

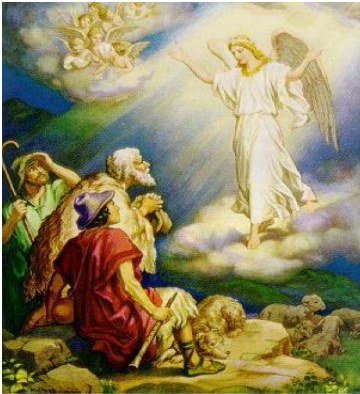


# The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

December 2020



## ***Merry Christmas and Happy New Years***

“Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” (Luke 2:10) These words were spoken by the Angel to the Shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem so many years ago. They still stand true today. 2020 has been a trying year for everyone. I know for myself that I am ready for 2020 to be over. But these words out of Luke reminds me that there is Good News. God sent

his only begotten Son into our world to bring us Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Each of the Advent Candles represents these great ideas, which Christ brings to each of us. Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace are ways that we need to be living each day of our lives and not just during Advent.

As head in the Christmas season this year let us each bring Hope, Love, Joy, Peace into our lives and world. May we shine as bright as the first Christmas Star guiding the Magi to Jesus. But also have the courage of the Magi to continue to follow the Star, wherever it may lead us. When we follow, may we bring Hope, Love, Joy and Peace with us. Bringing Jesus to this world, which is desperately seeking Good News. Let the light of Christ shine brightly to bring the Good News to everyone. Shalom and Amen.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Years,

Pastor Dirk





## Mission Outreach

One of the headlines in last week's Yakima Herald was **Help Hasn't Stopped** followed by an article about the efforts of the community and state to "help". Although there are many in the Yakima-Selah area who are struggling, out of work, sick and hungry, it feels good somehow to know that so many organizations and individuals are helping and loving their many neighbors in need. The members of Selah United Methodist are a good part of that mission. In her recent letter to the congregation, Shelley Von Esssen gave a nice summary of our congregation's ongoing and varied support outside our church.

- The food banks in the area are supported by NW Harvest and the OIC Washington Food bank plus many grocers, churches and groups in the community. With this ongoing assistance, the Selah Food Bank has been able to keep up with the food needs of the Selah community. Rod's House partnership with Motel 6 is working well. Meal Partners from all over Yakima County have stepped up to commit to delivering hot evening meals to the motel or sandwich lunch bags to Rod's House for those young people who do not go to the motel. The rooms reserved for Rod's House have not all been taken each night; staff is working hard to find, assist and place those who need shelter. For sure, Motel 6 is part of the *Help that Hasn't Stopped*.

- Wesley UMC is joyous to be preparing meals again for Wapato's Noah's Ark. Last week, the Wesley cooks prepared and delivered chicken and rice casseroles with vegetables and homemade applesauce for **150** residents, 75 meals for Camp Hope and 75 for Noah's Ark. Pending final agreement with Wapato city, Noah's Ark was still closed as of this writing, but Wesley made arrangements to deliver and serve at the door. The hope is that their doors will be fully opened by the end of November. Keep Noah's Ark and it's fresh beginnings in your prayers. Wesley UMC has placed a new Little Free Pantry box at their kitchen door. It is filled to capacity while counters inside are covered with donations to replenish. To anyone who is hungry and in need, just open the door and take what you want...this food is for you. God Bless.





## There Will Be Candles!!

When the Worship Team met last week, we talked about the things that have become “ritual” for us during Advent. Of course, there is the singing of Advent carols (and complaining because they aren’t Christmas carols). There is the lighting of the candles in the Advent Wreath, and we asked ourselves how we could light Advent candles while we are meeting on Zoom. We decided that we would place the Advent wreath in the Sanctuary of the church and after someone has read the Advent reflection, Dirk would light the candles on Zoom, so we could all see them. We tried that during the worship service on November 29<sup>th</sup>, and the Worship Team will re-evaluate it afterward to see if we think it was successful. We are also going to experiment to see if we can actually get singing into the worship service. All we have to do is figure out the technology.

