



# The Messenger



## Selah United Methodist Church

December 2022

### **Mark's Remarks**

Welcome to December. I hope and pray that every participant at Selah United Methodist Church finds time to experience all the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Advent and Christmas.

I offer this "Read Between the Lines" meditation written in 1995. The left column reveals some common thoughts for this month. The right column follows our uncommon, Advent way of thinking. Finally, reading the entire poem across the columns reflects the tension between the pressures of our cultural Christmas and the promised return of Jesus Christ.

I'll see you in church, Mark

### **Read Between the Lines**

It's December  
deck the halls with boughs of holly  
night grows longer and colder  
colored lights twinkle

the stores are crowded  
hurry and get ready  
friends and family & Santa Claus - they're coming  
have we forgotten anyone?

we have visitors coming  
so much buying, wrapping and decorating to do!  
Christmas rush  
a long list is made

in the midst of hectic preparations  
in the midst of frantic searching  
it's easy to become too busy  
it's so easy to forget

if only we could remember  
there was no fanfare  
there are no fireworks  
there will be no forewarning  
it's Advent

the season of Advent is upon us  
signs of the season are all around  
more light and warmth are needed  
to brighten the darkness

Advent is here  
Advent means "coming"  
Jesus is coming  
will we know when he comes?

we want to be ready  
and so we prepare  
time for a change of pace  
as we prepare for the coming

we make ourselves ready  
we read between the lines  
we need to remember  
it's Advent and Jesus is coming

we prepare because he came  
we prepare because he is coming  
we prepare because he will come  
again  
Amen! Come Lord Jesus!



# MISSION OUTREACH

## Selah Naches Food Bank

The many, many bags of flour and sugar plus all the additions from pumpkin to stuffing to vanilla for holiday baking and holiday dinners was quite impressive. The church grocery cart was filled. The food bank is directed by the state to keep track of donations by weight. Our donations weighed in at 75 pounds! The volunteers ask that we keep doing what we are doing...continue with the baking supplies and holiday meal favorites this next month. And know that any nonperishable food item, regardless of what, is always welcomed by those who depend on food from the food bank. No food is turned away. Thank you!



## December is Baking Supply and Holiday Dinner Month, Again

Please remember Bill White's family, the Food Bank supervisor and director for 20 years, with special thoughts following his recent unexpected passing.

## Rod's House

We learned this month that Rod's House is providing meals for young people at two sites. The Days Inn on N 1st in Yakima provides overnight rooms for 20 with late afternoon dinner and breakfast during the "severe" winter weather. Another meal is provided for approximate 30 youth at midday at Rod's House on Naches Ave. The teens come and eat at noon and are provided with some of their cold weather needs as they turn back to the streets for the night. Rod's House has placed a purple and yellow little pantry at their Naches site and fill it with water bottles and nutritious snacks for people on the street. It is accessible for anyone to contribute. If you would like to donate clothes, toiletries or food to Rod's House, there is a bin in the Simonson Room. At the top of what they call their "Wish List" are sleeping bags, hoodies/sweatpants, hand and foot warmers, full and travel sized toiletries, and non-perishable nutritious food snacks. One more suggestion: if you would like to gather forces with a few others to make a meal at home and deliver to either of the meal sites, Days Inn (20 youth) or Rod's House proper (30 youth), let Ron or Linda know. They will put you in contact those who organize the Meal Partner meals at both sites.



## Camp Hope



The Camp Hope residents had a surprise last week, a second dinner! Another organization had delivered unexpectedly several pans of spaghetti, rolls, and fruit. The Wesley cooks had prepared a lovely Thanksgiving dinner with ham, mashed potatoes, vegetables, coleslaw, rolls and pumpkin squares topped with whipped cream. Needless to say, there was plenty to eat with not too many leftovers for the next day. The residents were very happy and loved the variety of food. Everything was delicious. Despite the cold and makeshift

serving tent, the 75 or so residents were full of smiles and gratitude for the smiles and heartfelt blessings that we returned to them.

## WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Worship team for SUMC met November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We reviewed services since the last meeting. It was felt that the All-Saints service went well, and there was appreciation expressed for the great altar arrangements for all of the services, not just for All-Saints.

