



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

April 2023

Mark's Remarks

"That was a good _____, pastor."

As people are leaving, one or more will often fill in the blank with words like service, music, sermon, class, conversation, worship, meeting, message, lesson, etc. I've always been humbled by comments like these because many people give me lots of credit and compliments for what happens when we are gathered together. I'll admit that I might have something to do with eliciting a reaction in people. But not as much as you think. The reality is, the impact a sermon or song or insight has on people is determined more by the work of the Holy Spirit than by my efforts.

It might begin with the Holy Spirit working in me and through me, but much of what happens when the church is gathered is determined by the Spirit working in and through each person who is present. And by present, I don't just mean showing up. I mean *present*, in the sense of presenting one's self to the Spirit of the gathered community. We present ourselves to the presence of God, who becomes present when we come together remembering that this is no ordinary gathering.

I confess that I sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that our being together is simply a matter of routine, just an ordinary gathering. And then I'm surprised by another person's shared perception that something special just happened—something was changed, healed, realigned, forgiven, or renewed within them.

I've heard attendees describe a feeling of energy, electricity, connection and meaning. The description I give to it is Spirit. To be more precise, it is Spirit that is Holy. In truth, we're talking about the Holy Spirit. It's not something I bring. It's not something we create together. It's what God brings about when we gather as children of God, as devoted disciples of Christ, as ordinary people who worship an extraordinary God.

I'm rambling on about this because I don't really know what it is I am trying to express. But here's what I do know: we are coming to that week in our life together that we call Holy Week. And we call it that for a reason. It's the week when we remember and relive the events of God's holiness poured into Jesus as his life was poured out in a way that changed the world. It's the week that defines who we are and how we are and why we are faithful followers of



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Jesus. It's the week that begins with palms and shouts of "Hosanna!"; followed by a remembrance of a Last Supper and Holy Communion and a new commandment to love one another; followed by a Good Friday that ended in death and darkness; followed by a Sunday sunrise service shedding light on the miracle of resurrection; culminating in a gathering for worship that celebrates the miracle Easter offers to the world and to each one of us and to all of us together.

I invite you to the event that is Holy Week. It's not a series of services or events scattered throughout the week. It's a week that is an entire event stretching from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. It's important to me to be present. It's important for you to be present. Most importantly, it's important to expect God will be present to those who present themselves to this week. Bring your self. Bring your sense of expectation that this is no ordinary week and join us.

I'll see you in church,

Mark

MISSION OUTREACH

Selah Naches Food Bank

The Selah Naches Food Bank is struggling; the smaller inventory shows as you walk in to the civic center. Tammie and Dave, the new directors, learned recently at meetings of food banks in Yakima County and Washington State that all the food bank inventories are low, some as much as "50%", Tammie reports. Covid related food assistance is ending which is affecting many more local people who rely on food support from our local food bank. This week staff had to spend more than \$5000 to help stock some of the more needed items. We at SUMC can help as we do with our Little Pantry. Just a couple cans or jars from each of us can add up to a full shelf. This month they *really* need peanut butter... you cannot make a nourishing peanut butter and jelly sandwich without peanut butter. Quick meal items are also on their grocery list such as boxed meals like Rice-a-roni or Hamburger Helper or canned meals that you just heat such as spaghetti O's or ravioli.



APRIL IS PEANUT BUTTER OR QUICK BOXED OR CANNED MEAL ITEMS



Rod's House

The Extreme Weather Shelter for some of Rod's House youth is officially closed. The number of young people who gather at Rod's House on Naches Ave. Monday to Friday for a meal, clothes, shower and/or counseling has increased to about 50. Thank you for your continuous donations for these young homeless. Our congregation has provided two monthly meals in March and two more groups are in the planning for next month. If you would like to work with two or three or more to make a midday meal, there are several who now know the routine or you can go to Rodshouse.org and become a meal partner. You'll be happy you did!