Then we talked about Christmas Eve. What is your favorite thing about the Christmas Eve worship service? I’ll bet it is the Candlelight where you hold your candle while everyone is singing *Silent Night*. How do we go about re-creating that? Then someone said, “Why don’t we give everybody candles? We have a supply of candles, and the plastic cups that keep you from dripping candle wax all over yourself while you are singing *Silent Night*. So, we are going to have a Drive-Thru Christmas Eve candle distribution on **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 PM**. Just drive up to the church and pull into the upstairs parking lot; a masked member of the Worship Team will be there to hand you a candle for each person in your household. Then we invite you to sing, or hum, or whistle, or play your guitar along with us while we all sing *Silent Night* and on the last stanza, hold up our candles. When we do this in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, it lights up the whole Sanctuary. This Christmas Eve I will imagine that it will illuminate the whole town of Selah.

By the way, if your favorite part of the Christmas Eve was the Christmas Eve children’s story, you won’t be disappointed, because Pastor Dirk will be sharing one with all of God’s children. We are also working on some of the singing, like was said above. So, join us! The service starts at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve. We will be sending out a Zoom link to everyone who wants to join us, so tell everyone, and let us know their email addresses so we can get the link to them also.

**AND DON’T FORGET TO DRIVE BY AND GET YOUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE!**

Kevin Dow



## Selah UMW

Selah UMW will meet December 8th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will be having a cookie exchange during our zoom meeting. Don't forget to have your cookies ready to eat and a warm beverage to drink while sharing a little bit about your cookie. We will be discussing Ridgeview group home for girls Christmas bags and have a short Christmas devotional. The

Zoom Meeting will use the Daily Check in Meeting ID 669 186 246 Password 848493



Thank you to those who gave a donation for our bakeless bake sale. In case anyone missed the opportunity to participate in the bake sale we are still accepting donations.

### UMW Breakfast Breads Bakeless Bake Sale

These days of staying home due to COVID 19, have allowed you to brush up on your baking skills. We have thought of a plan that's truly grand, and felt quite sure that you'll understand.

In an envelope please put the price of a plate of muffins, a loaf pumpkin bread, butterhorns rolls or something nice. No fuss or bother, you've done your part. This is the end of our little tale, Help make a success of our Bakeless Bake Sale for the UMW mission work.

Sponsored by Selah UMW Please make checks payable to **Selah UMW** and mail to:

Cheryl Natland  
701 North 57th Street  
Yakima, WA 98901  
(Mark - Bake Sale)





## 2020 Angel Tree Tradition Continues

**Play Santa...**

*...buy a gift for a child in need right now!*

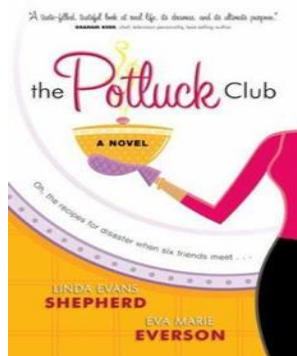


The small group that has organized the Angel Tree the last few years has discussed what a 2020 Angel tree program could look like for our congregation that is not able to get together in the normal sense. So, we have decided to support the efforts of the Henry Beauchamp Community Center in Yakima. As you know we have gathered toys for that Center, in addition to the families that we have sponsored here locally, for several years. The information we have received from that Center is that they have a need for \$10 gift cards from Target or Walmart this year. They use these cards for the teenagers in families that come to the Center for help. In the past there was someone that donated 250 gift cards, but will not be doing that this

year. We are asking anyone that would like to be a part of this outreach this year purchase the gift cards and get them to us by December 9th. If you are unable to purchase the cards but would like to contribute let us know and will make arrangements to get your money and purchase the cards for you. We will have someone at the Church from 10 to 11 am on Tuesday December 8 and then again from 2-3 pm on Wednesday December 9 to collect the cards. If you are unable to deliver them, you can mail to Gail Davis, 1211 Nagler Rd Selah, WA 98942 and I will make sure they get delivered. The Center indicated that they have plenty of toys for the younger children, so if you are someone that really likes to purchase toys for little kids, we will also accept those at the Church and deliver them to a Toys for Tots collection box for delivery to a child in the community. This has certainly been a year of "thinking outside the box" and this is just one more opportunity for us to stretch the mission of Selah United Methodist Church to help the less fortunate around us. We **thank you** for your help and generosity for this program.

