



The Messenger



March 2024

Selah United Methodist Church

Mark's Remarks

Most people place a high value on being in the third place, but it has nothing to do with finishing third in a contest. The “third place” is a term used to describe social surroundings—separate from our primary social environments of home (“first place”) and the workplace (“second place”).

The third place is where we go to hang out. Third places are neutral settings where we go to unwind in a public space, where we encounter familiar faces and make new acquaintances. Sociologists tell us these third places are important for civil discourse, democracy, civic engagement and establishing a sense of one's place in society. They serve as anchors of community life and create interactions that instill a sense of connection that can best be described as a communal spiritual experience. Third places can be found in bookstores, brewpubs, cafés, churches, clubs, coffee shops, community centers, concert venues, front stoops, gyms, market spaces, parks, public libraries and sports arenas.

This plethora of third places comes at a time when the search for spiritual meaning and spiritual experience is on the rise. People want to ask questions and be curious about matters of faith and who Jesus is. But past church experiences, bad church experiences, or lack of church experiences lead many to believe that the church is but one of many options for meaningful spiritual connection, experience, and growth. There is a commonly held assumption that people in church are fed answers about their faith without allowing room for self-discovery and self-expression. That stereotype leads others to overlook the church as a desirable third place.

“They will never step foot in a church, and so we have to go out and we have to be church with people where they are.” That quote describes our current reality, but it is attributed to John Wesley more than 250 years ago. Wesley, an Anglican priest who founded the Methodist movement, loved Christ, loved the church, and loved the Christian tradition. But his love for people outside the church inspired him to adapt the church's traditional setting, music, liturgy, preaching and teaching to help people find meaningful connection to God and each other. His Methodist movement took Christ to people where they were, to eventually bring them into the faith and the faith community. Using this strategy, Wesley helped people find their third place in the church.

We Methodists need to recover and rediscover Wesley's passion for people outside of the church by taking the church to them. We have much to offer through congregational worship, Bible/book studies, shared meals, fellowship groups and mission teams. It's time to realign ourselves to be the most appropriate resource for those looking for spiritual meaning and connection. Selah United Methodist Church is a viable third place and becomes even more so



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by taking the love and grace of God and the ministry of SUMC into the first, second and third places of all those searching for connection with Christ and Christian community.

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Mark

MISSION OUTREACH

Without a doubt, our biggest and most visible outreach is our own Little Pantry! The abundance of food accumulated in the Susanna Room is just a sample of your generous spirit. Thank you to this congregation for keeping our little pantry full each day and helping those nearby and elsewhere in our community who are hungry; a can of soup, a box of cereal, a boxed meal, a bag of beans, anything helps.



Camp Hope and Rod's House

There is not a lot of new to report on Camp Hope and Rod's House. They continue to struggle with wet and cold weather and keeping their residents and members as dry and warm as possible. Soon, Rod's House will be closing its Severe Winter Weather housing at the Days Inn. Spring is on the horizon - Yea! This congregation's donation of clothes, warm bedding and toiletries is amazingly generous. There are always overflowing bins in the Susanna Room for these two communities. Thank you.

Selah Naches Food Bank

After 20 years of serving at the Selah Civic Center, the good word about the new Selah Naches Food Bank behind Grocery Outlet is spreading. Staff and volunteers are proud to be serving almost 600 families during their weekly eight hours of operation, Monday, Wednesday evening and Friday. The food donations from around the county and state are varied and plentiful. I learned this month that *anyone* can come and register at the Selah Naches Food Bank. You do not need to be a local resident or have a local address, but you do need to have some identification so that you can register and be entered into their computer system. Once registered, a person can come to the food bank and fill a basket once a month. I have asked about the once-a-month restriction, and the staff is quick to say the food they so willingly offer



to participants is to supplement other food they acquire elsewhere. In the past, we have offered monthly suggestions which we will continue to do, but they have expanded their wish list to laundry soap, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, any toiletries and feminine hygiene products. Their mantra is if 100 people drop off just one item, the Gift of Giving adds up fast, "little by little, a little becomes a lot". This month, please give as you are able to the Food Bank grocery basket. The volunteers are always in need of baking items and condiments of any kind. Just in – we donated 60 lbs of food to the food bank in February.

