



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

February 2023

Mark's Remarks

God's back. Have you noticed that? Have you seen it? Do you even look for it? I find myself thinking about it frequently: God's back.

Now you may be wondering how I, as a preacher, could have ever let God leave in the first place. But I am not thinking about God's departure and return. Instead, I have in mind the situation implied in Exodus when Moses was allowed to see God's presence in his own life. Moses said, "Please show me your glorious presence."

The Lord said, "I'll make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I'll proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord.' I will be kind to whomever I wish to be kind, and I will have compassion to whomever I wish to be compassionate. But," the Lord said, "you can't see my face because no one can see me and live." The Lord said, "Here is a place near me where you will stand beside the rock. As my glorious presence passes by, I'll set you in a gap in the rock, and I'll cover you with my hand until I've passed by. Then I'll take away my hand, and you will see my back, but my face won't be visible." (Ex. 33:18-23)

This encounter came at a time when Moses needed assurance he was leading the children of Israel according to God's plan. Moses wanted to know that God was indeed with him. The assurance he sought was to see God. And Moses caught sight of God's back. Seeing God from behind meant God was indeed present and Moses was headed in the right direction, because following means facing the back of the one doing the leading. With that kind of evidence from God, Moses had only to follow God's back.

It's easy to find imagery of the face of God. Portraits of Jesus abound in church. But what of God's back? That, too, is an image to seek out in our lives. When we study God's back, we find ourselves living and walking in the way of a disciple--a Christ follower. Focusing attention on how we follow Christ is a traditional practice during Lent. Lent is a season of forty days (not counting Sundays) prior to Easter. During Lent, Christians are invited to address the circumstances, habits and patterns in life which hinder walking and growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The ancient practice of "giving it up for Lent" is a way of recognizing and removing any known distractions which keep us from devoting more attention to God. This is a season for focusing on God's back.



(Continued from page 1)

Page 2

I will never be the world-changing leader Moses was, but I do understand his need for the reassuring presence of God's back. Like Moses, I find myself leading a community of people on a journey of faith. Like Moses, I hear some individuals yearning for a return to Egypt and the way things used to be. Like Moses, I hear other voices expressing the desire to camp out where we presently find ourselves because at least we know what we have. I'm not sure, but I'm guessing Moses also had a few insisting they pick up the pace and leave stragglers behind. And like Moses, I know that if we go back, or stay put, or forge ahead for the sake of speed, we risk losing sight of God's back. It means missing out on God's promises and plans for the future. It means settling for something less than God's purpose for this community of people on a journey of faith.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22, I invite you to follow Jesus' path through the season of Lent with me. Let us walk together in such a way that we continue growing in faith and moving ahead in mission and ministry as we follow God's lead. Listen for the voice of God. Look for the presence of God. And labor toward the destination God has in store for us as we keep sight of God's back. Keeping God before us, we simply follow where God leads.

I'll see you in church,

Mark

MISSION OUTREACH

Our Mission Outreach will be the same and continuous for January and February. The cold weather needs continue to be posted for February; please check the narthex bulletin board. You always contribute generously as you consider the needs of the time. You may have noticed that our pantry in the entry way of the church has been heavily used, so please consider products for there as well. Cereal continues to be a favorite item that disappears almost as soon as it is dropped off.



Selah Naches Food Bank

The Selah Naches Food Bank is dependent on everyone in the Selah Naches area (and beyond) for the food and hygiene items that they distribute. Their shelves seem full, but they quickly deplete some of their more popular non-perishable food items so we need to keep helping with whatever we can give each month to the sanctuary grocery basket. They are slowly outgrowing their space at the Civic Center and are anxious to move into the new



permanent Selah Naches Food Bank in the Spring. They always need **cereals, boxed meals like Hamburger Helper or Rice a Roni, chili, beans, soups, canned fruit and vegetables, juices, flour, sugar and other baking items**. Also, hygiene items especially including toothbrushes and toothpaste. So, again this month is Your Choice month. Thank you for your always generous donations to our local food bank. The civic center food bank is open Monday and Friday from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

February is Your Choice Months See the posted wish list on the bulletin board.

