



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

February 2021



I have been asked numerous times about when the church will open and when we will be back having services in the sanctuary? The straightforward answer is- I don't know- Like most of you, I am ready to be back in the sanctuary every Sunday worshipping together under the same roof. But we will not open the church up again until it is certain we can worship safely together.

As we continue to march forward in this pandemic with no clear signs of normalcy, I believe as the church we can bring some normalcy back. This means continuing to do Church services on Zoom and adding in Kevin and Bill's recording of the hymns, continue to have Bible Study and religious classes, game nights, the daily check-in, Pub Theology and the list goes on. Does this bring us back to where we were prior to the pandemic? No, but what we are doing is continuing to build community, which is needed. We need each other during this time.

Starting Feb 3, I will be teaching a class on the Methodist Church. This is another opportunity to build community and at the same time to learn about the roots of the Methodist Church. It should be a good time of learning and fellowship. If you are interested in being in this class, please let me know.

Blessings, Pastor Dirk



Mission Outreach



Some days you need a hand, there are other days when we are called to lend a hand. words from President Biden's inaugural address.

Selah United Methodist Church has lived this wisdom throughout the year's long pandemic. Although our help has been minimal in recent months to the Selah Food Bank and Northwest Harvest, we have responded when called on for help. We monthly continue to help, when we can, by donating and preparing food for Camp Hope and Rod's House. And now, we have our own little Free Small Food Pantry for *anyone* in the community who needs something to help them get by. With our usual generosity, the box is full. Many warm clothes have been donated to Rod's House. We have given our time to the National Guard and their COVID testing program, distributed masks for the Yakima health department and shot baskets with students at the Selah High School gym during lunchtime. We have *always* been there...some days, we give a helping hand to each other; there are countless other days that our SUMC congregation lends their helping hands freely to others.

FREE FOOD PANTRY READY TO GO



Inspired by Wesley's food pantry, Chuck and Ron worked together to put together our on free food pantry. You are welcome to drop off contributions by leaving them in the Simonson Room if you have access to the church or next to the pantry. Suggested items include: vegetables, fruit, chili, beans spaghetti sauce, cereal, hamburger, chicken, tuna helpers, canned tuna, canned chicken, soups, broth, rice, rice-a-roni, ramen noodles, pasta, toothbrush, toothpaste. Please no items in glass, just canned or packaged.

If you need something, help yourself – or if you know someone who could use a little help, let them know.





WORSHIP NEWS

The Worship Team (Committee) met on January 12th to plan for the upcoming Lenten season. We continue to wrestle with trying to plan interesting and different worship experiences in the midst of restrictions on use of our primary worship space. In preparation for Christmas Eve, we distributed candles, so the congregation could join in the sharing of the light, and the response was positive. We have moved to recording a musical number which is used as an offertory during the Sunday services. We are including singing along with the accompaniment that Bill Walton has been providing, and the response has been positive. At its January meeting, the Church Council approved the purchase of a ONE LICENSE subscription, which will enable us to use some of the newer songs from *The Faith We Sing and Worship & Song*.

We continue to be concerned about “attendance” at worship. Worship attendance on ZOOM has been generally consistent between 30 and 35 persons each Sunday, but we are aware that there are members of the congregation who don’t have internet access or equipment to participate virtually. We are also unable to reach out to attract new worshippers to join us as long as strangers can’t access our ZOOM worship. We discussed ways we might publicize the Sunday worship link, so others might join us. If you know of someone who is not worshipping, please share the link for Sunday worship that is found near the back of this Messenger.

February 17th is Ash Wednesday, and there will be an Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 PM. It can be accessed by using the Sunday morning worship link. Dirk is planning an interesting Ash Wednesday service, so please plan to join us.

March 28th is Palm/Passion Sunday, and the Worship Team is planning a drive-thru palm distribution on Saturday the 27th. Watch for details in next month’s Messenger.