Camp Hope



Eight from our congregation toured Camp Hope on a sunny afternoon last week. It was an uplifting experience that is hard to describe. We each had our pre-conceived notions of what we might see and feared for some of the worst in our expectations. We were welcomed and led by Mike Kay, Director, and Susie, a Case Manager, through an air of calm unsuspected serenity. Many wore smiles and waved their hellos. There were a couple small bon fires with people gathered and chatting as if at Camp, while other residents smiled as they did their chores; some were sleeping. Camp Hope is a safe faith-based community; a village of living dormitories converted from shipping containers, storage units, and heavy-duty Iraq era military tents. The dormitories house separately women, men, families, and young people ages 18-24 years. Residents have access to warm beds with light storage for their possessions, several meals a day, medical and mental health services, donated clothes, bedding, and toiletries and lots of bikes which the residents repair before they can claim it as theirs. They have a garden for vegetables in warmer weather, a small play area for young children and an open tent where friends and pets can enjoy a meal together. Safety, Freedom of Choice and Hope are the guiding principles at Camp Hope. The rules are simple; no drugs, no alcohol and no guns. The small staff, assisted by many resident volunteers and some residents who are paid (everyone has a purpose), work their hardest, 24 hours a day, keeping people safe and fulfilling their needs. Not an easy job for almost 190 residents. Some might wonder the secret to helping people who have hit on hard times find contentment...it really is not a secret but is simply loving others, even strangers, as your family and neighbors and giving them love and hope when they need it most.

Two residents talked to us expressing their appreciation and how happy they are to be able to reside at Camp Hope. One elderly woman only had income for rent or medicine. She could live on the streets and have her medicine or live at Camp Hope and have her medicine. She was bundled with her quilts and comforting possessions and grateful. Another elderly, handicapped woman told us she had found outside housing but had been abused and robbed.



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She praised the staff as "caring and compassionate". She was exuberant and grateful to be accepted back into Camp Hope's safe and friendly environment.

As they do every month, Wesley UMC planned and prepared a hot dinner, this month of ham, potatoes, vegetables, coleslaw and cake for Camp Hope. Selah people help as they can with food, preparation, delivery and service. The United Methodists in Yakima do have a generous presence at Camp Hope.

Selah High School Vikings

Thank you to whomever donated a bag of t-shirts to the High School bin. The social worker was thrilled with the big bag of girl's shirts that they had been needing.

As I was leaving, he said if we ever want to donate food, their little pantry always can use Cup o Noodles. Another opportunity...the Viking HS box is in the Simonson Room.

SUMC Scholarship Application Reminder

It is down to the wire! Scholarship applications are due in two weeks – April 15, 2023. Even though tax day has been extended past April 15, the deadline for submitting scholarship applications has not. The application for the 2023 Bud Hall Memorial Scholarship can be downloaded from the SUMC Facebook page and the SUMC website (selahumc.org/s/2023-Scholarship-Form.pdf) Copies are also available on the bulletin board in the Narthex. 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. The amount of money available for the 2023 scholarship is quite small compared to the last two years.

SUMC Scholarship Team

WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Worship Team for Selah United Methodist Church met on March 8th. Margaret Antanaitis, Chair, opened the meeting with prayer, and we discussed comments. It was noted that we had a good response to the Ash Wednesday service, with about 30 people in attendance.

Palm Sunday is on April 2nd; the service will feature a "Reader's Theater" that will be drawn from the 26th and 27th chapters of Matthew's gospel. Various members of the congregation will be asked to read the words of the characters in the story, plus there will be a narrator, and other parts of the story that will be read (shouted?) by the whole congregation. There will also be Communion as part of





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the service. Kevin will send out the script with the bulletin for that day so everyone will have a chance to look it over in advance. The dialogue for the reading won't be on the screens.

Maundy Thursday is April 6th, and Good Friday is on the 7th. Everyone is encouraged to attend all of the Holy Week services, as the emotions that are a part of the Holy Week stories are important for the appreciation of Easter. Both services will start at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The Good Friday service is a *Tenebrae* (Darkness) Service where lit candles are gradually extinguished while the Scriptures are read until the entire Sanctuary is dark. Easter Sunday starts at 6:30 am, with a service at the fire pit in the field behind the church. The whole Selah community will be invited to share in the service. Special thanks to the Girl Scouts for readying the area for the SonRise service. Jim and Laurie Knebusch will set and light the fire. Following the service there will be a breakfast that will be open to the entire Selah community.

We are once again having a cross for flowers for Easter. It will be draped with black cloth for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and then members and friends will be urged to bring fresh flowers to fill the holes on the weekend. It will be available near Selah Loop Road along with a banner inviting people to join us for the SonRise service and breakfast. The Celebration of the Resurrection will begin at the normal 10:30 worship time.

Many in the congregation will remember "Flannel Sunday" at Christmas time. It was an informal worship time. We will be doing a similar service the Sunday after Easter. Folks will sit around tables (hopefully in the Fellowship Hall) for singing and sharing stories.

The next meeting of the Worship Team will be held at 6:00 pm on April 12th in the hope that others who may work during the day could join the team for planning worship events for Spring. Anyone with an interest in ideas for worship is urged to attend.

