



# The Messenger



## Selah United Methodist Church

July 2023

### ***Mark's Remarks***

We've come to the start of a new year together. So, happy new year... again.

This time it's not the calendar year that begins January 1. It's not the liturgical year that begins with the season of Advent during the four Sundays before Christmas. It's not the program year that begins with the first Sunday of September and the traditional kick-off of Sunday School and Christian education. This time it's the appointment year which begins July 1, when United Methodist pastors begin a new year serving their congregations.

I'm pleased to share the news you likely already know: I am appointed to serve a second year at Selah. One year ago, I arrived as your newly appointed pastor to preach and teach the word, administer the sacraments, and to provide oversight of the ministries of Selah United Methodist Church. I celebrate that we have been together in an official way for an entire year.

There is much to celebrate as we observe this moment. Our church continues to awaken from the COVID induced dormancy of our building. We've had numerous occasions for worship, study, fellowship and service within the walls of the church and outside the walls in the community. It's been a rich and blessed year. And that's all I have to say about that.

Now, "forgetting what lies behind, I press on toward what lies ahead." I want to focus on what I see as a primary focus for the coming year. I want to focus on making connections. This year I hope we can:

1. nurture stronger connections among our members
2. grow in ministry to the mission field that is our surrounding community
3. strengthen our connection with other United Methodist churches and ministries in our area.

This is my sense of where God calls us in the coming year. There are opportunities for growth in each of these areas. I just don't know what they look like yet. That's where you are needed; I am needed; and we are needed together for the sake of each and every person who is part of SUMC, as well as those who are disconnected from us, and those who are not yet connected with us or any church because they've never been invited.

We used to easily take connection for granted because there were district, conference area, and denominational structures to keep the United Methodist connection strong. Much of that connectional structure that was provided for us has been lost. It's not that we are disconnected. It's that the mechanisms that nurtured such connections are no longer in place.

I hope in this coming year to become more effective in inviting, welcoming and assimilating newcomers. I hope to be more intentional in reminding Selah that there is a place of worship



and fellowship that is like no other in our community. And I hope to be of greater support to our neighboring United Methodist congregations in Yakima and Ellensburg, as well as learn how we might serve with our Sisters and Brothers in the White Swan area whose United Methodist Church ministries have gone dormant.

As I wrote earlier, I don't know exactly what any of this looks like yet. But I feel there is promise and potential as we journey toward stronger connections in our year of ministry.

I'll see you in church,

**Pastor Mark**

**MISSION OUTREACH**

When you do your grocery shopping, please think of Our Little Pantry. Cereal has been a favorite, any season. School is out. Summer is here. Snacks are a good choice, too.

**Rod's House**

Our congregation has prepared and delivered two meals to the Rod's House young people this month. Last week we delivered on Juneteenth where they were having an outdoor BBQ. The Rod's House porch and street in front were decorated and colored with chalk celebration drawings and slogans. A festive day marked with cooler weather for the holiday.

Rod's House recent "**Urgent Needs**" list: (donation box in the Simonson Room)

- Individually packaged snacks
- Full size shampoo & conditioner
- New men's & women's underwear
- Individually packaged juice, sports drinks, water

**Camp Hope**



Do you know that the Wesley cooks also include in their preparations meals for the residents of Noah's Ark in Wapato. Their planning and preparation in the Wesley kitchen for so many homeless in Yakima and Wapato are amazing. Doctors from Multi-care Memorial Family Medicine residents helped serve at 100 people at Camp Hope on June 27. Wesley prepared their hearty monthly meal; beef enchiladas, coleslaw, vegetables, brownies, and milk. The resident numbers are up so Wesley is preparing larger amounts. The lines are

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longer, the plates are filled and the gratitude from hungry residents is as abundant as the food.

For a couple of months, we at Selah UMC have been picking up a few residents from Camp Hope and bringing them to one of the evening AA meetings at the church. A group of volunteers from one of the AA meetings has offered to organize an AA meeting at Camp Hope on Wednesdays doing away with the drive back and forth for the residents. We don't know these people who meet at our church every week, but their kindness and appreciation for our church over the years have opened up another venue for Camp Hope residents. Thought you would like to know about this quiet offer of friendship.

## Selah Naches Food Bank



We met the call for peanut butter and boxed Mac 'n' Cheese in June! In just three weeks, our church grocery basket filled with 17 jars of peanut butter, 45 boxes of pasta meals, plus some flour, sugar and canned pasta with meat meals. All this following the almost 50 jars of peanut butter earlier in the month. That is lots of P and J sandwiches! Thank you from the staff and volunteers at the food bank.

