



The Messenger



August 2023

Selah United Methodist Church

Mark's Remarks

On the first morning of our family reunion, son Andrew handed Lisa and me a small gift box. We found 15 puzzle pieces inside. When the pieces were all in their proper place, we saw a stork, carrying a bundle, underscored by the caption: "We're Expecting!" That's how Lisa and I received the news that our son and daughter-in-law are expecting the birth of their first child in January.

All of my descendants and their spouses were together when the happy news was shared. There were laughs and hugs and tears and handshakes all around. Alanna, the expectant mother-to-be, received an abundance of attention and took it all in stride, allowing a few dozen in-laws and family members to address her every need, whether she needed it or not. Andrew patiently sat through the reams of encouragement and advice bestowed upon him, some of which might even be of practical use.

In my role as father/father-in-law/grandfather, there washed over me a swirling image of puzzles, pieces, pictures, expectant parents and the promised pitter-patter of little feet. It's all a part of being family and being connected together. When we're at our best, our family feels as if everyone belongs. Each one has a place in the picture of who we are, who we've been, and who we're becoming. And sometimes, just when it feels as if everyone has settled into their place, the wise words of my own father, the middle of seven children who had seven children of his own, echo from the past: "There's always room for one more."

Without consciously thinking about it, we began to make room for another chair in the family circle. At the same time, we could feel the presence of empty chairs once occupied by those who have passed away. Yet the ghosts of those missing members are glimpsed in the features, expressions, mannerisms, traditions and turns of phrase among those who remain. I believe that everything I have pondered and perceived about my family is also a picture of what it means to be the church. When together, we are among spiritual siblings, spiritual forebears and spiritual offspring. There are memories of those no longer with us and the promised approach of those whom God sends our way and those to whom we are sent. I hope and pray and expect that every time a child of God joins us in worship and fellowship; every time a person walks through our door for the first time or the first time in a long time, they sense that that we've been holding a place for them. That's the best attitude shared among members of my family and one of the best attributes we can exhibit as a church

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Mark



MISSION OUTREACH

The news from our mission outreach partners is all about the heat and keeping their friends and residents safe, fed and hydrated. We in the Northwest are fortunate to have had reasonable summer heat. We are grateful for cool nights. We are truly blessed!

Camp Hope and Noah's Ark

Understandably, heat has been added to the many concerns of the staff and residents of Camp Hope and Noah's Ark. Wesley UMC prepared another delicious meal with a summer touch. They always prepare and serve with the help of SUMC on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We provided a nourishing meal for about 75 residents this month. Yes, it was hot in the serving and eating tents...yet we sensed a little extra warmth of gratitude from all who enjoyed the pasta with meat sauce, cold pea salad, watermelon, homemade banana cake with cream cheese frosting, milk and water.

Selah Naches Food Bank

It was another full grocery basket of food delivered to the food bank last week. It is interesting to know that the food bank is required by the state to weigh all the incoming food. Selah UMC was recorded as giving 75 pounds. That is lots of baking products! This month they need more. Whatever you gave in July was perfect, so much variety! If you are able to donate again, whatever you choose will be gratefully received by the staff and volunteers who help distribute your baking items to area residents. By the way, those simple cookie and muffin mixes are great! Thank you from the staff for your generosity.

AUGUST IS BAKING INGREDIENTS MONTH, your choice again

Flour, Sugar, Spices, Baking Soda or Powder, Boxed and Packaged Mixes

Also, please remember our Little Pantry when you shop. Cereal, soup, and boxed meals are popular choices.

Rod's House

The following is an announcement from the Rod's House summer newsletter. An emergency shelter is coming to the youth who depend on Rod's House for food and support. Next year, they will begin to have overnight shelter. Maybe we can help over the next year with a special donation. It's exciting!



LICENSED YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT EMERGENCY SHELTER

BY BRIAN AHERN, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While we can provide our Yakima Youth a shower, a meal, a place to wash their clothes, and a connection to community resources and support, we currently cannot provide the one truly essential service—an emergency shelter for those experiencing unsafe or unhealthy living conditions.

There are currently no licensed overnight emergency beds in Yakima County for minors. With your help, we hope to change that.

Rod's House breaks ground on our emergency shelter for youth and young adults at 1017 E. Chestnut Avenue this summer!

This building will offer 8 beds to youth (ages 13-17) and 10 beds to young adults (ages 18-24). This is a shelter where they can stay up to 90 days in a safe space, as they gain access to support for education, employment, mental health, substance use, etc. while being supported by case management and behavioral health staff. They will share a bedroom with one other person, and have access to their own bathroom; a shared kitchen and home cooked meals; laundry facilities; and staff that are there to support them 24 hours a day.

