



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

December 2019



Happy Holidays. As we head into the most wonderful time of the year, let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas. It is not about reindeer, Christmas trees or Santa Claus. It is about a child that was born in a manger that became the Savior of the world. It is about God sending his only begotten son into this broken world. It is about a night that would change the course of history forever. But two thousand years later we have made it into a commercialized event. This year stores started to have Christmas displays up in August. Now imagine if you will if we were this excited about Jesus Christ year around. Imagine if we spent our Christmas money on things that would change the world. Last year alone, Americans spent \$700 billion dollars on holiday gifts, travel, food, and decor. That money could have gone along ways in ending homelessness in the U.S. This year let us take back Christmas and use it as a time to remember that God entered into this world to teach us how we should live our lives. It's about Loving God with all your heart, mind, and soul and loving your neighbor as yourself-by the way you don't get to choose your neighbor. I believe you have heard this message many times before. Now is the time to start living into this message. May you have a blessed holiday season filled with much love and grace

Shalom, Pastor Dirk



WORSHIP COMMITTEE



The end of the liturgical year falls on November 24th this year. The new liturgical year starts on the first Sunday of Advent, and the Gospel readings will mostly feature readings from Matthew's gospel. The new liturgical year is a busy time for the Worship Team. Gwen Chaplin will once again be putting together an Advent Wreath. It will be based on an earlier tradition using greens and herbs that are symbolic of the season. Gwen and Kevin will have the wreath set up for the December 1st worship service.

On Sunday, November 17th, chairperson Margaret Antanaitis appealed to the congregation to please help out this year, as she is having back surgery. We will be decorating the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 7th at 9:00 AM. The Boy Scouts have once again agreed to cut trees for the church and the Home Zone and will have them at the church before the 7th. We will need help putting up the tree, hanging wreaths and greens, making the church look festive for the season. The Trustees are also asking decorators to help with getting the church cleaned up and looking its best for visitors who might be in church during this special time of year.

We will again be having a Nativity Scene display this year, continuing a tradition started by Susan Herdrich. If you have a Nativity Scene, please bring it with you to church sometime during December. All of the Nativity sets we receive will be displayed from Sunday, December 22nd (the fourth Sunday of Advent) through Christmas Eve when those who loaned them can take them home again.

There will be two services on Christmas Eve. The early service will be at 7:00 PM and will be a family-oriented service led by Pastor Dirk. The later service be at 10:30 PM and will include Communion and will be led by Kevin Dow. Both services will include candlelighting.

December 29th is the 1st Sunday of Christmas and will include a Christmas Carol sing-along. Congregation members will be invited to select their favorite carols. Epiphany Sunday, a celebration remembering the visit of the Magi to the infant king. Following worship that Sunday we will be "undecorating" the church. Please plan to stay for a short while after worship that Sunday to help get decorations taken down and put away.

The next meeting of the Worship Team will be a no-host brunch at 11:30 on January 9th at Daniel's Kitchen. The meeting is open to all who are interested in planning worship



Selah Food Bank/NW Harvest/Camp Hope



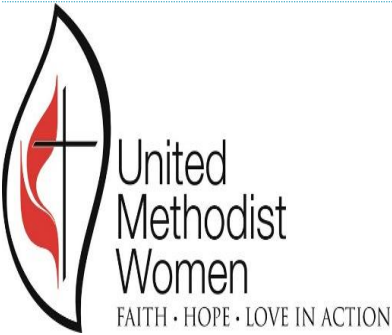
The lines are long at the Selah Food Bank as people prepare for the holidays. The good news is that the shelves are pretty full and with help from Wrays IGA, there are special turkeys offered through the food bank as well as reduced pricing for holiday meal preparation. Tammie, lead volunteer, assures us that the food bank is always grateful for any donation you would like to give. No special requests or special needs. She adds that if you would like a suggestion, cereal or canned chili are their most requested items. Consider your favorite food... I bet that would be a favorite of a Selah family that depends on the food bank.

December is Your Choice Month (Any Holiday Favorite or Staple)

Note: Volunteer 3rd Saturday has been cancelled in December. There will be no packing of Backpack Mission meals in December. The next outreach Saturday will be January 18, 2020.

Angels are up on the Narthex Angel Tree. Please return your wrapped Angel Tree gift with angel tag to the church by Sunday worship service, December 22.

SELAH UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Thank you to everyone who donated underwear and socks for Voices for Children program. They were really excited and appreciative for the donation. Cheryl Natland and I got a tour of the clothing center and we plan on having someone come talk about the clothing center for foster children after the first of the year.