Kevin Dow

APRIL CAMP HOPE DINNER



We will be preparing and serving the April dinner for Camp Hope and Noah's Ark on Tuesday, April 25. This will give the Wesley cooks a much needed break. We will be preparing BBQ chicken, fancy baked beans, vegetables, coleslaw, rolls, milk, and cookies. A list of items and quantities will be posted in the narthex soon for those wishing to donate to the dinner. We will need help on Tuesday afternoon April 25th to cook the chickens and prepare the other dishes. We will also need volunteers to serve the meal at Camp Hope that evening.

There will also be a signup sheet for any church people that want some BBQ chicken – April 15 is deadline for signing up for chicken. We can cook an additional rack for those who want to purchase chicken. Chuck Natland



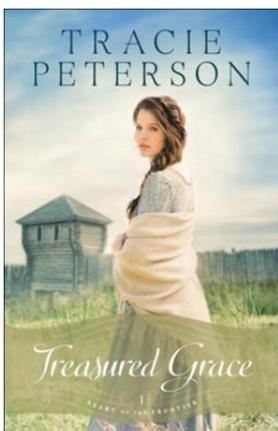
Hooray!! We have kids that want to go to camp this summer. It has been awhile since that has happened. As many of you in the past, we would have a dessert auction each spring to help raise funds to provide. "Camperships" for the kids. We are bringing back that tradition. Our goal is to pay at least half of the cost for each child going to camp (more if needed, to make sure no child misses out because of cost).

We are changing the date of the "second Sunday potluck" for the month of May to the first Sunday of May. We will have a combined potluck/dessert auction on that day. (Mother's day and other factors were the driving force for this change.) Kyan, Mike and Michelle Helseth will be the auctioneers, enticing as much money as possible for each delectable dessert out of the attendees. I remember a few years back when Pastor Rex paid \$113.00 for a pie and that is not the highest amount ever paid. What record can we reach this year. The Ladies Circle discussed the idea of hosting this event at their March meeting with the hopes of sharing the money as a fund raiser for that group since the Bazaar is no longer happening in the fall. The Church Council approved the change of the May potluck and the sharing of the funds from the dessert auction. 50% for camperships and 50% to the Circle.

The schedule for the April potluck will also be a little different. There will be a community breakfast hosted by SUMC at 7:30 Sunday April 9th between the SonRise service and the regular 10:30 service. Then after Worship there will be no potluck so that people can be open to attend family events. Hope you will put both these dates on your calendars and be able to attend them.

Gail Davis

BOOK BUNCH



In April, the Book Bunch will read, *Treasured Grace (Heart of the Frontier Series #1)* by the prolific author, Tracie Peterson. A historical fiction novel set in the 1800s, it features the Oregon Territory, and specifically, the Whitman Mission. A summary of this story of hardship, endurance and faith is available at: <https://www.christianbook.com/treasured-grace-heart-of-the-frontier/tracie-peterson/9780764213274/pd/213272#CBD-PD-Description>

The Bunch meets via Zoom [SUMC meeting link] at 7 pm, the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Discussions include Christian themes and questions of faith derived from each novel. You may participate regularly, or based on your interest in particular novels. Before summer break, participants will choose and read at least one more novel. *Please* pass along suggestions of possible novels to read.



In addition, the Bunch is planning an outing, tentatively scheduled for Sat., April 29th. After browsing the shelves at a used book store, we will get a light bite at a nearby eatery. If you'd like to participate in the book discussions and/or the outing, contact Lee Hamilton.

Methodism 101

The United Methodist Church was created in 1968 with the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church.

However, Methodism has its roots dating back to England's Oxford University in 1730. Brothers John and Charles Wesley were part of a student small group helping each other grow in their faith. In 1736, John & Charles, both priests in the Church of England, left England for the New World seeking to spread the Methodist movement they had started.

During their brief stay in the New World, John & Charles Wesley served as missionaries among the colonists and Native Americans. It didn't go well. After returning to England, John's ministry included preaching outdoors to those who did not regularly attend parish worship services. New converts were organized into Methodist societies. The societies were made up of class meetings (small groups in which members watched over each other and built each other up.)

Their intention was never to start a new denomination, but the Methodist movement continued to spread, especially in colonial America. As the American revolution brought division between England and the American colonies, it also created a rift between the church of England and the church in America. The leaders of the Methodist movement in America gathered in December 1784 at a conference held in Baltimore and established *The Methodist Episcopal Church in America*.

