



# The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

April 2020



As I ponder what has happened since I wrote last month's newsletter article, I am amazed by how quickly the world can change. In the flick of an eye we went from being sociable to being isolated from each other. In the same moment we found ways to adapt in our situation to stay connected. Although, I am still learning how to maneuver Zoom, I am finding it to be a great tool to stay connected. But it doesn't replace actually meeting in person. I hope by next month we are able to gather again in one place.

April 12 is Easter Sunday. It's one of my favorite Sundays of the year. Easter will be different from those in the past. As I write this article, I am just learning that we will not be able to gather for Easter Services. In spite of this, we must not forget the meaning of Easter and what Christ did for us on the cross. Especially in times like we are in right now. It might seem as if Christ has abandoned us. He continues to walk by our side. We witness Christ in those that are willing to deliver goods to a neighbor, or making a meal for Camp Hope; or sacking food for Northwest Harvest; calling or writing someone that is in isolation to remind them they are not alone. We witness Christ all around us every day and we are thankful for that. Christ has Risen . . . He has risen indeed. Amen.

Shalom, Pastor Dirk



## WORSHIP COMMITTEE



The Worship Team (Committee) met at 11:30 AM via ZOOM for our regularly scheduled meeting. We discussed how we can be effective in meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation at a time when we are unable to gather physically. In a March 24<sup>th</sup> email, Bishop Stanovsky stated, “All United Methodist church buildings and other facilities are to be closed, effective March 28<sup>th</sup> to all but essential services and only to the extent allowed by state and local government restrictions or advice.” These restrictions leave us trying to decide what to do about the special worship celebrations that are coming up. Here is the information as of now:

April 5<sup>th</sup> – we would normally be celebrating Communion. Guidance is forthcoming

April 9<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday – Gathering prohibited. Suggestions for ways of celebrating at home will be forthcoming.

April 10<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday – Selah UMC doesn’t have Good Friday services anyway so there is no impact on our schedule. There may be other online services available for those who wish to watch.

April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter – Bishop Stanovsky is working with a team around the area to produce an Easter Sunday worship video resource that can be accessed by local churches. We will release information on that as information becomes available. The consensus was that we will utilize that and then build on/follow that presentation with our own Zoom worship.

We also spent some time discussing music as a part of our live-stream worship. In 2015 the Conference rolled all of the churches who had a CCLI account into a single Conference-wide account. The Conference pays the fees for that as part of the church’s liability insurance. Our license is therefore paid for, and the streaming license was added to our number. We can continue to use our number, and just add it to our streams. That covers only songs that are in CCLI catalog. OneLicense is offering churches a “free trial period” through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Kevin will see how important a OneLicense would be for Selah, and report back at the next meeting.

The team will meet again on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 from the comfort of their computers.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Dow, Scribe

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## Selah Food Bank/NW Harvest/Camp Hope

The Selah Food Bank opened last Friday. They plan to be open on their usual schedule, Monday and Friday, 9:00-11:00a. I delivered your donations left in the church grocery basket. If you ever wonder if your box of cereal or few canned goods are much of a help, you should have seen the smiles of gratitude when the volunteers saw all the SUMC March food donations. The church is closed with no access to the church food basket by the SUMC community or by the food bank truck. Plus, state guidelines are asking us to stay home. Please keep your thoughts and prayers on the Selah residents who depend on the food bank. Remember your neighbors and take care of yourselves. We can fill the grocery basket when the doors open again.

