschool presents "Shine Star, Shine." This short musical will be performed on Sunday, December 9, at 3pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

GROW | January 23 - March 27, 5:30-7pm | K-5th grade

At GROW (Great Relationships On Wednesdays), kids will eat, learn, play and worship together on Wednesday nights. Everyone eats dinner together before heading off to Bible study, where we dive deeper into the Bible and relationships with each other. Then, the kids get to choose between Big Games, Imagination Station or Shout Out. And, we always end the night with a short time of worship led by our kids in the Sanctuary. Parents volunteer each Wednesday. Register online at bit.ly/GrowWinter2019. The cost is \$60 on or before January 9; \$80 after January 9. (No GROW on February 13 or March 6).

Baptism Class | Sunday, January 27, 12-1pm | 2nd-5th Graders

As part of our Biblical Foundations for Kids series, we offer this class about the sacrament of baptism to kids and their parents together. This class will help kids gain an understanding of baptism at their level of understanding. We will explain how we practice baptism at SPC and what it means for us as a church family. Children may attend if they have already been baptized or if you are considering it in the future. At least one parent must accompany the child to the class. A light lunch will be served. Register by emailing childrens@spconline.org with your child's name and the parent(s) who will attend with them.

Glory Days Preschool Winter Parent/Toddler Class

Tuesdays, January 15-March 19, 9:15-10:30am, room S-107

Are you looking for a social opportunity for yourself and your toddler? Parents with children under the age of 2½ are invited to join us. Tuition is \$130 for the first child and \$65 for each sibling (infants are free). Registration forms are at the SPC office or download one at <http://bit.ly/ParTodWin19>.

Glory Days Preschool Registration 2019-2020 | Tuesday, January 22, 9:15am

Glory Days Preschool is open to children ages 2½ through pre-k (4 & 5-year-olds). Registration for current students, alumni and SPC members will be held on Tuesday, January 22. Open registration for the community will be held on Thursday, January 24. Both registrations will take place on campus at the Building C front desk at 9:15am. For registration forms and program information, visit our website, www.glorydayspreschool.org. To arrange for a tour, contact Huma Taj, Director, at humataj@glorydayspreschool.org or 425.868.5186 x128.



middle school (6th-8th grade)

midhigh@spconline.org



high school (9th-12th grade)

seniorhigh@spconline.org



Middle School Sunday Mornings | Sundays, 9am

Donuts and Jesus! Every Sunday from 9-10am we bring SPC's sermon series into the world of middle schoolers as we follow Jesus together in The Box. Middle School Sundays will not meet on November 25, December 23 and 30 or February 17.

IGNITE | Tuesday Evening Youth Group, 7-8:30pm in the Box (Building B)

Join us Tuesday nights for a great night in The Box! There will be plenty of laughter as well as a chance to talk about life, faith and how it all fits together. Students will meet in small groups with our amazing leaders to wrap up the evening. IGNITE won't meet on November 20, December 18 & 25, January 1 & 8 or February 19.

White Elephant Christmas Party | December 11, 7-8:30pm

What do you get when you combine ugly Christmas sweaters, a gift exchange, hot chocolate, and holiday music? You get a White Elephant Party, of course! Join us in The Box for this annual event. Bring a friend, a snack or beverage to share, and a unique or funny wrapped present! No pre-registration required. Contact youth@spconline.org for more info.

Tubing at The Summit at Snoqualmie | Saturday, March 2

Middle Schoolers, join us for a day on the tubing hill at Snoqualmie Pass! We'll meet at 10am in the Box for some fun and a morning devotion, then take a motorcoach to Snoqualmie Pass. Bring a sack lunch and money for snacks. When we return to SPC, we'll have pizza and root beer floats in the Box. Parent pickup is at 6pm. Cost is \$85. Online registration coming soon!

High School Sunday Mornings | Sundays, 10:45am

Join us at 10:45am in Sanctuary Hall at the bistro tables for donuts and great conversation. After the sermon, we connect about the morning message in The Box with some great questions. Senior High Sunday Mornings won't meet on November 25, December 23 and 30 or February 17.

CORE | Wednesdays, 7-9 pm, The Box (Building B)

Life was meant to be lived in community. Wednesdays, join us as we learn to do life together and take a break from the pressures that surround you. You'll connect with adult leaders in small groups and get a taste of the life God designed us for. We won't meet on November 21, December 19 & 26, January 2 & 9 or February 20.

High School White Elephant Christmas Party | December 12, 7-9pm

What do you get when you combine ugly Christmas sweaters, a gift exchange, hot chocolate, and holiday music? You get a White Elephant Party, of course! Join us in The Box for this annual event. Bring a friend, a snack or beverage to share, and a unique or funny wrapped present! No pre-registration required. Contact youth@spconline.org for more info.

Confirmation Class | Sundays, January 6 - March 17, 12-1:30pm in The Box

We all have big questions: How do we know what God is like? How does faith impact our lives? Why does theology matter? Join us to explore the answers and more! This class is offered to all senior high students, but is strongly recommended for students in 9th grade. We will explore what we believe and why, and what it means to be a part of a church community. Students have the opportunity to ask a mentor, a trusted Christian adult, to walk with them through this process. SPC membership will be offered to those who complete the class (optional). \$55 covers supplies and a new Bible (parents are required to provide lunch during the teaching sessions). Register at bit.ly/Confirm2019 by December 9. Email youth@spconline.org for more information. There will be no class February 17. Confirmation Sunday is March 24.

Mountain Madness | Saturday, February 2

Join SPC High School Youth for a day at Stephens Pass! We'll leave SPC at 7am, and return at 8pm. Please bring money for lunch, snacks and dinner (or a sack lunch). Prices and online registration coming soon.

TJ19 | High School Tijuana Summer Mission Trip, June 22-29
SPC enjoys nearly a decade long partnership with DOXA, an organization focused on improving the lives of families in Tijuana, Mexico by building houses, supporting student’s education and providing community resources. The home building experience is a unique opportunity for high school students and adult leaders to truly give of themselves and build relationships. Cost is \$1200, however, fundraising opportunities are available. Register at bit.ly/SPCTJ19 no later than February 3. A \$150 deposit holds your spot. For more information, email youth@spconline.org or call 425-553-1389.



college

youth@spconline.org

College Student Brunch | December 20, 10-11:30am, The Box
Welcome home college students! We’ve missed you all and want to reconnect, hang-out with friends, and enjoy an awesome meal together. So, you are invited to The Box from 10-11:30am for our College Student Brunch! This will be a fun and delicious time to be together. Parents, please RSVP for your son or daughter by emailing youth@spconline.org. We look forward to seeing you all soon.



As the end of year approaches, we are grateful for the generous giving that allows SPC to do so much in our church, community and throughout the world. Historically, November and December are our largest giving months, representing over 25% of our annual income. In December alone we expect to receive over \$265,000. Help us continue to be a **Christ Centered, Mission Minded Family**. Your support is appreciated!

For end of year gifts, our offices will be open through December 31, until 3pm. You can also give online at: <http://spconline.org/giving/>.



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