



# The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

April 2022



Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 27, was UMCOR Sunday. UMCOR is United Methodism's unique emergency outreach program. Many of you already know all about it, but here's a quick overview.

UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. It sends aid all over the world whenever disaster strikes. Because of the way it is funded, it is one of the most effective ways to send money for disaster relief. When UMCOR raises money to help people, 99% of that money goes directly to that specific disaster relief effort. It also has the reputation of doing an excellent job of matching help to the disaster at hand. As relief agencies go, UMCOR is one of the most effective in the world.

The reason is because of the way it is funded. On UMCOR Sunday, funds are raised just for UMCOR. That money goes to pay for the administration and oversight of the relief effort. That means that when a specific disaster happens and money is given for that disaster, none of that money has to go to oversight and administration. All of it goes to disaster relief.

Since UMCOR Sunday has just happened, we need to remember that just giving to UMCOR will not get money to Ukraine or any other relief effort. There are 2 specific ways to give to UMCOR. If you want to give to the oversight and administration of UMCOR, just put UMCORE on the information line on your check. This money is extremely important. It allows that specific disaster relief money to be distributed directly.

But if you want to give to support Ukraine relief, or some other relief effort, make sure that information is on that bottom line of your check. This money is also very important. It will go to helping with refugee support. It will go for humanitarian aid. It will go to helping people who are struggling to survive this terrible and unjust war. The Advance Special number for Ukrainian relief is "Advance #982450-Ukraine".

Please note that both ways of giving are important. This organization gives each of us a way to reach out globally to help those in need. May God bless us as we strive to answer the call to minister to those in desperate need, no matter where they might be.

Yours in Christ's work, Jim Simpson



## Mission Outreach

### Selah Naches Food Bank



The food bank volunteers have been very busy, in their words, making "**plans**" for their new building that will be located off of Goodlander and North Park Drive not far from Grocery Outlet. They have posted floor plans and even a photo on their website. You can see the new building at [selahnachesfoodbank.org](http://selahnachesfoodbank.org). Very Exciting! Although looking ahead to their new home, they continue to gather lots of good food and toiletries and more for those residents who depend on the food bank still on 1st Street. The volunteers say they have many requests for baking products of all kinds and sizes and mixes plus this month "condiments" of all kinds to add personal flavor to their meals. Condiments opens up a whole new world of choices. Thank you for keeping our church grocery basket filled. You can also always choose any non-perishable food item. Know that whatever you choose, they will be gratefully received by those busy food bank volunteers who help feed those in need in Selah and Naches.

### **April is Any Baking Product or Mixes and Condiments (of all kinds)**

#### **Rod's House**

Rod's House is also in the midst of planning for a new location where they hope to feed and shelter more homeless young people in the future. In April, Rod's House volunteers will open a new donation site at 315 W. Cherry Avenue. This warehouse donation space will collect clothing, shoes, nonperishable food items, housewares, hygiene products and even some furniture for young people who are homeless. You may still bring your clothing and toiletry donations to the church, and we will deliver to the new Cherry Avenue location.

#### **Camp Hope and Noah's Ark (Wapato)**

Wesley UMC cooks and bakers have planned another delicious meal for the residents of these two homeless shelters. Beef enchilada casserole, coleslaw, mixed vegetables, brownies and milk are on the menu. The warmer temperatures will make gathering together for a meal in the Camp Hope tents much more pleasant and friendly as we sit and chat with these appreciative people



## WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

--by Kevin Dow

Sometimes time just seems to fly by, but during the past two years, it has been difficult for me to keep track of time. I remember that it was March of 2020, and Dirk announced that we would be stopping in person worship services and meetings. At the time, we believed that we would be back by Easter. We actually made plans for the big celebration we would have in Easter of 2020 when we would gather again. Didn't happen. We thought it would be appropriate to celebrate our regathering at Pentecost of 2020, the birthday of the Church. Didn't happen. Plans for various holidays were made and abandoned: Mother's Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, All-Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year's Day 2021. It wasn't until Summer of 2021 that we began worshipping in person again, and we did so on lawn chairs sitting on the church lawn. When the weather got chilly, we moved inside, with face coverings and social distancing.

In summer of 2020, the Worship Team was asked to develop a plan for "re-opening". There was a plan to have hand sanitizer and masks available at the door, and a plan to have people enter and go down the center aisle and out the side aisles so we wouldn't contaminate each other as we met on the way out of the building. We had a scheme to block off certain seats so we wouldn't be too close to each other. Bill and I started recording the hymns and editing them into the worship service so we could have music.

I mention all of this, because this month, March 2022, the Worship Team recommended, and the Church Council agreed to return to worship in-person, in the Sanctuary, with masks voluntary. In the meantime, the church has worked to improve our ability to "broadcast" our worship services on Zoom: a new computer, a new video camera, new wires and switches and a new crew that is learning how to operate it. If you are worshipping with us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, you may not even notice, but if you are sick, or shut-in, or uneasy at being around others on Sunday morning, I think you will appreciate that changes/improvements that have been made.

