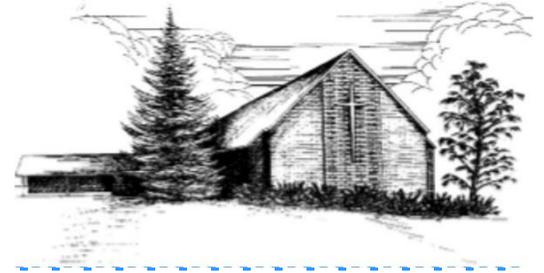




# The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

December 2018

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

As we head into the final month of 2018, I would like you to stop and reflect on how God has been working in your life during the last year. How has God used you to be the hands and feet of Christ? This is the time of year we focus on the Birth of Christ and Christ's influence on the world. It all began in Bethlehem on a cold wintery night. But before this night took place Mary and Joseph had to be willing to listen and more importantly to trust in God. God had placed Mary in a position of life or death. Mary chose to listen and follow the wise words of God. Joseph could have left Mary and the baby. Instead, they both listened to God and put their full trust that God would provide. On that starry night God provided the world with the greatest gift of all time, Jesus Christ.

This Christmas season, let us put our focus on the greatest gift, Jesus. I was watching the news on Saturday and witnessing the Black Friday mayhem. I was reminded that we have lost our focus on the Christmas Season. Our culture has turned Christmas into an advertising nightmare. The focus is no longer on the greatest gift of all time but on Christmas trees, lights, wreaths, reindeer, and the gifts we buy each other. Somehow, we have removed Christ from the equation.

This Christmas season let us focus on the true meaning of Christmas, which is to celebrate the greatest gift ever received. While putting up your trees and wrapping gifts, remember to thank God for the gifts he has given us. And if you have the opportunity, give someone else the gift of forgiveness and show them God's love.

Shalom, Pastor Dirk





## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee met November 8<sup>th</sup>. Present at the meeting were Margaret Antanaitis, Gwen Chaplin, Elaine and Kevin Dow, and Pastor Dirk Robinson. Pastor Dirk opened the meeting with prayer.

The Committee discussed the special services held in October, including Children's Sabbath and All Saint's Sunday and planned Veteran's Day display and that Dorothy Munroe had agreed to decorate altar for Thanksgiving.

Seasonal decorating for Advent and Christmas will be held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM. The church will again be sponsoring an "Angel Tree" to provide gifts for children who might not get gifts for Christmas. The church will also be soliciting toys for the Henry Beauchamp Center in Yakima. Pastor Dirk mentioned that the church is planning to advertise the Christmas Eve services in the new Selah newspaper. There will be two Christmas Eve services, a family service at 7:00 pm and communion service at 10:30 pm. Both will have candle lighting as part of the service. We will have our annual Christmas Carol singing service on December 30. After church on January 6 we will take down the Advent decorations

The next Worship Committee meeting will be held at 11:30 AM on January 10th at Daniel's Kitchen. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to contribute to planning of worship at Selah UMC.

Report by Kevin Dow and Margaret Antanaitis

### Honoring Susan Herdrich

In the past, Susan organized a display of crèches during advent. This year we want to continue that tradition in her memory. We are asking congregation members to bring their crèche for display at worship on Sunday, December 23 and leave them thru the Christmas Eve service. We will promise to display them carefully and treat them like the treasures they are. On a 3x5 card, please give us a short description of any interesting details about your crèche: where it originated, how long you have had it, etc....and include your name!



Gwen Chaplin

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## *Soup, Fruit, Beans or Boxed Stuffing*



Think holidays. Think Family. Think helping hungry families during the holidays. At Thanksgiving, the food bank gives turkeys and at Christmas, they give turkeys and ham. We can help with any non-perishable food donation during this cold weather season of holidays. The food bank especially needs any kind of canned soup, fruit or beans and for those special turkeys, boxed stuffing.

