



# The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

July 2020



The first week of this month I should be at Lazy F helping with Operation Purple. This is one of my favorite weeks of the year. I have the opportunity to minister the children of our military personnel that have been or will be deployed overseas. I am disappointed this will not happen this year. But when one door closes, another opens. The National Guard has appointed me to be the Chaplain for TF (Task Force) Steelhead, which is working in our communities to test for COVID-19 and distribute food at local food banks. This assignment will provide me an opportunity to minister throughout the entire State of Washington. I am quite humbled by this opportunity.

With opportunity comes challenges, as well. As you watch the news or social media, you know our world is in turmoil. This turmoil arose with the unjust action that occurred in Minneapolis. The unjustified death of George Floyd should rattle all of us. We need to seek solutions that will bring unity to our nation and help heal the deep wounds. I personally believe that solutions only come when we are willing to work together. This means we must stop the “blame games” and pointing fingers at each other. When we point fingers, there is always three fingers pointing back. From personal experience it is always easier to blame someone else, instead of taking personal responsibility. As I work to resolve my part in the problems in our nation, I turn to scripture for answers. John 13:15 states, “For I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.” Christ has set the example for each of us to follow. The question is, are we willing to follow Christ? If we do follow Christ are the fruit we produce of “the Spirit” or “the flesh.” Galatians 5: 22-23 states the follow as Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.

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I have to be honest with myself that I don't always produce these fruits. But I must continue to strive to be more like Christ and Perfect in love. As Methodists, we all need to be striving to be perfect in Christ's love. This requires us to be open to new ministries or missions. As I head out on this Ministry as the Chaplain for TF Steelhead, let me be reminded that I am an ambassador of Christ and to treat each person that I come across as beloved Children of God.

Blessings Pastor Dirk

## Mission Outreach



### Feeding the Community

Many from our church continue to help where we can and are needed. Our mission to help the less fortunate never stops.

- The Wesley UMC cooks prepared and delivered hot dog and macaroni casserole, coleslaw, vegetables and cookies to the Camp Hope residents. Many from SUMC provided hot dogs, dozens of homemade cookies and milk. As the Camp Hope team struggles financially, please remember the camp director, leaders and residents at Camp Hope in your thoughts and prayers.

- The Rod's House teens have made another temporary move from Dad's House Church to the Unitarian Universalist Church in

Yakima. Several in our congregation continue to make and deliver bagged sandwich meals on Wednesday and Thursday. Some of our loving sandwich makers even add a "stay cool" and thoughtful note of encouragement inside their bagged lunch. Because of a generous grant from The World Central Kitchen to the Power House Grill to make daily lunches for the teens, our delivery time has moved to 4:00 pm. The feedback to us is that everyone loves our sandwich and goodie bags any time of day!

- NW Harvest has closed their volunteer operation until schools reopen and the Backpack Mission is up and running again in the fall.

## *Reimagining Life*



The Reimagining (Re-gathering) Task Force met on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> via Zoom to discuss plans for the time when Yakima County, the Bishop’s Office and the State of Washington deem that it is safe for churches to gather for worship and other church activities. We were guided by the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference document, “Reimagining Life Together-Updated 6/18/2020.” Task Force members present: Kevin Dow-Chair, Margaret Antanaitis, Gwen Chaplin, Connie Schramm, Shelley Von Essen, Bill Walton and Elaine Dow. Members absent: Dirk Robinson and Glennis Wilson. Non-member observer: Cyndi Appelhof. Kevin opened the meeting with prayer.

Kevin had divided the Conference document into segments and distributed them out to members of the task force. Segments dealt with Leadership Responsibilities, Staff and Volunteers, Safety Actions, Worship, Ministry Activities & Events, Building Use, Community Connections & Outreach, Essential Services and Other Ministry Settings. Team members had been asked to review their particular segment and to be ready to answer the questions asked. Some areas of emphasis were addressed on more than one of the segments.

