



The Messenger

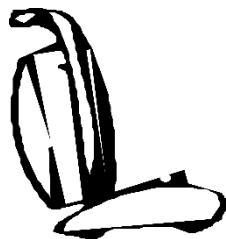


February 2024

Selah United Methodist Church

Mark's Remarks

The church is full of vacuum carpet cleaners. There were 14 the last time I counted. Two of them were on loan because none of the others worked efficiently. Those two will be returned to their rightful home because we recently repaired the only vacuum suitable for the expanses of carpet and the amount of vacuum cleaning required around here. Another vacuum cleaner is used for lifting stains and spills. A third is great for cleaning up debris from construction and repairwork. The other 9...? I don't know where they all come from, but they keep showing up in the building.



It appears most of them are cast-offs showing signs of neglect or overuse and abuse. A few are no longer functional. Although the church is meant to be a community where cast-offs find a home and the broken receive a second chance, let's agree the church is meant to be a place for people, not appliances. I'm sure anyone bringing a vacuum to the church has the best of intentions, but we're running out of room to store them.

Since the "giving it up" season of Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on February 14, let's agree to give up the practice of accumulating cast-off vacuums. We'll "give up" surplus vacuums and, in observance of Jesus' invitation to take up our cross, maybe we can "take up" a new practice. I suggest we each identify someone to join us in worship and fellowship for the weeks of February, both before and after the start of Lent.

The church is supposed to be a place of inclusion for those who are disconnected, ignored, unappreciated, and left out. I propose that we each take up our cross and take up the practice of invitation, welcome and hospitality. Let's help others know they are "*well come*" as we offer them hospitality. Hospitality is a gift that we are called to share. Hospitality is something our church is really good at. Hospitality offers a healing influence for those who need a place to belong, or who could use a second chance. There's a strong connection between hospitality and healing. It's right there in the word: *hospital-ity*.

Who do you know who would benefit from the healing gift of hospitality? Who needs to be invited, to feel welcome, to feel included in something meaningful? There is no greater invitation, inclusion and meaning than to offer someone a faith-centered connection with Jesus and with our church family.



In the mean time, please stop bringing more vacuum cleaners to the church. And no more coffee makers either. We've already got 11 of those. Oops, no, make that 12...

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Mark

MISSION OUTREACH

Selah Naches Food Bank

After our first real cold weekend in January, I visited the new Selah Naches Food Bank expecting to see lines of people at the grand opening. The food bank was not as crowded as I had expected, but it gave one of their lead volunteers a chance to show me around and talk about how things had evolved in just the month that it has been partially open. I have said it before, but what a full and well-organized operation! We are a small part of this organization, but we can continue to feel that we are a worthwhile part of the food bank mission with our monthly grocery basket donations.

Sarah, the volunteer walking me around had so many varied stories of generosity and how the food bank acquires their food. Here is much of what I learned. The food bank contracts with many supply companies and organizations including Northwest Harvest, much like a grocery store, for the usual items, some off-brand, like canned food and cereal or boxed dinners. I was so impressed by the donated items from many local sources and beyond: milk donated and delivered from a company in the Lower Valley and perishable foods including oranges, cucumbers, potatoes, and corn from the Westside. Lots of cartons of eggs. They do keep abreast of the expiration and diminished quality of all these foods. There was a large shelf of bagged shelled walnuts, from another group. You might be surprised to hear that Grocery Outlet freezes and donates some of its overstock of chicken and other meats and that McDonald's similarly sends some of their frozen extras to the food bank. Walmart received an item that they did not order of single-wrapped Jimmy Dean Sausage patties which they sent to the food bank. You can see that it is a full community response.



I have wondered about how frequently a family could come to the food bank...just once a month which means that a family must decide what they need most each visit for a month, a true planning task for the family food buyer. I am not sure that I could think ahead of all the grocery needs for a whole month. They are allowed to fill one grocery basket. Last month, before it officially opened, the food bank served over 400 families which multiplied by the number in a family is a lot of people.



According to state rules, the food bank cannot buy desserts or treats from their suppliers which is why they always welcome donated baking items including boxed cake, cookie and brownie mixes. Those can always be one of our monthly grocery basket donations located in the back Susanna Room. Other items that are always popular for which the food bank has low shelf inventory are condiments like catsup, mustard, relish and especially salad dressings. You can go to the Selah Naches Website or Facebook pages for a list of items that "are always in need": boxed meals, flour, sugar, baking items, chili, canned fruit and vegetables and juice. This month, you have lots of choices, but if you prefer to concentrate on a monthly suggestion, that's great! Know that whatever non-perishable you donate will help fill the shelves and bring smiles to the volunteers at the Selah Naches Food Bank who are dedicated to reducing hunger in the Selah and Naches area. Thank you.