SUMC to Host August Blood Drive

Reminder - our congregation is hosting the Selah Red Cross Blood Drive, August 10, 1-6 p.m., at the Selah Civic Center. We need donations of six cups of shredded cheddar cheese and two loaves of bread (not wide pan size). Talk to Lisa Williams if you want to donate either of these items. If you are eligible to donate blood, please consider participating in the August 10 drive. To signup, visit redcrossblood.org and enter zip code 98942. Be a Hero...donate blood.



WORSHIP TEAM REPORT



The Worship Team for Selah UMC met on July 26th. Margaret Antanaitis opened the meeting with prayer, and asked what the members of the team had heard from the congregation in the past two months, particularly regarding worship occurring in the basement around the tables. Most of the members had heard mixed reviews with some people being excited about being in the cool but missing the usual setting. Pastor Mark suggested that if anyone had strong feelings one way or the other that they talk to him. It was also noted that there had been a positive response to the Italian Sodas that were available following worship on two of the Sundays.

The Team discussed the calendar for the next month. August 6th is Communion Sunday, and there was some discussion about whether to follow the pattern that we had done last month for Communion, which was to have a tray of the small cups on each table with worshippers serving each other. That seemed to be a better solution than to have folk filing up to the altar to receive the bread and the cup.

There will be Root Beer Floats following worship on August 20th. We then discussed when and how we would observe back-to-school. Kevin shared that his grandchildren remembered with fondness bringing their backpacks to church on the Sunday before school started to have them blessed. Especially meaningful for them was the little memento that they also received that reminded them of the church every time they opened their backpack. Pastor Mark recalled that a year ago we had planned a back-to-school event, and there were only two teachers or students in the congregation. This year we will send invitations to students and teachers who are (or have in the past) been a part of the congregation to come and join us. We also explored some other activities that we might do in the future to highlight the importance of education to the church. It was decided to hold the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 27th, the day before school starts in Selah.

On October 15th the Rev. David Nieda from the Faith Foundation Northwest will be with us to talk about the work of the Foundation, and about its relationship with Selah United Methodist Church.

Ron Drew has been driving the Camp Hope van to bring people living there to the church on Sunday mornings, but he is close to maxing out room in the van. If you would be willing to help transport folk from Camp Hope to the church and back, talk to Pastor Mark or to Ron.



It was also noted that we haven't given out Bibles to the young people in the congregation. Ordinarily we would gift them to children at 3rd grade level, but we haven't done so, either because they were not worshipping with us, or because of change of pastoral leadership.

The next meeting of the Worship Team will be held on Wednesday, September 13th at 6:00 pm.

- Kevin Dow



Lazy F Camp

On July 5 to 7, six grandparents from Selah UMC, along with seven grandchildren attended Grand Camp and had a wonderful time. Pastor Mark did double duty as a grandparent as well as the Camp Pastor for this camp (and another one the week after). During Grand Camp we presented to Dave Burfiend, Lazy F Camp Director, the check for \$408 from our piggy bank collection. He was very grateful for this donation.

Selah United Women in Faith



"Abundant Life for All" That was the theme of Katherine Parker's presentation on the Mission work in Nepal. Katherine is a Global Missionary stationed in Nepal. Abundant Life for all looks differently for each person. In Nepal, community groups have been formed to discuss this term as an individual and for the community they live in.

Bringing awareness to providing access for medical treatment and equipment for those with disabilities, sustainable farming practices, collection of rainwater ponds, community groups discussing domestic violence and teen marriages. Allowing young women to complete 10 grade education rather than being in an arranged marriage at the age 14. These are some of the issues that are being addressed in Nepal through our missionary support through apportionments.

"Living the Kin-dom" A study of the Lord's prayer at Mission U which was held at Wesley UMC. Looking at the Lord's prayer as Kin-dom which includes everyone regardless of race, social economic status, gender identity etc.. We used different bible translations for studying the Lord's Prayer. Native American Bible was used and the New Zealand translation. A



copy of this bible study will be in the library if anyone would like to use it as a group bible study or personal study.

Voices for Children - The Selah United Women in Faith are still collecting items for the Voices for Children, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping foster children in the Yakima Valley. We are collecting flashlights and nightlights, as well as socks and underwear. The children vary in ages so all sizes are needed. **There is a basket for these items in the Narthex.** Thank you, Selah United Methodist Church, for your continued generosity! This is a wonderful organization and they really appreciate your donations.

*School supplies are starting to go on sale now, and we are happily collecting those, too!

"Abundant Life for All" What does that look like in your life?

-Tressa Cummings & Cheryl Natland, Selah UWF

New Pew Bibles

The SUMC Worship Team and Church Council have decided to get new pew Bibles and we need your help. Our existing ones are in pretty good shape, but we seldom use the wording from the New Revised Standard Version in worship because language has evolved over the past 35 years. Our two best options for new Bibles are The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue) or the Common English Bible (CEB). As a United Methodist congregation, we have provided financial support for the ongoing ecumenical research, translation, and publication resulting in both Bibles—the NRSVue and the CEB.