Fun Tidbit: The Methodist denomination was the first American-born denomination. *Never under estimate the power of faith Small Groups!*

What the heck is an AED



In March several members of the congregation participated in CPR/AED training to help us be more comfortable if there is a medical emergency at church and we need to use the AED. An AED is an Automated External Defibrillator and is used to help someone experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. Thanks to Nathan Miller and the Selah Fire Department, we not only became familiar with how to use the AED, but we also had training in the most current CPR protocols and had opportunity to practice on a mannequin. The AED is mounted on the wall near the stairs. Hopefully, we will never have to use it, but we are grateful to have it available.



Small Group Ministry Meeting April 23

As our numbers have grown, we have a growing number of people ask about small groups in the church. What are they? What do they do? Who can join in?

Other churches call them Home Gatherings, Ministry Meetings, Mission Teams, Life Circles, Together Groups, or TLCs (Tiny Little Churches). All of these names help describe small group ministry. We gather to engage in ministry, mission and life together. Small groups are smaller versions of the entire church.

You may be a newcomer, you might be a long-timer who has not yet joined a group, or perhaps you are just curious about what it all means. If you're one of those people, stay for a meeting with the pastor in the Simonson Room after worship on April 23. We'll go over the basics of small group ministry and how to organize the formation of new groups. Members and non-members are invited to attend and learn more about belonging to a small group.

When a church like ours grows larger, small groups can help people connect and stay connected in Christian fellowship. When facing life's challenges and setbacks, small group ministry can bring support, comfort and encouragement when and where it's needed most.

We'll be starting new groups in the near future, but small groups are an important part of Selah United Methodist Church's ministry. These kinds of groups have been around in various forms for our entire history. Many of our members who are part of a small group will say they feel more connected to Christ because they find stronger connection to their church because they are connected to their small group.

Selah United Women in Faith



This month I would like to highlight our United Women in Faith Magazine called "Response". This magazine keeps us informed of what is happening with our sisters in faith in the US and around the world. It highlights the work our National Mission Institutions. The March /April issue has an article on the election of our new Bishops in the Western Jurisdiction. There is always a bible study program to use for a meeting and messages from our National President

'AINISE 'ISAMA'U and General Secretary Harriet Jane Olsen. I am going to put the last two editions on the bulletin board in the Narthex for anyone to read. We will meet via zoom April 18th "Tax Day" at 7:00 pm via zoom.

Tressa Cummings, Selah UWF President



Sunday, April 16

Holy Hilarity Sunday—Now that sounds funny



Yes, Holy Hilarity Sunday, Holy Humor Sunday, Bright Sunday is a real thing. It is a tradition begun by early Greek Christians. For centuries, in many Christian faith traditions, the week following Easter Sunday was observed as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.

The premise was: God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was “God’s supreme joke played on death.”

To continue the great Easter celebration, Holy Hilarity will be our worship theme Sunday, April 16. We will celebrate with upbeat music, jokes, laughter and more. Dress in bright colors, come to worship prepared to laugh and celebrate the miracle of the resurrection. Invited someone to join you in the celebration!

We have great reason to be joyful. So let us celebrate—Risus paschalis — the Easter laugh. Jesus loved a good party. His first miracle was at a wedding reception in Cana turning water into wine. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus tells us the overjoyed father threw a big party for his returning son.

