



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

July/August 2022

Mark's Remarks



I am so pleased to be joining you as pastor. Lisa and I are so appreciative of all the hard work you have accomplished preparing the parsonage to be our home. We look forward to being with you and getting better acquainted as we all discern God's call for ministry together.

Although my appointment here has barely begun, it is easy to assume that we already know each other. I spent

a few sessions at Ocean Park Family Kite Camp hanging out with many of you. I attended worship at Selah UMC a handful of times while on vacation and filled in a few times as guest preacher. Lisa and I shared 13 wonderful weeks with you last fall between Pastor Dirk Robinson's quick departure for Navy Chaplaincy and Pastor Jim Simpson's delayed arrival as interim pastor.

At no time in our previous encounters did I dream that I would someday be appointed as your pastor. I do have to confess that, many years ago, I had a dream of driving a U-Haul to Selah when I was preparing to actually move to a new appointment. The night before loading up the U-Haul truck I dreamt that I took several wrong turns and somehow ended up at the Selah parsonage. I got out to ask directions and you swarmed over the truck and unloaded it. I couldn't seem to convince anyone that I wasn't supposed to be here. I remember waking up with a jolt and thinking, "It's only a dream. I'm not moving to Selah tomorrow. I'm going to drive to my new appointment." For those of you old enough to remember, you can cue the theme music to *"The Twilight Zone,"* because now, many years after that vivid dream, it turns out I am supposed to be here. My move to Selah has become a reality. So, in a way, this is a dream come true, completed by one final scene of a U-Haul truck unloaded at the parsonage. Only God knows what the future holds for us in our ministry together. And while I have never put much stock in dreams while asleep, I am big on dreaming together of what might be. But before we start dreaming, we need to let go of our preconceptions. It's a mistake for me to assume that specific successes in ministry in past churches will be duplicated in



Selah. Selah UMC is different from any church I've served before. Selah is a unique church, with your own history of ministry in your unique setting. I pray that God keeps me open to what's ahead according to God's dream for Selah.

In a similar way, I hope you can let go of your preconceptions and assumptions as we enter into ministry together. I've known of (and have known) many of the pastors who have served as my predecessors. I knew Russ and Evelyn. I have known Kevin and Rex. I have known of Kendra and Dirk. I recently got to know Jim. And I know each of them well enough to know I am very different from all of them. I hope you can accept the differences and forgive me for not being the very best of what you loved in each of them. Instead, allow me to bring the best of myself and my unique gifts for our shared ministry here at Selah United Methodist Church. As we proceed in ministry together, I hope we can resist any temptation to recreate the past. Instead, let's be open to the new creation God desires to bring. Let us build on the past, as we live in this present moment, facing the future with confidence that God opens doors, prepares the way, and surrounds us with love that springs from the very heart of Jesus Christ in our midst.

I look forward to dreaming with you.

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Mark

Mission Outreach

Selah Naches Food Bank

The Selah Naches Food bank exists and depends on community donations for food and health supplies and with plans for their new Food Bank building, monetary donations. The volunteers smile as they say they are about two thirds towards meeting their financial goal and that means groundbreaking will happen this fall. We can be proud of our SUMC Piggy and UMM donations of \$670 to the building fund. This summer let's continue as we have with non-perishable food gifts, your choice, to the church grocery basket. Your non-perishable food will be distributed to those in need in Selah, Naches, Glead and nearby areas. Thank you from everyone at the Selah Naches Food Bank.

**This summer, GIVE WHAT YOU LIKE, GIVE WHAT YOU CAN
and please remember to share with the Little Food Pantry**

We received the following letter from the Selah Naches Food Bank after they received our donation:



Selah Naches Food Bank
PO Box 1029
Selah, WA 98942
(509) 961-1039
EIN #: 86-3733743

June 29, 2022

Selah United Methodist Church
1061 Selah Loop Road
Selah, WA 98942

Dear Selah United Methodist Church:

Thank you for your generous tax-deductible donation to the Building Fund for the Selah Naches Food Bank, a 501(c)(3) Not-For-Profit Corporation. We have received your amazing donation of \$670.53. Your donation will be recognized on the exit wall of the new food bank as a "Friend" supporter of the Selah Naches Food Bank. We appreciate your support of this exciting adventure to serve the Selah and Naches Communities. Thank you for moving us closer to our fundraising goals.