Rod's House

Rod's House volunteers and meal partners have stayed busy providing warm nourishing meals at two sites, Rods House on Naches Ave, and the Days Inn on N 1st, called their Extreme Weather site. They provide not only meals, but showers, clothing and laundry facilities, counseling, and safety for homeless and at-risk youth ages 13-24. Rods House is also hoping to open a permanent safe home in 2023. Each Wednesday, the volunteers post a Wish List on Facebook for donations and it hasn't changed the last few weeks. You can donate in the Simonson Room to the bin labeled Rod's House or you can order from the Rod's House Amazon Wishlist and have items shipped directly to Rod's House, 204 S Naches Ave, Yakima. They have a separate donation site to which you can donate directly to the Rod's House volunteers. Donation accepted daily at 314 Cherry Ave, Suite 119, Yakima.

Here is the most recent Wish List Wednesday list:

- **Toothbrushes and toothpaste**
- **Shampoo and conditioner, full and travel size**
- **Brushes and combs**
- **NEW underwear, men and women**
- **Sweatshirts and sweatpants**
- **Blankets and sleeping bags**
- **Hand and foot warmers**

Camp Hope

Camp Hope tents and temporary shelters are full to the max. At one point, they were sheltering 250 homeless people. Wesley cooks and bakers provide a delicious hot meal every 4th Tuesday. Selah congregation helps as they are able with some food items and always with delivery and serving. It is cold, but the hungry residents come bundled with grateful



(Continued from Page 3)

Page 4

smiles for the dinner that they know will fuel their cold hunger. The Camp Hope website also has a long wish list if you want to donate directly to the Camp Hope entrance at 2300 E. Birch Street, Yakima behind the U-Haul trailer center. The long list is posted on the narthex bulletin board.

Top of their list are **hand and foot warmers and warm clothes.**

Their shortened wish list of food and kitchen items includes:



- **Bottled water**
- **Pancake mix and syrup**
- **Instant Oatmeal**
- **Ground coffee and powdered fixings**
- **Pre-packaged snacks**
- **Large cans of chili, and Campbell soups**
- **Napkins**
- **Paper towels**
- **Paper Plates and bowls - Plastic utensils (forks, knives and spoons)**
- **Large black garbage bags**
- **Food service gloves, disposable gloves**

Additionally, they always need undergarments for men and women and children, bed supplies, personal hygiene items, pet items and money for gasoline for their minivan and vehicles. Please know that some of our members have generously given of their time to transport members to and from Sunday worship. Some are braving the very cold temperatures in the evening to pass out handwarmers to residents who are warming, as they can, by bonfires outside at Camp Hope. Many of the residents are beginning to recognize familiar faces from Selah United Methodist Church as well as our loving mission outreach.

SUMC Scholarship Application Available

The application for the 2023 Bud Hall Memorial Scholarship is posted on the SUMC Facebook page and on the SUMC website, which can be reached using at: selahumc.org/s/2023-Scholarship-Form.pdf The application can be downloaded and printed from either site. Copies are also available on the bulletin board in the Narthex. 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. Because of the state of the economy the amount of money available for the 2023 scholarship is quite small compared to the last two years. April 15, 2023 is the deadline for submission. SUMC Scholarship Team



WORSHIP TEAM REPORT



The Worship Team for Selah UMC met on January 11th in the Simonson Room to discuss plans for worship leading up to Easter. The meeting started with a review of worship events since the last meeting. There was a lot of appreciation expressed about the way the Sanctuary looked during the Advent season. Mark commented that we had decorated the Sanctuary progressively and wondered if there had been any feedback from the

congregation. No one on the team had heard any negative comments. We also discussed the Manger Scene Display. It was lightly attended by folks from outside the congregation, but people seemed to find it meaningful. It was noted that the weather had been snowy, and that probably kept some people away, and we questioned the need for some signage to draw attention from outside the congregation.