March is any Baking Item and Condiment Month, or your Choice.



Afternoon Circle

For our February potluck, the Ladies Circle served us several different soups for "Souper Bowl" Sunday on Feb. 11. Leftover soup was available to take home. It was wonderful. Several people asked for the recipe for the broccoli cornbread that was served and Mary has graciously provided the recipe. Here it is:

Ingredients: 2 boxes Jiffy cornbread mix

2 cups chopped broccoli

12 oz cottage cheese

4 eggs

1 medium onion – chopped

½ cup shredded cheese

Mix all the ingredients together and put in 9" X 13" pan and bake at 350° for one hour. While still hot melt a stick of butter on top.

Prayer Chain Warriors Needed

This note is to let people know that for quite some time we have had a "Prayer Chain". It is a list of people who are willing to be called when we learn of someone in need of prayer. It only takes a few minutes of your time. We are in need to expand the list of names of people who would be willing to do this. If interested, please see me after church.

Donna Ruud



Let Us Worship Together



The season of Lent began with a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, Feb. 13, and an Ash Wednesday worship service, Feb. 14. As we continue to journey together through this Lenten Season in preparation of Easter, Pastor Mark shares his Sunday morning sermon series on *The Steps Along the Journey of Lent*. In addition, we will gather each Sunday evening at 6 p.m. to view and discuss an episode of *The Chosen* television series, which centers on the life and ministry of Jesus and the people he interacted with.

Our Holy Week observance will begin with **Palm Sunday**, March 24. The **Maundy Thursday** worship service, March 28, 7 p.m., will include Communion and foot washing as we remember Jesus and the Last Supper. Those who wish to participate in the foot washing are reminded to wear easy to remove footwear to the service.

A **Good Friday** service of Tenebrae will be held March 29 at 7 p.m. Tenebrae, meaning shadows or darkness, incorporates numerous candles and a series of scripture readings from the Gospel of John recounting the events of Good Friday. After each reading, a candle is extinguished, and the service ends in darkness.

The **Easter** celebration on March 31 will begin with a Sunrise Service around the church fire pit at 7 a.m. followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. The celebration of resurrection will continue with a worship service in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to consider who they might invite to worship with them during Lent and Easter.

The next Worship Committee meeting is scheduled for March 20, 1 p.m., to finalize plans for our Easter celebration as well as Pentecost, May 19. The meeting is open to those interested in helping create a meaningful worship experience.



Girl Scouts

Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 1916 for joining us Scout Sunday and serving as greeters February 11. The troop, which meets at SUMC on Saturdays, will be selling Girl Scout cookies after church on Sunday, March 24. Let's be generous in supporting our Girl Scouts.



Selah United Women in Faith

March is Women's History Month, a time to celebrate the achievements our predecessors who boldly broke down barriers for future generations. Here are some timelines of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

- 1870: Clara Swain and Isabella Thoburn are sent to India as the first female English missionaries. One started a school and the other a medical facility.
- 1873: Bennett College for African American women is founded in the basement of Warrenton United Methodist Church in Greensboro NC.
- 1880: Methodist women mission leaders in the US help organize the Women's Home Missionary Society to help free black people in the south, teach Mexicans in New Mexico, minister to Mormon women living under polygamy, and address the injustices experienced by Native Americans.
- 1885: Mary Fletcher Scranton founds the first school for girls in the history of Korea, which later becomes Ewha Girls' high School.
- 1888: the Women's Home Missionary Society, establishes an immigrant girl's home in New York City.
- 1899 early 20th century: The Women's Home Missionary Society begins creating National Mission Intuitions like Gum Moon Womens residence in San Francisco to serve urban immigrant women seeking work and shelter.

All this was done before women had the right to vote. Let us keep the vision our forbearers had to help those who suffer from the injustices of our society.

March 17th is our next meeting after church around 12:15 in the John Simonson room. We will have a bible study, put together Easter baskets for the Ridgeview Girls Home.