S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY

APRIL

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Judg. 11-12; Ps. 50; 2 Cor. 1 | 16. 1 Sam. 18; 1 Chr. 6; Ps. 11; Mt. 3 |
| 2. Judg. 13-16; 2 Cor. 2 | 17. 1 Sam. 19; 1 Chr. 7; Ps. 59; Mt. 4 |
| 3. Judg. 17-18; Ps. 89; 2 Cor. 3 | 18. 1 Sam. 20-21; Ps. 34; Mt. 5 |
| 4. Judg. 19-21; 2 Cor. 4 | 19. 1 Sam. 22; Ps. 17, 35; Mt. 6 |
| 5. Ruth 1-2; Ps. 53, 61; 2 Cor. 5 | 20. 1 Sam. 23; Ps. 31, 54; Mt. 7 |
| 6. Ruth 3-4; Ps. 64-65; 2 Cor. 6 | 21. 1 Sam. 24; Ps. 57-58; 1 Chr. 8; Mt. 8 |
| 7. 1 Sam. 1-2; Ps. 66; 2 Cor. 7 | 22. 1 Sam. 25-26; Ps. 63; Mt. 9 |
| 8. 1 Sam. 3-5; Ps. 77; 2 Cor. 8 | 23. 1 Sam. 27; Ps. 141; 1 Chr. 9; Mt. 10 |
| 9. 1 Sam. 6-7; Ps. 72; 2 Cor. 9 | 24. 1 Sam. 28-29; Ps. 109; Mt. 11 |
| 10. 1 Sam. 8-10; 2 Cor. 10 | 25. 1 Sam. 30-31; 1 Chr. 10; Mt. 12 |
| 11. 1 Sam. 11-12; 1 Chr. 1; 2 Cor. 11 | 26. 2 Sam. 1; Ps. 140; Mt. 13 |
| 12. 1 Sam. 13; 1 Chr. 2-3; 2 Cor. 12 | 27. 2 Sam. 2; 1 Chr. 11; Ps. 142; Mt. 14 |
| 13. 1 Sam. 14; 1 Chr. 4; 2 Cor. 13 | 28. 2 Sam. 3; 1 Chr. 12; Mt. 15 |
| 14. 1 Sam. 15-16; 1 Chr. 5; Mt. 1 | 29. 2 Sam. 4-5; Ps. 139; Mt. 16 |
| 15. 1 Sam. 17; Ps. 9; Mt. 2 | 30. 2 Sam. 6; 1 Chr. 13; Ps. 68; Mt. 17 |



Scripture – Read the passage & copy a verse, a work or a phrase that captures your attention.

Observation – Write a brief summary of what speaks to you from the passage.

Application – Write down how this Bible passage applies to you right now.

Prayers – Complete your study time by writing a prayer based on your reading.



Don and Connie Schramm stopped and visited with Duward Massie one day after his 95th birthday during their recent trip to the Palouse area. Duward is doing well; he feels good and Connie reports he looks and sounds great

April Celebrations

Birthdays

Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Anthony Schenk | 1 | Ron & Becky Johnson |
| 4 | Ron Drew | 4 | Rex & Andrea Van Beek |
| 6 | Leslie Blackaby | 4 | Rob & Karen Davis Gallion |
| 8 | Shelley Von Essen | 8 | Bob & Donna Ruud |
| 13 | Seth Eisenhower | | |
| 15 | Pat Barton | | |
| 18 | Carrie Schramm Mauss | | |
| 22 | Cec Waddell | | |

ZOOM LINKS

SUMC Sunday Service Time: 10:30 a.m.

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/692949701?pwd=LzlnSWYyT1BGUzNhVHc0ME9ydnBLQT09>

Meeting ID: 692 949 701 Password: 021416

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

ONLINE MEETING LINK

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

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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



MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Mary Tayer Memorial Service @2:00 pm in Sanctuary and on Zoom
Reception following in Fellowship Hall – Come celebrate our friend’s life
Use Sunday Worship link to join via Zoom
- 2 **NO UMM BREAKFAST TODAY**
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Holy Communion Passion/Palm Sunday See link on prior page to join via Zoom
The Grace of Les Misérables Study @ 6:00 pm in Upper Room
- 5 PB&J Bible Study @10:00 a.m. in the Simonson Room; Continuing every Wednesday
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room; Continuing every Wednesday
- 6 Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 pm in Simonson Room
Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00 pm in Sanctuary
- 7 Good Friday Service @ 7:00 pm in Sanctuary
- 8 Holy Saturday/Easter Eve
- 9 Easter SonRise Service @6:30 am at Firepit
Potluck breakfast @7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Easter Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Christ has Risen - Hallelujah; See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 11 Book Bunch @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Use meeting link on prior page
- 12 Worship Team Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 13 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 16 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom; UMCOR Sunday
2nd Sunday of Easter; Holy Hilarity Sunday See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 18 United Women in Faith @ 7:00 pm via Zoom; see meeting link on prior page
- 19 Church Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 23 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom; UMCOR Sunday
3rd Sunday of Easter; See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 25 **Newsletter Articles Due**
Camp Hope Dinner, BBQ chicken dinner led by Chuck Natland
Book Bunch @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Use meeting link on prior page
- 26 PB&J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 29 Book Bunch Outing - tentative
- 30 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
4th Sunday of Easter; See link on prior page to join via Zoom



Selah United Methodist Church

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Growing Into the Image of Christ

Pastor Mark Williams Contact Information:

Cell phone: (509)628-6405

Email: aha.experience@icloud.com

Newsletter articles for the May
newsletter are due April 25

Articles can be emailed to

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.”