Save the date for our UMW Annual Breakfast Breads Bake Sale, Sunday, December 15th Before and after the Church Service Let us help you with last minute baking. there will be delicious, rolls, muffins, quick breads, coffee cakes

January 21st will be our next meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the John Simonson Room.

Tressa Cummings, Selah UMW President





AFTERNOON CIRCLE

Can you believe one more bazaar is already over & all packed up. One more success, one more \$2,500 (so far) in our Christmas stocking. That isn't counting the Men's Group chicken at \$400, so they stuffed their Christmas stocking too. A huge thank you to all that helped with donations, time or help in all three, it truly is appreciated. Don't you agree we have some of the best bakers in town. I know our community thinks so. But it isn't always just about the money. It is an opportunity to reach out to the folks in the area & visit once again, seeing familiar faces. We get people in from Ellensburg to lower valley. We always hear what a beautiful church we have & how they look forward to coming each year. We even have people donate items they have made & give them to us to sell just so we can make money for our church. Folks that don't even attend this church. I don't think you can top that. I also want to thank Pastor Dirk for spending his day off with us & visiting with our visitors. Santa hat & all. We had fun.

Just so you realize how this all comes back to the church---since May of this year, Circle has donated \$5,697 in painting the church outside, repairing & painting the Rock Room downstairs, & a month of building insurance. The year before it was finishing up the kitchen project, helping purchase the tv's in the sanctuary, purchased folding tables, & a few smaller things. We couldn't accomplish all this without you. So please realize how much you are appreciated.

We are going to take a breather now & soon will be planning our annual "Souper Bowl" Sunday. Our next meeting is Thursday Dec. 5th at 1:00pm in the Simonson Room. Gail & Karen Davis are hosting. All Circle gals join me in wishing you a wonderful Christmas.

Donna Ruud, President

SHE HAS THE "WRITE" SPIRIT



Becky Johnson took on the job of editor for our popular and well-read church newsletter. It's a *big* task that pays *big* dividends by keeping all of us in the know. Without missing a beat, the newsletter is promptly published and delivered every single month. THANK YOU, Becky -- Our church family is blessed to have you sharing so much of your time and talent with us.

--- Lee Hamilton



SUMC Leadership Team 2020

Church Council:

Church Council Chair:	Gail Davis
Pastor/ Mission Team:	Dirk Robinson
Secretary:	Unfilled
Members of Trustees:	
Year 2020	Debbie Jesperson
Year 2021	Connie Schramm
Year 2022	Merl Brothers
Members Finance Team:	
Treasurer	Glennis Wilson
Finance Secretary	Noah Zalewski
Finance Chair	Lyle Von Essen
Members of SPR :	
Year 2020	Don Chaplin
Year 2021	Ron Drew
Year 2022	Lee Hamilton
Lay Member of Annual Conference :	Chuck Natland
Lay Leader:	Shelley Von Essen
Worship Team:	Margaret Antanaitis
Home Zone:	Shannon Vaughan

Memorial Team:	Gail Davis
Nurturing Team:	Helen Charlot
Sunday school Team:	Cheryl Natland
Afternoon Ladies Circle:	Donna Ruud
UMM:	Bob Ruud
UMW:	Tressa Cummings
Membership Secretary:	Gail Davis
Youth Group Team:	Dirk Robinson



Strategic Plan Goal V Update

Strategic Plan, Goal V, Serve the powerless and vulnerable as led by the Holy Spirit.

The Goal V focus this fall has been on immigration. We have searched out the local efforts being made to stand in solidarity with immigrants in our valley who are currently facing changes in their future. We have learned about the local grass roots organization, Yakima Immigrant Responses Network (YIRN) and are taking part in the efforts of this organization. We have learned about the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN), a statewide network who's focus is on building immigrant and refugee power in Washington State. We have attended a panel discussion where we heard from Alfredo Gonzales Benitez, attorney with Columbia Legal Services; Brenda Rodriguez, Eastern Washington Network Coordinator of WAISN; and Phil Neff, Project Coordinator University of Washington Center for Human Rights. And we had a meeting at SUMC where we learned from three guest speakers, Danielle Surkatty, YIRN; and two lawyers from the Northwest Justice Project; Michele Besso; and David Morales. This meeting was informative. We were able to ask many questions and get a better understanding of the immigrant issues and what is being done to address these issues in the Yakima Valley and the state. Some of our group attended an Accompaniment Training, to accompany people at risk of immigration detention when they go the court house for civil matters or when they go to their USCIS, (US Citizen and Immigration Services) appointments. And some of our group took a webinar of Rapid Response training. Some of us also got to witness the immigration flights in and out of the Yakima Airport. There are many ways to support the immigrants in our valley. Would you like to learn more? Are you interested in being involved? We would love to have you. Our next Goal V meeting is Wednesday, 12/4, at 7pm at the church. Questions? Please call Shelley Von Essen at 969-0991.