In looking back over the past month, we have heard positive comments about Jim's sermons. We want to thank Royce Clark who agreed to play the organ for one worship service. He will be asked again. We also want to thank Mike Helseth, who helped provide accompaniment for the singing on the Sundays that Bill was out of town.



The Ash Wednesday service was sparsely attended, but persons in the pews were supplemented with those who joined online.

UMCOR Sunday was held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, and folks are urged to contribute to this outreach. UMCOR is helping to meet the needs of refugees who are fleeing the war in Ukraine, and a recent news article in the Conference news reminded us of the fact that because of UMCOR money, some of the recovery in the Okanogan is being completed earlier than anticipated.



Palm Sunday is April 10<sup>th</sup>, and we will again be using Eco-Palms which are environmentally grown and provide income for the farmers in Central America who grow them. Maundy Thursday is April 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a service at 7:00 PM at the church, and online. If you are planning to participate from home, call the church to get your prepared Communion kit.

Easter is April 17<sup>th</sup>, and the sunrise service will be held at the cross in the field behind the church at 6:00 AM. Bob Ruud has volunteered to build a fire to keep us warm. Last year the Men's group made a cross with holes it to hold flowers. Even though we weren't worshipping inside the building last Easter, the flowers that we brought were beautiful, and we have decided to use it again this year, but this year we will move it into the church at the beginning of the service.



### SUMC Scholarship Application Available

The application for the 2022 Bud Hall Memorial Scholarship is posted on the SUMC Facebook page and on the SUMC website, which can be reached using this link: [www.selahumc.org/s/scholarship](http://www.selahumc.org/s/scholarship) The application can be downloaded and printed from either site. To qualify for this scholarship students must be actively involved in their church and meet the other requirements on the application. Instructions for submitting are on the application. April 15, 2022 is the deadline for submission.

SUMC Scholarship Team



## FACEBOOK GROUP: 100 AND COUNTING

Our congregation's Facebook group membership has grown to exactly 100. It's now easier to find and it's simple to join!

In addition to individual posts and pics, the site contains:

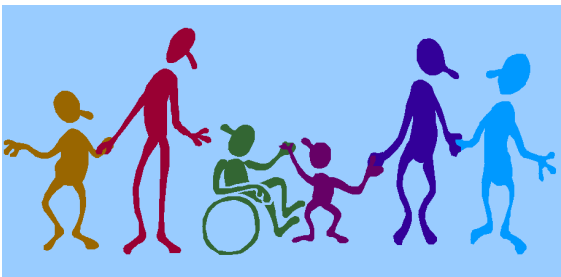
- a. the Selah UMC monthly newsletters
- b. video recordings of the pastor's weekly sermons
- c. notes of Church Council meetings
- d. other timely news you can use

The group, "*Selah United Methodist Members*" is geared toward those who worship with, or have particular interest in, Selah UMC. To respect everyone's privacy, the membership list and all content are visible only to the members.

The group can be found by using this direct link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/242128185836026>

The group can also be found by logging into Facebook and typing, "Selah United Methodist Members" in the search bar. On the front page, click on the blue bar, "Join Now." New members are added as soon as one of the group leaders see a request. If you need any help to get connected, or have questions/suggestions please contact Kevin Dow, Becky Johnson, Tereica Kaumheimer or Lee Hamilton

## TO BE OR NOT TO BE . . . A RECONCILING CHURCH



In the January Newsletter, we indicated the church is exploring the notion of SUMC becoming a reconciling church. Again, should we become a reconciling church, the wording which will be included within our Mission Statement is as follows: "We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We

welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

**JENNIFER'S STORY:** Not too long ago, I spoke to a woman in Ellensburg named Jennifer; she is a member of the LGBTQ community and attends the Ellensburg United Methodist Church. She

had previously lived in Yakima and described her experience, while in Yakima, as a member of a “welcoming church”. Within that church, she had been the head of their music ministry and served on various committees. After she came out as gay in a social media post, the church became aware of her post and, after a series of meetings with the pastor and elders, she was asked to step down from her leadership assignments. Ultimately, they told her she was “welcome” to attend on Sundays, but with provisos that had to do with her personal life...she left the church. Prior to coming out, Jennifer was involved with the church youth group, and had noticed some of the young people whom she thought, or knew, to be gay {from observing them outside the church) were leaving the church. She said it was only after she had come out, and later talked to some of those same young people, did she learn that they felt the teachings of Jesus Christ simply didn't jibe with what they were experiencing. You can hear Jennifer's entire story (and those of others) in a podcast on CHRISTIAN AUTHENTIC.ORG.

