



# The Messenger



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## Selah United Methodist Church

June 2023

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

Every Thursday a group meets together for Pub Theology. Put simply, we have a theological conversation in a public setting. Our last gathering in May was the day after Aldersgate Day. You may or may not have heard of it, but if there's a red-letter day in our United Methodist heritage, it's Aldersgate Day—May 24, 1738. John Wesley was a washed up, discouraged Anglican priest who was ready to leave the ministry. Then something happened. He wrote about it in his journal:

*In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.*

The reality of God's saving love and grace became an assurance for the first time in Wesley's life. He'd been an unenthused priest for 12 years until he experienced the spark of this heartwarming experience that ignited the Methodist movement. His ensuing ministry made Christian faith contagious throughout England and the American colonies. It all happened because one man was touched by God.

This tidbit of Methodist history inspired the question for our Post-Aldersgate-Day-Pub-Theology conversation. I asked attenders, "When have you most strongly felt the reality of God's love?" I was inspired by what followed. Participants shared many and varied stories of how God's love is experienced, each in our own way through our unique encounters with grace and love. Some stories were dramatic. Others were of quiet moments. Some were among gathered community. Others were alone in nature. All were profound because each story was a marker along the spiritual journeys of all who chose to share a moment when faith in God became something far more than an intellectual exercise.

I was struck by how varied are the pathways of our faith journeys. God makes many inroads to become real to us. God provides many paths that lead us closer to those divine encounters. God is waiting for us to wait or proceed, to risk or rest, to look or listen at just the



right moment for an experience or encounter where God becomes real. We are changed by that moment of reality. We are drawn closer to God in a way that changes us.

That's what makes this Christian journey such a great adventure. If we are open to it (and sometimes, like John Wesley, when we are resisting it) God is waiting to touch us in life-changing ways that transform us and the world of which we are a part.

I know for many of us, the start of summer brings a change of activity, a change of pace, and/or a change of direction. Whether we do more or less; move faster or slower; turn to some new activity or return to a favorite place—may we sense God reaching out to touch each of our hearts in a way that reminds us of God's tangible grace and love. And may each of us be open to God-given opportunities and possibilities, when God's love and grace becomes evident. I look forward to hearing your stories. And perhaps having some of my own to share.

I'll see you in church,

**Mark**

## MISSION OUTREACH

### Selah Naches Food Bank



The move to the new stand-alone Selah Naches Food Bank in Selah is on the horizon. The food managers and volunteers are in the midst of planning and looking to August for the big move. Until then, it is business as usual; many area residents are depending on the food bank, their only grocery source, to feed their families. This is the third month that they are very low on peanut butter. SUMC has provided almost 50 jars of peanut butter! Good work Selah UMC! Tammie, lead food manager, said they have also had a run on boxed Mac 'n' Cheese; they had *not* one box last week when I visited. So, we know the drill...peanut butter and boxed mac 'n' cheese for June. Thank you from the grateful managers!

### June is Peanut Butter and Boxed Mac'n'Cheese Month

### Rod's House

Did you know that 9,479 meals were served in 2021? I am sure 2022 raised that number.

Thank you to those who prepared meals for the 40-50 Rod's House young people last month. The staff at Rod's House know Selah United Methodist Church because of the good and many meals that they provide. Thank you, too, to everyone who donates clothes and supplies to the Rod's House box in the Simonson Room. Their website lists the many items that



the donation center needs and requests. Here is a list of items they label as "Always needed items": Can openers, of course! Now, who would have first thought of that as a necessity?

- Individually packaged snacks
- Bus tickets
- Blankets
- Travel/hiking can opener
- Makeup
- Nail clippers
- Ace wraps
- Large bandages
- 1-2 person waterproof tents
- Thick and waterproof sleeping bags
- Unused tarps
- Hiking/travel backpacks



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## Camp Hope

Camp Hope, too, received good news about expanding their mission. It was announced in April this year that Comprehensive Healthcare was awarded \$1 million in Washington state funding to construct a new facility at the Camp Hope site that will include an onsite behavioral health service center and more transitional housing. It will be designed to support people who are homeless and those who suffer from behavioral health and substance abuse. According to a

Comprehensive Health news release, the new facility will expand the low-barrier homeless encampment and will meet the safety, shelter, clothing and food needs of more than 180 people each day. Residents will have access to outpatient behavioral health services and immediate coordination and referral of their healthcare needs. This will include access to therapy for more permanent residents living at Camp Hope. This is certainly a blessing and a tribute to Director Mike Kay for his continual dedication to helping the behavioral health and homelessness of our region's most vulnerable population. Word is that the expansion will begin this coming fall.

