



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

August 2020



Here we are in the 4th month of this pandemic. I do not think any of us would have imagined this would go on for this long. I have been working with the National Guard to help distribute food, trace the virus, and process unemployment claims. I am seeing God's love in action. Almost every week I try to remind us to love God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, and to love your neighbor as yourself. I have been sharing that message with the National Guard servicemembers and all the people we have been helping.

I have had the opportunity to travel to Sedro Wooley to Walla Walla and all points in between. I am witnessing Soldiers and Airmen working together for a common good. I am amazed and humbled to witness God using the National Guard to be the hands and feet of our Lord. I would have never imagined this being possible five months ago. Not only is it possible, it is happening right before our eyes.

I am so blessed to be part of this ongoing mission. To date the Guard has distributed over 40 million pounds of food, 15,000 COVID-19 test, 16,000 phone calls to map the virus, and processed over 70,000 pieces of paper for unemployment claims. With this current raise in COVID-19 case around the state, the Guard's mission will continue. Please continue to pray for those who have placed their lives on hold to service those in need.

I want to thank everyone at SUMC for the hard work you are doing to help during this pandemic. I know two of the small groups are providing meals for Rod's house. We are still collecting food for the Selah Food Bank, helping at Camp Hope and Noah's Ark, and by continuing to tithe we are making a difference.

Shalom, Pastor Dirk



Mission Outreach



July was a warm quiet month, but our outreach efforts continued.

- The Selah Food Bank asked if our church could help by providing boxed dinners such as Hamburger Helper, Rice-a-Roni or even Mac-n-Cheese. An impromptu request went out with Pastor Dirk's help. For two days, a box at the Fellowship Hall downstairs door was filled with boxed dinners of all types and sizes. With an extra donation of money, our church provided **over 100** of these easy

dinners to the food bank to help feed the many Selah area families who rely on the food bank. The volunteers know our church and how generous we are. They were so appreciative, more than grateful, and ecstatic with our 2-day special food drive.

The survival of Camp Hope is still month to month. Various Yakima organizations help where they can. The Kiwanis recently provided fans to help cool the large tents where the residents stay. The Wesley UMC cooks continue to plan, cook and deliver a meal on the 4th Tuesday of each month. In July, they provided an oven fried chicken dinner with coleslaw, hearty bean salad and watermelon to 70 or more residents. SUMC helped by providing milk, bell pepper for the salad and watermelon. Check out the Camp Hope Facebook page where you can read their latest news and learn of their progress to survive. As the Camp Hope team struggles financially to provide a safe home for the homeless, please remember the camp director, leaders and residents in your thoughts and prayers. The mailing address for Camp Hope is P.O. Box 9074, Yakima, WA 98901



- The SUMC sandwich brigades continue every Wednesday and Thursday to prepare sandwich food and snack bags for the Rod's House teens who have been using the Unitarian Church as home base. The church provides overnight shelter to only 15 teens, but they feed even more young people who know they can knock on the church doors and at least get a sandwich and snack. The grant with the Power House Grill has run out so our food bags are especially needed and appreciated. Although they seem like lunch bags, the food is not given out until about 4:00 pm when

the teens come to the church for food and, to some, for the night. No one knows how long

this arrangement will go on - uncertainty is the norm for these kids. Although the Unitarian church has cots for 15 and a kitchen area with a small cooktop, toaster oven and refrigerator, the teens go to the real Rod's House to show and find clothes. The photo above is of four sandwich bags filled by one of our SUMC members who added a positive and hopeful quote to the teen who chooses one of these bags . . . providing hope with a sandwich and maybe lifting the spirits of a homeless young person who is hot, hungry, tired and wondering about the future. We recently received a card in the mail thanking SUMC for supporting Rod's House and inviting us to participate in a virtual fundraiser they will be having on August 28. Check their Facebook page for details on the virtual fundraiser. Their mailing address is PO Box 2283, Yakima WA 98907

NW Harvest has not yet opened their volunteer operation. As schools work to reopen or not, the NW Harvest team will let us know when the Backpack Mission will resume.

Reimagining Life



The Task Force on Regathering gave a report to the Church Council on July 15th. The report contained things that will need to be addressed before we can gather to worship, or any other activity in the church facilities.

