



# The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

August 2021



Summer is in full swing and with the temperatures to prove it. I am glad everyone survived the extreme heat we experienced in July and I am praying for a cooler and wetter August. It is hard to believe we have been back worshipping together in the sanctuary for a month. With each passing week it is beginning to seem “normal” once again. As we gather again in the sanctuary let us not get too comfortable behind the four walls of the Church. The needs of the community are still great. In July we helped the Selah Food Bank collect baking supplies. This is a great start in helping our community. But I am asking each of you in the congregation to be on the outlook for ways that Selah United Methodist Church can be the hands and feet of Christ. I know this may seem to be a tall task but as disciples of Jesus this is what we are call to do. We need to put our faith into action and live into our faith of Loving God and Loving Neighbor. The big question; is what does this look like? Loving God includes worshipping, praying, repenting, forgiving, and loving God’s creation. Loving Neighbor includes caring, feeding, praying, being generous , being kind, and peaceful. I know this congregation is fully capable of doing this task. Let us put our faith and love into action.

Shalom Pastor Dirk



## Mission Outreach



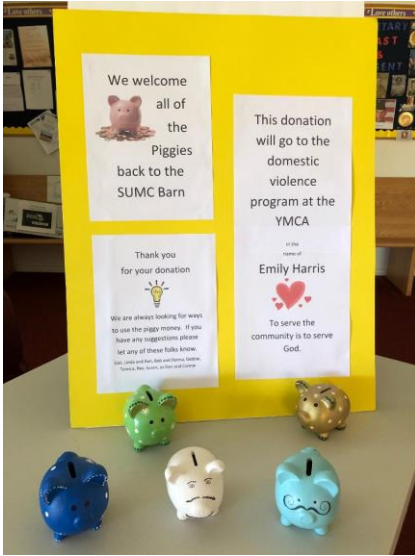
Selah United Methodist Church brought smiles of gratitude to the faces of the volunteers at the Selah Food bank. After sorting and weighing (as required by the state), they texted that our special donation of baking products last month was a whopping 95 pounds. That is amazing! You and your generosity are amazing! I asked about any new requests from the church for August. Tammy, the lead volunteer, said that

continuing with baking products or adding boxed dinners to "spice up their summer meals" would help. Always know that any non-perishable donation will help feed the many Selah area residents who depend on the Selah Food Bank. Please follow your giving heart as you consider also the church's Free Little Pantry. Thank you.

### **AUGUST IS BAKING SUPPLY AND BOXED DINNER MONTH**

Wesley continues to feed the 100 plus residents at Camp Hope and the homeless who depend on Noah's Ark in Wapato. The cooks at Wesley work hard to create a delicious and nutritious meal on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Their dedication and thrifty cooking skills are inspiring.

Rod's House is still only partially open to young people, ages 13 - 24. The shelter opens at noon for those who need showers, clean clothes and counseling, but they do not congregate inside. The teens who come by can receive an afternoon meal during the week and take pocket snacks with them as they leave by 4pm. Staff at Rod's House are always appreciative of the clothes you donate.



## Piggy Round-up

Once again we have had a very successful "piggy round-up" at SUMC. We collected the pigs the past two Sunday mornings and the total that was deposited was **\$579.64**. I think this is a great amount considering we could not be out spending money and generating a lot of change over the previous 12+ months. The people at the YWCA will greatly appreciate the donation that is being made in memory of Emily Harris as will her family here in Selah. Thank you to all who gave so generously for this cause. Now it is time to start filling up your piggy banks for the next go-round. We don't know yet what the funds will go to at

that time so if anyone has any suggestions, please let one of us know. Again, THANK YOU!!

Bob and Donna Ruud, Don and Connie Schramm, Ron and Linda Drew, Sue Eisenhower, Debbie Jespersion, Tereca Kaumheimer, Rex Van Beek, Jan Towell, and Gail Davis

## Selah UMW

UMW support approximately 90 National Mission Institutions through gifts of money or time. Interesting fact about some of the mission institutions is that most began as schools to train deaconesses. These women dedicated their lives to their work as teachers, preachers, nurses and community leaders. In the early 19th century, a women's identity came from their relationships as wives or mothers. Deaconesses lived independently and committed to serving people whom society had forgotten. Many of the homes or settlements evolved into present-day national mission institutions still serving people entrenched in poverty, children needing schooling, immigrants seeking shelter or women in crisis.

Thank you! for all the donations of flashlights, travel alarms, and night lights for the organization Voice for Children. We will continue to collect through the end of August. I know this organization really appreciates receiving these items.

Our next meeting will be September 21st at 7:00 p.m. We are hoping that we can meet in person. Say a little prayer!