Whatever you can give, whatever you think will add to a festive dinner, will be gratefully received and given to the over 160 Selah area families who depend on the food bank **every** week as well as during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## Nurturing Group Updates



Dirk, Lyle and Shelley Von Essen met with the three existing nurturing groups recently to check in. Our goal was to see how they were doing and to see if they were seeking additional members. We also presented the concept of following the Class Meeting as a guide. We passed out a questionnaire that let us know what the thoughts and feelings were of existing members. After we received the results of the surveys, we met with the nurturing groups again and shared those results. We also concluded from responses that none the three groups were interested in the Class Meeting format at this time. Next, we focused on nurturing groups at the October all church potluck. We talked about nurturing groups and handed out the survey results. We handed out a sheet that told who was in what group and how often they met. And we handed out a survey that asked those who were interested in joining whether they wanted to be in a new group or join an existing group. Based upon those responses, 6 people have joined the existing nurturing groups. A new group has not been formed at this time. If you are interested and were not able to participate in the potluck, please give Shelley, Lyle or Dirk a call. Nurturing groups are alive and thriving in SUMC! Thank you, Lord



This month we will have two opportunities to help others have a better Christmas than they might otherwise have. We will again be accepting donations of toys for the Henry Beauchamp Community Center. Every year they have a big Christmas dinner and feed about 3000 people. All the children under age 12 receive a wrapped toy and a picture with Santa Claus. If you would like to donate a toy, you can bring it - unwrapped - to the church and put it under the tree in the Narthex. This year the party is on December 14; so the unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by December 9. There will also be opportunities to go to the center and wrap some presents. Talk to Cheryl if you have questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Additionally, we will again have an angel tree in the Sanctuary for a local family. Please take an angel and purchase the item on the angel. Bring back to church wrapped with the angel taped to the outside and place back under the tree. Please return by December 16. Thanks.

Cheryl Natland

### AFTERNOON CIRCLE

Our annual Holiday Bazaar was a great success. Thanks to all who helped with set up, take down, baking goodies for the sale and worked during the bazaar. The Men's Group cooked and sold our famous BBQ chicken. We appreciated Pastor Dirk being there to greet everyone & having fun along with us. A big & important day for SUMC. Thank you all for your help. Donna Ruud, President





## YOUTH NEWS

Youth group meets Sunday, December 2 at Wesley UMC from 4:30 to 6:30 pm

High School Winter Retreat at Lazy F will be December 28-31; the cost is \$195. The retreat is packed with fun snow activities like tubing, ice skating, as well as indoor activities such as baking and board games. Questions, call the camp at 509-962-2780



### NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- December 2 - Margaret Antainitis and Brandy Voight
- December 9 – Susan Eisenhower and Becky Johnson
- December 17 - Cheryl Natland and Debbie Jespersion (or Chuck Natland)
- December 23 - Joy McFarland and ??
- December 30 - Cheryl Natland and Debbie Jespersion (or Chuck Natland)

We still need more teacher assistants! You don't need to do any planning, you just need to be there to help the teacher. Please let Cheryl know if you are interested.

### Administrative Council Changes

Beginning in January, the makeup of our Administrative Council will change.

- There will be fewer meetings with no separate decision-making meetings.
  - The leadership Council will function similarly as the present Administrative Council; most business and all decisions will be conducted at the Church Council meeting.
  - All those on the 2019 list are members of the Council with the understanding that some members have special expertise – membership will be approved at the December 4 Charge Conference.
  - There will be no “recording secretary”, but a member present, perhaps on a rotating basis, will record the minutes at monthly meetings.
  - Everyone is invited to attend a Church Council meeting. Attendance is not limited to being a Council or Mission Team member.
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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

A big " Thank You!" to everyone that donated socks and underwear for the foster care program Voices of Yakima. The items were greatly appreciated.

**UMW Breakfast Breads Bake Sale, Sunday December 16, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall after the Worship Service. Homemade quick breads, rolls, and coffee cakes, and more! Let us do your holiday baking!**

There will be no UMW meeting in December.

**Save the Date - Valentine Tea will be February 9th. The theme is Gadgets you can't live without.**

Tressa Cummings Selah UMW President

### 7 Rivers District News

The Seven Rivers District (in case you didn't know, our church is part of the 7 Rivers District) has a facebook page. Find it by searching **7riversdistrictumc**

Facebook can be a wonderful method for keeping in touch and sharing activities going on throughout the district. Have you had a special worship service? Let us know! A church picnic? Post a photo!

Like our facebook page and be a part of the action by sharing on the page!

### FINANCE UPDATE

The grace of God surrounds us and provides us with what we need. As members of the United Methodist church we use the grace bestowed on us to reach out to others in our community and world. During this time of year we plan on how we will reach out to others and this includes making sure we have what we need to support the church and its missions. Shortly you will receive a letter asking you to consider how you can pledge to support the church this coming year. Please prayerfully consider your level of support for the church and submit your pledge.