Bob & Donna Ruud, Don & Connie Schramm, Ron & Linda Drew, Susan Eisenhower, Debbie Jespersen, Tereica Kaumheimer, Gail Davis





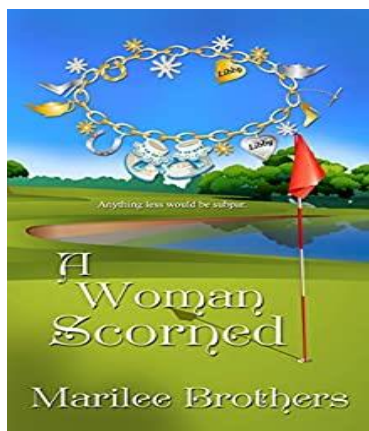
## Book Bunch Update

The church's Book Bunch is taking a holiday break. We will relaunch in early January, the date to be decided. We'll begin another Christian fiction book, *The Potluck Club* [Book #1] by Linda Evans Shepherd and Eva Marie Everson. The book, follows women from Grace Church who meet regularly to eat and pray, and, of course, get themselves in trouble. And yes, our group will co-host a virtual potluck!

The group typically meets via Zoom twice monthly at 6:30 PM for a max of one hour to converse about the characters and themes, and how they touch our own lives. Will you join us? Contact Lee Hamilton: [leehamilton88@gmail.com](mailto:leehamilton88@gmail.com), and watch for Facebook updates.

## Author in our midst

Some may not know that we have a published author in our midst. Marilee Brothers has written and published six novels for the teen market and five novels for adults. Always in love with the written word, Marilee tried her hand at writing poetry and short stories during her busy child-rearing years. When she became an empty nester, it was time for a new challenge . . . time to write a book. As she began to learn her craft, she entered writing contests where she was lucky enough to be spotted by a publisher who signed her to a multi-book contract. Marilee just finished her 12th book. Some of her books are in the church library and are available to check out once we are able to resume attending church. Her latest novel, *A Woman Scorned*, was just published and if you are interested can be purchased from Marilee, as can her earlier novels.



## Creche Display

Traditionally we have a creche display at the church where we bring in our nativity sets and display. Noah has volunteered to do a slide show creche display for us. Email a picture of your nativity set to Noah at [nbzalewski@gmail.com](mailto:nbzalewski@gmail.com) by December 15 and he will include in the slideshow. Be sure to identify yourself in the email and if there is something special or interesting about the display, include that information.





## ***Central Washington congregation embraces Selah, in name and mission***

How is it with your soul? As United Methodist congregations, large and small, continue to struggle with the challenges of COVID-19, answering this Wesley-inspired question is tougher than ever. Taking time intentionally to pause and reflect on where we are in our lives and in our relationship with God often slips to the bottom of our priority list.

Are you familiar with the word “Selah”? It appears 74 times in the Bible, mostly in Psalms. Thirty-one of the 39 Psalms containing “Selah” notations are titled “To the Choirmaster,” implying that they provide musical direction. The common understanding is that “Selah” indicates a pause, a chance to reflect on what we have just heard, whether spoken or sung. Members of the aptly named Selah United Methodist Church in Selah, Washington, are encouraged to embrace that concept. The congregation averages 45 to 50 weekly worshippers who, because of the pandemic, continue to meet online rather than in person. On a typical Sunday, the Rev. Dirk Robinson preaches, then invites people to video breakout rooms to pause, reflect on and discuss a related question for a few minutes, then share their ideas with the congregation.

