



The Messenger



April 2024

Selah United Methodist Church

Mark's Remarks

I write these words as we begin Holy Week and our yearly observance of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. It's a journey we take each year to revisit and remember the story of life, death, and life beyond death that encapsulates our Christian faith. I'm guessing you'll read these words just before or just after our Easter celebration of Christ's Resurrection. It's the "before" and "after" related to Easter that captures my interest. What difference does the entirety and enormity of this Easter story make? How does this story change our lives and our life together in days to come?

When reflecting on the entire story of this Holy Week, I find it easy to focus on the shining moments as we sing "*Hosanna!*" and share Jesus' invitation to "*do this in remembrance of me*" and to "*love each other... just as I have loved you.*" It's also easy to celebrate his glorious transformation as we read the proclamation of those first Easter witnesses that "*he has been raised, just as he told you.*" All these things can have a positive effect in my life and make me feel good about myself. But those scenes cannot fully illuminate all of my life until I remember them in the context of the week's entire story.

I also benefit from confessing my own shortcomings as I face the shadows of this Holy Week. I see myself in the grumbling aimed at Jesus; the temptation to weave a web of lies and deceitful innuendo; the resentment arising from unmet expectations contained in those angry shouts of "*Crucify!*" I wrestle with my own culpability when confronted by the betrayal, denial and abandonment of disciples who had previously pledged their uncompromising devotion. Christ's suffering, his death, and his grave remind me of my need to choose between sharing or avoiding the suffering of others; between acknowledging or ignoring our fear of death; and between proclamation of the promise of resurrection vs. the finality of the grave.

The Holy Week contrast between Light and darkness brings renewed perspective to the difference between the illumination and the shadows in life. Every year I find myself searching for change when comparing the "before" and "after" of an Easter encounter. I do this because I have learned that Easter is not a single miracle of transformation inside a tomb 2000 years ago. Easter points to the ongoing miracle of transformation found each time we choose between illumination and shadow. The story and these events of Holy Week are meant to change us, calling us to resist the darkness and to enter more fully into the light.

that change in any of us has already taken place. Maybe it is taking place. Maybe it has yet to take place. But I believe change is inevitable for anyone who chooses to embrace and incorporate the life-giving and light-giving story of Easter resurrection. I close by posing the



same questions I started with: What difference does the entirety and enormity of this Easter story make? How does this story change our lives and our life together in days to come?

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Mark

MISSION OUTREACH

Our Little Pantry and Selah Naches Food Bank

The food bank basket was filled to overflowing this month; so many cake and brownie mixes, condiments, flour and sugar, boxed meals and peanut butter! Likewise, many of you keep Our Little Pantry well-stocked as it is visited every day by those who need help. As the word is spread, it is heartwarming to realize that so many of our neighbors, not just from our congregation, are donating and filling, not taking, from our pantry. Our local community is realizing how full and how much food variety is available at the new Selah Naches food bank. The number of families who register is growing each week; the total is over 400 and growing. One day in the past week, over **150** families, many of them new, gathered at the food bank.



Also, gradually, the new two [Wednesday](#) evening hours are becoming busy. **Sharing** is the word of the times. We are learning that the food banks around the state **share** back and forth from Seattle to Moses Lake to Tri-Cities to the local NW Harvest and our community food bank. Local businesses like Grocery Outlet and Walmart, as well as other church food banks, are **sharing** with each other as needs arise. Thank you to each of you who **share** so generously. The Selah Naches staff has no special requests; continue to give as you have and as you can. A posted partial shopping list includes any non-perishable food, toiletries, baking supplies, jello and pudding mixes, condiments and boxed meals.

April in your Choice Month

Your choices are always good!

Camp Hope

As Camp Hope continues to be a low-barrier emergency shelter for men, women, and families with children, and also a permanent residence for some, we support, as we can, by collecting blankets, towels, and warm clothes for the approximately 250 residents. Wesley

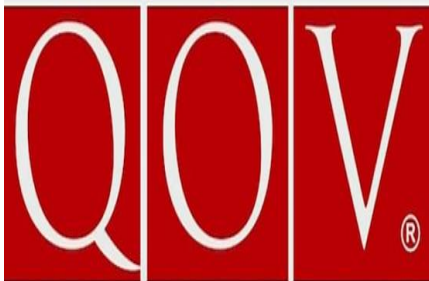


UMC plans and prepares a meal on the **4th Tuesday** of each month. We at SUMC help the Wesley cooks by providing food and food prep. Several from SUMC deliver and serve the hot meal on that **Tuesday** evening. Continue to support Camp Hope in your prayers and thoughts as you sort through your closets getting ready for Spring.