The NRSVue is the latest revision of the King James Version (KJV). The phrasing and flow are often familiar because the text is based on the extensive work commissioned by King James to translate the original Biblical languages into contemporary English for use in worship and study. Since its original publication in 1611, there have been dozens of revisions based on the discovery of older manuscripts and the evolution in the English language. The Updated Edition of the New Revised Standard Version is an excellent option with one major drawback revealed in the very name: it is the result of 400+ years of necessary revisions and updates to the KJV.

The Common English Bible is not a revision of the English wording we've been using in worship and study for the past 4 centuries. It is the first Bible in centuries to begin its work at the same point as the original KJV— a new translation, supported by numerous Biblical scholars representing mainline Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish traditions working together to translate the original Biblical languages into contemporary English for use in worship and study. That makes it the more suitable choice.

We have been using the CEB in worship during most of my appointed time as your pastor. We will be gifting the CEB to children, youth, and new members who have need of a new Bible. Once the necessary repairs to the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system are made, we will move back upstairs to resume worship in the Sanctuary.



(Continued from page 6)

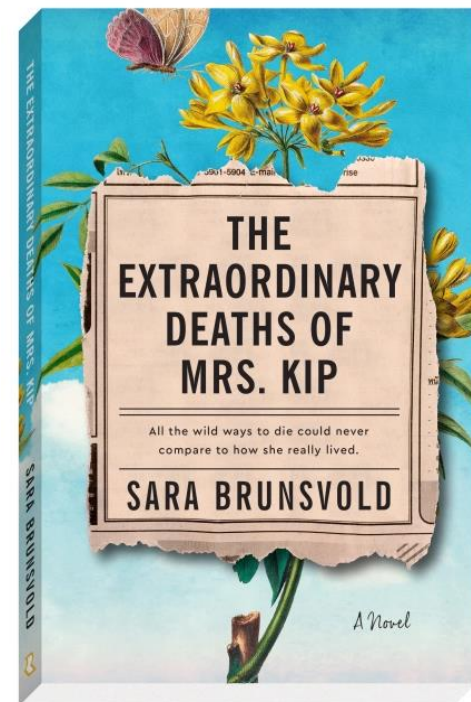
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When that time comes, we'll have new copies of the Common English Bible at hand. You can participate in this project by making a donation toward the purchase of new Bibles, or give a designated offering in memory or in honor of someone. Existing NRSV Bibles in usable condition will be offered first to family and friends who provided them as memorial gifts.

BOOK BUNCH BEGINS

As summer wanes, it's time for the Bunch to get back to our beloved books. Christian inspired fiction novels to be exact. Book Bunch gets together about two evenings monthly via the church Zoom link to talk about the current book we've reading. We often share our personal and faith experiences in deep discussions as they relate to our current novel. And sometimes we simply share whatever is on our minds. In-person social gatherings and field trips are a popular addition to our itinerary. In fact, in the coming weeks, date TBD, we're planning a day trip to visit the Whitman Mission in Walla Walla (a site featured in a historical fiction novel we read in the spring).

Next up on the reading list is: *The Extraordinary Deaths of Mrs. Kip* (2022), by Sara Brunsvold. Readers at christianbook.com rated the novel 5 of 5 stars, and professional reviews are outstanding. Print copies are available from Yakima Valley Libraries, as well as from all major booksellers in print, audio and digital formats (e.g., find it on Kindle, \$2.39). Click here to find out what this novel is about: <https://www.amazon.com/Extraordinary-Deaths-Mrs-Kip/dp/0800741587>. Publisher's Weekly review commented, "Clara's vivaciousness in the face of death makes her a captivating protagonist, and readers will appreciate her poignant reflections on faith and renewal."



So, polish up your reading spectacles and mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 8 at 7:00 pm**. The regular schedule will continue: the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 pm. The group is *open to all*, including those who might be too busy to read every chapter. For some,

joining in when the Bunch is reading a particular novel works, too. To learn more about Book Bunch, get in touch with Lee Hamilton or zoom in.



Ode to a Reconciling Church

O church of love and welcome,
Where all are known and seen,
Where all are welcomed home,
No matter who they've been.

You open wide your doors
To all who seek your grace,
To those who've been rejected,
To those who've lost their place.

You say that all are equal,
No matter who they love,
That all are made in God's image,
And all are worthy of love.

You challenge us to love
Our neighbors as ourselves,
To see the image of God
In everyone we meet.

You teach us that God's love
Is for all, not just some,
That we are all one body,
United in Christ.

O church of love and welcome,
You are a beacon of hope,
A light in the darkness,
A place where all can belong.