“We bear God’s image,” he reminded worshippers one Sunday. “What would it look like if you were to give your life back to God? What would you do differently? What changes would you make?” The Rev. Kevin Dow, a retired elder in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, attends Selah UMC. Answering Robinson’s question, he said, “If we were to give our lives back to God, the church would be richer – perhaps not in terms of money – but, rather, in terms of love, friendship and peace.” Another small-group participant acknowledged he would become more involved in the church. Regretting that COVID-19 has limited her outreach opportunities, a woman said, “I love working with children, the elderly and people who need help. I miss that so much.”

When Robinson hears the word “Selah,” he also thinks of fresh fruit. “Selah, Washington,” he explained, “is known for its apples and other fruits. I believe my congregation finds meaning in ‘Selah’ as being ‘home.’ A lot of the congregation was raised in the area, and those who were not have come to call Selah home.” While “Selah” has biblical origins, the word is also similar to a Yakima Tribe’s name for a “calm and peaceful” river that flows through the region. Selah United Methodist Church members strive to follow Jesus’ example of healing the sick, feeding the hungry, advocating for the poor and marginalized – and caring for their souls. The congregation tries to live up to their 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.”

“It’s important,” Robinson said, “that we remind ourselves of these statements so that our practice of our faith and journey reflects what we say we stand by. Almost every Sunday, I preach about loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. I believe this is the crux of our mission.”



Serving Selah UMC since 2017, Robinson is also a chaplain in the Washington Army National Guard and the Yakima Training Center. He is the Joint Task Force chaplain for the Washington National Guard COVID-19 response team.

Committed to ministry outside the church walls, Robinson leads his little congregation in living out the concept of Selah in the town of 8,000 and beyond. Before the pandemic hit, volunteers from the church served meals at Camp Hope, a camp for homeless adults and families in Yakima, just four miles south of Selah. “We packed weekend meals for students in the Yakima Valley at Northwest Harvest,” Robinson recalled. “We served meals at Rod’s House, a home for homeless teenagers.” A grocery cart in the sanctuary held food-bank donations. A United Methodist Women group met regularly.

COVID-19 restrictions have been hard on the mostly older congregation’s ability to be in ministry with the community. “We are not willing to put anyone at risk,” Robinson said. “We want to continue to do God’s work but to be smart about how it’s done.” During the pandemic, the pastor continued, “We have delivered food to families who are truly homebound and called everyone in the church to do a check-in. We are reaching out like we have never done before.”

Dow agreed. “We opened our building to the county health department as a drive-thru testing site for the virus,” he said, “and held a face-covering distribution for the community. A couple of months ago, when the food bank had a shortage of boxed meals (Hamburger Helper type), we invited the congregation to respond to that need, which they did. “When the pandemic is over,” Dow said, “I am sure we will return to some of the things we can’t do now. We are exploring ways to reach out to the Latinx community around us through Justice For Our Neighbors.”

The congregation also has learned to participate in Sunday worship via Zoom. Parishioners in their 90s are now video conferencing. Robinson said, “I am amazed at their willingness to get out of their comfort zone so that they can worship with their church family. “If you had asked me at the beginning of the year if this would have been possible, I would have laughed,” he admitted. “The congregation on a whole is not very tech savvy. But to be in community with their church family, they step out of their comfort zone to learn. This, to me, shows how important the church family is to this congregation.”

“Sometimes,” Dow noted, “God is lost in the busyness of our daily lives. COVID has interrupted those activities. The pandemic has given most of us the opportunity to pause and reflect.”

### **Selah Generosity Pastor and Leader Kit offers plethora of resources**

A self-described “lectionary preacher,” the Rev. Dirk Robinson of Selah [Washington] United Methodist Church is familiar with the Selah Generosity Pastor and Leader Kit





<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/umcgiving/generosity-resources/selah-generosity-pastor-and-leader-kit>. Created by United Methodist Communications, the resource contains Bible studies, bulletin inserts, children’s messages, devotionals, offering talks, podcasts, prayer flashcards, reading lists, sermon starters and videos – many in English, Korean and Spanish. The kit is designed to provide the opportunity to reflect on the spirit of generosity and the impact United Methodists are making around the world. Robinson said he has used the Selah resources to generate new ideas.