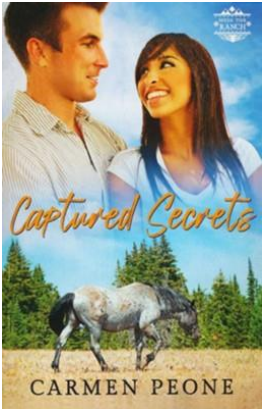
Looking ahead to April. Please save the date of **Saturday April 20, 2024**. We will be hosting a guest speaker from Mirror Ministries 9:30 am- 12:00pm. they will be sharing information on Human Trafficking in Central Washington.

Tressa Cummings,
Selah United Women in Faith President



Bud Hall Scholarship

The application for the 2024 Scholarship is available on the SUMC Members Facebook page. Applications are due back to the scholarship team no later than April 15, 2024



BOOK BUNCH TO HAVE AUTHOR MEET & GREET

March is going to be quite special for Book Bunch. We're going to have a "meet & greet" with the author of our next novel. For March, we've selected *Captured Secrets* [Seven Tine Ranch Romance #1] 2023 by Carmen Peone. The author, who lives on the Colville Confederated Indian Reservation in NE Washington, is . . . a cousin of Gail and Karen Davis! She has agreed to join part of our virtual meeting on Tuesday,

March 26. We will have just finished the novel, an ideal time to visit with Carmen Peone about her journey to become a successful author of several novels --- with more to come.

Captured Secrets, set in Eastern Washington, centers on a young woman's struggle to unlock her parents' long held secrets and save the family's ranch. Learn more about this highly rated novel here: <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/63156135>

The book is available from many sellers including electronic (e.g., Kindle) and print formats (e.g., new from Christianbook.com; new and used from Amazon).

There's plenty of "seats" 😊 at the March 12th and 26th **virtual** meetings, 7:00 pm, SUMC Zoom link. The group welcomes anyone interested in regular or novel-specific participation. For questions, contact Lee Hamilton.

4th Friday Fellowship Day



17 people solved puzzles to escape last month's "Home Alone" themed Escape Room event. Special thanks goes to Tereica Kaumheimer for all her hard work preparing for and hosting the event. Best quote of the night came from Team #4, "Even though we lost, this was so much fun!! We loved it."

The next **4th Friday** Fellowship falls on **March 22**, 6 p.m. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Game Night—board and table top games for all ages and abilities. Games will be available, or bring your favorite along with a snack to share. Invite a friend or two to join the fun!

If you have a creative idea for future **4th Friday** Fellowship evenings, share your inspiration with Lisa Williams or Becky Johnson



FUN DAY FOR KIDS

On February 18 Kids Fun Day after the worship service had special guests from the Yakima Training Center – our own Maitlan Cherry and Andrew Price with the training center’s Explosive Ordnance Division (aka Bomb Squad). Thank you Maitlan and Andrew. They brought a robot that is used to locate and open suspicious packages, samples of the training ordnance used at the training center and the protective clothing they wear. Our kids were able to operate the robot, exam the training ordnance and try on the protective clothing. I think they would all say they had a great time. Thank you, Rachel Cherry for capturing all the fun



in pictures. The next Kid’s Fun Day is scheduled

for [Sunday, March 17](#), noon - 2

p.m. We’re headed to the kitchen to bake “Easter Resurrection Cookies” while discussing the Easter story. Afterwards, we’ll decorate Easter Cookies—some to take home and some to share with



members of our church family. Fun Day is open to all school age children. Lunch will be provided, and kids are always welcome to bring a friend.

SUMaC Hiking Club 2024

It’s time to dig out your hiking boots or trail runners, dust off those trekking poles, and work the winter rust out of those leg muscles in readiness for spring hiking season!

SUMaC Hiking will be kicking off the 2024 season with a weekly hike of the Yakima Greenway trail system every Tuesday in March at 10:30 am. We will meet up at the off-trail parking lot behind McIlrath’s Fruit Stand on the corner of Hwy 12 and Old Naches Hwy, across from Suntides Golf Course. The parking lot is just west of the fruit stand. The first meet-up will be March 5th.

Weather permitting, our first nature trail hike will be the trail system at Snow Mountain Ranch out in Cowiche. If you have ever visited Cowiche Creek Nursery, the trail head parking lot is just across the road. We are planning for Saturday, March 30 at 10:30. This will be subject to change due to changing trail conditions at this time of year. We will post updates and directions on the Church Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as postings in the Narthex.