Sincerely,

Gena Franklin
Selah Naches Food Bank
509.961 .1039

Camp Hope

In June, the Wesley cooks were joined by several family medicine residents from the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences. They helped prepare, deliver and serve a hot ham dinner complete with vegetables, coleslaw, rolls and cookies to the residents at Camp Hope. There was plenty of food, servers and friendly conversation among the medical residents and Camp Hope residents. It is always heart-warming to talk with those who live at the Camp Hope shelter and listen to their stories.



WORSHIP TEAM REPORT



The Worship Team (Committee) met Wednesday, June 22nd in the Simonson Room. Margaret Antanaitis opened the meeting with prayer.

The Team reviewed worship activities that have occurred since the last meeting. Feedback heard by team members reflected a positive

response to the service on inclusion. Most found the information given by Jennifer Moore to be moving. The Team also discussed Communion and decided to continue to offer worshippers the choice to receive the bread for intinction in the juice or prepackaged “kits”. We will order gluten-free kits in the future.

We received five new members on June 26th: one through Baptism, some by profession of faith, and some by transfer from different denominations. One person was transferring from another United Methodist congregation, but will be received at a later date.

The Team discussed a Litany of Transition as a part of the service that would have Pastor Jim leaving symbolic items with the congregation, which would be given to Pastor Mark on this first Sunday as our Pastor. We also discussed some ways we all can help Pastor Mark and Lisa feel welcome at our church. We decided to recommend a modified “pounding” where we would give gift cards to Selah businesses to them instead of food items. That way they can get to know (and be known) businesses here.

The next Worship Team meeting will be July 19th at 1:00 PM in the Simonson Room. The group is planning on changing meetings to the evening once Summer is over. This will allow people who are working during the day to share ideas for worship.

All Team meetings are open to anyone who is interested in helping plan worship.

Kevin Dow

Community Service/Fundraiser Thank You

Thanks to all who helped with the 4-H horse show last month at State Fair Park. We raised \$941.00 for the church, with \$100 of that going toward apportionments and the balance toward general church expenses. Equally important, we provided good food to the 4-H families at a reasonable price. They appreciated our being there.

Becky



Selah United Women in Faith



Welcome Summer!

Summer gives us time to wind down from regularly scheduled meetings and relax and rejuvenate for the fall. Summer is supposed to be a time of vacationing, with family and friends, getting out and enjoying nature, or going to a summer concert. It seems recently that while people are enjoying a fun community event it is interrupted by some type of gun. I was reading an article written by Harriet Jane Olsen our General Secretary and CEO United Women in Faith on gun violence. I want to share parts of the article with you.

United Women in Faith

I seldom write to you directly about steps for action, but it feels to me like now might be the time to make an exception. We have lost children and adults and family members to gun violence in recent weeks in mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas; Buffalo, New York; Tulsa, Oklahoma, and most recently in Highland Park, Illinois. Of course, these precious individuals are not the first. Despite a long litany of mass shootings and the [nearly 19,384 individual shooting deaths](#) that occur across the country annually, our nation seems unable to generate the resolve to make a substantive response. I want to suggest to you several things:

I encourage you to make partnerships. At Assembly we talked about partnerships. Partner with statewide groups such as [Dignity in Schools](#) as an effective way to engage in this important work. Despite the gridlock at the national level, state work in this area can be very powerful.

I also want to suggest that we know some things that we can contribute. From our work on [Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline](#) we know that the answer is **not** to put more law enforcement personnel or more weapons in schools. This is detrimental to young people, especially young people of color. Indeed, in this most recent horrific incident, the presence of trained persons with weapons was not effective to save lives.

I plead with you to remember that while mental health care is a critical need across our country, there is no correlation between mental health needs and mass shootings. Please do not allow our yearning for action to be assuaged by setting up persons who need mental health care as villains. Rather, I urge you to insist on adequate funding for counselors and mental health services in schools and communities.