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**METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY QUIZ**

- 1) What is the birthplace of John Wesley?**
  - a. Epworth      b. London      c. Cambridge
- 2) What is the birthdate of John Wesley on current calendars?**
  - a. May 24    b. June 17    c. June 28    d. July 5
- 3) What do we call the day John Wesley’s heart was “strangely warmed?”**
  - a. Burning Heart Sunday    b. Warm Wesley Day    c. Strange Sunday    d. Aldersgate Day
- 4) How many hymns and poems did Charles Wesley write?**
  - a. 400    b. 900    c. 4,000    d. 9,000
- 5) What new holiday was recognized at General Conference in 1912?**
  - a. Mother’s Day    b. Father’s Day    c. Memorial Day    d. Labor Day
- 6) Which is NOT a tip for good health from John Wesley?**
  - a. Take cold baths    b. Go to bed at 9 p.m. and rise at 4 or 5 a.m.    c. Stand while reading and writing    d. Exercise to the point of weariness
- 7) Where does “united” come from in the denomination’s name?**
  - a. It refers to the church’s roots in the United Kingdom    b. It is meant to encourage church members to stay together    c. It references the Evangelical United Brethren Church
- 8) The Christmas Conference took place in which city?**
  - a. New York    b. Baltimore    c. Philadelphia
- 9) At what public university did the first Wesley Foundation appear in 1913?**
  - a. University of Virginia Michigan    b. State University    c. University of Illinois    d. University of North Carolina
- 10) Name two of Francis Asbury’s horses.**
  - a. Peter and John    b. Seabiscuit and Hard Tack    c. Little Jane and Little Fox

(Answers on next page)



## Birthdays

- 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

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is incorrect, please let the church office know.



### Council on a Way Forward: Videos

The Commission on a Way Forward will hold a special general conference in February, 2019. The conference will act upon the final report completed by this Commission in July. In a series of short and simple videos, president of the Council of Bishops, Kenneth Carter, Jr., talks about the effect the three plans might have at the local church level. Here are links to two of these videos: addressing concerns he's heard; and explaining how the One Church Plan would be beneficial to local churches:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woO6R7vf3Zk&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgWuHKb6O7M&feature=youtu.be>

### Answers to Methodist Church Quiz:

- 1) a 2) c 3) d 4) d 5) a 6) d 7) c 8) b 9) c 10) c
-



## DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Church cleanup @ 9:00 am; Decorate Sanctuary and Narthex @ 9:00 am
- 2 UMM Breakfast @ 8:00 am, Fellowship Hall  
Worship @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary, **First Sunday of Advent**
- 4 **Charge Conference @6:00, Sanctuary**
- 5 Advent Study, @6:00 pm Simonson Room
- 6 Afternoon Circle, @1:00 Simonson Room
- 9 Worship @10:30 am Sanctuary, **Second Sunday of Advent**  
Bring unwrapped toys for Henry Beauchamp Community Center  
Potluck lunch after worship service
- 11 Trustees Meeting, @5:30 pm Simonson Room
- 12 Advent Study, @6:00 pm Simonson Room
- 14 Christmas Open House and Pot Luck @ 6:00, Parsonage
- 15 NW Harvest Volunteer Saturday @ 9:00am, warehouse
- 16 Worship @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary, **Third Sunday of Advent**  
UMW Breakfast Bread Sale, following church service  
Angel Tree gifts, wrapped and labeled, please, under the tree
- 19 Advent Study @ 6:00, Simonson Room
- 20 Home Zone Steering Committee, @ 1:00 pm Simonson Room
- 23 Worship @ 10:30, Sanctuary, **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- 23-25 Creche Display, Sanctuary
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:  
7:00 pm Family Service, Sanctuary  
10:30 pm Communion Service, Sanctuary
- 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- 30 Worship @ 10:30, Sanctuary – Christmas Carol Sing Service

**REMINDER:** January 6 Take down decorations after worship service

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## Selah United Methodist Church

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Growing Into the Image of Christ

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Cell phone: (509) 388-1218

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

Newsletter articles for the  
January newsletter are due  
December 23rd!

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**

“Be an Energized Church. Our hands in constant prayer.”