In May, the Wesley UMC cooks planned, prepared and served with SUMC servers beef enchiladas, vegetables, coleslaw, brownies and milk. Almost 100 residents, feasted and satisfied their day's hunger. It is always a joy to see the grateful smiles as they finish their dinner with a favorite, this month brownies and milk. Thank you, Wesley UMC. We at SUMC are always happy to be a part of prepping and serving these delicious and nourishing meals.



## WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Worship Team met Wednesday evening, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Simonson Room. The Team spent a lot of time discussing Sunday School/Christian Education, as it interlinks with the worship program. It was noted that a lot of the people who have been active supporters of the Sunday School are now working with the Tech program during worship, leaving fewer people to carry the bulk of the load for the Sunday School. Several strategies were discussed including inviting some of the men in the congregation to volunteer some time on Sundays to lead a class. This problem of teacher shortage will become even more critical if/as our program continues to grow. If you are willing to volunteer a couple of Sundays, please talk to either Margaret Antanaitis or Cheryl Natland.

The Team discussed the scripture being used during worship services. Shortly after Pastor Mark arrived, we shifted from using the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) for the PowerPoint and Scripture readings from the Lectern and started using the Common English Bible (CEB) instead. While we weren't using PowerPoint last month we used the NRSV because it was available in the pews for people to follow along. We also want to purchase gift Bibles for young people in the church and want them to be a Bible that they can use and treasure for the rest of their lives. The PowerPoint will be back on May 28<sup>th</sup> with Scripture readings from the CEB, and the Team will be having further discussion on the translation we want to use in the future. If you have a favorite translation, talk to someone on the Worship Team and give your input.

We will no longer send worship bulletins out to everyone on our church email list. If you want to participate in the service on Zoom, the worship link is listed in each newsletter issue. If you would still like to have a bulletin for a Sunday you will be out of town or are ill, please let Kevin know and he can send one out to you. Email him at [PapaPriest@gmail.com](mailto:PapaPriest@gmail.com).

Mark and Lisa will be on vacation from May 29<sup>th</sup> through June 4<sup>th</sup> with Rex Van Beek leading worship on June 4. They will be gone again June 19<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>, with Kevin Dow leading worship on the 25th. Kathrine Parker, a United Methodist missionary in Nepal will be at SUMC on Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup> to talk about her work in the mission field.

The next meeting of the Worship Team will be held 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>.

## Church Game Night



Back by popular demand - Everyone is invited to bring a snack to share and enjoy Game Night, June 9, 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. There will be board games available...and feel free to bring your favorite game. Rumor has it, there might be popcorn too.



## Here, piggy, piggy, piggy

Get those piggy banks filled up and topped off. The pigs are being called back to the "barn" on **June 18th**. It has been decided that the funds raised this time from the pigs will be sent to Lazy F camp for their campership fund. This will help kids from all around the Conference to be able to attend camp if their family and local Church are not able to come up with the full amount needed to pay for a week at camp. We have raised the money necessary to send our kids to camp and want to reach out in a greater way and help others get to camp also. Thank you in advance for your support of this fun way that SUMC has been helping a variety of projects and programs for the past several years. When our small group first decided to try this we had no idea the success that would be generated each year by the generosity of the congregation at Selah United Methodist Church. You are wonderful !!!

Thank you, R & L Drew, B & D Ruud, R Van Beek, D Jespersen, T Kaumheimer and G Davis

## SUMC to Host August Blood Drive



**American  
Red Cross**

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 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- 1) Rod's House donation drop-off, to be done periodically, on an as needed basis. The drop-off location is at 314 Cherrie Ave. See Ron Drew for details.
- 2) Camp Hope . . . they are in need of drivers (their van) on Wednesday morning and every afternoons except Wednesdays when there are scheduled trips. Some days there may be no scheduled trips . . . you will know the schedule on the day prior. Please note, they schedule trips are set up so as to minimize the volunteer's time. See Ron Drew for details and a volunteer application.



## Selah United Women in Faith



I want to talk about the opportunity to grow in your own spiritual life. **Mission U July 21 - 23 at Wesley UMC in Yakima.** What is Mission U? It is a Christian education weekend where you will be in bible study with other Christian Women from around the state. The study for this year is focused on the Lord's Prayer found in the book of Matthew 6:9-13. The Study guide is called Living the Kingdom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation. You will explore the prayer and it's role in your faith journey, moving from personal to communal. I have attended Mission U for a few years now and always come away recharged in my faith. One of the study leaders is Katherine Parker a missionary stationed in Nepal. If you are interested, please come talk with me. Registration forms are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Cost is \$125.00 . Scholarships are available.