And please contact your senators and representatives, national and state, to let them know that common-sense regulations to reduce mass murder is something that needs their urgent attention. I encourage you to work with organizations that have been working in this area for a long time and who have evidence of things that work. Now is not the time to wring our hands, as if we had no information about potential solutions. We know that raising the age at which it is possible to legally purchase and possess guns, conducting universal background



checks, red flag laws, limiting access to assault weapons, and reducing the capacity of magazines for sale to the public have been effective.

We do know what to do. The truth is our leaders have demonstrated a lack of resolve to do it. You can find the church's position against the proliferation of violence [here](https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice/gun-violence-prevention) (<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice/gun-violence-prevention>). Please let your voice be heard. We urgently need action on this, but we do not need to take just any action. We must insist that our leaders take action that is based on proven results. Together, we can do more.

Harriett Jane Olson

General Secretary and CEO
United Women in Faith

Over the summer let us be thinking about what we can do in our community on gun violence.

July 21st and the morning of July 22nd we will be hosting the PNW United Women Conference team. They will be using bible study room for their meeting starting at 12:00 on Thursday. If you have any questions, contact Tressa. We will not be meeting until September.

Tressa Cummings
Selah United Women in Faith President



Happy Birthday Lois!

On June 26, we helped our good friend Lois Cummings celebrate her 100th birthday. It was such a delight to be able to celebrate with Lois and her family and have her in our church again. The Cummings family thanks all who helped make this happen. It was a special day for Lois and her family.



TO BE OR NOT TO BE A RECONCILING CHURCH



In the February newsletter we told the story of a woman named Jennifer and described her experience, at a so called “Welcoming Church”. On Juneteenth, she spoke to our congregation and, among other things, she described her church journey, as a member of the LGBTQ community, and how she finally found spiritual refuge and

affirmation within a reconciling Methodist Ministry (Ellensburg UMC) and how much that ministry has meant to her. If you didn’t hear her talk, or would like to hear it again, you can view and listen to it, on YouTube, by typing Selah UMC into the search. One question that’s been raised has to do with what changes we’ll see, should we decide to become a reconciling church. The answer is, the only change will be the inclusion of the reconciling wording within our Mission Statement. Our marquee may state that we are a “reconciling church and affirm all who wish to attend”, and we will make other public pronouncements to that effect, but there’ll be no flags, no banners etc. And, should the reconciling wording be changed in the future, we won’t be asked to change what we’ve adopted, unless we choose to do so.

Reconciling wording to be used:

We celebrate god’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status. and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

Bud Hall Memorial Scholarship

The Scholarship Team would like to clarify how recipients of this scholarship are determined. Walter Hall Memorial Scholarship Administered by Selah United Methodist Church document that established this scholarship contains some of the following requirements:



Their stipulations were as follows: 1. Church member families be given first consideration, but if there were non-members deserving assistance this would be acceptable. 2. Only income could be distributed, principal would remain. 3. If for any reason the church ceased to be, the fund would be transferred to another United Methodist church in the county.

General guidelines:

1. Amount of scholarship each year will be limited to the interest accrued the prior year. 2. More than one scholarship may be awarded if funds are available and deserving applicants so warrant. 3. The intent of this scholarship is to benefit the youth of the Church/community, therefore, applicants must be under the age of 23 at the time of award. 4. Decisions of the Scholarship Committee, as elected by the Church Conference, will be final.

Guidelines for applicants:

1. Must be graduating or a graduate of a high school in Yakima County. 2. Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above. 3. Must be planning to attend a University, Community College or Professional/Vocational School. 4. Must complete the application process as outlined in the application form. 5. An interview will be required as part of the application process. 6. Preference will be given to active participants in the Selah United Methodist Church. 7. Students from the community may also apply and will be considered. 8. This is a non-renewing one year scholarship. However, recipients may reapply each year if continuing in school.

If you would like to read the complete document a copy is posted on the Church bulletin board.