It was decided to decorate the church progressively for Advent. The Advent wreath will be the first element to be put in place. Elaine Dow will oversee the project, with help from Gwen Chaplin and Lisa Williams. On December 4<sup>th</sup> swags will be in placed on the pillars on each side of the Sanctuary. Gwen Chaplin will oversee the swags, but it will be her final year for that. Christmas Trees will be gathered by members of the congregation from December 5<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be a “grove” of smaller trees in the Chancel of the church with a larger tree in the Narthex and possibly another larger tree in the Fellowship Hall. We discussed having a larger tree with chrismons in the Sanctuary, but it was decided that it was too short a time for chrismons to be made to fill a large tree. This will be a project for a future year. There is going to be a display of manger scenes similar to the one the church had last year. It was decided to do that again and to open that display to the Selah community. It will be set up by December 18<sup>th</sup> and the community will be invited to come and it is hoped that it will be an inspiration to all.

We discussed the possibility of having an “Angel Tree” but decided to concentrate on once again providing gifts for the children at the Beauchamp Center. Pastor Mark is planning on having a “Longest Night” service for December 21<sup>st</sup> at the church at 6:00 PM. Further details can be found in the “Longest Night” newsletter article.



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There will be three services this year on Christmas Eve. We will publicize these services to the community, so invite your neighbors and friends from Yakima to join you for the service. The earliest one will be at 4:00 in the afternoon and is especially for families with young children. The admission for the service will be to bring a pre-school aged child (but I'll bet you could sneak in anyway). The second Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 in the evening. The final service will be at 11:30 PM. Both of the evening services will feature Holy Communion, candlelight and Christmas carols. If you are one of those (like me) who find special meaning in celebrating the birth of Christ as we move into Christmas day, you will want to join us for this service. Look for the related news article describing our Christmas Eve services in more detail. Christmas falls on Sunday this year, so we will be observing "Flannel Sunday," as described in a separate news article. January 1<sup>st</sup> worship will be a version of Wesley's Covenant Service. You can find more information in the "New Year's Sunday" article.

The church will be "undecorated" after Epiphany Day, Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Watch for details in next month's Messenger. The Team will hold it's next meeting at 1:00 PM on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the church. All meetings are open meetings and anyone with suggestions for worship are encouraged to attend and share their ideas.

Kevin Dow

## Report of the Piggies:



A total of \$704.15 was raised this time due to the generous feeding by the "pig farmers" of this congregations. A check in that amount was sent with Nathan Miller to be delivered to the Fire Department here in Selah to help with the education programs for fire safety presented to young children in the local schools. Thank you all for your change and other donations to this cause. We will call the piggies in again next Spring with a different cause to support. If you have any suggestions for the funds please let us know.

Piggy Bank Fundraising Small Group (Ruuds, Drews, Schramms, Jespersen, Kaumheimer, Van Beek, Towell, G. Davis)





## Henry Beauchamp Community Center



This year we will continue our tradition of giving toys for kids for the Henry Beauchamp Community Center Christmas party. We have been asked to get gifts for boys ages 8 - 12. Some examples are Legos, Hot Wheels sets, games. If you want to donate but don't want to shop, you can also give a gift card (they request \$10 cards). Toys can be left in the Narthex. Please do not wrap the gifts. We need to collect all toys and gift cards by Sunday, December 11th. As always, thank you for your wonderful generosity!

Cheryl Natland

## Selah United Women in Faith



We as a church congregation have many things to be thankful for: the freedom to worship, warm home, blessed to help others in need through Camp Hope, Selah Food Bank, Rod's House to name a few. Selah United Women in Faith feel thankful to help children in the foster care system through a nonprofit, "Voices for Children" This organization provides children in the foster care system an opportunity to shop for their own clothes at its store, supply them with needed items when placed with foster families. (Blanket, stuffed animal, PJ, underwear and clothes, shoes, flashlight, clock). We touched base with Voices for Children on what they needed.

Pillows! We will be collecting Pillows throughout the month of December. Sweet Dreams for Kids Pillow Drive through the Month of December. There will be a collection box in the Narthex. Standard Size pillows or small child size pillows.