Maundy Thursday falls on April 1st this year (no fooling), and we are planning a distribution of Communion kits consisting of a communion wafer and small cup of grape juice hermetically sealed. Details next month. Members of the United Methodist Men’s group are working on a place to display Easter flowers, so you will want to look for details on that next month also.

We continue to look forward to the day when we will be able to gather again for worship, but we don’t want to endanger anyone’s health. Vaccinations are coming, but we don’t know how long it will be until it is safe to gather. Please keep the church in your prayers as we try to walk this fine line.



SELAH UMW



February around Superbowl Sunday United Methodist Women always bring attention to Human Trafficking. Why

Superbowl Sunday? One of the biggest sporting events where in normal setting the visitors, and entertainment sector of the

host city reap in millions of dollars. Human Traffickers take advantage of this opportunity through forced labor and sexual entertainment.

January 2020 marked the 20th Anniversary of passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in the United States. This Protection Act allows the for the prosecution of traffickers, increased prevention measures within the United States and assists foreign countries with their efforts to combat trafficking and protection of those who were trafficked. How has human trafficking been affected by the COVID 19 pandemic? As we know in our own community there has been an increase in domestic violence. Human Trafficking has increased due to the advancement in technology around the world. Since people are working from home, the online sexual exploitation of children has really spread. The Philippines is one nation where online sexual exploitation has rapidly increased. All you need is a cheap webcam or a cellphone and some sort of electronic payment method and you are up and running. I know this is a sobering issue, but it is a social justice issue that happens in our own back yard. Human Trafficking is the third largest crime in the United States, Drug Sales and Sale of weapons come in first and second. Let's us work together to help in the prevention of Human Trafficking by being aware of unusual activity in our neighborhoods.

The Valentine Tea is cancelled for this year due to gathering restrictions and the church being closed. Our group has come up with another way of celebrating the tea. It's a surprise! Be watching as it gets closer to Valentine's Day.

We will meet February 19th via zoom at 7:00 p.m. The program will be prayer and self-denial. All are welcome.

Tressa Cummings, Selah UMW President



Baby News From the Schramms



We are so happy to share the news.
We are grandparents to a new granddaughter.

June Elizabeth Schramm

Born: January 8th, 2021

Weight: 10 pounds

Length: 20 inches

Proud parents: Steven and Kelli Schramm

Proud grandparents: Don and Connie
Schramm



SUMC Scholarship Application Available

The application for the 2021 Bud Hall Memorial Scholarship is posted on the SUMC Facebook page and on the SUMC website, which can be reached using this link: www.selahumc.org/s/scholarship
The application can be downloaded and printed from either site.

To qualify for this scholarship students must be actively involved in their church and meet the other requirements on the application. Instructions for submitting are on the application. April 15, 2021 is the deadline for submission.

SUMC Scholarship Team

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Elaine Stanovsky

Beloved in Christ, I have carried you in my heart and prayers every waking moment through these seasons of pandemic, racial reckoning, civic unrest and violent attack on the U.S. Capitol. As we lament the image of a flag of the Confederacy waved brazenly in the Capitol, and brace for more extremist violence there and in state capitols across the country, the burden is heavy on people of conscience, who live in faith, hope and love through such demanding events.



I pray for the outgoing president, Mr. Trump, and for the incoming president, Mr. Biden, for elected and appointed government servants in every place and role. May the good in each prevail, and their sin be quenched.

A word to People and Pastors of Color in The United Methodist Church

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way...into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. Ephesians 4:15-16

We have a long journey ahead. It is a testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit that you know and offer your gifts to the whole body of the church. It is not your responsibility to endure disrespect in the church, or to teach me and my white siblings how our words and actions harm and exclude. And yet, out of your love of God and in undying hope of a new day, you generously continue in relationship as the Church strives to grow in faith, service and witness. May God build the church up by showing us how our parts can work properly together in love.