Margaret Antanaitis

A Pastor Looks at Christian Nationalism

By Rev. Paul Graves

After penning his famous “love chapter” (1 Corinthians 13), St. Paul follows with this directive: “Make love your aim.” (1 Corinthians 14:1). Not coincidentally, one of “sin’s” biblical descriptions is “missing the mark.” I wonder if that mark is “love.” Most likely it is!

Perhaps this is part of my distress, even disgust, with the aggressive, often violent, presence of white Christian nationalism in our culture today. I see nothing loving about this dangerous blending of patriotism and so-called Christianity. Ironically perhaps, this ideology strongly demonstrates that hate of persons not like them is their real aim! No real love there! So what is this “white Christian nationalism” I’m ranting about?

I take responsibility for this descriptive recipe: White Christian nationalism begins with a pinch of genuine love of American values, vigorously blends in a yeast born of fears and phobias of too many kinds to count and sprinkles in an unhealthy portion of distorted Christian



beliefs and symbols. Then the concoction is dumped into a centrifugal mixer. The mixer then sprays the unholy ingredients outwardly and indiscriminately splatters whoever is in its way.

White Christian nationalism, in some form, is likely older than our country. Yet it's taken less obvious, but still dangerous, forms over our 245-year history.

Currently, we are undergoing a resurgence of very aggressive Christian nationalism. The hearings of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol illustrate how Christian nationalism distorted Jesus's message.

A more subtle example of how Christian religious intentions and national patriotism can be (in my opinion) mixed in unhealthy ways is the "God Bless the USA Bible." This Lee Greenwood project undermines any valid church-and-state separation by putting the biblical text alongside the Constitution, Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

I could drone on longer about Christian nationalism's toxic presence in our country today. But a better use of this space is to reconsider what a healthy role of Christian faith has been, and must be, in our American culture. It begins with St. Paul's "Make love your aim." It also includes more than the Christian tradition. We are more and more obviously blessed with a wide variety of religious traditions. Christian nationalism seeks to impose its toxic brand of religious expression on persons and national institutions; while healthy Christian faith welcomes the spiritual wisdom of other traditions today.

Religious wisdom can – and does – have a hopeful, leavening impact on the political dynamics of our country. Each tradition offers its unique wisdom and ways of living out that wisdom. Healthy Christianity has traditionally offered our country a measure of "rebalance", a reminder that when imposed, religion is abusive and toxic. Healthy Christianity speaks prophetically that the power of love must disrupt and replace the love of power for our society to become more compassionate. In word and deed, it challenges the political status quo in favor of the transforming subversiveness of the Jesus Ethic: that embodies justice, not injustice; humility, not arrogance; love, not indifference; hope, not helplessness; experiences of love, not demands to obey; truth, not certainty.

I honestly wish I had something positive to say about Christian nationalism. I respect persons who love our country. But I see too many people fall into the trap of political/religious idolatry.

They seem unable, or unwilling, to honestly see how their unswerving loyalty to a person or a rigid ideology has unhealthy, destructive consequences on our culture's systems and the individual persons those systems supposedly serve.

To live healthy religious lives, God calls us to make love our aim. Let's keep correcting that aim!

***The Rev. Paul Graves** serves as the chair for the Council on Older Adult Ministries for the Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church.*



UMC/BSA Affiliation & Facility Use Agreement

United Methodist leaders and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have reached an agreement about new Affiliation and Facility Use Agreements between congregations, scouting units and the BSA. The new documents linked below replace the charter agreements used in the past. Over the last year, leaders of The United Methodist Church engaged in the Boy Scouts of America reorganization because of sexual abuse in scouting programs over the last 80 years. United Methodist Leaders and the BSA each have worked toward ending sexual abuse and the number of cases have decreased dramatically in United Methodist scouting programs to the point that only 1% of all the claims involving United Methodist scout troops occurred in the last 20 years. But one case is too many. The United Methodist Church does not tolerate child sexual abuse. We are all called to continue to work toward ending child sexual abuse.

