



# The Messenger



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## Selah United Methodist Church

January 2022

My name is Jim Simpson and by now, most of you know that I am the interim pastor here at Selah UMC. I am a retired United Methodist pastor who has been serving in United Methodist Churches for most of the last 40 years. I have served in Eastern Washington at Pomeroy, Leavenworth, and Grandview, and in Western Washington at Chehalis, Parkland and Bethany. Then in retirement, I served at Fernhill and Bethany and now Selah.

What more do you want to know? I have been involved in the United Methodist Camping program since before going to seminary. I grew up in South Tacoma and was baptized at Asbury Methodist Church, attending there through high school. When I left home to join the Air Force, I also left the church. For several years I wandered all over the physical, social, and recreational world. God dragged me back into the church in the late 70s and in 1979 I finally recognized God's call. That happened at Lazy F Camp, and it included meeting my wife, Gail. The rest, as it is said, is history.

I finished my bachelor's degree at Central, spent a year at Boston University School of Theology, and then transferred to the School of Theology at Claremont for 3 years, where I finished, graduating with both my Master of Divinity and My Doctor of Ministry degrees in 1985. I was ordained Deacon in 1984 while still in school and was ordained Elder in 1987 while serving my first appointment. During our college years, Gail worked full time as an Occupational Therapist for California Children's Services, and we had our first 2 children. Andrea was the first and MegAnn was our second. Gary was born while we were appointed to our first church.

So, I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren and have had a blessed and wonderful life as a father, a husband, and a pastor. I am truly blessed to now be the pastor at Selah UMC for a little while. This is just a little of who I am, but it gives you a quick outline. I am a storyteller, and you'll probably hear more about my life and my growth in faith as we get to know each other. Thank you for your wonderful welcome. I look forward to getting to know you all while working toward a good future for Selah United Methodist Church. May God bless our time together.

Yours in Christ's Work,

Jim Simpson



## Mission Outreach

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Winter and severe cold temperatures are hitting the area hard at the beginning of the new year. The assistance and giving of the community continues in abundance despite the severe weather upon us. Our little Free Pantry stays replenished by our congregation and our Selah Food Basket in the Sanctuary continues to be filled month after month and emptied with nonperishable food items that go to the Selah Food Bank. The shelves at the food bank appear full with a variety of boxed and canned goods, winter produce and even toiletries. NW Harvest and the the local community provide to the food bank helping the volunteers to serve the many, many Selah area people who depend on the food bank. SUMC is a small provider, but the volunteers are always so grateful for our generosity.

### **January and February are Boxed Dinner and Cereal Months or your choice of any non-perishable food item**

The Rod's House Severe Weather Shelter through the generosity of Motel 6 is in full operation. Each night, twenty-four homeless young people are given rooms with beds and showers plus a warm meal provided by the Meal Partners. Our church has partnered and provided chili, baked potatoes with condiments and dessert each month and weekly sandwiches during the summer months throughout the pandemic.

The cooks and bakers at Wesley UMC plan, organize, prepare and deliver a regular monthly meal for the 100 or more residents at Camp Hope and 50 or more residents at Noah's Ark in Wapato. Preparing for that many and delivering a hot meal is not an easy endeavor, but it happens every month. The Wesley ladies count on the SUMC donations of food contributions and delivery assistance. Our part again may seem small, but our involvement helps their large commitment to these homeless populations.

During December, the social worker at Selah High School, knowing our desire to help local students, reached out to our congregation for shoes and warm clothes for one of her students. Another student, tearfully told her how her four younger siblings would not have Christmas this year. Our Ladies Circle heard about this family and donated generously.

Our huge giving spirit continues as it always has. Your love of our neighbors is boundless. In love and gratitude to each of you who give so much, your time and food and money all with love to keep our ministry going.



## WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Worship Team didn't meet during the month of December, but on December 1<sup>st</sup> we welcomed the third pastor for the year 2021. Jim Simpson was appointed to serve as an interim Pastor until June 2022. Jim is a retired pastor who lives in Lakewood, Washington. He is no stranger to the East side of the state, having served churches at Pomeroy, Leavenworth and Grandview. His son-in-law is the pastor at Wesley in Yakima, and his wife grew up in that church. We need to remember to wear our name tags to worship services and meetings, so Jim has an opportunity to learn our names.

The theme for Advent was "Coming Home" with topics of "Time to Go Home", "The Fear of Home", "The Joy of Home", "The Blessing of Home" and "Welcome Home". It seemed to be an especially meaningful series, because for the majority of the year we were unable to worship in the church building because of COVID. Christmas Eve there was indeed a sense of welcoming back.

COVID continues to cause anxiety about health in the community. Members of Selah UMC have been faithful about wearing masks and staying distanced from others in an effort to protect the health of each of us. That is the essence of Christianity: to love one another just as God has loved us.

We want to recognize and thank Gwen Chaplin, Elaine Dow, and Dorothy Munroe, who helped gather materials and assemble the Advent Wreath this year. Other folks came and helped to decorate the pillars in the Sanctuary, placed garland on the Communion rail and the railing in the balcony, and Don and Connie Schramm got the Christmas Tree. We were intending to have an item in the bulletin explaining the symbols that are part of the Advent wreath, but it never appeared. The wreath is fashioned using a model set forth years ago by Mary Barrett. The description reads: *"Rich in religious symbolism, the Advent wreath combines fresh and dried herbs. Rosemary is the legendary herb that changed its flowers from white to blue in Mary's honor; lavender represents purity and virtue; sage is the herb of immortality; rue is the herb of grace and symbol of repentance; and thyme is an herb of the manger. Multiflora rose hips and dried blooms of yarrow, cockscomb and tansy add color."*

The Team has scheduled a meeting for 2 o'clock January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Simonson Room. The meeting is open to all folks who have an interest in worship or have suggestions to make.