“People need to understand that we cannot gather for worship until Yakima County gets to at least Phase 3 of the State of Washington’s reopening plan,” said Kevin Dow, who chaired the Task Force. “And even then, we will still need to take precautions to assure that our activity doesn’t bring harm to our members, or anyone else.”

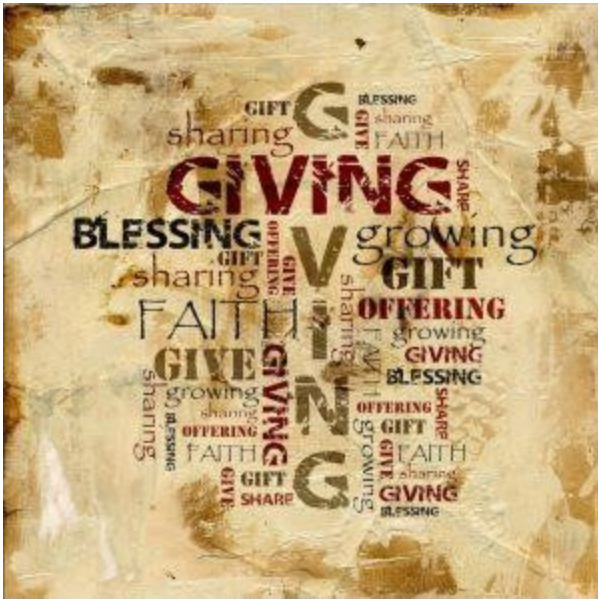
Worshippers will still be required to wear masks, refrain from physical contact with others (like handshakes and hugs), and a lot of the things that make worshipping together meaningful are things that are hazardous (like singing, visiting after worship and sharing meals).

The recommendations from the Task Force will now be referred to Joanne Coleman Campbell, the Seven Rivers District Superintendent, for her feedback and possible approval. Then when the county has been approved for Phase 3, we will begin to implement our plan. Asked when that might be, Rev. Dow said that there is no way to tell, but he has been thinking possibly Advent.

by Kevin Dow Task Force Chair



Finance Update



We all hoped that by now we would see some relief from the COVID-19 virus or at least a clearer path forward towards the end of this pandemic. That has not happened yet, but our church is continuing to serve our members and the greater community.

There is more clarity regarding our financial need and resources at this time. Although a few expenses are reduced, utilities for example, our ongoing expenses and obligations continue. Because of the continued giving of our congregation and the work of

Becky to get us qualified for the government relief money, we have been able to stay current on all of our obligations. Salaries have been paid, bills have been paid and we're current on our apportionments.

You have continued to give as you are able to the church. We are very thankful! Now we ask for you to continue your financial support in maintaining our church and its mission. Some of you give electronically or through automatic withdrawal. Some have been giving by mailing their contribution to the church. If you have any other questions or requests regarding giving, please contact Lyle 969-0990, Becky 969-7565 or Gail 697-7579.

Thank you,

Lyle Von Essen





News From Our Scholarship Recipients

I reached out to our scholarship recipients to see if and how the pandemic has affected the college plans of our scholarship recipients. Below is their response:

From Maya Voight: As of right now, Whitworth plans on reopening the campus with classes over 50 students being conducted online and with a few teachers with smaller class sizes deciding on their own to switch over to an online learning format. As of right now, I only have one class online and the rest of my classes and labs will be taught in person. I work in Game Management at Whitworth so with sports, such as volleyball, football, and soccer, being postponed to the spring, there is a little bit of skepticism on where I will earn my income. I will mostly likely be working for the biology department and will be washing labware, as keeping everything clean is going to be one of the top priorities. More to-go meals will be provided, and limited seating will be allowed in the dining hall. After last week's change to limit meetings to ten people, we could still end up online. By the second week of August, Whitworth should be making a final announcement on whether or not we will go back to campus, or stay home for another semester online

From Zach Voight: I just want to thank you again for the scholarship for WSU, but I might need to give it back. I was planning on going back to WSU in the fall, but I will have to stay home now because WSU will be completely online instead of doing in-person learning format. What makes the ROAR program so helpful is the in-person part of it. It is a really expensive program and my parents and I think that it probably isn't worth the money if it is going to be all online. There are a few meetings this week to go over the plans for the fall and then we will make a final decision. Right now it looks like I may not be going back.