I pray for our nation and its people. May values of respect, freedom, equity and fairness lead the way through our present distress and danger. I pray for people whose anger has spilled out in violence, anger over things both righteous and evil.

I want to bring a hopeful message to the Church. But the hope of this season is only visible through thick clouds. May we walk by the light of faith, in service to love until hope rises again, unobstructed.

As we celebrate the life and leadership of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I bring you a message that I know will be hard. It is rooted and grounded in my love for our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, and my love of all God's people.

NOW IS THE TIME. THIS IS THE PLACE. WE ARE THE PEOPLE to overturn white privilege and supremacy in our hearts, our minds and in our communities and to build a beloved community of racial justice and equity.

NOW IS THE TIME to dismantle oppressive systems of institutional racism, which

violate the dignity and sanctity of God's creation

- divide communities
- deform the body of Christ
- isolate local churches from their neighbors and
- silence the prophetic witness of Christians to God's justice and equity.

White racism arrived in the New World with Christopher Columbus in 1492, long before the Pilgrims or the Declaration of Independence elevated the value of freedom. It took root and



has not been rooted out. It is alive and well in America. Now, cell phone videos of police violence against unarmed Black people expose persistent racism for all to see. Race is on the public agenda in a new and urgent way. Protests, demands, personal testimonies, documentaries and webinars have opened a window into how pervasive racism is in the life of our nation.

Compared to people of color, white people enjoy the “good life” disproportionately by nearly every measure: education, health care, environmental health, criminal justice and incarceration, voting rights, business ownership, employment, income, housing, and life expectancy, to name some. This is the privilege white people enjoy in America. The patterns of privilege and poverty in America are embedded in institutions, norms, practices and systems that do not depend upon individual bias, hatred or mistreatment. They have a life of their own.

The rest of the Bishop’s letter can be read [on the GNW Area website](#)

February Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Cody Natland
- 3 Ron Johnson
Tereica Kaumheimer
Lynn Hoselton
- 9 Brandy Voight
- 10 Brianna Smith
- 12 Curtis Natland
- 14 Linda Drew
Dorothy Justice
- 15 Destiny Baynes
- 17 Debbie Jesperson
Noah Zalewski
- 26 Garrett Brown
Dillon Hulse

Anniversaries

No one in our church family tied the knot in February





FEBUARY CALENDAR

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

- 1 First Day of **Black History Month**
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 via Zoom.
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 3 Being United Methodists Study with Pastor Dirk via Zoom @ 6:00 pm
Use Check-in link on next page to join Zoom.
- 4 Pub Theology via Zoom @ 6:00 pm Continuing every Thursday,
See link on next page to join Zoom Meeting
- 7 Bible Study with Pastor Dirk via Zoom @ 9:15 am Continuing every Sunday
Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am; **Fifth Sunday of Epiphany**
Communion – remember bread and juice
See link on next page to join via Zoom
- 9 Book Bunch via Zoom @ 7:00 pm. Future meeting dates to be decided.
See link on next page to join Zoom meeting.
- 14 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
Transfiguration Sunday - Happy Valentines Day
- 15 **President's Day**
- 16 UMW meeting via Zoom @ 7:00 pm
Use morning check-in link on next page
Shrove Tuesday – have pancakes for dinner at home
- 17 **Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00 pm via Zoom**
Use Sunday Worship link on next page
- 21 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
First Sunday of Lent
- 23 Book Bunch via Zoom @ 7:00 pm
Camp Hope Dinner prepared and delivered by Wesley UMC.
Watch for food requests from SUMC, if needed, the week before.
- 24 Church Council meeting via Zoom @ 6:00 pm
- 24 **Newsletter articles due (short month; don't be late with articles)**
- 28 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
Second Sunday of Lent



ZOOM LINKS

SUMC Sunday Service & Bible Study

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/692949701?pwd=LzlNSWYyT1BGUzNhVHc0ME9ydnBLQT09>

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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbmlNQOT09>

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)

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 March newsletter are due February 24

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.”