Anonymous



S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY AUGUST

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Isaiah 65-66; Ps. 62; John 3 | 16. 2 Ki. 24; Jer. 22; Ps. 112; John 18 |
| 2. 2 Ki. 21; 2 Chr. 33; John 4 | 17. Jer. 23, 25; John 19 |
| 3. Nahum 1-3; John 5 | 18. Jer. 26, 35-36; John 20 |
| 4. 2 Ki. 22; 2 Chr. 34; John 6 | 19. Jer. 45-47; Ps. 105; John 21 |
| 5. 2 Ki. 23; 2 Chr. 35; John 7 | 20. Jer. 48-49; Ps.67; 1 John 1 |
| 6. Hab. 1-3; John 8 | 21. Jer. 21, 24, 27; Ps. 118; 1 John 2 |
| 7. Zeph. 1-3; John 9 | 22. Jer. 28-30; 1 John 3 |
| 8. Jer. 1-2; John 10 | 23. Jer. 31-32; 1 John 4 |
| 9. Jer. 3-4; John 11 | 24. Jer. 33-34; Ps. 74; 1 John 5 |
| 10. Jer. 5-6; John 12 | 25. Jer. 37-39; Ps. 79; 2 John |
| 11. Jer. 7-9; John 13 | 26. Jer. 50-51; 3 John |
| 12. Jer. 10-12; John 14 | 27. Jer. 52; Rev. 1; Ps. 143-144 |
| 13. Jer. 13-15; John 15 | 28. Ezek. 1-3; Rev. 2 |
| 14. Jer. 16-17; Ps.96; John 16 | 29. Ezek. 4-7; Rev. 3 |
| 15. Jer. 18-20; Ps. 93; John 17 | 30. Ezek. 8-11; Rev. 4 |
| | 31. Ezek. 12-14; Rev. 5 |

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

Below is how our giving the last three months compared to our expenses:

	April	May	June
Income:	\$11,164.68	\$7,980.93	\$9,720.00
Expenses:	\$12,008.15	\$10,068.41	\$10,023.82
Plus/Minus	(\$843.47)	(\$2,087.48)	(\$303.82)

As you can see, our giving in June almost equaled our expenses – which is good news to the finance team. As you enjoy your summer and it draws to a close, please continue to support the church.



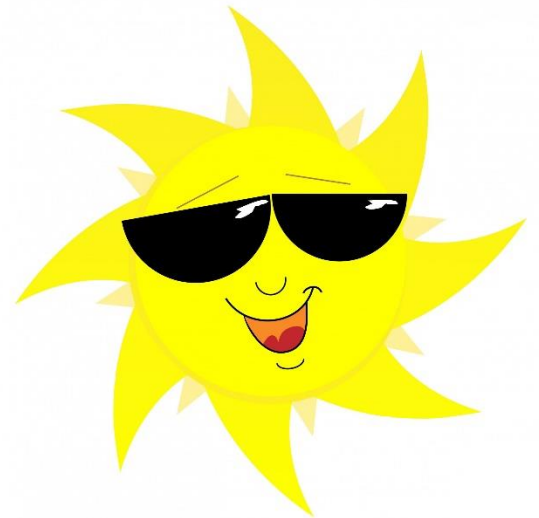
August Celebrations

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

- 9 Nathan & Heather Miller
- 16 Lee Hamilton & Steve Harold
- 27 Chuck & Cheryl Natland
- 29 Phil & Sarah Hourihan



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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlNQ09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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



AUGUST CALENDAR

- 2 PB&J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room (Tentative; check w/Shirley)
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room; Continuing every Wednesday
- 3 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 6 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Holy Communion; 10th Sunday after Pentecost
Use link prior page to join via Zoom
Photos taken for church directory after worship service, continuing every Sunday
- 9 PB&J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 10 American Red Cross Blood Drive @1:00 to 6:00 pm at Selah Civic Center
Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery
- 13 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;
11th Sunday after Pentecost; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom
Potluck after worship in Fellowship Hall
Photos taken for church directory after worship service
- 15 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom; use meeting link on prior page to join Zoom
- 16 PB&J 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
- 17 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery
- 20 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;
12th Sunday after Pentecost; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom
Photos taken for church directory after worship service
- 22 Camp Hope Dinner organized & prepared by Wesley UMC with help from SUMC
- 23 PB&J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 24 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery
- 25 **Newsletter Articles Due**
- 27 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;
8th Sunday after Pentecost; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom
Photos taken for church directory after worship service

There will be opportunity after worship service each Sunday in August for individuals and families to have picture taken for upcoming church directory. If you won't be in church on Sundays this month, contact Pastor Mark or Laurie Knebusch to schedule appointment to have picture taken during the week.

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
September newsletter are due
August 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.”