We also discussed that there is no opportunity for those worshipping on Zoom to interact with each other. The most practical idea seems to be to let the Tech Team turn individual's mics on after the Benediction so people who are worshipping online can visit with each other.

We also discussed Lent/Easter services and activities. Ash Wednesday falls on February 22nd this year. There will be an Ash Wednesday service that will start at 7:00 PM. Maundy Thursday is April 6th and there will be a service at 7:00 PM. There will also be a Good Friday service this year, also held at 7:00 PM. Sunrise on Easter Sunday is at 6:26 AM, and the service will start about that time. We also discussed the Easter Sanctuary, with some thoughts about draping the cross (black for Lent and white for Easter season). More planning for Easter will be done at the next team meeting.

We want to start an Altar Guild, whose responsibility will be to care for the Sanctuary. That would include de-cluttering, dusting, and helping the Sanctuary be a "holy" place. The next meeting will be held February 15th at 1:00 in the afternoon at the Simonson Room. All meetings are open meetings and anyone with suggestions for worship are encouraged to attend and share their ideas.

Kevin Dow



BOOK BUNCH TO LOOK AT LOVE --- AND SALVATION



In an homage to Valentine's Day, the February Book Bunch will add a dash of romance to its Christian fiction reading entrées. The Bunch will feast on this New York Times, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly bestselling novel: ***The Masterpiece*** (2019) by Francine Rivers

o From a review by *Romantic Times*: "Richly detailed characters with traumatic pasts are woven together with biblical truths and redemptive themes. . . ."

o Used print copies sell on eBay for under \$6.00 + tax with free shipping.

o Regular sessions are the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month via Zoom.

_NOTE: With Valentine's Day falling on the second Tuesday, Book Bunch will meet once during February. The Bunch *will* meet, per its regular schedule, the fourth Tuesday (02/28). If tempted, consider participating for discussion of any single novel.

Get in touch with Lee Hamilton for details at leehamilton88@gmail.com; 509.907.9074.



Selah United Women in Faith

Our Sweet Dreams Pillow collection was greatly appreciated by the Voices for Children organization. Thank you for your

donations.



Our group decided to host the February potluck instead of having a Valentine Tea. We are inviting the congregation to plan on staying after the worship service on February 12th for a Valentine Potluck February 12th. Please bring a potluck dish or salad. United Women in Faith will provide dessert. The guest speaker will be Mike Kay from Camp Hope

There will be time to make Valentine Cards for our Shut ins, Cookie decorating for the kids, and Valentine Bingo for everyone. We hope to see you there!



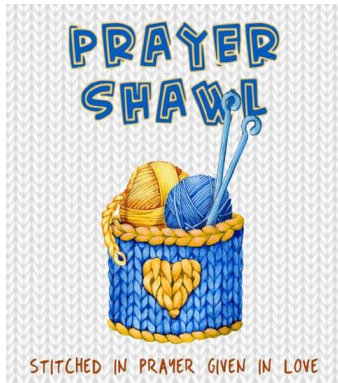


(Continued from Page 6)

Page 7

(We would like to collect some of the items listed in January's Newsletter and posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for Camp Hope, to send with Mike. We will have a collection basket in the Narthex the first Sunday in February). Selah Women in Faith will not meet in February. Our next meeting will be March 21st.

Tressa Cummings, President, Selah United Women in Faith



THANK YOU

Yesterday, February 24, Pastor Mark brought a prayer shawl for Don, blessed by the congregation and full of hugs. It's a lovely, expertly created shawl made precious by the caring it represents. We both thank you for the shawl and all of the calls and cards. We feel a great deal of support from all of you.

Gwen and Don

Sunday School help is needed!