Don't forget our Breakfast Breads Sale December 18<sup>th</sup> after church. Yummy Quick Breads, Muffins, Rolls, Coffee Cakes. This fundraiser helps support our mission projects throughout the year. **No meeting in December.**

Tressa Cummings, President SUMC United Women in Faith





## Halloween Trunk or Treat a Success

This year we participated in the Selah Downtown Associations trick or treat by holding a trunk or treat in our parking lot. Since this was our first year, we had no clue how many families would visit our parking lot. Well, someone counted 150+ kids that came through! It was a great success. We had nine trunks open and decorated with many different themes and costumes. Mary Turley's trunk took first place for best decorations and the Parkey's trunk was second place. The congregation was very generous with donations of candy, the leftovers of which we are still enjoying during our meetings and other events at the church. Thought we would all enjoy seeing pictures from that night.





## From Finance Team

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Dear SUMC Family,

There is a lot of optimism and joy in our church as we look forward to 2023. We have an energetic full-time pastor, there are new faces in our congregation and all our bills will be paid by the end of the year.

Fall is the time of year for the giving campaign to discuss our church's financial position and ask for your giving to sustain our church in the new year. Since 2020 we have had reduced expenses because of online meetings and part time staffing. In the coming year, we will be supporting a full-time pastor, maintaining our beautiful church and providing outreach to others in our community and beyond.

It is wonderful to be back to more normal conditions and a normal budget. That budget will require the continuing support of all who give to Selah UMC. We are asking again for your commitment to financially support our church during the coming year.

We ask you to prayerfully consider your giving for 2023. If you are able to give ongoing or increased support, please fill out the commitment card and bring it to church on Sunday, December 11th. You can also mail your commitment card to the church. The card is on the last page of this newsletter and can also be picked up at church. Whether or not you choose to return the commitment card, any financial support that you can give is welcomed and will help move forward God's plan for our congregation.

Lyle, Bill and Becky

## Nativity Sets on Display

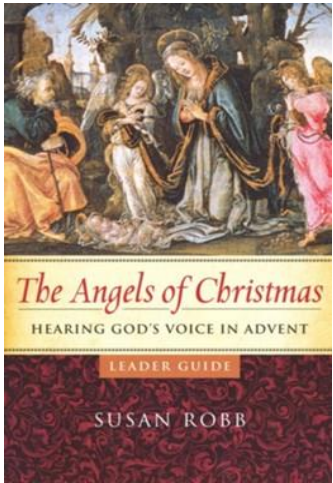


Made of wood, glass, fine porcelain, ceramic, resin or crocheted...for nearly 800 years, nativity scenes have been used to help illustrate and share the wonder of Christ's birth. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with being the first to use the idea of a simple nativity scene as a teaching aid.

We will continue this long tradition by sharing the beauty and wonder of nativity sets with the community during a church open house Sunday, December 18, 2-4:30 p.m. You are invited to bring your nativity set(s) to the church December 11-15, and they will be featured during the open house December 18. Please include your name, and anything special about your nativity set.

In addition to sharing nativity sets, donations of cookies are needed for the open house. And of course, you are all encouraged to invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you at the open house. For more information, contact Lisa Williams.





## Advent Study Starts November 30

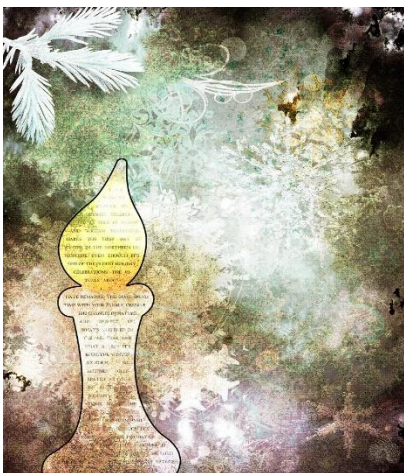
During the four weeks of the Advent Season, Pastor Mark is leading a book study at the church. Two groups will meet weekly at 9:30 AM and 7 PM to discuss *The Angels of Christmas*, a book by Susan Robb. Robb's book looks at the stories of angels in the Bible, with specific focus each week on angelic messages delivered around the time of Jesus's birth beginning with Zechariah's vision of an angel in the Temple. On subsequent weeks we'll look at Mary's visit from the Angel Gabriel, the angelic appearance in Joseph's dream, and the angel's announcement to shepherds watching their flocks.