**June 20<sup>th</sup> will be our last meeting as we take a break for the summer. Tradition is that we go out to a restaurant and have a meal together. We will be meeting at River Ridge Golf Restaurant June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**

Tressa Cummings, Selah UWF President

### A Little of This, A Little of That

The exterior of the church is looking so good. The hanging baskets bought for Mother's Day and the flourishing planter box are so welcoming at the entrance, and a crew cut down the dead birch tree that was in the Rose Garden and trimmed the evergreens along the south property line.

On Pentecost Sunday (May 28) the children in church participated in a demonstration of how the holy spirit (Ruah, wind, etc.)

moves within and around us by blowing bubbles down from the balcony. And how special was it to have Italian Sodas during our fellowship time after worship. Thank you to whomever put that together.





## TO BE OR NOT TO BE A RECONCILING CHURCH

### Welcoming the Homeless

There, but for the grace of God go I. I've had that thought many times as I've driven past sections of S. Naches Ave., or past the Mission, or as I've talked to some of the folks at Camp Hope.

Sometimes homelessness is due to bad luck....losing a job during a down economy, or during covid. Or maybe it's because they're on a fixed income and have to choose between medicine or rent. Or, as is so often the case, perhaps it's because of an untreated mental illness such as depression, PTSD, schizophrenia etc. With depression, people often compound the problem by using alcohol and/or drugs to dull the senses and drown out that cesspool of negative thinking that's so often associated with depression: and that, in turn, is often accompanied by withdrawal and isolation. A recent article in the NY Times titled "Homeless in the City Where He Once Was Mayor" illustrates so well what the effects of mental illness can be. The former Mayor's name is Craig Coyner, the town is Bend, OR....."google" the article.

Sometime last year, I received an article which very much resonated with me. It's titled "Open the Eyes of My Heart" and it reads as follows:

As a community, especially our Christian community, open the eyes of our hearts, Lord. When we see someone sleeping on the street, open our eyes to see a young man or woman who was once running around a grade-school playground, full of life and promise and potential—open our eyes to see that potential is still there, and this person is still beloved by God now as they were then. Open our eyes to see the daughter, son, mother, father, brother, sister, grandma, grandpa. Not the "homeless person". When we see someone walking down the road who appears to be high—open the eyes of our to see a person who has likely faced a myriad of traumas that they have chosen to numb, with substances, the pain and the ache and the loneliness and the depression—open our eyes to see the recovery potential and value that is still in this soul. Give us a vision of this person recovered and free, who is able to testify to the goodness of God and that there is life after addiction. When we pass a person on the street who is dirty, smelly and downcast—open the eyes of our heart to see a person who once was clean sheltered and alert—open our eyes to see someone that Jesus died for. When we see the homeless and the addicted, open the eyes of our heart to see what Jesus sees...a precious individual, worthy of the same grace that we ourselves seek and live under every day. They may be temporarily lost in the world due to any number of issues—trauma, poor decisions, abuse, circumstance completely beyond their control—but they are not lost from God's love, nor should they be from our own. Open the eyes of our hearts, Lord. Open the eyes of our hearts.

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So, with the above in mind, when we have folks from Camp Hope join us on Sunday mornings, let us look beneath that veil of homelessness to see the individual and know that we have the ability to share God's love, to make them feel welcome, truly welcome