From Ryan Mead: Hello all! As we all know, COVID has taken over a lot of aspects of our lives and it hit my college experience hard! In March, things started getting really bad and my school gave students the option of moving out of dorms because they decided our Spring quarter would be moved online. After a lot of thinking and tears on the phone with my mom, I decided to move home. CWU really changed my life, I found my place and my people, I didn't want to leave but I knew it made more sense to go home. My parents created an amazing dedicated space for me so I could be isolated while doing my schoolwork which has worked so well for me! I started my Spring quarter with 3 classes and then added a 4th one putting me at a total of 19 credits! It was a lot, especially with it all being online, something I've never done before. That being said, I worked so hard, I spent every day working on school and I ended the



quarter with almost all A's and made it on the Dean's list again! It was the hardest quarter ever, but I worked so hard and I'm so glad it went the way I did, I learned so much about online learning which sadly, will be coming in handy. I am currently taking two summer classes which end at the end of August, they are both online and are going extremely well! It's weird not having a teacher in front of me or having students around but it does create a more focused environment. I have one week in between the end of Summer quarter and Fall quarter to relax and I am really looking forward to that! My school is going to be mostly online but I have a few in person classes and my teachers are working hard to make it work for everybody so we can do some in person learning which I am really excited about! I am going to be moving into my first apartment in Ellensburg on August 1st and I am so pumped! I will also be starting my major this Fall and I couldn't be happier to go back to campus and finally start the foundation to my career! Covid has made things super hard, learning online and basically teaching myself everything has been so hard on me, but I've learned a lot and I am so fortunate to have been able to continue learning during these hard times. I've been trying to keep a positive mindset on the whole situation, it can be hard to do so at times but it's what keeps me going, I know things will get better! I hope everyone is doing well during these times! It will get better soon! (we also received a thank you card in the mail from Ryan; it was on the bulletin board for folks to read, but of course no one can come into the building to read it)

Makenna Helseth: I wanted to thank the scholarship committee for giving me the scholarship, and to the members of the church for supporting me throughout the years. I will be eventually attending Western Oregon University to study American Sign Language Interpreting but I have decided to take a gap year with the hopes of still getting the internship through my Rainbow Organization. Do to COVID-19, WOU has decided to have online courses. With my major, and my learning style, online classes would be really hard for me. This is the reason I have decided to stay home for the next year and work. But I am still so appreciative of the scholarship and support.



August Celebrations

Birthdays

Anniversaries

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- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 2 | Jean Cummings
Ryan Herdrich |
| 3 | Mike Helseth
Samantha Johnson |
| 13 | Jennifer Kreger Nicholas |
| 14 | Maya Voight
Beth Lowell |
| 15 | Ed Davis |
| 17 | Donna Ruud |
| 24 | Charles Cummings
Boston Harrington |
| 25 | Amber Wilson |
| 27 | Hilda Ward |
| 30 | Kathryn Mead |

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|----|-----------------------------|
| 16 | Lee Hamilton & Steve Harold |
| 27 | Chuck & Cheryl Natland |
| 29 | Phil & Sarah Hourihan |





AUGUST CALENDAR

Pastor Dirk will be away until August 21st for National Guard Assignment, but available via Zoom for Church worship and meetings.

- 2 Bible Study with Pastor Dirk via Zoom @9:15 am
Continuing every Sunday
Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am;
Communion – remember bread & juice
- 3 Daily check-in via Zoom with Pastor Dirk @ 10:00 am
Continuing Monday - Friday, during July unless canceled by Pastor Dirk.
See link on next page to join Zoom Meeting:
- 6 Pub Theology via Zoom @ 6:00 pm Continuing every Thursday
See link on next page to join Zoom Meeting
- 9 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
- 12 Book Bunch via Zoom @ 6:30 to 7:45 pm
- 15 Church Council Meeting via Zoom @6:00 pm
- 16 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
- 19 Church Council Meeting via Zoon @ 6:00 pm
- 23 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
- 25 Camp Hope Dinner prepared and delivered by Wesley UMC.
Watch for food requests from SUMC, if needed, the week before.
Newsletter articles due
- 26 Book Bunch via Zoom @ 6:30 to 7:45
- 30 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am

Worship and meetings will be via Zoom until we have implemented procedures for reopening safely.