Here are some of the things that were agreed upon: Selah UMC will not be returning to “life as normal” at any time soon. It was pointed out that Yakima County has the highest infection rate in the country. We feel that we will probably not hold in-person worship until at least late Fall. Even though outdoor worship and “drive-in” worship are permitted by the state and by the Conference, they still don’t allow the things that make being together in worship meaningful (handshakes, hugs, sharing of the peace, etc.) and which are the most hazardous. Zoom worship has been embraced by a majority of the congregation, and attendance has not decreased substantially.

When we gather for worship it will not be the same as it was: wearing masks, hand washing, no singing, no corporate prayers or recitations, no sitting with friends or family who don’t live with you, no baptisms, restrictions on Communion, among other differences.

The task force will continue to refine their report, which is currently three pages long. It will then be presented to the Church Council at their July meeting.

by Kevin Dow Task Force Chair

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## From Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky

(below is an excerpt from Bishop Stanovsky's COVID-19 Notice #7)

It has been a delight to see churches across the Greater Northwest Area respond to COVID-19 with great caution, compassion and creativity. It hasn't been easy to suspend in-person worship for three months, but you have risen to the occasion and exercised great caution for the health and well-being of your neighbors. Many of you have developed the ability to offer online worship. Others send printed bulletins and sermons out each week. You've found ways to offer compassion by distributing gift cards, making face masks, offering curbside food boxes, and drive-by birthday and commencement celebrations. Your creativity has given rise to online prayer circles, study groups and kid's gatherings. You have led with abundant grace through a very difficult and constrained time.

Still, it's not possible to gather for online worship in all the places our churches are located. And it's not possible to host summer sleep-over camps safely. It's heartbreaking not to be able to hold the hand of a dying loved one or to gather and honor the dead at a memorial service.

As your bishop I've struggled to know how best to lead and tend to the needs of so many churches and the communities they serve, facing such varied circumstances. The "curve" of new COVID-19 cases has turned upward since the loosening of restrictions on social movement across most states in May and following Memorial Day weekend. Impacts of the large public protests for racial justice since George Floyd's death on May 25 are unknown. Health care professionals are very concerned that we may be seeing the beginning of another spike that could threaten to overwhelm health care systems.

### ***Giving Options***

Even though we continue to not be able to meet in person, giving to support of our ongoing bills and outreach has continued and for that we are very grateful. If you are uncomfortable mailing a check, there are a few electronic methods to continue giving to the church. You can use your bank's bill pay function to have the bank mail a check; you can sign up through the church to have a set amount deducted from your checking account and deposited into the church's bank account through Vanco, the service we have been using for a number of years. Contact Noah if you are interested in signing up with Vanco. On the church web page ([www.selahumc.org](http://www.selahumc.org)) there is a link for electronic giving as well. Any option you choose for supporting the church is greatly appreciated.



# Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others (Phillipians 2:4)

During June our members have been busy looking out for the interests of our community. Our church parking lot has been used three times by Yakima County Emergency Services and the National Guard for COVID-19 testing. Additionally, several of us volunteered to hand out face masks over three days -- Tereica Kaumheimer organized the mask give away and she, Susan Eisenhower, Lee Hamilton, Joy McFarland, Ron and Becky Johnson, Merle and Marilee Brothers, Paul and Lisa Holyfield, Linda and Ron Drew worked shifts handing out masks. I wasn't able to get pictures of everyone, but here the ones I have.





Juneteenth, 2020 Message

**To the People Called Methodist, from Bishop Stanosky**

BLACK LIVES MATTER  
BLACK VOTING RIGHTS MATTER  
BLACK VOICES MATTER

Since George Floyd died beneath the crushing knee of a police officer, the cry for justice has been heard around the world, with new urgency. The cry and demand for racial justice can be found in the very origins of the Methodist movement, in John Wesley's letter encouraging William Wilberforce to persevere in the seemingly hopeless battle against the "execrable villainy" of racial injustice embedded in the law and practice, trusting that, "if God be for you, who can be against you?"