Now that we are getting a few kids coming to church on many Sundays, we have started to have Sunday School available for them. Our problem is that we need more volunteers to help out. We need to have a teacher and an assistant each Sunday. Ideally, we would like to have enough volunteers that each person only needs to teach once a month, and we can attend worship the other Sundays. As of now, Margaret and I are the only teachers. We do have several wonderful assistants, but most of them are also on the tech team so their schedules vary. So I am asking you to prayerfully consider helping out as a teacher or assistant. It is easy, there is a great curriculum book with easy stories and crafts. And the kids are great! Men and women are welcome to join us! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex. Thank you!

Cheryl Natland

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

We all are aware that February is a short month, which will lessen the days I have to prepare the newsletter after articles are submitted. The deadline is the normal deadline of February 25 and my goal is to finish the newsletter by the 28th. Please, have articles emailed to me no later than the 25th, but earlier would be better if you can. Thank you.

Becky Johnson



Opportunity to Serve; Chancel Guild Forming (By Lisa Williams)

Please feel most welcome in your Father's house.

I love this greeting used in a Methodist Church of Kenya. It's a reminder the church is God's house, not ours. It's a place of joy, sanctuary and worship. A space to be treated with respect and reverence.

To help ensure the sanctuary at Selah UMC is welcoming and reflects our love of God, a Chancel Guild is being formed. Working behind the scenes, the Chancel Guild will ensure the sanctuary is at its best for worship each week. While the scope of this group still is being defined, tasks will include caring for the woodwork, dusting, cleaning/pressing linens communion, and tidying the pews. These housekeeping duties are done for the glory of God. If you are interesting in participating in the guild, please leave a note with the church office or talk to Lisa Williams.

The Grace of Les Misérables to resume after three years

by Kevin Dow

Three years ago, I was preparing to lead a study on *Les Misérables*. I had gotten a copy of the non-musical version of the movie, and a group of us gathered in the upper Home Zone room with some popcorn and watched the movie in preparation for the next six weeks of the study. The next week, the church was closed down, with no activities allowed inside the building. Some of you have asked if we were ever going to finish it. Well, I have an answer.

On Monday, February 20th at 6:00 PM, I am inviting everyone who is interested to join us in the Upper Room to watch the movie. Then for the next six Sundays (February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2), at 6:00 PM, we will study *The Grace of Les Misérables*. The first four Sundays we will look at four of the main characters in the story, Valjean, Javert, Fantine, and Marius and Cosette (okay, that's two characters). Week five is about the group gathered at the barricade, and week six is about The Blessed Garden: A Hopeful Vision.

How is grace at work in the story? Where do we see grace at work, maybe even in the lives of folk outside the story?

I hope you will join us!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner Returns

We are bringing back the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner after the pandemic hiatus. Tuesday, February 21st at 6:00 pm we will have pancakes topped with whatever people bring to put on them. Bring your favorite topping and we will see who has the most adventurous taste buds. Chuck Natland volunteered the Men's Group to head up this venture back in to "normalcy" at SUMC. Please join us.



TO BE OR NOT TO BE A RECONCILING CHURCH

From Tereica Kaumheimer: As I am sure many are aware, I have not been a fan of becoming a Reconciling Church. Not for the reasons some of you believe, but because I want us to continue to do the work of Jesus without labels and things that divide one another. I am not prejudice, I don't care what label each of us may fall under, what abilities, orientations, nationality, color, shape, shade, etc., etc. (In listing these, I'm sure I'm leaving something out and that is the problem with labeling each other.) On September 6, 2020, I posted on Facebook a post that I am the author of that I call, "I am proud to be an American" on September 6, 2020. The following is a part of that post.