*(This is an article that Barbara Dunlap-Berg wrote for UMC Communications)*

## 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 Jesus Christ
  - 27 Teresa Nelson
  - 28 Benjamin Antaniatis III  
Judie Brown
  - 29 Nickolaus Coburn

No December Anniversaries





---

## ***DECEMBER CALENDAR***

Pastor Dirk is on National Guard Assignment, but available via Zoom for Church worship and meetings.

- 1 Daily check-in via Zoom with Pastor Dirk @ 10:00 am  
Continuing Monday - Friday, unless canceled by Pastor Dirk  
**See link on next page to join Zoom Meeting**  
**World AIDS Day**
- 3 Pub Theology via Zoom @ 6:00 pm Continuing every Thursday, except  
Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve  
**See link on next page to join Zoom Meeting**
- 6 Bible Study with Pastor Dirk via Zoom @9:15 am Continuing every Sunday  
Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am; **Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Communion – remember bread and juice**  
**See link on next page to join via Zoom**
- 8 Angel Tree Donation Drop Off, 10:00 to 11:00 am at SUMC Parking Lot  
UMW Meeting via Zoom @7:00 pm  
**Use morning check-in link on next page**
- 9 Angel Tree Donation Drop Off, 2:00 to 3:00 pm at SUMC Parking Lot
- 13 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am  
**Third Sunday of Advent**
- 18 Charles Wesley's Birthday
- 20 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Drive through pickup of candles for Christmas Eve Service, 2:00 to 4:00 pm  
@SUMC
- 22 Camp Hope Dinner prepared and delivered by Wesley UMC.  
Watch for food requests from SUMC, if needed, the week before
- 24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship via Zoom @ 7:00 pm**
- 25 **Christmas Day - Happy Birthday Jesus**
- 27 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am  
**Newsletter articles due**
- 31 New Year's Eve – Goodbye 2020



## ZOOM LINKS

### SUMC Sunday Service & Bible Study

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

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/692949701?pwd=LzlINSWYyT1BGUzNhVHc0ME9ydnBLQT09>

Meeting ID: 692 949 701 Password: 021416

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

---

### ZOOM CHECK-IN WITH PASTOR DIRK

**Monday – Friday @10:00 am daily check-in via Zoom. Join Zoom:**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/669186246?pwd=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlNQT09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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

### ZOOM PUB THEOLOGY ON THURSDAYS

**Thursday @ 6:00 pm via Zoom. Join Zoom:**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/95829189054?pwd=cGJwYmw3M2UrTDk4MlITVUUySVI3QT09>

Meeting ID: 958 2918 9054 Password: 013652

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,95829189054#,,1#,013652# US (Tacoma)

In case you missed the form sent out last month, here is a copy of the Estimate of Giving form for 2021. Please prayerfully consider your situation/ability to support SUMC and return the form to the Church office. **Thank you**

We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship and pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress on your journey of faith and commitment. Your commitment of time and contributions are a critical part of how we can make a difference in our church, our community, and our world. Please complete this estimate of giving and return to the church office. You may change your commitment at any time by notifying the church office.

I/We will support Selah United Methodist Church in 2021 (fill in all that apply):

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for General Budget  Monthly  Annually (one time)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Apportionments  Monthly  Annually (one time)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Building Stewardship  Monthly  Annually (one time)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Capital Fund Drive  Monthly  Annually (one time)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  Monthly  Annually (one time)

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Selah United Methodist Church**

1061 Selah Loop Road

Selah WA 98942

Phone: 509-697-7504

Email: [selahumc@fairpoint.net](mailto:selahumc@fairpoint.net)

Growing Into the Image of Christ

How to get hold of Pastor Dirk:

Cell phone: (509) 388-1218

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

Newsletter articles for the  
January newsletter are due  
December 27

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.”