Rod's House

These are exciting times for Rod's House. Staff is not only looking to open their new overnight shelter in the summer of 2024, but they have seven new board members who will be there to open the new beginnings this summer. The new shelter will offer 8 beds for 13–17 year-olds and 10 beds for young adults up to 24 years. The shelter will provide a kitchen and resources to help the young people get back on their feet. "The shelter opening up will mean a lot to the youth who have nowhere to go, nowhere to sleep. They're going to be able to check themselves in, check themselves out. They're going to be able to stay for up to 120 days." Their *Urgent Needs* list is long; here is a partial list: tampons/pads, water, snacks, shampoo and conditioner, men's and women's underwear, sweats and hoodies. The Rod's House collection box is in the Susanna Room. Please also remember Rod's House as you go through your closets and drawers.

Quilts of Valor



QUILTS OF VALOR



Yakima Quilts of Valor will be here to present quilts to some of our veterans on Sunday, April 28th at noon. We have 5 people from our congregation receiving quilts in honor of their service in the military.

- Our recipient's are:
- Pete Bollinger, Air Force
 - Merle Brothers, Marine Corp Reserve
 - Ron Johnson, Navy & Air Force National Guard
 - Bob Ruud, Coast Guard
 - Robert Hartenstein, Army

Please plan on joining us at the to show our appreciation for their dedication and service for us and our country.



Worship Highlights



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

After observing Holy Week and celebrating Easter Sunday, we begin April with “Risus paschalis”—or the Easter laugh, otherwise known as Holy Hilarity Sunday, April 7.

Holy Hilarity Sunday, a continuation of the great Easter celebration, will incorporate upbeat music, holy communion and lots of laughter. The tradition of lightheartedness and laughter following Easter dates back to the 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.”

So dress in bright colors, bring your favorite (church appropriate) jokes to share, be prepared to laugh and celebrate the miracle of the resurrection. Invite someone to join you for this joy-filled worship service, April 7.

Bill Walton’s return as pianist gives us another reason to celebrate Sunday mornings. While we are grateful for Bill’s return, we are so thankful for Royce Clark playing the pipe organ during worship while Bill was on vacation.

For those interested in assisting with worship planning, the next Worship Team meeting will be held May 14, 1:00 p.m., in the Simonson Room.



Selah United Women in Faith

Selah United Women in Faith will be hosting an informational presentation and discussion on Human Trafficking in Central Washington. We will have a guest speaker from Mirror Ministries, a nonprofit organization in Tri Cities that provides services to those who have been involved in domestic minor trafficking. They provide services for hope, healing and restoration to survivors.

Please join us and bring a friend on April 20th, 9:30am - 12:00 pm in the fellowship hall of the church. Coffee, Juice, and breads and fruit will be provided. There will not be a meeting in April.

Tressa Cummings,
Selah United Women in Faith President



Bud Hall Scholarship

The application for the 2024 Scholarship is available on the SUMC Members Facebook page. Applications are due back to the scholarship team no later than **April 15, 2024**



Congratulations McFarlands

On January 6, 2024 Joy and Mike McFarland welcomed granddaughter Freyja Joy Mellander. She is the daughter of Michelle McFarland and Kyle Mellander.

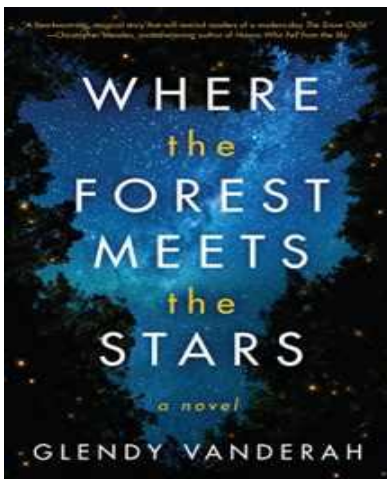
4th Friday Fellowship Day

We are going retro for the next 4th Friday Fellowship Day, April 26, with a Fondue Party. Yep, dust off those fondue pots and join the fun. The menu will include cheese fondue, hot pot mini sausages and of course chocolate. If you have a fondue pot to share for the event, or would like to help with the planning, please contact Cheryl Natland or Lisa Williams. Remember to invite a friend or two too, April 26, 6-8 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.