### **APRIL IS STAY SAFE AND STAY HOME MONTH**



## Northwest Harvest

With the state Stay-at-Home order and safety considerations for the staff and volunteers, the director at NW Harvest planned for days so that the warehouse could be open and still prepare bagged meals for needy children in the Yakima area. There was plenty of hand sanitizer, gloves and spatial distancing, enough to get two pallets, 880 meals loaded. Only ten volunteers are allowed at a shift, far fewer than a normal volunteer Saturday. Pastor Dirk, Noah, Lee and the Helseth family - that is 7! - stepped up and worked a two-hour shift. Depending on supplies, Director Josette hopes to have volunteer shifts during the week to continue packing family-sized bags of food for urgent delivery or packing boxes for local food banks. Each volunteer will pack all the items into one bag; i.e., no assembly line as we have done in the past. The schedules will vary each week, but they hope to have shifts on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday morning and afternoon. Last Thursday, four SUMC volunteers labeled cans of corn and boxed 800 loaves of bread. It is heart-warming to note that Bimbo Bakeries USA of Union Gap ran a special baking run to provide these fresh loaves of bread to the community food banks. If you feel safe and want to volunteer, call Josette at 509-453-4407 for days and times. She often is away from her phone. You might also check with Lee Hamilton, Pastor Dirk or Linda Drew. Weekly schedules and the next volunteer Saturday are dependent on guidelines and the health of the community. Thanks Lee for the report for Saturday and the pictures!





## Camp Hope

With permission from the Health District, Wesley planners went ahead with their monthly dinner for Camp Hope and Noah's Ark residents.



Our own Chuck Natland gave of his culinary talent and considerable time to cook several corned beef roasts. The ladies at Wesley cooked potatoes, cabbage and vegetables and frosted cake. Several from SUMC provided milk. The Camp Hope resident's team and servers wiped down, prepared tables outside and welcomed the trays of food. We don't know how many were fed, but residents

liked the sound of the menu and shouted "God bless you" to those who delivered as they were leaving.

Selah friends, the Weedins, delivered to Noah's Ark and reported "We helped carry things in and they knew the drill, thanks!! Excitement was building as we left as the smells of corned beef and cabbage spread through Noah's Ark...great work team!!"

A huge SHOUT OUT 🙌 to Chuck for his dedicated cooking. I am sure the contented smiles of the residents at both shelters remained for days.

## Rod's House

Once a month, we have been preparing a baked potato and chili meal for the Rod's House teens. Rod's House is closed until they are told it is okay to open. Dad's House Church and Englewood Christian Church are providing a place for the teens to stay and The Lab is providing them dinner each day. What a blessing for the teens. When you order take-out, think about supporting the Lab, located at 910 Summitview Ave. As we Shelter-in-Place, if you are going through closets and drawers, please save your teen worthy clothes that you no longer need for when we can return to church and the teen shelter.

## AFTERNOON CIRCLE

Circle gals say hi to all and hope everyone is doing well. Our April 2nd meeting is cancelled due to this virus but we hoping to meet May 7th. I've called all of our members to check in with them. All are ok and being taken care of. Certainly miss seeing you all and hope we can be together soon.

Donna Ruud, President



## Selah United Methodist Family,

When times get difficult and uncertain, the certainty of our faith and our church community becomes even more important in our lives. Well, these are uncertain times for all of us and our congregation has quickly pulled together to help us all get through the next few months.

Dirk has instituted a check in every day at 10:00 am. The church building is closed but services and meetings have moved online. Members of our community are checking in with one another, making sure all our members are ok. In addition, we are continuing to reach out beyond our church to help the hungry, homeless and others that are suffering. Selah United Methodist is a ray of light in a dark time, standing together to take care of our family.

As a member of the Finance team, I am asking you to remember our church in your giving, even though we are not physically attending the church. Although the doors of the church are temporarily closed, most of the expenses will continue.

I understand that some people's circumstances may change and prevent them from their normal giving.

However, if you have the ability to continue your normal giving, please do so. There are several ways to give without attending church. You can automate your giving\* or send a check to the church. (1061 Selah Loop Rd. Selah, WA 98942) If you have questions about ways to continue regular giving, you can contact me, Becky or Gail.

