

# Enumclaw Church Life

The Official Newsletter of the Enumclaw Seventh-Day Adventist Church



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## A Message from the Pastor

*Vidal Mendoza*

Over the past weeks, I had the opportunity to step away and focus on my doctoral studies, and I returned deeply encouraged and challenged. One truth became very clear: healthy churches don't grow by accident, they grow when leaders intentionally equip members to live out their calling. The New Testament reminds us in Ephesians 4 that leaders are called "to equip the saints for the work of ministry." This means that the mission of the church is not carried by a few, but by all of us. God has placed gifts, passions, and influence in each one of you, and our greatest calling as a church is to help you discover and use them for His glory.

As we move forward together, I want to invite you to take a step beyond attending and into participating. Whether it is joining a Care Group, serving in a ministry, or simply reaching out to someone in our community, every step matters. We are not just building programs, we are building people, relationships, and a movement of faith right here in Enumclaw. I truly believe God is preparing us for something greater, but it will require all of us to say, "Lord, here I am—use me." Let's commit this month to growing, serving, and stepping into the mission God has entrusted to us.

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[www.enumclawsda.org](http://www.enumclawsda.org)

## Prayer Ministries

We are looking for volunteers to pray with people during our drive-through prayer.



*You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were  
created.*

*Revelation 4:11*

## Gym Night

The Social Committee has been spoiling us lately with lots of opportunities to fellowship. It takes a bit of coordination and effort to organize these fun events. On April 26, there was an open gym night. There were lots of snacks, games, and laughing! Some people set up the volleyball net and hit the ball back and forth for a while. Thanks to all who came out to play and for those who organized it.

## Sabbath Ideas

[www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org)

### Appreciating Nature

- Visit a park
- Go on a picnic
- Hike in the mountains
- Visit a quiet beach
- Sit by a lake or splash in the creek
- Sit outside in the yard or on the porch with a hot or cold beverage
- Lay a blanket out in the sunshine and soak up some good Vitamin D
- Go on a nature walk and collect unique rocks, leaves, or acorns
- Take a pair of binoculars and watch for birds
- Listen to the sounds of nature – birds, frogs, and other animals
- Encourage your children to explore the world around them.
- Enjoy a weekend campout over the Sabbath
- Watch a nature documentary

## Happy Birthday !

Cade turned 16 and the Volleyball care group celebrated his birthday with a delicious ice-cream cake. We will pray for you in the year ahead that you grow in Christ. Thanks for letting our church family eat some of your cake! After we stuffed ourselves with cake, the game was quite lively from a sugar high!



# Kitchen Garden Class

Tiffany Odiyar

Our community gathered for a class as Health Ministries leader Laurie Sims shared her extensive green thumb wisdom. Laurie guided participants through the entire lifecycle of a successful garden, from the initial hurdle of starting seeds indoors to the delicate art of pruning for maximum yield. She explained the process of choosing the right seeds for our climate and how to amend soil to create a nutrient-rich foundation. Whether participants were experienced or not, Laurie's practical advice made the dream of a lush, home-grown garden feel attainable.

The learning moved quickly from theory to practice as everyone rolled up their sleeves to sow seeds in soil right then and there. The health ministries team provided goodie bags brimming with free seeds and literature, ensuring no one left empty-handed. The session ended with a Q&A, followed by a light dinner that allowed participants to make new friendships and discuss their upcoming planting plans. It was a wonderful evening of growth, fellowship, and getting a little dirt under the fingernails.



*"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."  
Genesis 2:15*



# International Sabbath

Shirley McCormick

Our church was blessed to gather on April 25 for our second annual International Sabbath, a special day dedicated to celebrating the unity and diversity of God's global family. Centered on the mission theme from Matthew 28:19, "Go and make disciples of all nations," the day offered a meaningful reminder of our shared calling to reach people both near and far with the love of Christ.

The morning worship service was rich with participation from across our congregation and reflected the many cultures represented within our church. The service opened with a mission spotlight highlighting local ministry efforts—including the Full Bellies project, the Backpack Project, the community garden, and outreach through baking, cooking, canning, and gardening classes for the community—as well as international mission work in places such as Malawi, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Kenya. It was inspiring to see how members of our own church family are actively engaged in sharing the gospel in communities around the world.

A highlight of the morning was the mission pageant, where participants marched onto the stage carrying flags representing countries from around the world. As each flag was presented, participants greeted the congregation with a heartfelt "Happy Sabbath" in their native language, creating a powerful expression of unity through diversity.

Music played a central role throughout the service, with congregational singing offered in multiple languages—including Spanish, Hungarian, Indonesian, and Japanese—before joining together in English. Scripture was also read in several languages, reinforcing the message that God's Word reaches across all cultures and peoples.

A special moment for the children was the children's story, presented by Carly Tirado—Enumclaw's own missionary to Cambodia. She shared a glimpse of what church life is like in her village, helping the children connect in a personal way with mission work and the global family of believers.