Last month, some of us learned a new board game (Thanks to Maitlan & Rachael), and kids of all ages enjoyed playing Air Hockey. Your creative ideas are requested for future 4th Friday Fellowship evenings. Please share what you would like to see at 4th Friday Fellowship with Lisa Williams or Becky Johnson.

Book Bunch



Book Bunch will meet just once in April: Tuesday, April 30th, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Lisa Holyfield will facilitate discussion.

The April novel, *Where the Forest Meets the Stars* by Glendy Vanderah is an Amazon Charts, Wall Street Journal, and Washington Post bestseller, and a Goodreads Choice Award finalist. Details about this intriguing book: <https://a.co/d/2jT53mn>. Read along! Contact Lisa Holyfield or Lee Hamilton.



SUMaC Hiking Club 2024

The SUMaC Hiking group gathered each Tuesday in March to walk the Yakima Greenway trail in preparation for our on-trail hikes this spring. March 30th kicked off the trail hikes with a morning hike at Snow Mountain Ranch, where we were treated to the breath-taking spectacle of the blooming wildflowers of the desert steppe terrain.

The schedule for April will continue the weekly Tuesday walks on the greenway. We have switched to meeting in Naches at 10:30 where the greenway trail ends (parking behind the Laredo Drive-In) and will hike east on the trail, with a coffee and bagel stop at Cots Peak Coffee House afterwards.

The first April trail hike is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th, where we will be hiking the Selah Creek Trail. This trail is a fairly flat, easy hike of 2.5 miles round-trip. The trail is in the Selah Cliffs Natural Preserve, so unfortunately, no dogs are allowed on the trail. Meet up will be in the church parking lot at 10:00 am.

The second hike is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th for a site yet to be determined. Watch for updates and directions posted on social media and in the church narthex.

Please know that you don't have to be a fast or skilled hiker to participate. We have people with all levels of ability and everyone goes at their own pace; there is always someone to walk along side with. We hope you will join in!

Pop-up Garden Sale May 4th

Have you started dreaming of biting into a garden-ripe tomato, or do you yearn to hang that first spring basket full of summer annual flowers? We've got you covered! The gardeners of Selah UMC will be hosting a pop-up plant sale on May 4th to raise money for Missions and Outreach.



Some of the items offered for sale will be tomatoes, peppers, onion starts, succulents, geraniums, snapdragons, petunias, lobelia, zinnias, marigolds, and more. We also will offer a variety of perennial plants, shrubs and trees. Be sure and invite your friends and family....we

promise lots of variety and really great prices!

We will be offering a pre-order sale for church members interested in snagging some plants before the public sale. Watch for the order forms later in April. We will post them on one of the tables in the narthex.

Our plants are growing and in need of "potting up" soon, and we are still in need of second-hand pots that you might have laying around in your shed or garage. Pots can be dropped off in the Suzanna room. If you don't have a green thumb and would like to help out in other ways, we would welcome any donations of potting soil or maybe consider signing up to volunteer on the day of the sale. We will have a sign-up list in the narthex soon.

Happy gardening!



Children's Ministries are Growing at SUMC

Many have noticed a rising level of energy and youth activities at church **Sunday** mornings. In addition to Pastor Mark's Time with Young Disciples during the worship service, **Sunday** School teachers & helpers are providing creative experiences for teaching lessons each week. Activities have included salt painting (displayed around the hallway bulletin board) and creating mini resurrection gardens. On Palm **Sunday**, Maitlan Cherry and his guitar introduced music and singing to the classroom.

Earlier this program year, several children were presented Bibles from the church and now are being encouraged to memorize scripture versus. The verse for March was John 3:16.



And once a month, the youth are gathering on **Sunday** afternoon for Kids Fun Day. They share lunch together and an activity. For March, we met in the kitchen to bake Resurrection Cookies as we read through the Easter story, and then decorated Easter sugar cookies. Rumor has it, April's Kids Fun Day will be a scavenger hunt.

If you have ideas or would like to help with Kids Fun Day, please contact Lisa Williams or Becky Johnson.

Coming to a group near you!

