



promise I won't immediately put you on a committee. But I will help you find a place where you might live into these gifts for the Kin-dom of God and enjoy the ministry which only you, and Holy Spirit within you, can provide. We are all meant to be a gift, given by God.

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Mark

MISSION OUTREACH

Rod's House

We delivered a car full of 27 Angel Tree gifts to Rod's House. The staff at Rod's House were delighted and so appreciative of all the presents so beautifully wrapped. Due to Covid, this was their first Christmas celebration since 2019 so, needless to say, they were excited to be able to have a festive gathering again, staff and teens. Thank you to everyone who generously helped give these young people of Rod's House, who live in a harsh reality, a little Merry Christmas.

Camp Hope

Our second holiday-giving project was to fill donated stockings for the 18 children who reside at Camp Hope. The stockings were a variety of sizes and colors that were filled with smaller stocking-sized fun things like pens and pencils, notepads, small toys and games, books, gloves, socks, and lots of holiday treats. SUMC Santas had a good time thinking of clever small things for children who live at Camp Hope. It would have been fun to watch these 4 to 17-year-olds sift through their own special stocking. We had our own Joshua Elf helping us pass out stockings to the excited children at Camp Hope.

Follow up to stocking stuffing day: the tables in the Simonson room were filled high with so many donations of stocking stuffers; small toys, games, crayons and pens, toothbrushes and paste, chips, gloves and holiday candy that once the 18 or more stockings were filled to the brim, there was still a table full of holiday items left. We pondered where would be the best place to share our bounty. We took four full grocery bags to the YWCA where they currently have about 20 children staying in their domestic violence shelter.

Children and young people at Rod's House, Camp Hope, and the YWCA felt the Christmas love and generosity of the Selah United Methodist Church this holiday. This congregation, too, felt the love of giving during this special time of year. Thank you everyone!





Selah Naches Food Bank

By mid-December, the new food bank was in full operation, busy serving more than 50 area residents on Mondays and Fridays. It was a well-oiled operation directing people as they came through the front door, checking their name in the registry, giving them a cart and guiding them through the many shelves of the food bank. Many volunteers were available to help take carts to their cars. It makes one smile as you watch curious customers come through the new doors and look wide-eyed at the walls of food and how organized and well-planned the new experience of choosing food for their family has become.

In January, there are no special requests, choose what you like, give what you can. The staff is always so appreciative of all that we give.

January is Your Choice Month Choose what you like on a cold winter day

WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Worship Team met at the Simonson Room on Wednesday, November 29th at Noon to discuss planning for Advent/Christmas services. Most of the things discussed have already come to pass.

We discussed having families in the church to light the candles and one member of the family being the Liturgist for that day. We discussed the “Greening” of the Sanctuary, which was held on December 2nd. We discussed having a collection of evergreen trees in the Chancel and one tree near the door on the Organ side of the Sanctuary for Angel Tree “ornaments”. We also discussed having the artificial tree in the Narthex for collection of gifts for our various projects, like Rod’s House and the Beauchamp Center. We discussed the Nativity Display and Open House which happened starting December 17th. We discussed plans for the “Longest Night” service for those who are grieving or who just need to slow down, meditate and relax to get away from the pressures of the season. We affirmed that we would celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent on December 24th, even though it is also Christmas Eve. That would make four worship services on the 24th: 10:30 morning worship, 4:00 service focused specifically on families with children, a 7:00 service with candlelight, carols and communion, and an 11:00 service also with candlelight, carols and communion for those who appreciate the symbolism of celebrating near midnight, close to the symbolic birth of the Christ child.

December 31st will be “**Flannel Sunday**”. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. A similar activity was planned for last year, but heaving of the sidewalk outside the Fellowship Hall doors prevented us from opening the doors. Dress informally (flannel shirts or jammies) and come prepared for a fun time. (There may even be food involved). **January 7th** we will be remembering the **Baptism of Jesus**. The next team meeting will be on January 17th at Noon in the Worship Arts Room. Everyone is invited to join us as we review the season.

-- Kevin Dow



Afternoon Circle

Weather permitting Ladies Circle meeting will be January 4th at 1:00 PM in the Simonson Room. All ladies are invited to join us. Our hosts this month are Sandy Shelton & Dorothy Munroe. We hope you can come.

On December 19th Circle gals met to plate & package Christmas cookies & candy we had made. We delivered them to nine of our church family members that can't always make it to church. We've been doing this since the Covid shut in time & sure enjoy our visits with them & see their smiles.

Donna Ruud, President

Selah United Women in Faith



Happy New Year! Our group has been so blessed by support of our congregations' generous donations to Voices for Children. Thank you for the shoes!