Each Wednesday starting November 30, a morning and an evening session will be offered to make it possible for everyone to participate. Some print copies have been ordered. Members may instead choose to purchase an ebook from Apple Books or the Amazon Kindle Store. Each participant is asked for a suggested donation of \$5 + the cost of their book. The church will provide materials for free to anyone who cannot afford the expense. Books may be picked in the church office or ordered online.

Join the weekly Wednesday conversation as we read and discuss *The Angels of Christmas*.

## Parsonage open house

Pastor Mark and Lisa Williams are opening the parsonage for a Christmas Open House from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on December 16. Mark and Lisa are excited to share their home with church members and friends. They hope everyone will stop by for light refreshment and fellowship in appreciation of the blessings they have received since moving to Selah. Mark is the sixth pastor to live in the church-owned parsonage since the house was built in 1995. He and Lisa have been with us since July.



## A Service for the Longest Night Wednesday, December 21, 6 p.m.

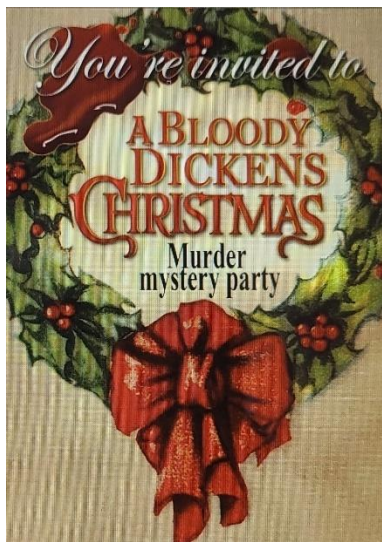
At times the celebration of the holidays can be dimmed by feelings of loss—whether it's the loss of a loved one, a job, a dream or any other meaningful part of life. Even the stress of holiday preparations and activities can leave us feeling drained and disconnected. We risk missing out on one of the greatest gifts of the Christian year:





Jesus born to be light in the darkness. Our Longest Night Service will be held Wednesday, December 21. On that first day of winter at 6 p.m. we will acknowledge and bring light to the Longest Night. This will be a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, time for sharing our hurting places with God, time for preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. You may bring a picture or a token symbolizing your loss or hurt if you would like, and you are asked to bring them home with you at the close of the service.

The sanctuary will be filled with candles and soft music. Scripture, stories, prayer, and candle lighting will be a part of the service. Holy Communion will be available for those who wish to receive it. The setting will be lovely. The music will be sweet. The only other thing needed is you, with your memories and your prayers.



## December Potluck Plans

The Murder Mystery Potluck is just around the corner on December 11th right after church. We'll solve who done it while role-playing and dressed as our Dickens-inspired characters, with a special appearance of Ebenezer Scrooge! We're decorating the Fellowship Hall to be as festive as possible and looking for table sponsors. So, please let us know if you'd like to bring out that Christmas china, polish up that silver, and make a table sparkle. Invite your friends and extended family for lots of merry-making and caroling. There are three clipboards on the cookie table in the narthex to let us know...

1 - Which course of the meal will you be bringing?

2 - Sponsor a table to decorate a lovely Christmas table, seating 6 - 8 people.

Table clothes, silverware, extra dishes, glass candle holders are available for use & cider and pitchers of water will be provided.

3 - RSVP and how many in your party will be joining us, so we can ensure we have enough seating for everyone.

As guests, you will be the team of special investigators to help solve the crime. Please come as you wish, dress as a Dickens character or just your usual self. Please call Tereica Kaumheimer 509-930-0318 or Lisa Holyfield 509-961-1753 if you'd like more information.

Tereica and Lisa



## Christmas Eve Services

Three Christmas Eve services will be offered at the church on December 24 at 4, 7, and 11 p.m.

**4 p.m. Young Children and Family Service** — this will be a participatory worship service of stories, activities and music. The entire service tells the Nativity story at the level of pre-school and elementary age children.

Bring the young children in your life and share the Christmas story together.

**7 p.m. Community Candlelight Service** — features a traditional worship service of prayer, scripture, song and sermon. Holy Communion will be offered to those who wish to share in the bread and cup. We will sing “*Silent Night*” by candlelight to conclude the service.

**11 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols** — this hour-long service has lots of singing as we alternate scripture passages and carols, telling the story of Jesus’ birth from Creation to Manger. Join us if you want to sing your hearts out, share in Holy Communion, and hold a lit candle at 12:01 a.m. to wish each other “Merry Christmas.” There’s no better way to start your Christmas Day!