With the uncertainty of the future, let's not forget why we made the decision to give to Selah United Methodist. It is following the teachings of the bible and doing the good work of our church family. Let's be sure that a temporary crisis doesn't impact Selah United Methodist Church

Regards, Lyle Von Essen

### ***CENSUS REMINDER***

A reminder that it's time to complete your census. We each matter to God; be counted.

You can get it done: 1. online at: [my2020Census.gov](https://my2020Census.gov) -- very fast and easy, 2. by telephone at: 844-330-2020, or 3. with a paper questionnaire, which will be mailed in April if you haven't yet done your census. Here's a UMC Church & Society article explaining why we should be counted:

<https://www.umcjustice.org/news-and-stories/the-importance-of-the-u-s-census-to-me-1000>





## SUMC Scholarship Update

Applications for the 2020 Bud Hall Scholarship are still due on April 15. It is recognized that applicants may be unable to obtain written references and/or official transcripts for the application due to school offices being currently closed. But it is important that at least the application is submitted to the church office no later than the April 15 deadline. A decision will be made by the Scholarship Team by June 30 as to when the rest of the supporting materials are required or if this requirement will be waived. We must know how many applications we will have for the 2020 scholarship by April 15. If you have any questions please call Margaret Antanaitis 509-697-9171. Application is available on the church Facebook page where it can be downloaded and printed.

SUMC Scholarship Team




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### *ANNUAL SUMC BIRTHDAY POTLUCK*

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Our annual birthday potluck and talent show – and now also game night - has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shelter in place orders. If you have any questions, call Tereica at 509-930-0318 or Susan at 509-697-5909.

### **Hello from the "Piggy Bank Small Group"**



When we met last month before this virus chaos hit big time, we decided that we would like to donate the money from the Piggy Banks this next time to the YWCA Domestic Violence fund in memory of Emily Harris Escamilla.

We would like to remind you to be filling up the piggies and if you need to, make an "overflow" trough because we won't be able to collect them for a few more weeks since the pigs are under the same self-distancing guidelines that we are all following. Please use a baggie or some other vessel to collect your spare change. We thank you for your participation in ministry of SUMC. Hopefully we will be able to call the pigs in within the next couple of months. Please do all you can to remain safe and away from exposure.

Ron, Linda, Don, Connie, Donna, Bob, Sue, Debbie, Tereica and Gail



## ***LOVING GOD WHILE PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH***

From **Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky**:

### **Suspension of In-person Worship and Other Gatherings through April**

As your bishop, I am charged to lead and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of The United Methodist Church. For the love of God and of our neighbors in every place, today I am directing continued suspension of in-person worship through April 30, 2020. This directive is in effect for United Methodist Churches across the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and anywhere in the Greater Northwest Area served by United Methodist clergy under my supervision. This suspension of worship includes Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. It applies to both indoor and outdoor worship, weddings and funerals and to all days of the week. Please continue to conduct worship, bible study, prayer groups, and fellowship groups if you can do so remotely.

The virus is spreading in every state in the country in an invisible, vicious cycle. When a person becomes infected, symptoms don't appear for up to two weeks. If they don't follow hygiene and social distancing guidelines, they will expose others, who won't show symptoms for two weeks, while they, in turn, expose others. In order to slow the spread of the virus, and to protect health care systems from being overwhelmed, each of us must take precautions to protect ourselves and others as if we are carrying the virus ourselves and as if the people around us are infected. This is what loving ourselves and our neighbors looks like for the foreseeable future, no matter where you live or whether you know anyone who has been diagnosed with the Coronavirus.

### **Holy Week and Easter**

For churches that are unable or choose not to lead worship remotely, I am working with a team to produce an Easter Sunday worship video resource that can be accessed by local churches at any time and in any place with internet service. It will include a variety of voices, faces, and landscapes from a wide variety of people and places across the greater northwest. We will encourage groups to organize watch parties on Facebook to share Easter together/apart.