FEBRUARY IS ANY BAKING ITEM AND CONDIMENT MONTH

Camp Hope

Needless to say, it is very cold at Camp Hope, too. The more than 200 residents, including families, have had a rough time over the past few weeks trying to stay warm and dry and while walking to the dining tent to receive a hot meal. Many of the residents have beds in the converted steel shipping containers. The dorm-like settings have beds and a small storage place for belongings. These containers have heat in the cold weather and fans in hot weather. Many men, though, sleep in large tents. These are not your family camping tents, but are thick heavy-duty military tents some of which were used for troops during the Iraq and Afghan wars. They have heaters at each end and are said to be warm if you have plenty of blankets and sleeping bags. Camp Hope is asking for donations of blankets, sleeping bags and towels. There is a bin in the Susanna Room if you might have some warm bedding to donate. Thank you.

ROD'S HOUSE



Newsflash: With the recent severe cold temperatures, the staff has extended the closing times and opened the doors on the weekends and holidays. Rod's House staff and volunteers on Naches Ave have been feeding 50 young people each weekday. The doors to the yellow house open at noon and they then offer warm food, showers, clean clothes and counseling until 6:00 p.m., the usual closing time. As the noon hour approaches, those waiting for a hot meal congregate on the front porch which is somewhat protected from the elements. Rod's House staff are so



(Continued from page 3)

grateful for their Meal Partners. For several years, SUMC small groups have provided regular meals, even through the pandemic when shelters were closed and sandwiches and snacks were the best we could do. SUMC served lunch bags weekly for 28 weeks. Here is an appreciation recently posted.



Rod's House

January 8 at 6:00 PM · 🌐



🙏 We are incredibly grateful for your generosity over the holidays! Thanks to your kind donations, we are able to continue our mission of serving and supporting the youth and young adults in the Yakima Valley. The tireless efforts of our meal partners ensure that no young person goes without a meal.

Thank you for being a part of this work! 🙌

#mealpartner #mealpartners #community #nonprofit #Yakima #yakimawa #sunnyside #sunnysidewa #givingback #buildcommunity #endyouthhomelessness



Afternoon Circle



The Ladies Circle meets Thursday, Feb. 1 at 1:00 PM in the Simonson Room. We will be finalizing plans for "Souper Bowl" Sunday, Feb. 11. We are changing things a bit as this is also potluck day. We have decided to feed you soup at church instead of you taking it home. However, if there is soup left, we will provide containers for you to take some home. We find we need help with desserts if a few of you would like to bring something, otherwise soup, rolls & crackers will be provided.

All gals are invited to join us at our meeting Feb. 1. Hosting this time will be Tereica Kaumheimer.

Donna Ruud, President



Worship Update



February 14 is the first day of Lent—a season of repentance, fasting and preparation prior to Easter. Before Lent begins we will hold a **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**, February 13, 6:00 p.m. We observe the start of Lent with an **Ash Wednesday Worship Service** February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

An Upcoming Events flier highlighting all the **Lent and Easter services** (including Holy Week events and the community Easter breakfast) is available in the Narthex. The flier is a nice resource to use to invite friends, family and neighbors to join us for worship.

Scout Sunday is observed February 11. We have invited our Girl Scout Troop to join us for worship. This is an opportunity to thank the troop members and leaders for their service and involvement with SUMC. (It's also the start of the Girl Scout Cookie season.)

The next Worship team meeting is February 14, 1 pm, in the Simonson Room.

Selah United Women in Faith



February is already here. Where did January go? We will see if the groundhog sees his shadow. A Big "Thank You!" for the donation of shoes and boots, jackets, socks, underwear, blankets, and night lights. Anna from Voices for Children picked the items up and was so thankful for the donations. We had 16 pairs of shoes and boots.

January is Human Trafficking awareness month, sorry to say it doesn't get much publicity. I like to bring it to our attention around the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl is one of the biggest events that attract human trafficking. Think about the event and the ways someone can profit from Human Trafficking. Forced labor, sex trafficking, cyber scams to name a few. The United States has the highest rate of Human Trafficking taking place and why is that the case. Give this information some thought.

Sunday, February 4th after church, Selah United Women in Faith will meet in the Simonson Room to assemble Valentine Cards. We invite anyone interested in helping us with this task to join us. Many hands make lite work.