I am proud to be an American. I am glad that I have a right to my opinions, regardless of what others think. I respect the opinions of others and choose not to damn others because of those opinions. I will continue to be "Facebook Friends" with those I disagree with, because I choose to be your friend on Facebook because you have meaning in my life. I am not proud of all Americans. Those who choose to try and divide our country because of our politics, religion, race, sexuality, status, finance, popularity... (that list can go on for days) frustrate, irritate and often make me angry. I have the right to choose who I vote for, or not to vote at all. I have the freedom to worship my God in any way I choose and the right to respect others to do the same. I have the privilege to have friends of all races and choose not to let their color of skin colorblind me into thinking anyone is any better than someone else because of skin tone. I love my husband (some days more than others... 😊) and I respect those who choose to love their partner(s) as long as it is with consenting partners who have the ability to choose that lifestyle. I don't make a big public display of my feelings for Dave and I prefer not to see others making out in public regardless of their sexual orientation. I don't choose whether or not to have people in my life because of their status. I choose to have friends who treat others and myself with respect. I don't care how much or



how little money others have. I don't want or expect anyone to share what they have with me and/or my loved ones. I like people based on the relationship we have with one another, not on how popular or unknown they are to others.

I am a proud member of the Selah United Methodist Church. I love the fact that our little church family works very hard to help others and do what we can to make the lives of others a little better by our actions. I appreciate the fact that we are all unique and feel and have opinions that are different from one another. We respect one another and love God and that is what is important to me.

(I have shared that Facebook post again on January 22, 2023 for those who would like to see the post in full). I've been told that "in their experience" being against the Reconciling Church means that I am prejudice, even though I don't have a problem with others sexual orientation. The reason I am hesitant to support being a Reconciling Church as I don't want "that" to become the focus of our church. To quote Mark Williams' Sermon on January 22, 2023. I want us to focus on "the main thing... to follow Christ to allow our heart and mind to be transformed by the love of God." Let's not be distracted by labels that society tries to put on us. Let's be a church that focus' on What Would Jesus Do? Our Church family is already doing lots of great things that I believe that Jesus wants us to do.

So, my question is, "What will change if we become a "Reconciling Church"? Will our focus be on accepting others and their labels? Will we be changing logos, our mission statement, adding rainbow flags to our sanctuary? What does it mean to have our church in a "Book" that says we are a Reconciling Church. Will the church services' focus and letting others know we accept everyone, or God and the lessons he wants us to learn? We have had at least two people come in and use the time set aside for sermons to encourage us to become a Reconciling Church. I think it's important that we make an informed decision. Let's invite a person or people from a church that has decided not become a reconciling church and find out why they made that decision. I'd like to talk with a pastor and/or congregation that went through the process of becoming a Reconciling Church and what has changed in their church. I don't think it's appropriate for us to do this during church in place of a sermon. Let's sit down with one another and allow us feel free to ask the uncomfortable questions, to feel heard and understood. Let's agree to listen and hear one another with an open mind. I would love for us to get through this process and back to doing what Jesus wants us to do.

Greetings. My name is Pete Bollinger. I have recently and happily joined Selah UMC as a transfer from Grace Community UMC in Shreveport, LA. I am retired and moved here at the end of last year to be close to my son Nick and his wife Sarah who live just down the street from me in Selah. My beloved wife, Cari, passed away in Shreveport from cancer about a year and a half ago.



One of the primary reasons I joined Selah UMC was that I discovered that this wonderful church had begun exploring becoming a Reconciling Church. Going to the website of the church I read:

“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**.”

That is a claim that often churches speak but not all live up to. The United Methodist church I came from recently completed the Reconciling process and had voted by a large margin to become a Reconciling Church. The members of the church deeply considered this in view of being a UM church that lives in “the buckle of the Bible Belt” where often strong racism and anti-gay feelings persist. But like Selah UMC, Grace Community believed in “respectful acceptance of ALL.” One way we could show it was by living it and making it known by becoming a Reconciling Church.

My decision to support this was based on my long and positive experiences of the kind and loving people from the LGBTQ+ community in Shreveport. My wife Cari was an artist and worked with the Shreveport Arts Community. We both met artists of incredible talent, many who were gay and lesbian. My friend, Jamie, was one such artist. He crafted beautiful paintings, often with spiritual themes. He created two beautiful “manger scenes” for me and Cari out of wood and found materials. I still have one of his paintings of Jesus hanging in my home. Jamie loved Jesus and we invited him to Grace but he said, “I have been to every church in this town, but none of them will accept me as I am.” That broke my heart!