Tressa Cummings, Selah UMW President

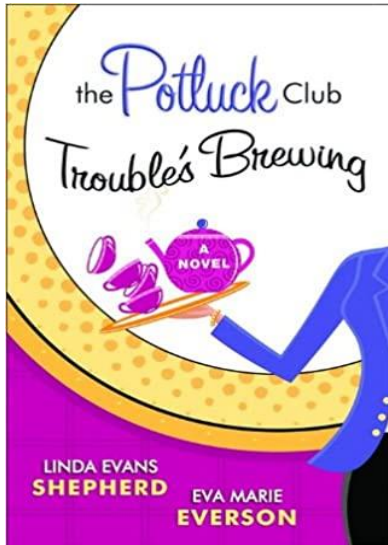


The Rock Room Downstairs has some gorgeous posters because of Andrea Van Beek's beautiful talent. She spent a good deal of time over the last couple of years coloring on the giraffes and elephant posters. The workmanship is fabulous and they are now proudly displayed in our church. Please take a moment to go down and view these works of art. Many thanks to Andrea!





## BOOK BUNCH IS BACK



The Book Bunch is back for another season of reading Christian fiction books for fun and fellowship. We discuss how faith works in the lives of the colorful characters we meet --- and how faith works in ourselves. Will you join in? Invite a friend, too! We go at a fairly slow pace, to allow reading time in the midst of jobs and everything else.

**WHEN:** The second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 7 to 8 PM. The next session is **Tuesday, August 10.**

**WHERE:** Regular meetings are on Zoom. We had a special gathering in the spring, and are planning another get-together soon.

Zoom link is the Selah UMC check-in:

<https://zoom.us/j/669186246?pwd=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlNQTO9>

You have time to order your digital or paper copy of the book we're beginning.

*The Potluck Club Troubles Brewing* (2006), by Linda Evans Shepherd & Eva Marie Everson

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## Annual Conference Report

By Kevin Dow, Retired Pastor

*About a month ago, I answered a questionnaire about Annual Conference, and at the end of the questionnaire it gave me a list of things that I could do in response to the Conference. I selected the option about writing a report on the Conference for my local congregation. Here is my report.*

Annual Conference, like the local church, suffered from a lack of some of the things that make Annual Conference meaningful for me, namely the chance to visit with old friends and colleagues, and singing together. Because of the COVID pandemic, Conference was held virtually on ZOOM. The Clergy Executive Session was held earlier in the month of June.

The clergy approved three persons as full members of the Conference and ordained as elders, and approved 12 elders for retirement.

Later in the month we met online to discuss and vote on the legislation before the Conference. We Approved:

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Conference Advance Specials:

Atlantic Street Center,  
Tacoma Community House,  
Alaska Conference Support,  
Central Washington Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON),  
PNW Conference Camping and Retreat Ministries (Camp Indianola, Twinlow Camp, Lazy F Camp & Ocean Park),  
PNW Disaster Relief/Early Response.

Minimum Compensation for full-time pastors for 2022 of \$44,010

Adopted a schedule for an allowance to be paid for pastors moving to a new appointment or retiring

Accepted the nomination of Brant Henshaw to be the Conference Treasurer for the next four years

Raised the pension rate for those who served in the PNW before 1981 by 2%

Agreed to allow pastors serving at camps to have the same retirement benefits as other pastors

Approved Retirement Annuity Responsibility for pastors retiring in 2021

Approved Disability benefits and Retirement Grants

We also agreed, with deep regret, to the closure of six local churches in the Pacific Northwest Conference (Toppenish UMC, Mallott UMC, Clark Fork UMC, Kendrick Community UMC, Milton UMC and Skamokawa UMC).

Finally, we adopted a 2022 Conference budget of \$4,488,917 which is a 12.5% reduction from the 2020 budget.

If you have any questions about any of these actions, or about the Conference in general, please feel free to ask.

Grace and Peace,

Kevin

## **Help Needed Bracing for Wildfire Impact in PNW**

With the largest wildfire in the country currently burning in southern Oregon and almost three dozen more popping up throughout Washington and Idaho, Greater Northwest Area UMC disaster response teams are watching things closely and asking churches across the area to be ready.