As United Methodists, we have reached a settlement by working closely with representatives for the survivors. Our agreement which includes education about safety, a review of current policies and a \$30 million settlement was developed by listening to and being in conversations with survivors. This agreement is currently under judicial review. United Methodist leaders also recognized that the chartering system needed to be updated. United Methodist leaders and the BSA have agreed to a new Affiliation Agreement that replaces former charters with an Affiliation Agreement. This agreement may be found at the web link below. The agreement clarifies the role of the congregation and increased insurance for congregations. The following are key points about the agreement.

Local churches, the Scout Units with which they are associated, and the corresponding BSA Local Councils have until October 31, 2022, to execute and implement their new Affiliation Agreement or Facilities Use Agreement. Scouting leaders from the congregation are to contact their BSA regional scouting representative to set a time to go over and sign the new agreement. All current charters and facility use agreements are to continue until BSA completes the new agreement with the congregation and its scouting unit. BSA has agreed that the insurance and indemnity provisions included in the new Affiliation Agreement – which BSA agrees will also be included in the approved Facilities Use Agreement – went into effect June 30, 2022.

Congregations may use the Facility Use Agreement with the Affiliation Agreement or as a stand-alone document if the church is only allowing BSA to use the facilities. The new insurance provisions will be included with the facilities use agreement as well. The new agreement is the standard agreement for all United Methodist congregations and is not to be modified. If there are questions about modification, they should be sent to Steven Scheid sscheid@gcumm.org at the General Commission on United Methodist Men so that we may review and evaluate recommendations for future changes. The resources and information about the new affiliation agreement may be found here GCUMM.org/Scouting



JULY Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Steve Hayman
- 4 Makenna Helseth
- 5 Jean Porter
- 10 Sarah Hourihan
- 11 Jim Mahugh
- 12 Cheryl Natland
- 16 Lee Hamilton
- 20 Grant Goss
- 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



AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

- 2 Jean Cummings
Ryan Herdrich
- 3 Michael Helseth
Samantha Johnson
- 13 Jennifer Kreger Nicholas
- 14 Maya Voight
Beth Lowell
- 15 Ed Davis
- 17 Donna Ruud
- 24 Charles Cummings
Boston Harrington
Lisa Williams
- 25 Amber Wilson
- 30 Kathryn Mead

- 16 Lee Hamilton & Steve Harold
- 27 Chuck & Cheryl Natland
- 29 Phil & Sarah Hourihan





JULY CALENDAR

- 3 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Holy Communion; See link on next page to join via Zoom
- 4 Independence Day; office closed
- 5 Coffee Hour @ 9:30 am at Sundance Espresso; Continuing every Tuesday
- 7 Weekly Check-in @ 10:00 am via Zoom; Continuing every Thursday
See link on next page to join via Zoom
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 10 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
5th Sunday after Pentecost See link on next page to join via Zoom
- 17 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
6th Sunday after Pentecost See link on next page to join via Zoom
- 19 Worship Team Meeting 1:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 20 Church Council meeting @ 6:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 24 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
7th Sunday after Pentecost See link on next page to join via Zoom
- 26 Camp Hope Dinner, prepared and delivered by Wesley with help from SUMC
- 31 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
8th Sunday after Pentecost; See link on prior page to join via Zoom

AUGUST CALENDAR

- 2 Coffee Hour @ 9:30 am at Sundance Espresso; Continuing every Tuesday
- 4 Weekly Check-in @ 10:00 am via Zoom; Continuing every Thursday
See link on next page to join via Zoom
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 7 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
9th Sunday after Pentecost See link on next page to join via Zoom
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 14 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
10th Sunday after Pentecost See link on next page to join via Zoom
- 17 Church Council meeting @ 6:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 21 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
11th Sunday after Pentecost See link on next page to join via Zoom
- 23 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom (Tentative)
Camp Hope Dinner, prepared and delivered by Wesley with help from SUMC
- 25 **Newsletter articles due**
- 28 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
12th Sunday after Pentecost See link on next page to join via Zoom



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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlNQ09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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

Selah United Methodist Church

1061 Selah Loop Road
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

Newsletter articles for the
September newsletter are due
August 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.”