With summer upon us and school children at home, the foodbank staff is anticipating more requests for baking items; all are low in their inventory. Co-director Tammie said anything that has to do with baking as she began listing on her fingers; flour, sugar, baking soda and powder, chips, cake and cookie mixes, even salt. Any product that you choose for making a tasty treat will make children at home happy and smiling this summer.

## July is Baking Items Month, your choice!

### WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Worship Team did not meet in June so there is nothing to report from their meeting. The next Worship Team meeting will be in the Simonson Room at 1:00 in the afternoon on Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, at which time they will discuss how SUMC can help students and teachers prepare for the start of school. Yakima schools start August 22<sup>nd</sup> and Selah schools start on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The team welcomes input on what that might include.



## Here, piggy, piggy, piggy

THANK YOU to all the "pig farmers" that brought their pigs in on the 18th to be emptied into the fund the for Lazy F campership program. We took in \$408.00 to help kids from throughout the Conference be able to spend time at summer camp. This congregation does a wonderful job supporting the youth of our local Church and also on the larger scale outside of Selah. If you do not have one of the piggy banks and would like to get one, please talk to Linda Drew or Gail Davis and we will get one for you. We do have extras in a box just looking to be farmed out to a loving family. Once again, THANK YOU to this amazing generous congregation!!

## SUMC to Host August Blood Drive



Our congregation will host the Selah Red Cross Blood Drive, August 10, 1-6 p.m., at the Selah Civic Center. Our duties include staffing the registration table and the refreshment station. If you are available to volunteer for a 2-hour shift, please contact Lisa Williams (509-539-6083). If you are eligible to donate blood, please consider participating in the August 10 drive. To sign up, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter zip code 98942. Be a Hero...donate blood.



## New: 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Fun Night

On June 9th twelve people attended the first edition of the post pandemic game night at SUMC. There were lots of laughs and snacks and a good time had by all. After further discussion we have decided to continue and set aside a scheduled time each month rather than trying to find a date each time. So we will be meeting the fourth Friday of each month to get together and have FUN. Maybe it will be games in the fellowship hall, maybe a movie, maybe a campfire (weather and conditions allowing) with singing and smore's or what ever might seem like a good idea at the time. We hope people will put this on the calendar for the next few months and join in for "4<sup>th</sup> Family Fun Night at SUMC". Watch for details for the July 28<sup>th</sup> "4<sup>th</sup> Friday Fun Night."



## Good Reads from SUMC Library

Are you aware there's a little library in the Simonson Room where you are welcome to check out books? Pick out a nice summer read the next time you're at the church.

*Joshua*, by Joseph F. Girzone is a lovely, thought-provoking parable. One review of the book read, "Here is a profoundly moving, deeply inspiring book that no reader will ever forget. Already, *Joshua* has been called "life-changing," "engrossing," "inspiring," "entertaining." Based on a scrupulously accurate reading of scripture, *Joshua* has universal appeal and is a true exercise in spirituality. Once you've read it, you'll want everyone you love to read it too.

What good books have you read lately? Check out the SUMC library!

## Selah United Women in Faith

The Selah United Women in Faith will be collecting items this summer for the Voices for Children, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping foster children in the Yakima Valley. We will be collecting flashlights and nightlights, as well as socks and underwear. The children vary in ages so all sizes are needed. When school supplies go on sale toward the end of the summer, we would like to collect those for the children also. There will be a box for these items in the Simonson Room. Thank you, Selah United Methodist Church, for your continued generosity! This is a wonderful organization and they really appreciate your donations.

-Cheryl Natland, Selah UWF

## Bible Study to Resume

HEY Y'ALL!!! I am back from vacation and am wondering if you all want to start bible study (PB&J) again?? Here is what I'm suggesting: A 4-week study of Matthew, doing like we were doing in the beginning . . . taken from the "Serendipity Bible",

### P B & J SCHEDULE

WEEK 1) "THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS" - JULY 5TH AT 10:00

WEEK 2) "THE BEATITUDES" - JULY 12TH AT 10:00

WEEK 3) "THE LORD'S PRAYER" - JULY 19TH AT 10:00

WEEK 4) "ASK, SEEK, KNOCK" - JULY 26TH AT 10:00

Then, we can discuss what come next . . . We can take August off and come back after Labor Day or ??? I'm open to suggestions. I should be at church on the Sundays before July 5<sup>th</sup> so you can let me know if this is something you want to do. I'll have handouts of the studies before the first class. Just let me know if you want on.