Nearly 230 years later, this villainy has not been rooted out, but embedded in systems that we mask with words. A new generation of activists for the just treatment of Black people joins generations who have fought for decades and centuries to put right what is so very wrong and corrosive of the principle that all are created equal. The struggle is long and hard, and many people who benefit from the injustice work to perpetuate the unequal, cruel and even lethal treatment of Black Americans.

Today is celebrated as Juneteenth, remembered as the day emancipation of slaves was announced to the last state in the United States on June 19, 1865, following the Civil War. I pray that God continues in the midst of the struggle, with people in police departments, courtrooms, on the streets, in worship, attending funerals, behind prison bars. I pray that God is using the people called "Methodist" in our day to continue the struggle.

May all who see the injustice, say what we see, share what we see and never "never be worn out by the opposition of men and devils" who stand against justice. God is with all who stand and speak and work for racial justice.

*Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.*

Hebrews 12:12

*But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*



## July Celebrations

### Birthdays

### Anniversaries

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- 1 Steve Hayman
  - 4 Makenna Helseth
  - 5 Jean Porter
  - 10 Sarah Horihan
  - 11 Jim Mahugh
  
  - 12 Cheryl Natland
  - 16 Lee Hamilton
  - 20 Grant Goss
  - 22 Kevin Dow
  - 23 Don Hobbs
  - 25 Chris Natland  
Mary Lenhardt
  - 26 Laurene Arms  
Beth Mahugh
  - 27 Brenda Schenk
  - 30 Ted Antanaitis

- 1 Mike & Michelle Helseth
- 5 Ted & Margaret Antanaitis
- 17 Robert & Alicia Shoddy
- 31 Cody & Crystal Natland





## JULY CALENDAR

Pastor Dirk will be away until August 21st for National Guard Assignment, but available via Zoom for Church worship and meetings.

- 1 Daily check-in via Zoom with Pastor Dirk @ 10:00 am  
Continuing Monday - Friday, during July unless canceled by Pastor Dirk.  
**See link on next page to join Zoom Meeting:**
- 2 Pub Theology via Zoom @ 6:00 pm Continuing every Thursday  
**See link on next page to join Zoom Meeting**
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Bible Study with Pastor Dirk via Zoom @9:15 am  
Continuing every Sunday  
Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am;  
**Communion – remember bread & juice**
- 8 Book Bunch via Zoom @ 6:30 to 7:45 pm
- 12 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
- 15 Church Council Meeting via Zoom @6:00 pm
- 19 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
- 20 Home Zone Steering Committee meeting via Zoom @ 11:00 am
- 22 Book Bunch via Zoom @ 6:30 to 7:45
- 25 Newsletter articles due
- 26 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
- 28 Camp Hope Dinner prepared and delivered by Wesley UMC; Watch for food requests from SUMC the week before

Worship and meetings will be via Zoom while Yakima County remains in Phase 1 of reopening order and until we have implemented procedures for reopening safely.





## SUMC Sunday Service & Bible Study

**Time: 10:30 a.m.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/692949701?pwd=LzlNSWYyT1BGUzNhVHc0ME9yd nBLQT09>

Meeting ID: 692 949 701 Password: 021416

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,692949701#,,1#,021416# US (Tacoma)

### ZOOM CHECK-IN WITH PASTOR DIRK

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**Monday – Friday @ 10:00 am daily check-in via Zoom. Join Zoom:**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/669186246?pwd=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnl NQT09>

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=cGJwYmw3M2UrTDk4MlITVUU ySV13QT09>

Meeting ID: 958 2918 9054 Password: 013652

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,95829189054#,,1#,013652# US (Tacoma)

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## **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](mailto:pastordirkrobinson@gmail.com)

Newsletter articles for the August  
newsletter are due July 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.”