### **S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY JUNE**

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Prov. 19-21; Rom. 13             | 16. 1Ki. 17-19; Col. 2               |
| 2. Prov. 22-24; Rom. 14             | 17. 1Ki. 20-21; 2 Chr. 17; Col. 3    |
| 3. Prov. 25-27; Rom. 15             | 18. 1 Ki. 22; 2 Chr. 18-19; Co. 4    |
| 4. Prov. 28-29; Ps. 60; Rom. 16     | 19. 2 Ki. 1-3; Ps. 82; 1 Tim. 1      |
| 5. Prov. 30-31; Ps. 33; Eph. 1      | 20. 2 Ki. 4-5; P. 83; 1 Tim. 2       |
| 6. Ecc. 1-3; Ps. 45; Eph. 2         | 21. 2 Ki. 6-7; 2 Chr. 20; 1 Tim. 3   |
| 7. Ecc. 4-6; Ps. 18; Eph. 3         | 22. 2 Ki. 8-9; 2 Chr. 21; 1 Tim. 4   |
| 8. Ecc. 7-9; Eph. 4                 | 23. 2 Ki. 10; 2 Chr. 22-23; 1 Tim. 5 |
| 9. Ecc. 10-12; Ps. 94; Eph. 5       | 24. 2 Ki. 11-12; 2 Chr. 24; 1 Tim. 6 |
| 10. Songs 1-4; Eph. 6               | 25. Joel 1-3; 2 Tim. 1               |
| 11. Songs 5-8; Phil. 1              | 26. Jonah 1-4; 2 Tim. 2              |
| 12. 1 Ki. 12; 2 Chr. 10-11; Phil. 2 | 27. 2 Ki. 13-14; 2 Chr. 25; 2 Tim. 3 |
| 13. 1 Ki. 13-14; 2 Chr. 12; Phil. 3 | 28. Amos 1-3; Ps. 80; 2 Tim. 4       |
| 14. 1 Ki. 15; 2 Chr. 13-14; Phil. 4 | 29. Amos 4-6; Ps. 86; Titus 1        |
| 15. 1 Ki. 16; 2 Chr. 15-16; Col. 1  | 30. Amos 7-9; Ps. 104; Titus 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.

### **Young People in Church Again**

It has been such a joy having young people in church again. Sometimes one or two, sometimes seven or eight. Thank you to Cheryl and Margaret for leading Sunday School when we have kids in church. I have heard reports of how much fun the kids have, hearing bible stories, making crafts and having a special place to be. One of their craft projects was hung in the sanctuary on May 28 to commemorate Pentecost.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

Here is the May finance update. As a reminder, there are several ways to financially support your church – If you have questions about how to contribute besides leaving cash or a





check in the box, talk to Gail, Becky or Chuck. Here is how our giving so far this year compared to our expenses:

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	February	March	April
Income:	\$ 7,266.38	\$ 8,516.77	\$9,414.68
Expenses:	\$ 9,499.98	\$ 11,322.20	\$12,008.15
Plus/Minus (Inc/Expense)	(\$2,233.60)	(\$2,805.23)	(\$2,593.47)

We continue to have expenses higher than income, but our utility costs have declined this month as weather has warmed and maintenance and repair costs at church and parsonage have slowed down, so May should look better. Please be prayerful in considering contributions to the church to help us fulfill our mission, keep our doors open and the church a welcoming place to be.

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

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies (and men) with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

**Watch for more gems like these in future newsletters.**



## June Celebrations

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### Birthdays

- 4 Helen Charlot
- 7 Matthew Mead
- 8 Lanae Brown
- 9 Gail Davis
- 9 Don Schramm
- 9 Lucas Mahugh
- 11 Mark Charcas
- 12 Bob Ruud
- 13 LaVerne Nelson
- 13 Wyatt Harrington
- 15 Joanne Helms
- 16 Andrew Baranowski
- 18 Merl Brothers
- 20 Katie Kaumheimer
- 21 Michelle Helseth
- 26 Lois Cummings

### Anniversaries

- 7. Paul & Lisa Holyfield
- 13. Jim & Beth Mahugh



### 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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlNQ09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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



## ***JUNE CALENDAR***

May 31 to June 4 – Pastor Mark on Vacation

- 1 Afternoon Circle @1:00, at Red Lobster  
Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 4 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Holy Communion; Trinity Sunday & Peace With Justice Sunday  
Use link prior page to join via Zoom
- 7 Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room; Continuing every Wednesday
- 9 Game Night @ 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
- 11 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom  
Potluck after worship in Fellowship Hall
- 13 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom; use meeting link on prior page to join
- 14 Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room  
Flag Day
- 15 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery
- 18 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom  
**Bring Your Piggy Collections to Church; Father's Day**
- 19 Juneteenth Holiday
- 20 United Women in Faith @ 6:30 pm; dinner at River Ridge Golf Course Restaurant
- 21 Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room  
Church Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 22 Pub Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Selah Springs Brewery
- 25 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom;  
4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Use link on prior page to join via Zoom  
**Newsletter Articles Due**
- 27 Camp Hope Dinner organized and prepared by Wesley UMC with help from SUMC  
Book Bunch @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Use meeting link on prior page
- 28 Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 29 Pub Theology @ 6:00 P.M. AT Selah Springs Brewery

## **Selah United Methodist Church**

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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 July  
newsletter are due June 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.”