-SHIRLEY PEDRAZA (509) 305-1676



## TO BE OR NOT TO BE A RECONCILING CHURCH

### Reconciling Ministries: Wholly Welcoming Persons with Disabilities

When we think about Reconciling Ministries, we might not often consider how it applies to welcoming persons with disabilities. Personally, I hadn't given this aspect of church inclusion much thought until I came across an article in the *Christian Post* on the topic of welcoming persons with disabilities: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/most-churches-say-theyre-welcoming-to-all-but-few-accommodate-members-with-disabilities.html>. Reflecting on the article brought back memories of my son's experiences at our United Methodist Church (not a Reconciling Congregation) in Texas in the 1990s.

Anyway, this article features Joni Eareckson Tada (leader of a ministry, Joni and Friends, and a long-time quadriplegic) who provides church training on how to include people with disabilities. I was quite moved by her summation:

There is so much talk about mainstream and inclusion in churches. People with disabilities want to belong to a body of Christ.... We want to know that when we don't show up next Sunday for services that somebody is going to miss me. We want to be a friend.... We have to get rid of the mechanistic, abstract, dry, theoretical approach to people's needs and really practice Christianity with its sleeves rolled up.

Tada described what she meant by rolling up our sleeves. She said her life was changed when Christian friends gave her not only the Word but also their time and their love, e.g., "...a chance to go to a movie with them." "They just befriended me," she added.

Ministering to youth – and their parents when disabilities are involved, brings up additional challenges. In another article <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/special-needs/how-to-practice-disability-inclusion-in-your-church/>, Natalie Maxwell, the mother of children with disabilities, shares that it is meaningful to be personal, "know our names." She emphasizes the need to ask questions, for e.g., "How can we love and serve you/your family?" A seemingly simple point she made was that we have to *willing*. Yet, I truly understand that it takes a lot to move the needle from willingness to sustained change.

My son, as a special needs child, had learning and emotional difficulties. He had trouble making friends and felt uncomfortable in group settings. Pre-school didn't go smoothly. On Sundays, though, I knew when I took him to his pre-school class at our UMC, he was going to feel comfortable; he was going to feel blanketed by the warm smiles of his teacher and co-teacher. Along with that, I didn't have a pit in my stomach thinking that after class, I might get pointers on how to improve my parenting skills. The kindergarten term was split between public kindergarten in the afternoons and our church before-school program. Public school didn't go smoothly either. On the other hand, his mornings at the church were a safe place, a happy place. What made the difference? Most assuredly, it was the church's loving program director and staff who practiced Christianity with their sleeves rolled all the way up to their



shoulders. Later on, my son belonged to the scout troop supported by our church. The scout leaders, patient and kind members of our church, went the extra mile to assure a positive experience for my son. At age 15, my son was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout — an achievement that stemmed, in large part, from his experiences with wholly welcoming Christians.

However, not everyone in the church during my son's formative years was wholly welcoming. The church did not especially consider persons with physical or mental disabilities in any of its procedures or programs. There were instances when my son was overlooked to help with simple volunteer tasks. On occasion, there were whispers and glances our way in the fellowship hall. I asked myself then, and now, how Christians could better embrace individuals and families who have, or who care for persons with disabilities. How might we listen with discernment? How might we gain greater insights? I did *not* ask myself then about Reconciling Ministries, but I do now. I concur with Maxwell, "The thing that has made all the difference for our family hasn't been a well-organized ministry, but rather it's been individual people in the body of Christ who have taken the time to include and get to know our family over time."

That's also what Tada described about meeting her needs as an adult; that's what my child and I, as a parent, appreciated the most. I believe that a Reconciling Ministry potentially fosters even more love for, and inclusion of persons with disabilities. I hope that such love and inclusion is ultimately rooted not in a sense of obligation, but rather in a desire to simply be together— *wholly* welcoming.

- Lee Hamilton

### S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY JULY

1. Isaiah 1-3; Titus 3
2. Isaiah 4-5; Ps. 115-117; Jude
3. Isaiah 6-7; Chr. 26-27; Philemon
4. 2 Ki. 15-16; Hos.1; Heb. 1
5. Hos. 2-5; Heb. 2
6. Hos. 6-9; Heb 3
7. Hos. 10-12; Ps. 73; Heb. 4
8. Hos. 13-14; Ps. 100, 102, Heb. 5
9. Micah 1-4; Heb. 6
10. Micah 507; Heb. 7
11. Isaiah 8-10; Heb. 8
12. Isaiah 11-14; Heb. 9
13. Isaiah 15-18; Heb. 10
14. Isaiah 19-21; Heb. 11
15. Isaiah 22-24; Heb. 12
16. Isaiah 25-28; Heb. 13
17. Isaiah 29-31; James 1
18. Isaiah 32-35; James 2
19. 2 Ki 17; 2 Chr 28; Ps. 46; James 3
20. 2 Chr. 29-31; James 4
21. 2 Ki.18-19; 2 Chr. 32, James 5
22. Isaiah 36-37; Ps. 76; 1 Pet. 1
23. 2 Ki. 20; Is. 38-39; Ps. 75; 1 Pet. 2
24. Isaiah 40-42; 1 Pet. 3
25. Isaiah 43-45; 1 Pet. 4
26. Isaiah 46-49; 1 Pet. 5
27. Isaiah 50-52; Ps. 92; 2 Pet. 1
28. Isaiah 53-56; 2 Pet. 2
29. Isaiah 57-59; Ps. 103; 2 Pet. 3
30. Isaiah 60-62; John 1
31. Isaiah 63-64; Ps. 107' John 2