Kevin Dow





## To the congregation of Selah United Methodist Church:

During the past two years we have had the same people serving on the Church Council since there were no changes made last year due to the Covid interruption in our Church operations. Some people actually served an extra year from their original 3-year commitment and to those individuals goes a great big THANK YOU! This meant that this year the Team responsible for recruiting new faces to the council had double duty to do in several positions. Thanks for the work and efforts accomplished by that Team.

Thank you to the people that answered the call to serve on various teams of the Church Council. We have 12 new names on the list joining in different area of leadership. We have three important positions that remain unfilled at this time. We need a secretary for the Church Council. This person would attend the Council meetings each month, take notes and submit minutes of the meeting to be kept on record at the Church. Help is available with the minutes if necessary. We try to recruit for a 3-year term, but can be flexible if needed.

Also, we are in need of a 3rd person to serve on the Trustees team. This would be a 2-year term, ending at the close of 2023. This person would attend the Council meetings each month. It needs to be known that the trustees don't have to be the people doing all the "work" to get things done and fixed around the Church. This is the team that we can bring issues to and they can determine what should be done and "who you gonna call" to see that the work is accomplished.

We do not have a Membership secretary and do need one. This person is responsible to maintaining membership records, recording new members, baptisms, transfers of people requesting moves to different Churches and deaths of members.

We do not have Youth Group team leader, but at this time don't have any youth so will look to fill this position at a later time.

If you would be willing to serve in any of these positions, please let Pastor Jim or me (Gail Davis) know. The Council meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

Thanks all,  
Gail Davis  
Council Chairperson



## We Are A Giving Group



We have again come through as a Giving Congregation. We had a large amount of toys delivered to the Henry Beauchamp Center to help the youngest children they serve have a Merry Christmas by receiving a gift. When the toys were delivered, the people at the Center reported that they serve over 1000 children in the Yakima area. That's a lot of happy kids!! Thank you to all who brought gifts to share. You are all appreciated!!

From "The Angel Tree small group"

## Happy New Year!

Selah UMW continues to meet via zoom. Hoping to meet in person April. We would like to thank everyone who bought something from our bake sale. The money will go to our mission work here in our community and abroad to support the mission work UMW does in other countries. In December our unit put together Christmas presents for teen girls living at Ridgeview in Group home in Yakima.

We received an email from one of the missionaries working in Cambodia . Helen de Leon Comarce. I will pin the to the bulletin board in the Narthex. It is a very interesting letter.

Cheryl Natland and I delivered the socks and underwear, flashlight, clocks, and night light to the Voices for Children. We met with Anna one of the paid employees to drop off the items. Voices for Children moved into a larger space and Cheryl and I were given a tour. During the tour Anna mentioned they could use some more volunteers to sort, help put together Buddy bags or rotate clothes in and out of the store. They have enough space where a small group of people can come in and work. We will set a date and ask for volunteers. Voices for Children are in need of Plain T Shirts (all sizes), socks, underwear (all sizes) Boxers. We will put a collection box in the Narthex and post a list of items they need attached to it. The \* items are the things they really need. We are so proud of our Church for the outreach in the community. January 18th at 7:00 pm will be our next meeting via zoom.



Tressa Cummings, Selah UMW President



# JANUARY Celebrations

## Birthdays

- 1 Connie Schramm
- 1 Dorothy Munroe
- 1 Rex Van Beek
- 4 Susan Eisenhower
- 6 Tommy Helms
- 6 Jesus Gonzales
- 7 Haley Coburn
- 11 Jean Hobbs
- 12 Sandra Shelton
- 15 Tina Remy
- 16 Steven Schramm
- 18 Rhonda Gonzales
- 24 Miella Miller
- 26 Carol Williams
- 28 Dirk Robinson
- 31 Lisa Rene Schramm Schilperoort

## Anniversaries

- 7 Chuck & Jean Cummings
- 18 Jim & Melissa Harp
- 29 Matt & Kathryn Mead



Thank you Afternoon Circle for the Christmas cookies that were delivered to many church members last month.

### ZOOM LINKS

#### SUMC Sunday Service

**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)

#### THURSDAY CHECK-IN

**10:00 am THURSDAY check-in. Join Zoom:**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/669186246?pwd=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbmlNQ09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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



## ***JANUARY CALENDAR***

- 1 Happy New Year  
Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
- 2 UMM Breakfast @ 8:00 am, Fellowship Hall  
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Holy Communion; Epiphany Sunday  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 4 Coffee Hour at Sundance Espresso @ 9:30 am; Continuing every Tuesday
- 6 Epiphany  
Weekly Check-in @ 10:00 am via Zoom; Continuing every Thursday  
See link on prior page to join Zoom  
Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 pm, Simonson Room  
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm, Wandering Hop 508 N 20th Avenue, Yakima
- 9 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary and via Zoom  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom  
1st Sunday after Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord
- 11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day  
Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom; use check-in link from prior page to join
- 16 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary and via Zoom  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
- 18 - 25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 18 UMW Meeting @ 7:00 pm via Zoom, use check-in link on prior page
- 19 Church Council @ 6:00 pm, Simonson Room
- 23 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary and via Zoom  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 25 Newsletter Articles Due  
Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom; use check-in link from prior page to join  
Camp Hope Dinner, prepared and delivered by Wesley with help from SUMC
- 30 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary and via Zoom  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
See link on prior page to join via Zoom

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Growing Into the Image of Christ

Pastor Jim Simpson Contact Information:

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Email: [grampajim2014@gmail.com](mailto:grampajim2014@gmail.com)

Newsletter articles for the  
February newsletter are due  
January 25

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.”