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Special music was presented by the Kolintang Angklung Ensemble, whose performance added a unique and meaningful cultural dimension to the service. The sermon, titled “Stories from Malamulo,” was presented by Dr. Tyler Pender, a missionary surgeon at the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital in Malamulo, Malawi. He shared several riveting accounts of God’s miraculous interventions, along with the very real challenges of mission work. He concluded by challenging each of us to carry God’s message into the communities we encounter in our daily lives.

Following the worship service, the celebration continued with a joyful time of fellowship during an international potluck, where members shared dishes from a variety of cultures. In the afternoon, the Kolintang Angklung Ensemble returned to present a lively musical concert featuring traditional Indonesian Kolintang instruments, a type of wooden marimba. Their performance, along with accompanying vocal and instrumental pieces, created an uplifting and memorable experience. One attendee, Scott Kane, a visitor from the Auburn City Church, shared, “Well, I’m a music lover so obviously music from the church services to the concert is absolutely top of my list. The girls singing was absolutely beautiful. They sing perfect harmony which I complimented them on. I love the violin. That violin was awesome. It went so well with the marimbas.” His words reflected the joy and appreciation felt by many who attended throughout the day.

From the morning worship service to the afternoon concert, the International Sabbath was a powerful reminder that while we come from many different backgrounds, we are united in one faith and one mission. The day beautifully fulfilled its purpose as a celebration of worship, fellowship, and cultural diversity within God’s global family.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in planning, leading, and supporting this special event. Your efforts made the day both meaningful and memorable. We look forward to continuing this inspiring tradition in the years to come.

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# HUMANS OF ENUMCLAW SDA CHURCH



To start this get-to-know-me spiel, my full name is Janelle Crystal Ponce. Interestingly enough, my name actually comes with a story. My brother chose it, he meant it to match his name, Jacob. I learned this from my mom, and it's always meant a lot to me. After his passing, it made me feel like I carried a small part of him just by existing. So, from a young age, I learned that you carry pieces of the people around you, even when they're gone.

In my early childhood, my family and I lived in Kent, which wasn't the safest city. With most of my extended family in Peru or California, I was often kept safe at home with my dad. We had two Maltese dogs, a mother-daughter duo. Princess was usually curled up on a pillow, very food aggressive, but deeply protective of her daughter. I actually used to play tag with them and make little food games to get them to do anything besides rest - it rarely worked. I loved playing pretend and acting out adventures with my Barbies, but that imagination faded when DJ was born. Taking care of him became more important—along with bothering him, of course.

After moving to Buckley, I struggled a bit mentally. I entered a new school feeling like a minority - not because anyone made me feel that way, but because it was so different. I went from a very diverse elementary school to one that was... about 95% not diverse, which was definitely an adjustment, haha! I also had a bit of a phone addiction, which faded as I grew closer to my sister. We got along before, of course, but more like a typical sibling relationship. What started as being forced into random gardening projects or housework with her turned into me genuinely enjoying her presence. I was really lucky to have such a hardworking, tough sister with a lot of emotional depth. She's also an amazing writer—honestly, 100 times better than me.

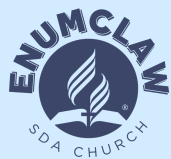
I learned a lot through high school and college. I worked with my mom and sister in their cleaning business, learned how to manage the money I earned from my dad, and came to understand the importance of housekeeping through my mom's exhaustion and angry outbursts. My family felt like a strong team. I never realized how much of a privilege it was to walk into a clean home until I was the one responsible for it.

I feel like I've grown a lot in the last six months - honestly, about five years' worth, which is not a fun feeling! Lately, I've been thinking a lot about 1 Corinthians 10:13. I think about how I used to joke with my sister that I wasn't God's strongest soldier, that we had already had enough trials. Now I'm going through an even worse one. Every time I face something hard, there's a moment where I want to give up, where I feel frustrated or even angry. Whether it was being stuck at home, not wanting to get out of bed, or losing people who meant a lot to me, I've thought, "this isn't fair." And it doesn't feel fair - just because I can overcome something doesn't mean I think it should happen. But lately, I've also been thinking that I'm blessed it's not worse.

Some people lose everything at once, like Job. Writing this now, I think I'm starting to understand the importance of his story.

To keep this short, I hope these small anecdotes helped you get to know me a little better. Right now, I'm in a place where I feel a bit unsure of who I am. I have a lot of conflicting thoughts, but I like to think they're shaped by the many people who've impacted my life and continue to guide me. I hope to grow into someone like my mom—someone who thinks deeply, but also makes a plan and follows through. I want to move from just thinking to actually doing. More than anything, I'm realizing that I need God to help me get there, to recenter myself and keep me grounded.

**Janelle Ponce**



## Upcoming Events

**Cooking Class: May 17 with Heather Reseck**