Jamie finally found a home in another UM Church. An associate Pastor at this church, who knew his heart and his gifts, befriended him. The Pastor invited him into the arts ministry and Jamie eventually became a leader in their prayer ministry. A few years later, when my wife Cari was diagnosed with cancer, we held a prayer gathering for her with our Pastor. Many church members joined us as Cari began her 10-year journey with cancer. Jamie, a dear friend to us both, showed up and quietly prayed for us during the entire service.

Another friend comes to mind, Micki. She came to the church because she had heard we “might” be accepting of her as a lesbian. She had deep spiritual yearnings. After a membership orientation, Micki asked me a pointed question. “Will I really be accepted here?” I had to be honest. I said, “I accept you completely as does the Pastor and the staff, and most of our members will but there are some here in the church who will not.” Micki and her partner Darlene became a beloved part of the family. Micki became a key leader both in our music and administrative ministries and helped us move to becoming a Reconciling Church.

I do believe that by taking the step of becoming a Reconciling Church we are saying clearly and unambiguously as a church that we, “open our hearts in respectful acceptance of ALL.” I know that is the invitation Jesus makes.



From Mary Turley:

I found it interesting that we had Pastor Austin Atkinson be a guest speaker on January 15th . . . right after I had been asked to write something for our February newsletter on becoming a Reconciling Church. I found his sermon very enlightening, him very engaging and took a few simple note . . . (which I have heard often) Love God, Love thy neighbor, and God's love is for everyone.

I have known many persons over my life that are in the LGBTQ+ community. I dated a man in high school who was gay, although I didn't know it at the time. He tried to live a "normal" life and eventually got married and had a child. The marriage didn't last and he moved to San Francisco to live his life his way. I found out many years later that he went to Reno and committed suicide. I remember that his family wasn't close and his foster family was very religious and did not believe in homosexuality...which ended the relationship between the two. I also met several people at work over the years who were gay. The ones I knew became special people to me. One was an informal mentor whom I still talk to once in a while and a couple others became friends. I also have two 1st cousins who are gay . . . both are great people who I love deeply.

For me, it doesn't matter that they are part of the LGBTQ+ community. I also believe that people who are diverse in ethnicity, race, education level, age, socio-economic condition, political party affiliation, or physical or mental ability should be able to come to our church and feel welcome to come as they are and worship God. Life is hard for all of us from time to time and often they get more than their fair share.

My observation is that this is a very welcoming church already . . . I felt that from the first time I entered on a Sunday morning almost a year ago . . . and still feel it every time I walk in the doors. We all deserve a loving, compassionate and SAFE place to worship . . . which I believe SUMC is.

New Bishop Leading Our Conference

I needed to fill an extra page in the newsletter, so here is information about our new Bishop:

Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth, Ed.D., is assigned as the resident bishop of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church (encompassing the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest Conferences), effective January 1, 2023. An ordained minister, author, educator, organizational development consultant, public speaker, and entrepreneurial coach for nonprofits, before his election, Bridgeforth most recently served as the director of innovation and communications for the California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist



Church (UMC). For over 30 years, Bridgeforth has been a trusted leader, offering his gifts and expertise in various pastoral, administrative, and leadership capacities.

As a spiritual leader, he has served as lead pastor in four congregations in Los Angeles and Orange Counties in California. Those pastorates ranged from predominantly African American congregations in the heart of the Crenshaw District to multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and multi-site ministries in the inner-city and suburban sectors of Santa Ana.