### **Closure of Church facilities to all except essential services**

All United Methodist church buildings and other facilities are to be closed, effective March 28 to all but essential services and only to the extent allowed by state and local government restrictions or advice. Protective cleaning and hygiene practices are mandatory for all exempt essential services held in United Methodist facilities: Sanitizing cleaning of the building before



and after every use; 6 feet social distance among participants; hand washing with soap and water or hand sanitizer; coughing and sneezing into tissue which are discarded into closed containers.

## **Loving Neighbors**

God loves the faithful, so the faithful can love God's vulnerable children. This pandemic is putting many people at dire risk of disease, isolation, hunger, unemployment, mental illness. Protecting people from the virus is just the beginning. Our calling is to form life-giving relationships with people who are poor, homeless, outcast, unemployed, abused, despised or forgotten. In every place, I challenge you to think creatively about how your church can hear the cries of the needy and respond in ways that offer dignity, self-determination, and hope. Gift cards to grocery stores, drive-through food pantries, volunteers to purchase and deliver food to people with compromising conditions, phone calls, hygiene kits for homeless. If you ask people in your community what they need, their answer will be "you".

## **Sharing Burden in Connections**

We know that this crisis will create hardships for local churches. Church budgets will be strained as people are laid off from their jobs, struggle to buy food and pay rent, and watch their retirement savings plummet. Your conference leaders are planning for reduced income in local churches and at the conference level. My priorities, as we make adjustments are: Finding ways to lighten the burden on local churches; protecting income security for clergy and staff in our churches and conferences; and re-directing resources to relieve financial strain among the most vulnerable. We recognize the funds saved for a rainy day are needed now. Watch for concrete plans.

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## **ZOOM CHECK-IN WITH PASTOR DIRK**

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**Monday – Friday @10:00 daily check-in via Zoom. Join Zoom:**

<https://zoom.us/j/669186246?pwd=WF1GM2xpbWlYd0dTdTaHBEUG5zLzZlZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246      Password: 074986

One Tap Mobile: +13462487799,,669186246# US (Houston)

+14086380968,,669186246# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location: +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose); +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 646 876 9923 US (New York); +1 253 215 8782 US; +1 301 715 8592 US





APRIL CELEBRATIONS

**Birthdays**

**Anniversaries**

- 1 Anthony Schenk
- 4 Ron Drew
- 6 Leslie Blackaby
- 8 Shelley Von Essen
- 13 Seth Eisenhower
- 15 Pat Barton
- 18 Carrie Schramm Mauss

- 1 Ron & Becky Johnson
- 4 Rex & Andrea Van Beek
- 4 Rob & Karen Davis Gallion
- 8 Bob & Donna Ruud

APRIL CALENDAR

**Sunday Morning Zoom Worship @ 10:30 a.m. every Sunday**

**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/692949701>**

**Meeting ID: 692 949 701**

One tap mobile

+14086380968,,692949701# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

- 1 April Fools Day
- 2 Worship Team meeting @11:30 am, via Zoom
- 5 Palm Sunday
- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Easter Sunday – Christ is Risen!!
- 18 Northwest Harvest @ 9:00 am, Warehouse
- 25 Newsletter articles due
- 28 Camp Hope Dinner, Meet at Wesley UMC @ 5:15 pm (tentative)



## **Selah United Methodist Church**

1061 Selah Loop Road

Selah WA 98942

Phone: 509-697-7504

Email: [selahumc@fairpoint.net](mailto:selahumc@fairpoint.net)

Growing Into the Image of Christ

How to get hold of Pastor Dirk:

Cell phone: (509) 388-1218

Email: [pastordirkrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:pastordirkrobinson@gmail.com)

Newsletter articles for the May  
newsletter are due April 25

Articles can be emailed to

[bjoh461@fairpoint.net](mailto:bjoh461@fairpoint.net)

### **Mission Statement**

“As a sacred body that worships God, we feed the soul of our communities, serve the needs around us, and open our hearts in respectful acceptance of all.”

### **Vision Statement**

“To be an energized faith community.”