What? What's that?? A new practice is about to spread throughout SUMC. A tool will be made available to guide us toward a 5 to 10 minute spiritual discipline at the beginning of each of our meetings and gatherings. It's very simple. There is a printout of over 25 New Testament scriptures and 4 simple questions. The idea is to pick one scripture reading from the list and at least one question from the 4 possible questions. Then, simply share and discuss your thoughts amongst your group. The goal is to increase our spiritual sharing with one another. And to increase our spiritual questioning and pondering. Also, we're called to share our beliefs with others. Why not practice sharing with one another while at the same time engaging our brains? We ask for a person in the group to record the responses. This body of responses will be used down the road as we plan for the future here at SUMC. This idea, concept, and new practice will be brought to your group for your consideration. We are fantastically growing and expanding as Christians at SUMC. Thank you, Lord.

Shelley Von Essen, Lay Leader



S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY APRIL

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

The S.O.A.P. Journal Method

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.

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

Finance Report

We have now had a few months of experience with our new furnace and it sure has been nice walking into a warm church. With the new furnace we have been following the HVAC recommendations of not having a big swing in temperature between when the church is occupied and when it is not, which is one reason why the church was never very cold over the winter. It just so happens that the March Pacific Power and Cascade Natural Gas bills just came in and the average temperature for the days covered by the bills was very close this year to last, so I had the opportunity to compare efficiency and cost of operating between our old furnace and new and I was very pleased with the result. The new furnaces use more electricity than the old, resulting in the Pacific Power bill being about \$300 more than last year, but the Cascade Natural Gas bill was more than \$500 less than last year. There was rate increases for both Pacific Power and Cascade Natural Gas, so we definitely saw a savings with the new system. I suspect a few of you have been curious about this, so wanted to share with you.

Becky Johnson



Campership Dessert Auction



The camping season is fast approaching and we encourage our youth to attend camp by offering scholarships to pay for half of the registration fee. We are already getting requests for scholarships for this coming season. Our dessert auction to fund these scholarships has been scheduled for April 14 as part of our monthly potluck. Cooks, bakers, candy makers please step and bring a dessert for the auction – the rest of us bring our wallets to buy one or more yummy dessert.

April Celebrations

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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

Please let Becky know your birthday and anniversary so we can celebrate with you. You can email her at bjoh461@fairpoint.net or call 509-969-7565



APRIL CALENDAR

- 2 SUMaC Hike Yakima Greenway trail meet in Naches behind Laredo Drive-in @ 10:30 a.m.
- 3 Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 4 Ladies Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
Brew Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Kitchen, Selah
- 7 UMM Men's Breakfast @ 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use Worship link on next page
Holy Communion Sunday 2nd Sunday of Easter
The Chosen viewing and discussion @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 9 SUMaC Hike Yakima Greenway trail meet in Naches behind Laredo Drive-in @ 10:30 a.m.
Evening Pinochle Group @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 10 Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 11 Brew Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Kitchen, Selah
- 13 SUMaC Selah Creek Trail hike (no dogs); meet at church parking lot @ 10:00 a.m.
- 14 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use Worship link on next page
3rd Sunday of Easter Native American Ministries Sunday
Potluck following Worship in Fellowship Hall
Dessert Auction for Camperships in Fellowship Hall during potluck
The Chosen viewing and discussion @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 16 SUMaC Hike Yakima Greenway trail meet in Naches behind Laredo Drive-in @ 10:30 a.m.
- 17 Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
Church Council @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 18 Brew Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Kitchen, Selah
- 20 **UWF Mirror Ministries** guest speaker @ 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 21 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use Worship link on next page
4th Sunday of Easter Festival of God's Creation
The Chosen viewing and discussion @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 22 **Earth Day**
- 23 SUMaC Hike Yakima Greenway trail meet in Naches behind Laredo Drive-in @ 10:30 a.m.
Camp Hope Dinner organized and prepared by Wesley UMC and SUMC
- 24 Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 25 **Newsletter Articles Due**
Brew Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Kitchen, Selah
- 26 **4th Friday Fellowship Night** @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 27 SUMaC hike TBD @ 10:00 a.m.



- 28 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use Worship link on this page
5th Sunday of Easter
The Chosen viewing and discussion @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 30 SUMaC Hike Yakima Greenway trail at SunTides @ 10:30 a.m.
Book Bunch @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom; use Meeting Link on this page

Remember to follow SUMC on Facebook and Instagram...share with friends.

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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlNQ09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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



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Growing Into the Image of Christ

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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.”