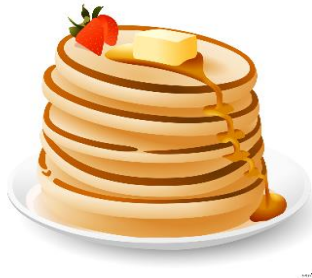
Sunday, February 18th at 12:15 will be our next meeting in the Simonson Room. Lunch provided. We will be doing a bible study on the Lords Prayer along with planning some upcoming activities and general meeting items. All women are welcome to join us.

Tressa Cummings, Selah United Women in Faith President



Bud Hall Scholarship

The application for the 2024 Scholarship is available on the SUMC Members Facebook page and will be on our website soon. Applications are due back to the scholarship team no later than April 15, 2024



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner will be February 13 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Pancakes will be provided; bring your favorite topping to share.

BOOK BUNCH READING TALLY



The Bunch has read a total of **26** books together since it began during the pandemic. We keep adding tempting titles to our "books to consider" list. We enjoy a variety of Christian inspired fiction, and recently read two non-fiction Christian books. At this rate, the Bunch will likely make it to its 30th book this year. But the pace is pretty leisurely and the books fairly easy. Virtual meetings are generally held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm.

Reminder: At its two regularly scheduled February meetings, the Bunch will read the bestseller, *Bridge to Haven* (2014) by Francine Rivers. Participants should get their copies soon. Used paperbacks can be bought online for under \$5. The novel is also available as a Kindle e-book.

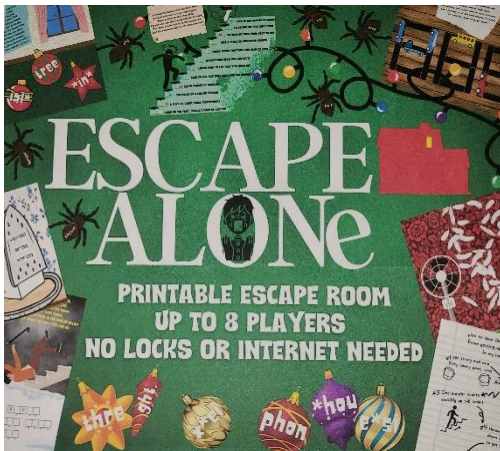
Schedule: Tue 2/13 and Tue. 2/27 at 7:00 pm on Zoom (church meeting link). Open to ALL. Please email Lee Hamilton for details -- lee.hamilton88@gmail.com

Lee Hamilton



4th Friday Fellowship Night, Escape if you can

Mark your calendars and plan to have fun while in an Escape Room!



HOME ALONE Escape Room Description: Burglars want to rob your house, will you defend it? This is an adventure for kids, families and adults as they trick Harv and Larry, evade capture, and finally turn those burglars over to the police at the end! Use logic and creative thinking to place toy cars just right for the perfect trap, study plans to drop paint cans from the balcony, and create an origami tree house to make your escape! A large group can race each other! This test of wits includes 13 challenges to solve in an immersive escape room atmosphere. Clues to the answers deck the walls and

in envelopes players open as the game goes on. Game play is about 60 minutes, with recommended ages 8 and up. Younger participants can help find clues and be included lots of ways. Hints are also included to help younger players and make the game stress free. A fun challenge at the end finally gets the burglars to jail! Older players can be challenged to solve without using any hints while asking them, "You guys give up? Or are you thirsty for more?" What's the story? Your family is off to Paris, but they left you behind! Two burglars, Harv and Larry, are determined to rob your house while everyone is away. They are almost to the doors! You need to find the key to open the upstairs window and find a cell phone to call the cops, all while keeping one step ahead of Harv and Larry! You see a broken tv and some train tracks. Hurry, this is your house, you have to defend it!

When: Friday, February 23, 2024 at 6 pm

Where: Selah United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall

What to bring:

- Pizza to share

- Sundae toppings

- Skills to help solve puzzles

Any questions, or want to help set up, etc. Give me a call.

Tereica Kaumheimer 509-930-0318



Cookies Needed



A big thank you to several who have donated delicious cookies for Sunday coffee time. The Book Bunch group met recently & baked chocolate chip cookies to add to our cookie jar. Thank you gals, we appreciate every single yummy chocolate chip! Since we go through about 5 dozen cookies every Sunday, I am always in need. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway if you can help out. Signing with a friend works too. Thank you.