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 4 Tyler Helms
- 5 Patrick Flynn
- 6 Cyndi Applehof
- 8 Elaine Dow
- 9 Donna Davis
- 10 Sally Warren
- 17 Jason Hoselton
- 18 Tressa Cummings
- 25 Holly Campbell
- 27 Teresa Nelson
- 28 Benjamin Antanaitis III
- 28 Judie Brown

None of our congregation tied the knot in December



DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE



Thanks to all who have volunteered to be Sunday School assistants. All of the teachers appreciate your willingness to help. As you can see, we need help on two Sundays -- the 22nd and the 29th. Please let Cheryl know if you can help.

- December 1 – Cheryl Natland & Tereica Kaumheimer
- December 8 – Joy McFarland & Becky Johnson
- December 15 – Cheryl Natland & Debbie Jespersion
- December 22 – Susan Eisenhower and ??
- December 29 – Tereica Kaumheimer and ??





The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath was originally a German and Scandinavian home devotional practice used to mark the four weeks of Advent. Although many symbols have been attributed to it since that time, it was originally intended as a way to mark the Advent season and the weeks until Christmas. Families would light a candle for each past week and the current week at their dinner or evening time of prayer. The configuration of candles, whether in a line or a circle, did not matter. Neither did the color of the candles. What mattered was the marking of time and the increase of light each week in the face of increasing darkness as the winter solstice approached.

As Advent wreaths began to be used by congregations on Sundays in some places in Europe and America beginning in the late 19th century, adaptations were needed for the larger worship spaces. Candles needed to be larger and more specialized than the "daily candles" handmade or purchased for home use. They also needed to be more uniform in color to fit with other decor in the sanctuary. Purple (and more recently blue) has become the basic color of the candles to coordinate with color of the paraments used during this season.

As Advent wreaths changed from practical private use to the more symbolic context of public worship, it became important for the candles to have meaning rather than simply mark time and add light. Ceremonies were developed around the lighting of the candles each week.

In time there was an effort, largely spurred by church supply houses that sold the special candles and wreaths, to provide a particular meaning to each candle. The themes of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace became popular, based on scriptures from the one-year lectionaries used at that time. However, the historic theme of Advent is more broad and deep than any one-word theme can capture.

So what are we to say, then, about the meaning of the Advent wreath today? We can still draw meaning from its original home use: to mark time while increasing light. Advent, the first season of the Christian year, is all about time. We await the day described in Revelation 21:23 when, "The city doesn't need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God's glory is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb." At Christmas we celebrate that in Christ, "The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world" (John 1:9).



DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Men's Breakfast @8:00 am, fellowship hall
Worship Service, First Day of Advent @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary
Light of the World Advent Study @ 6:00 pm, Chaplin's Home (may move location if weather conditions are poor); continuing Sundays through 12/22
- 2 Old Testament Bible Study @ 1:00 pm, Simonson Room (continuing every Monday until 12/16; no bible study on 12/23)
- 4 Goal V Team meeting @ 7:00 pm, Simonson Room
- 5 Afternoon circle @ 1:00 pm, Simonson Room
- 6 Christmas Party @ 6:00 pm at Parsonage
- 7 Decorate and Prepare Church for Advent @ 9:00 am
- 8 Old Testament Bible Study @ 9:15, Simonson Room
(continuing every Sunday)
Worship Service, Second Sunday of Advent @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary
Potluck after worship service
- 13-14 Pastor Dirk Weekend Drill
- 15 Worship service, Third Sunday of Advent @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary
UMW Breakfast Bread Bake Sale
- 18 Church Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm, Simonson Room
- 19 Home Zone Team meeting @ 1:00 pm, Simonson Room
- 22 Worship service, Fourth Sunday of Advent @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary
Return Angel Tree Gifts
- 22-24 Creche Display in the Sanctuary
- 24 Camp Hope Dinner, Meet at Wesley UMC @ 5:15 pm
Christmas Eve Family Service @ 7:00 pm Sanctuary
Christmas Communion Service @ 10:30 pm Sanctuary
- 25 Christmas Day – office closed Merry Christmas
- 25-31 Pastor Dirk on Vacation
- 26 Newsletter articles due
- 29 Worship service, Christmas Carol Sing @ 10:30 am Sanctuary

Note: January 5, 2020 Take down church decorations following Worship.

Selah United Methodist Church

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Growing Into the Image of Christ

How to get hold of Pastor Dirk:

Cell phone: (509) 388-1218

Email: pastordirkrobinson@gmail.com

Newsletter articles for the
January newsletter are due
December 26

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.”