A big "Thank You" for all those who baked goodies for the Bake Sale. We made around \$400.00. This is our only fundraiser and the money will help us support missionaries Katherine Parker - Nepal and Elyn Dubberly - El Salvador, the United Women in Faith

National Mission Institutions such as Atlantic Street Center in Seattle and Tacoma Community in Tacoma. Thank You!

We put together 8 Christmas Bags for Ridgeview Group Home for Girls here in Yakima. We have been doing this for about 5 years. Ridgeview is a juvenile group home for girls that have been incarcerated.

Sunday, January 21, 2024 is our next meeting at 12:15 in Simonson Room. We will be planning activities for this coming year.

Tressa Cummings, Selah United Women in Faith President



January Pot Luck — Chili Cook Off

Our next after church potluck, January 14, is slated to feature a friendly Chili Cook Off. You are invited to prepare your favorite chili recipe to share. A People's Choice Award will be presented. If you don't have a chili recipe to prepare...bring a side dish or rolls/cornbread.

Tip for enjoying chili competition: Bring a muffin tin. You can sample several different chili entries at once.



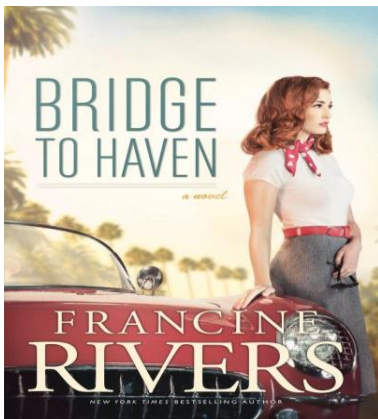
BOOK BUNCH IS READING AND....BAKING

The first activity of the New Year, open to all, is a Bake & Take.

On Sunday, **January 7**, right after worship service, the Bunch will head down to the kitchen for a Bake & Take. The group will bake chocolate chip cookies, a favorite treat of Mrs. Kip from the novel, *The Extraordinary Lives of Mrs. Kip* (Bunch recently read this novel). We will bake and taste "a bunch" of cookies, and take some home. But our main goal is to stash "a bunch" of cookies in the church freezer for upcoming fellowship times. If you have a favorite chocolate chip recipe, just show up with bakeware, baking supplies, pre-made dough and/or baked cookies ready to share. Everyone is encouraged to bring an individual beverage.

The Bunch also enjoys reading! So, at its meeting on Tuesday, **January 9**, via Zoom, the Bunch will return to *Bad Girls of the Bible* for a third and final discussion. Due to full calendars, the Bunch will not have another meeting in January.

In February, meetings will resume as regularly scheduled, i.e., the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The next novel selected is *Bridge to Haven* (2014) by award-winning author, Francine Rivers. The story, set in Hollywood, in the 1950s, revolves



around a troubled 17-year old who becomes a starlet --- but that's just the beginning. Last year, the Bunch readers were quite inspired by another Rivers novel, *The Masterpiece*. About *Bridge to Haven*, Publishers Weekly review noted, "This story arc will be particularly resonant for Christian readers, but Rivers has the writing ability to reel in others who enjoy a well-told tale of redemption." <https://www.publishersweekly.com/9781414368184>

Here's a link to a description of this Christian-inspired novel, which is set in 1957

Hollywood: <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/18228202>

Book Bunch invites you to come read and discuss good Christian fiction with an easy-going group. Check with Lee Hamilton to learn more. We welcome all to join, drop-in and suggest future novels.

Lee Hamilton



4th Friday Fellowship Night, Escape if you can

For the January 26 “4th Friday Fellowship” we will try our first team Escape Room game. The game theme is “Home Alone” from the favorite Christmas Movie. Everyone is encouraged to join in the fun. (You might want to watch the movie beforehand...but it is not



required.) Bring a snack to share.

The 4th Friday Fellowship night on December 22 was a fun time of eating mac and cheese and making graham cracker gingerbread houses. Such a pleasant evening!

S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY JANUARY

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Gen. 1-2; Luke 1 | 17. Gen. 42-43; Ps. 5; Luke 17 |
| 2. Gen. 3-5; Luke 2 | 18. Gen. 44-46; Luke 18 |
| 3. Gen. 6-8; Luke 3 | 19. Gen. 47-48; Ps. 10; Luke 19 |
| 4. Gen. 9-11; Luke 4 | 20. Gen. 49-50; Ps. 8; Luke 20 |
| 5. Gen. 12-14; Luke 5 | 21. Ex. 1-2; Ps. 88; Luke 21 |
| 6. Gen. 15-17; Luke 6 | 22. Ex. 3-5; Luke 22 |
| 7. Gen. 18-19; Ps. 3; Luke 7 | 23. Ex. 6-8; Luke 23 |
| 8. Gen. 20-22; Luke 8 | 24. Ex. 9-11; Luke 24 |
| 9. Gen. 23-24; Luke 9 | 25. Ex. 12-13; Ps. 21; Acts 1 |
| 10. Gen. 25-26; Ps. 6; Luke 10 | 26. Ex. 14-16; Acts 2 |
| 11. Gen. 27-28; Ps. 4; Luke 11 | 27. Ex. 17-20; Acts 3 |
| 12. Gen. 29-30; Luke 12 | 28. Ex. 21-22; Ps. 12; Acts 4 |
| 13. Gen. 31-33; Luke 13 | 29. Ex. 23-24; Ps. 14; Acts 5 |
| 14. Gen. 34-36; Luke 14 | 30. Ex. 25-27; Acts 6 |
| 15. Gen. 37-38; Ps. 7; Luke 15 | 31. Ex. 28-29; Acts 7 |
| 16. Gen. 39-41; Luke 16 | |