Donna Ruud

S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY FEBRUARY

1. Ex. 30-32; Acts 8
2. Ex. 33-34; Ps. 16; Acts 9
3. Ex. 35-36; Acts 10
4. Ex. 37-38; Ps. 19; Acts 11
5. Ex. 39-40; Ps. 15; Acts 12
6. Lev. 1-3; Acts 13
7. Lev. 4-6; Acts 14
8. Lev. 7-9; Acts 15
9. Lev. 10-12; Acts 16
10. Lev. 13-14; Acts 17
11. Lev. 15-17; Acts 18
12. Lev. 18-19; Ps. 13; Acts 19
13. Lev. 20-22; Acts 20
14. Lev. 23-24; Ps. 24; Acts 21
15. Lev. 25; Ps. 25-26; Acts 22
16. Lev. 26-27; Acts 23
17. Num. 1-2; Acts 24
18. Num. 3-4; Acts 25
19. Num. 5-6; Ps. 22; Acts 26
20. Num. 7; Ps. 23; Acts 27
21. Num. 8-9; Acts 28
22. Num. 10-11; Ps. 27; Mark 1
23. Num. 12-13; Ps. 90; Mark 2
24. Num. 14-16; Mark 3
25. Num. 17-18; Ps. 29; Mark 4
26. Num. 19-20; Ps. 28; Mark 5
27. Num. 21-23; Mark 6-7
28. Num. 24-27; 1 Cor. 13

The S.O.A.P. Journal Method

Scripture – Read the passage & copy a verse, a word or a phrase that captures your attention.

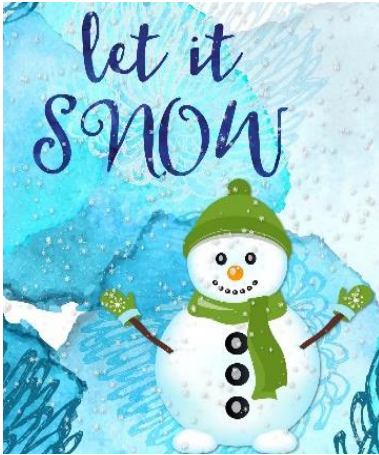
Observation – Write a brief summary of what speaks to you from the passage.

Application – Write down how this Bible passage applies to you right now.

Pray – Complete your study time by writing a prayer based on your reading.



Winter Reminder



When the Selah School District is closed due to inclement weather...church meetings are canceled as well. And, if worship services & meetings are scheduled, but it doesn't feel safe/comfortable for you to drive, please stay home. Use your best judgement.

Also, if you are not feeling well, again please stay home and take care of yourself. Contact the church office if there is something the church might be able to help you with.

Say Cheese



Lots of activities, lots of new faces and lots of photos being taken at SUMC. We love sharing the photos on our Facebook pages, the church website, fliers, brochures, announcements slides....but we want to know if you are comfortable with your photo being shared.

If you do not have a signed photo release form on file with the church, please drop by the office to complete a form. If you would rather not have your photo shared, we want to know that as well. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Williams or Pastor Mark.

FINANCE REPORT

We can certainly be proud of ourselves for raising funds to pay for the new HVAC system without having to borrow any money as well as pay off the existing loan we had with the Faith Foundation and start a capital project fund to help with future projects. That being said, our giving to support the ministry of our church was down the last few years and was not sufficient to cover our monthly expenses. Because we had a cushion in our checking account, we were able to pay all our bills, but have used up most of that cushion. Please give thoughtful consideration to your financial support for the ministry of our church and give as you are able.



February Celebrations

Birthdays

Anniversaries

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

There are no anniversaries to report



If you are relatively new to the church (began attending in last couple years) or have not seen your birthday or anniversary listed, please let Becky know your birthday and anniversary so we can celebrate with you. You can email her at bjoh461@fairpoint.net or call 509-969-7565

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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbmlNQOT09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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

Remember to follow SUMC on Facebook and Instagram...share with friends.



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Ladies Circle @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Kitchen, Selah
- 4 UMM Men's Breakfast @ 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on prior page
Holy Communion Sunday 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
- 7 Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 8 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. location TBD
- 11 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on prior page
Transfiguration Sunday – Scout Sunday
Souper Sunday Potluck following worship in the Fellowship Hall
Afternoon Circle providing soup/bread; bring salad or dessert to share
- 13 **Shrove Tuesday** Pancake Feed @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall – Pancakes will be provided; bring topping to share
Book Bunch @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom; use meeting link on prior page
- 14 Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Worship Team Meeting @ 1:00 p.m.
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary
- 15 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. location TBD
- 18 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on prior page
1st Sunday in Lent
United Women in Faith following worship @ 12:15 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 19 **Presidents Day**
- 21 Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
Church Council @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 22 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. location TBD
- 23 **4th Friday Fun Night** @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 25 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on prior page
2nd Sunday in Lent
Newsletter Article Due
- 27 Book Bunch @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom; use meeting link on prior page
Camp Hope Dinner organized and prepared by Wesley UMC and SUMC
- 28 Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 29 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. location TBD

Selah United Methodist Church

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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.”