**LGBTQ YOUTH:** One of the facts I learned, listening to Jennifer's podcast, is the suicide attempt rate among LGBQ young people is on the order of 25% and 50% for transgender youth. When I consider the size of the Selah high school and middle school, I have to wonder how many of the young people in our community fall into these categories. These are young people struggling to find acceptance and they often don't find it at home. By becoming a reconciling church, we have the opportunity to explicitly announce to LGBTQ youth that they are welcome, and to show them acceptance, embrace them, and, thru our actions, show that a church can, in fact, truly reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ.

**GROWING THE CHURCH:** The congregants at Ellensburg UMC said that when they became a reconciling church, it wasn't an influx of the marginalized that caused them to grow, rather, it was arrival of people who wanted to be a part of a truly welcoming church. Since Dirk's arrival, approximately 5 years ago, we've had a net loss of 13 adults who attend church. Most no longer attend for reasons associated with death or do to moves out of the area; to my knowledge, only one of those people left because of Dirk. If we were to become a reconciling church, could our experience be similar to that of Ellensburg? And, if it could be similar, wouldn't that be wonderful! If we don't take action, where will we be 5 years from now? Think about it.

## Memorial Donation

In March we received a letter that I wanted to copy and put in the newsletter; unfortunately, it is a handwritten letter and I did not have the skills necessary to copy and paste it into the newsletter. Therefore, following is the message from that letter, which included a generous donation to our memorial fund:





Dear Pastor Simpson:

I am making this donation in memory of my father, Blaine G. Hammond, who was pastor of Selah Methodist Church from 1951 to 1956. It was in the latter stages of that ministry that Dad began the building project that moved the church from its old building to the new one.

Though my father left the ministry in 1967, having served at Asbury in Tacoma and as Director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Washington, he always remembered Selah fondly.

With blessings and good wishes,

The Rev Blaine R. Hammond

P.S. My time in Selah was the happiest time of my childhood.



## Selah United Women in Faith

Notice anything different with our name? Beginning this year, 2022, United Methodist Women will call ourselves United Women in Faith. Why the change? The new name is part of a refreshment of the organization that includes a new look, new and improved programs designed to better nurture current members and welcome new women to the sisterhood to put their love into action. Adopting a new name, acknowledges the great change you need to continue to grow in your faith and put love, faith into action. This is nothing new to our organization. We have had 25 name changes throughout our beginning. In 1972 the organization adopted the change to United Methodist Women. United Women in Faith, lets women know they can remain a part of our organization, no matter what changes happen in the church.

### **Our New Mission Statement:**

**United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.**

We will continue our mission work to provide opportunities for service and advocacy for women . children, and youth. **Our next meeting will be April 19th, at 7:00 pm via zoom. the program is Prayer and Self Denial.**

**Tressa Cummins Selah United Women in Faith President**

# MARCH Celebrations

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## Birthdays

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

## Anniversaries

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



### ZOOM LINKS

#### SUMC Sunday Service

**Time: 10:30 a.m.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/692949701?pwd=LzINSWYyT1BGUzNhVHc0ME9ydnBLQT09>

Meeting ID: 692 949 701 Password: 021416

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,692949701#,1#,021416# US (Tacoma)

### THURSDAY CHECK-IN

**10:00 am THURSDAY check-in. Join Zoom:**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/669186246?pwd=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbmlNQ09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,669186246#,1#,848493# US (Tacoma)





## ***APRIL CALENDAR***

- 3 UMM Breakfast @ 8:00 am in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Holy Communion; Fifth Sunday of Lent  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 5 Coffee Hour @ 9:30 am at Sundance Espresso; Continuing every Tuesday
- 7 Weekly Check-in @ 10:00 am via Zoom; Continuing every Thursday  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom  
Ladies Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 pm, Simonson Room  
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 9 Hilda Ward Memorial Service, 2:00 pm in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Use Sunday worship service link to join
- 10 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Palm Sunday – See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 12 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom, use check-in link to join via Zoom
- 14 Maundy Thursday worship service @ 7:00 pm in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 15 Good Friday  
Deadline for 2022 Bud Hall Scholarship Applications
- 17 **Easter Sunday - Christ is Risen - Hallelujah**  
Sunrise Service @ 6:00 am at the firepit  
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 19 UMW meeting via Zoom @ 7:00 pm; use check-in link on prior page
- 20 Church Council meeting @ 6:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Second Sunday of Easter – see link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 25 Newsletter Articles Due
- 26 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom, use check-in link on prior page  
Camp Hope Dinner, prepared and delivered by Wesley with help from SUMC

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**June 12 – Chicken BBQ lunch after church**

**June 23 to 26 – Concession stand for 4-H Horse Show**

**Selah United Methodist Church**

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Growing Into the Image of Christ

Pastor Jim Simpson Contact Information:

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Email: grampajim2014@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.”