The S.O.A.P. Journal Method

Scripture – Read the passage & copy a verse, a work 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.



Generous Giving

Greetings church family. Last month we shared that gifts and pledges for the fund drive for our new HVAC system (which is installed and working) appeared to be sufficient that we would not need to borrow any money. Well, not only is that true, but we received enough gifts designated for the new HVAC system and to pay off our existing loan that by the time you read this article, our loan will have been paid off! We also have received enough to cover the cost of the first year of the annual maintenance contract for the new system and to start a Capital Reserve Fund with approximately \$6,310. All because you all stepped up to fill the need!

However, the need continues. If you intended to donate toward the HVAC system, but had not sent your gift yet, please consider donating to our Capital Reserve Fund. This will be an ongoing fund that we hope to maintain and grow with giving over and above your regular giving to the church budget. There are other projects already identified around the church building we could tackle - making the building more friendly to folks with disabilities by remodeling the restrooms to be accessible and adding handrails on the steps to the chancel, to name just a couple ideas. Other ideas and suggestions are welcome. The thought of having funds available when a need arises instead of having to fret about how to pay for it would be a wonderful way to proceed in the ministry of SUMC! You are such a giving group; God truly continues to bless this congregation of believers. Thank you very much!!

Gail Davis, Church Council Chair

FINANCE REPORT

Below is how our giving the last two months compared to our expenses. The giving and expense for the HVAC system skews the figures a bit, so I am also showing Year to Date giving and expense minus HVAC:

	October	November	Year to Date	Year To Date w/o HVAC
Income	\$11,569.66	\$9,926.84	\$169,678.96	\$122,921.92
Expenses	\$11,048.95	\$9,042.11	\$128,221.54	\$128,221.54
Plus/Minus	\$ 520.71	\$ 884.73	\$ 41,457.42	(\$5,299.62)

If you look at the numbers above and think more funds were available for the HVAC system than is reflected, we received some in December, which is not reflected and there were Memorial funds given for the system which are also not reflected in the totals above.



January Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Connie Schramm
- 1 Dorothy Munroe
- 1 Rex Van Beek
- 4 Susan Eisenhower
- 6 Jesus Gonzales
- 11 Jean Hobbs
- 12 Sandra Shelton
- 12 Lisa Holyfield
- 16 Steven Schramm
- 18 Rhonda Gonzales
- 24 Miella Miller
- 28 Dirk Robinson
- 31 Lisa Rene Schramm Schilperoort

Anniversaries

- 7 Charles & Jean Cummings
- 18 Jim & Melissa Harp
- 27 Mark & Lisa Williams
- 29 Matthew & Kathryn Mead



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=LzINSWYyT1BGUzNhVHc0ME9ydnBLQT09>

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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlNQ09>

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.



JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 New Year's Day
- 3 Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room, continuing every Wednesday
- 4 Ladies Circle @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, Selah
- 6 **Epiphany of the Lord**
- 7 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 Baptism of the Lord
- 9 Book Bunch @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom; use meeting link on prior page
- 10 Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson room; continuing every Wednesday
- 11 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, Selah
- 13 Undecorate the church @ 9:00 a.m.
- 14 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on prior page
2nd Sunday after the Epiphany Human Relations Day
Potluck/Chili Cook-Off following worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 17 Worship Team Meeting @ 12 noon in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room; continuing every Wednesday
Church Council @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 18 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, Selah
- 21 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on prior page
3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
United Women in Faith following Worship @ 12:15 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 23 Camp Hope Dinner organized and prepared by Wesley UMC and SUMC
- 24 Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room; continuing every Wednesday
- 25 **Newsletter Articles Due**
Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, Selah
- 26 **4th Friday Fellowship Night @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**
- 28 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on prior page
4th Sunday after Epiphany
- 31 Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room

Thank you for getting your articles to me before Christmas in December so I could finish the newsletter before my vacation and not work on it on Christmas! I appreciated it.

Becky

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Growing Into the Image of Christ

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Newsletter articles for the
February newsletter are due

January 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.”