For eight years (2008-2015), he served as a district superintendent and dean of the cabinet in the California-Pacific Conference (Los Angeles and West Districts), one of the most diverse regions in United Methodism with language and cultural ministries from over twenty regions of the world. The geography spanned coastal, mountain, rural, and desert communities. Within the Methodist Church, he has been a candidacy mentor for those discerning a call to ministry and a supervising elder for those in the provisional and full connection review processes. He was elected a clergy delegate to general and jurisdictional conferences in 2008, 2012, 2016, 2019, and 2020. In 2016, 2019, and 2020, he was the first elected clergy delegate for the California-Pacific Conference. Those elections led him to serve on the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (now Wespah) and as a member of the Western Jurisdiction's committee on nominations.

From 2013 to 2016, Bridgeforth served as president of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) and co-convener of the Inter-Ethnic Strategy Development Group. Along with service in the UMC, Bridgeforth began work as a course instructor at the University of La Verne's Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies in 2003. In 2016, he was named director of academic programs and outreach. During this time, he taught courses, led workshops, updated policies, recruited faculty, consulted on core curriculum, and created the framework for a community-based lay and clergy continuing education program. Bridgeforth is the founder of 20/20 Leadership Lessons, Inc. Through 20/20 Leadership Lessons; he provides coaching for clergy and nonprofit leaders and consultations for nonprofit leaders, organizations, and their boards on policies, structures, and behaviors that lead to vitality and efficiency.

A native of Decatur, Alabama, Bridgeforth is a U.S. Air Force veteran who earned a bachelor's degree in religion from Samford University, a Master of Divinity degree from the Claremont School of Theology (CST), and an educational doctorate in organizational leadership from Pepperdine University. Along with appointments to local church contexts, he also worked at his alma mater CST, as an admissions counselor and as director of alumni and church relations.

As a nonprofit leader and consultant, he is passionate about a wide range of social justice issues, including restorative justice, homelessness, and hunger. He has successfully restructured complex organizations to meet the current and future challenges of fulfilling their



ongoing mission, building upon organizational values through purposeful listening to constituent groups and data gathering. He has led these organizations to create consensus around a renewed vision, innovative program areas, and building the financial strength, organizational processes, and teams to support them.

Bridgeforth is married to Christopher Hucks-Ortiz. Hucks-Ortiz is a public health and research professional with demonstrated leadership in the U.S. domestic and global field of infectious disease focused on HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, STIs, and Hepatitis prevention and intervention. He has successfully secured public funds to support research and health programs targeting key vulnerable populations. They reside in the greater Seattle area

FEBRUARY Celebrations

Birthdays

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

There are no anniversaries this month

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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlnNQT09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 9:30 a.m. in Upper Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 2 Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 pm in Simonson Room
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 5 United Methodist Men Breakfast @8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Holy Communion 5th Sunday after the Epiphany See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 8 Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 9:30 a.m. in Upper Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 12 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
6th Sunday after the Epiphany; See link on prior page to join via Zoom
Potluck in Fellowship Hall After Worship Service
- 14 Valentine's Day 
- 15 Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 9:30 a.m. in Upper Room
Worship Team Meeting @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
Church Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 19 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Transfiguration Sunday; See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 20 President's Day
The Grace of Les Misérables Study Begins @ 6:00 pm in Upper Room
- 21 Shrove Tuesday – Pancake dinner @ 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
- 22 Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 9:30 a.m. in Upper Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 pm in Simonson Room
Ash Wednesday Worship Service @ 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Use Sunday Morning Zoon link on prior page
- 25 Newsletter Articles Due
- 26 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
First Sunday of Lent; See link on prior page to join via Zoom
The Grace of Les Misérables Study @6:00 pm in Upper Room
- 28 Camp Hope Dinner, prepared with help by Wesley UMC delivered by SUMC
Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom Use meeting link on prior page

Selah United Methodist Church

1061 Selah Loop Road
PO Box 545
Selah WA 98942

Phone: 509-697-7504
Email: selahumc@gmail.com

Growing Into the Image of Christ

Pastor Mark Williams Contact Information:

Cell phone: (509)628-6405

Email: aha.experience@icloud.com

Newsletter articles for the March newsletter are due **February 25**

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.”