## Flannel Sunday is December 25

December 25 is a Sunday, and flannel is Pastor Mark’s pseudo-liturgical theme for that day. We call it Flannel Sunday because wearing of flannel is encouraged, but not required. Or you might wear your favorite Christmas sweater. Or your ugliest. Kick off your shoes and put on your slippers. Or put on your Sunday best.

On Flannel Sunday, we gather for worship at our usual time of 10:30, knowing that many of our members will be elsewhere with family. This gathering is for those who would otherwise spend Christmas morning alone, or who want to be in worship like any other Sunday morning.

Flannel Sunday worship will be downstairs in the fellowship hall. It is an informal time with singing, stories, and fellowship around the table. Maybe there will be a simple breakfast. Maybe someone will fix pancakes. Maybe someone has a favorite breakfast dish to share. Maybe we will sit around, uncomfortably avoiding each other’s gaze, wondering why no one thought to bring any food to eat.

Regardless of what plans you may have for Christmas morning, don’t forget that the church will be open, the candles will be lit, the songs will be sung, the Story will be told, and there will be a place for you. Please join us for Christmas worship.



## New Year's Sunday

New Year's Day falls on a Sunday this year. Our worship and Holy Communion service will center around the story of the Magi and the gifts they bring to Bethlehem. The liturgy will include John Wesley's covenant service, a distinctly United Methodist service renewing our commitment to follow Jesus Christ in the coming year



### TO BE OR NOT TO BE A RECONCILING CHURCH

NEWSFLASH . . . the reconciling church wording, should we move forward, WILL NOT have to become part of our Mission Statement. Rather, should we become a reconciling church, the reconciling wording will be considered a “foundational statement”. For instance, on our web sites, we would state that we are a reconciling church and use the reconciling wording to express all are welcome to become part of our church family. This should come as a welcome change for those who had difficulty in our having to make the reconciling wording part of our Mission Statement. Should you have questions, please feel free to reach out. Ron Drew

What would it mean for Selah United Methodist Church to become a Reconciling Church Ministry? We already refer to ourselves as a “welcoming” church. Which I agree with, we greet people when they come to our church for the first time and try to make them feel comfortable and invite them to come join us again. What more can we do? We can go through the process to really recognize what does welcoming really mean? We as a congregation need to have discussions and “town hall type meetings” where everyone is allowed to express their honest opinions and know that they are heard and respected. **We don't all think exactly alike on all subjects but I hope we can all agree that we love and care about each other and want each person to feel comfortable enough, in our midst, to express those thoughts. Sometimes we might need to agree to disagree but move forward in a loving Christian manner.** Becoming a Reconciling Church Ministry would give us a way to openly let the community of people that are considered “marginalized” (which includes several different categories) in this area know that Selah United Methodist Church would be a safe and accepting place for them to worship God and see the love of Jesus Christ in their lives. We have work to do, to come to the point of deciding if this is something that we as a congregation of Christian believers want to pursue. Please bring your thoughts, ideas and feelings to any of the upcoming meetings so we can come to an agreeable decision and not let this become a dividing time for our SUMC family.

**In Love and Concern, Gail Davis**





Do we really want to become a reconciling congregation? That is the question we have been pondering this past year. It is a question we will continue pondering in the year to come. I do not have the answer to that question. It's one we must resolve together in prayer as a whole congregation.

As a child growing up in the Aberdeen Methodist Church (we had not become United yet) I always felt safe, valued and welcomed in my faith community. That was not true for everyone, however. My mom told me a story many times about a black man who attended our Sunday worship service regularly. This was when I was very young and I do not remember him myself. I was told he would always sit alone in the balcony during our worship time. One day my mom asked him why he sat up in the balcony alone every Sunday. His response was that there were a number of people in the congregation who were uncomfortable with his presence. So he chose to sit alone in the balcony apart from the rest of the congregation where he could safely worship. He did not feel welcomed or valued among our congregation. A totally opposite experience from my own. Yet he had the faith, the fortitude, the commitment to worship regularly a God who accepted him among mortals who did not.