**The S.O.A.P. Journal Method**

**S**cripture – Read the passage & copy a verse, a work or a phrase that captures your attention.

**O**bservation – Write a brief summary of what speaks to you from the passage.

**A**pplication – Write down how this Bible passage applies to you right now.

**P**ray – Complete your study time by writing a prayer based on your reading.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Below is how our giving the last three months compared to our expenses:

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	March	April	May
Income:	\$ 10,266.77*	\$11,164.68*	\$7,980.93*
Expenses:	\$ 11,322.20	\$12,008.15	\$10,068.41
Plus/Minus	(\$1,055.43)	(\$843.47)	(\$2,087.48)

If you are eagle eyed, you might notice that the figures are slightly different than last month. Previously, I had neglected to include in the income numbers \$1750 that is transferred from savings each month. Funds are transferred from savings to checking each month because of lump sum donation made with the request that it be used as needed to cover expenses. The finance team decided to transfer 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the amount each month. In addition to the monetary donations we receive to support the church, we also receive many material donations. In 2022 we received over items valued at over \$300 plus over 240 stamps and so far in 2023 we have received items valued at over \$1300 plus 120 stamps. The items include books for bible study, palms for Palm Sunday, banners, two computers, items for the kitchen, just to name a few. I suspect there are things donated for which we do not get a report. While these donations are not used to help pay our bills, they increase how much we have to pay those bills because we are not having to purchase these items. **Thank you to all who have donated items for use in the church.**

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**You are invited - Missionary Katherine Parker to Visit SUMC**

You are invited to learn first-hand exciting news from the mission field of Nepal. United Women in Faith will host Missionary Katherine Parker, Wednesday, July 19, 7 p.m., at the church.





Katherine serves as a commissioned missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. She has been serving in Nepal since 2013 as part of the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) project with a vision of "Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepal society." The UMN work in community transformation is in five areas: education, health, peace-building, good governance and sustainable livelihoods. Katherine's work focuses on community development in Nepal.

The entire congregation is invited to this engaging presentation and dessert social. Come meet and welcome Katherine, enjoy dessert and learn how your support of Global Missions is helping to transform the world and serve the people of Nepal.

### **Church Ladies (and Men) With Typewriters**

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They're Back! Second installment of those wonderful Church Bulletins! These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

*And this one just about sums them all up.*

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'



## July Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 1 Steve Hayman
- 4 Makenna Helseth
- 5 Jean Porter
- 10 Sarah Hourihan
- 11 Jim Mahugh
- 12 Cheryl Natland
- 16 Lee Hamilton
- 22 Kevin Dow
- 25 Chris Natland
- 25 Mary Lenhardt
- 26 Laurane Arms
- 26 Beth Mahugh
- 27 Brenda Schenk
- 30 Ted Antanaitis

### Anniversaries

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



### 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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbmlNQ09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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



## ***JULY CALENDAR***

- 2 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Holy Communion; 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Use link prior page to join via Zoom
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 PB&J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room  
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room; Continuing every Wednesday
- 5 to 7 Grand Camp at Lazy F Camp – Pastor Mark at Lazy F
- 6 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 9 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom  
**Potluck after worship in Fellowship Hall**
- 12 PB&J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room  
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 13 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery
- 16 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 19 PB&J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room  
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room  
Missionary Katherine Parker Presentation @ 7:00 pm @ church
- 20 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery
- 21 – 23 Mission u @ Wesley UMC
- 23 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;  
8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 25 **Newsletter Articles Due**  
Camp Hope Dinner organized and prepared by Wesley UMC with help from SUMC
- 26 PB&J Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room  
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room  
Worship Team Meeting @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 27 Pub Theology @ 6:00 P.M. AT Selah Springs Brewery
- 28 Fourth Friday Fun Night @ 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 30 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom;  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; use link on prior page to join via Zoom  
Open House @ Parsonage 1404 W Orchard, Selah 2:00 to 4:00 pm

## Selah United Methodist Church

1061 Selah Loop Road  
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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](mailto:aha.experience@icloud.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.”