Thankfully, at this point, disaster response coordinators across the Greater Northwest Area are not reporting the record-level destruction that occurred less than a year ago, but there is a great deal of smoke in the air. For people with health problems, it's becoming hazardous and Pacific Northwest Conference Disaster Response Coordinators Dana and Kathy Bryson are busy

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getting cleaner air kits deployed across the area – specifically in central and northcentral Washington. The cleaner air kits are made up of a 20-by-20-inch box fan, a 20-by-20 Merv air filter and two bungee cords. United Methodist churches in Wenatchee, Cheney and Kennewick, Wash., have been busy building these kits. Just this week 12 kits were sent to Malden, Wash., to help survivors of the 2020 wildfires who are still living without adequate housing and have health conditions, according to Kathy Bryson. There are still dozens of people living in RVs parked in the middle of what once was there small town just a year ago. “Right now, we’re dealing with smokey skies, more than anything,” Kathy Bryson said. “That could change.”

The Brysons said if churches are interested in helping put together these cleaner air kits, they would love to talk with them to make sure they’re getting the right supplies and the kits are deployed in the right places.

The Bootleg Fire in southern Oregon is so far burning mostly in wildland areas of approximately 600 square miles, but has damaged 67 homes. The situation could change rapidly. While the Oregon-Idaho Conference works to fill its disaster response coordinator position, volunteers such as Jim Frisbie, Jim Truitt, and Louise Kienzle are monitoring the situation.

Kienzle said she is busy trying to connect with churches to find places where UMCOR kits – everything from hygiene to clean-up kits – can be stored so that they can easily be connected to local communities where disaster might strike.

While the Brysons said they are prioritizing the need for cleaner air kits, there are other ways churches are contributing. Haller Lake UMC has created more than 100 “soot sponge” kits for fire survivors. “There are two types of fire survivors: those who lose everything and those who survive the burn through,” said Dana Bryson. The soot sponge kits help the latter, using dry sponges and Nitrile cleaning gloves to help clean up ash-covered, dusty surfaces. Kathy Bryson said these will likely be supplemental kits distributed along with UMCOR cleaning kits. Often the UMCOR kits include wet sponges and the Brysons said wet sponges wreak more havoc on cleaning up fire debris than helping.

Kienzle said the Oregon-Idaho Conference needs hygiene kits and cleaning kits which can be stored at the yet-to-be-named churches for rapid deployment.

Last year the ash sifter kits that churches put together were extremely helpful in places such as Malden to help those who had lost everything to wildfires sift through debris. Kathy Bryson said there are a couple dozen being stored at Spokane Valley UMC. “Last year I was just handing them out off the back of my truck,” she said. The Brysons along with Truitt, Frisbie and Kienzle are all monitoring the ever-changing situations, talking with district superintendents in the areas impacted by fires and praying that their supplies won’t be needed. But it is better to be prepared than not. “Everyone is just waiting for things to change,” Dana Bryson said. “And fires will move.”

To help with supplemental kits such as cleaner air kits, contact the Brysons at [brysonpnw@gmail.com](mailto:brysonpnw@gmail.com). If churches in the Oregon-Idaho Conference can offer UMCOR kit storage space or are willing to put together cleaning and hygiene kits, contact Kienzle at [umvim@umoi.org](mailto:umvim@umoi.org) or call 541-620-0989.



## August Celebrations

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### Birthdays

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

### Anniversaries

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



FYI – the church has a new email address and it is [selahumc@gmail.com](mailto:selahumc@gmail.com)





# AUGUST CALENDAR

Pastor Dirk will have regular office hours Monday through Thursday 10:00 to 3:00.

- 10th Sunday after Pentecost - **Communion Sunday**  
**See link below to join via Zoom**
- 3 Coffee with the Pastor @ 9:00 am, Sundance Espresso, Selah  
Continuing every Tuesday
- 5 Weekly Check-in @ 10:00 am via zoom  
Continuing every Thursday **See link below to join via Zoom**  
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm, Wandering Hop, 508 N 20 Avenue, Yakima  
Continuing every Thursday
- 8 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
11th Sunday after Pentecost - **See link below to join via Zoom**
- 9 Worship Team meeting @ 1:00pm in Simonson Room
- 10 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom **Use check-in link below to join via Zoom**
- 15 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
12th Sunday after Pentecost - **See link below to join via Zoom**
- 18 Church Council @ 6:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 21 UMW Meeting @ 7:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 22 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
13th Sunday after Pentecost - **See link below to join via Zoom**
- 24 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom **Use check-in link below to join via Zoom**  
Camp Hope dinner prepared and delivered by Wesley UMC with help from SUMC.
- 25 **Newsletter articles due**
- 29 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
14th Sunday after Pentecost - **See link below to join via Zoom**

## ZOOM LINKS

### SUMC Sunday Service

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

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/692949701?pwd=LzlNSWYyT1BGUzNhVHc0ME9ydnBLQT09>

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)

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Growing Into the Image of Christ

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

Newsletter articles for the  
September newsletter are due  
August 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.”