Early on in my childhood I felt the beginning of God calling me to be a faithful servant of God. I did not fully understand my calling at that point but I had this growing desire within my soul to reach out to others to share my relationship with God and the power of God's love for each of us. In high school I first felt God's call to me to enter the ministry as a pastor. I had no idea what the ramifications of that decision meant and I'm so glad I didn't or I would have immediately ran as far as I could to get away from God. In fact I did try to run away more than once but like Jonah God kept finding me when I least expected it. Each time that God found me I became more aware that God had a purpose for my life in ministry. Whenever fear entered my soul God taught me again about how much I was loved, how much I was valued and how I could trust in God to keep me safe. I also knew that God wanted me to teach that love to others.

Wow! I had no idea how difficult that would be in my ministry! Actually I probably did to some degree which is why I often had to fight off my fear. It wasn't just that one black man sitting in the balcony of my home church who did not feel welcomed, safe or valued by many churches. It was people of all colors around the world along with my neighborhood. Not only that but it included the homeless. It was a sad day in my ministry as a pastor when I learned why a homeless man who had been regularly attending our worship in a reverent manner stopped coming altogether. I discovered that a member of the church had told him he should shower or take a bath before coming to worship. That was when he disappeared from our church. The man was living out of his car and had no place to bathe, shower or clean his clothes. He no longer felt safe, welcomed or valued in our Christian midst.

Then God confronted me with Gay people! My whole life I was taught by family, society and



the church that gay people were bad, unholy people. I had no idea they would be interested in a church. I am ashamed to say that my first encounter with a gay couple did not go well. I did not respond with hatred but rather with confusion. Why were they here? What are they expecting from me? How should I respond when it went against my understanding of them as bad people. They didn't come across as bad people to me but..... They quickly caught on to my confusion with my stammering response to their questions. They were seeking a safe place, a sanctuary where they could experience love and be valued as part of God's creation. They never returned. I consider that as one of my lowest points in ministry where I failed God miserably.

Over and over again God placed me in uncomfortable situations to teach me what it means to provide a safe, loving sanctuary where People from ALL circumstances can feel valued by the people of God in God's Holy presence. This became crystal clear to me when my own granddaughter fell in love with and married another woman in Tennessee. They both grew up in the church but to my knowledge have not found a safe place to worship.

This same message of love, acceptance and being safe to worship God In Peace in our own sanctuary needs to also apply to immigrants both legal and not. Yes, I'm very aware this is a hot political topic that is dividing our community and nation. I am not offering a political statement, however. I am making a spiritual statement. The political problem regarding immigrants are complex and extremely difficult to solve. A spiritual statement, however, is a very simple one that we have the power to make if we choose. We are stating that all people who enter our midst is entering a safe place where they will be valued as God values all of God's creation. God's love is for everyone. Not just for those of us who "belong" here. That is the love I have come to know with God.

So are we prepared to become a reconciling congregation? I honestly don't know. It's a big step to make filled with risks. What will our families and friends say. Many will not understand and will question our faith. Perhaps some will question whether or not we are really Christians. Few of us enjoy making waves or become involved in controversial issues within our church family and community.

I believe it is partially for this reason that some are wondering why do we have to make such a big deal out of this and advertise it so boldly for everyone to see. After all we are already doing most of this anyway. Good question. Jesus instructed his followers to not hide their light from the world but rather to raise it high for others to see. We have no idea how many people are out there separated from God but refuse to attend a church because they were burned badly once before and place all churches in that category. Our church IS different and it is time to light our candle for the hurt and lonely to find the way to our doorstep to be greeted with open arms from a truly loving congregation. Let's not hide our love, God's love from the world. Let us be a burn unit for those who are scarred from rejection of well-



intentioned Christians. For me the older I get the bolder I become to proclaim God's love to the unloved of this world. I feel so much more at peace with myself and with God when I follow the path God has set ahead of me.

We are now approaching a crossroad in the life of ourselves personally and the whole church itself. It's scary for some of us. Others are wondering why it's taken so long to make this decision. We are not all of one mind. We ARE all part of the same body of Christ seeking God's universal grace and love for our salvation.

So what do you think? Are we ready to become a reconciling congregation. Again I really don't know. This is an important conversation for us to continue this coming year. Let's do so in grace and peace as we value and acknowledge each other's opinions in Holy love for one another. May we do this in an attitude of sanctuary where we can all feel safe in our differences acknowledging God's intense love for each of us. This is going to be an interesting year. May God guide us in this new journey.

**Peace and Blessings my dear friends. Rex Van Beek.**

### **This is my personal story:**

Early on before Rod was aware, Del and I knew that our son was gay. And knowing that, our hearts were heavy, worrying about his future life, whether he would be looked down upon, shunned or mistreated as he grew up. We worried that if people knew, they would decide they could no longer be our friends.

When Rod was in his twenties, he "came out" to us. He gave us some books to read first, and when he told us he was gay, he was surprised to learn that we knew. He was in a relationship and he and his partner were planning a commitment service in Seattle. It was a lovely service, but a very lonely day, because we felt we couldn't tell anyone about it and couldn't invite family and friends to be there.

Rod attended our church when he came home from college, and when he visited after he started his career as an investment banker. He was friendly, polite and quiet and related well to people at church, but never invited his partner to attend with him, so his being gay was never an issue because no one knew.

Still, for Del and I the concern was always there. We didn't talk to anyone because we were afraid they wouldn't understand and maybe we would be asked to leave the church. I'm aware as I write this, that our fears and concerns were about what might happen and were never tested. I believe that's where many people in our community are now. We needed assurance that our church and our friends would accept Rod for the person he was and would understand our needs for understanding and acceptance. Had our church (or any church) been on a list as openly and specifically welcoming gays, we would have rejoiced!





What would I wish for anyone who is living this story today? I want anyone's son or daughter to know that our church is a safe place for them. To be accepted as they are, without any weirdness on the part of any member of the congregation. I want their family members able to trust that our church is truly a place for reconciliation rather than condemnation. I want this not only for a gay or lesbian person, but someone of color, or who wears a turban, or is different in any way.

**Jan Towell**

## DECEMBER Celebrations

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### Birthdays

- 4 Tyler Helms
- 6 Cyndi Appelhof
- 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
- 29 Nickolaus Coburn

### Anniversaries

No one tied the knot in  
December





## ***DECEMBER CALENDAR***

- November 30 Advent Study @ 9:30 am and 7 pm at the church, *The Angels of Christmas*  
Continuing Wednesdays through December 21st (No Coffee with the Pastor on Wednesdays)  
Worship Team Meeting @ 1:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 1 Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 pm in Simonson Room  
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 4 United Methodist Men Breakfast @ 8:00 am in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Holy Communion – 2nd Sunday of Advent  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 10 AED/CPR Training @ 10:00 am in Simonson Room
- 11 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
3rd Sunday of Advent See link on prior page to join via Zoom  
Toys for Henry Beauchamp Center Due at Church  
**Potluck in Fellowship Hall After Church - Murder Mystery Dinner**
- 11- 15 Bring in and set up Creche Display @ church
- 13 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom (Special Meeting)  
Use meeting link on prior page
- 16 Open House at Parsonage, 6:30 to 8:30 pm 1404 W Orchard Ave, Selah
- 18 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent;  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom  
United Women in Faith Breakfast Bread Bake Sale  
Church Open House/Creche Display @2:00 to 4:30 pm
- 21 Longest Night Service @ 6:00 pm in Sanctuary  
First Day of Winter (No Church Council Meeting this Month)
- 24 Christmas Eve Services in Sanctuary and via Zoom (for 7:00 service)  
4:00 pm Young family and children Worship Service  
7:00 pm Community Candlelight Worship Service  
11:00 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
- 25 Christmas Day Worship with breakfast @ 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall  
Where your best warm flannel
- 27 Camp Hope Dinner, prepared with help by Wesley UMC delivered by SUMC  
Newsletter Articles Due



### Estimate of Giving Card

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 it in the offering plate or 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 2023 (fill in all that apply):

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for General Budget       Monthly    Annually (one time)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Apportionments       Monthly    Annually (one time)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Capital Loan       Monthly    Annually (one time)

Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlnQQT09>  
Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493  
One tap mobile: +12532158782,,669186246#,1#,848493# US (Tacoma)



## Selah United Methodist Church

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PO Box 545  
Selah WA 98942

Phone: 509-697-7504  
Email: [selahumc@gmail.com](mailto:selahumc@gmail.com)

Growing Into the Image of Christ

### Pastor Mark Williams Contact Information:

Cell phone: (509)628-6405

Email: [aha.experience@icloud.com](mailto:aha.experience@icloud.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.”