We hope you will join us!



S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY MARCH

1	Num. 28-29; Mark 8	16	Deut. 30-31; Ps. 40; 1 Cor. 1
2	Num. 30-31; Mark 9	17	Deut. 32-34; 1 Cor. 2
3	Num. 32-33; Mark 10	18	Josh. 1-2; Ps. 37; 1 Cor. 3
4	Num. 34-36; Mark 11	19	Josh. 3-6; 1 Cor. 4
5	Deut. 1-2; Mark 12	20	Josh. 7-8; Ps. 69; 1 Cor. 5
6	Deut. 3-4; Ps. 36; Mark 13	21	Josh. 9-11; 1 Cor. 6
7	Deut. 5-6; Ps. 43; Mark 14	22	Josh. 12-14; 1 Cor. 7
8	Deut. 7-9; Mark 15	23	Josh. 15-17; 1 Cor. 8
9	Deut. 10-12; Mark 16	24	Josh. 18-20; 1 Cor. 9
10	Deut. 13-15; Gal. 1	25	Josh. 21-22; Ps. 47; 1 Cor. 10
11	Deut. 16-18; Ps. 38; Gal. 2	26	Josh. 23-24; Ps. 44; 1 Cor. 11
12	Deut. 19-21; Gal. 3	27	Judg. 1-3; 1 Cor. 12
13	Deut. 22-24; Gal. 4	28	Judg. 4-5; Ps. 39, 41; 1 Cor. 13
14	Deut. 25-27; Gal. 5	29	Judg. 6-7; Ps. 52; 1 Cor. 14
15	Deut. 28-29; Gal. 6	30	Judg. 8; Ps. 42; 1 Cor. 15
		31	Judg. 9-10; Ps. 49; Cor. 16

The S.O.A.P. Journal Method

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

Prayers – Complete your study time by writing a prayer based on your reading.

Finance Report

This year started out with normal monthly bills and no repairs or special purchases – that is the good news. The bad news is that our normal monthly bills total \$10,000 and our giving in January was \$6,300. We have a little cushion in our bank account, so we were able to pay all our bills; however, unless our monthly giving increases, we will quickly exhaust our cushion and will be challenged to pay our monthly bills. Please prayerfully consider whether you are able to increase your monthly giving to help us pay our bills.



March Celebrations

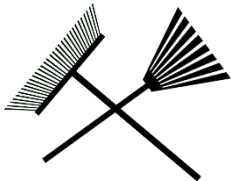
Birthdays

Anniversaries

5 Corbin Lowell
5 Ryan Mead
6 Kierna Hayman
7 Margaret Antanaitis
10 Dee Hayman
11 Michelle McFarland
14 Judy Jones
15 Robert Antanaitis
15 Lyle Von Essen
17 Paul Holyfield
21 Andrea Van Beek
23 Roger Coburn
24 Robert Shoddy
25 Duward Massie
27 Lauryn Baranowski
28 Bill Walton
29 Laura Antanaitis Eidson
29 Becky Johnson

3 Ron & Linda Drew
17 Don & Connie Schramm

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



March Cleanup Day

The Trustees are looking for volunteers for church clean up on **March 16**, starting at 9 a.m. Please bring racks and brooms for outside clean up around the entrances, as well as window washing and general cleaning supplies for the narthex. Many hands, make light work.



MARCH CALENDAR

- 3 **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 following page
Holy Communion Sunday 3rd Sunday in Lent
The Chosen viewing and discussion @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 5 SUMaC Hike Yakima Greenway trail at SunTides@10:30 a.m.
- 6 Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 7 Ladies Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
Brew Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Kitchen, Selah
- 10 **Daylight Saving Time Begins, set clocks ahead one hour**
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on following page
4th Sunday in Lent UMCOR Sunday
The Chosen viewing and discussion @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 12 SUMaC Hike Yakima Greenway trail at SunTides@10:30 a.m.
Evening Pinochle Group @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
Book Bunch @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom; use meeting link on following page
- 13 Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room
Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 14 Brew Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Kitchen, Selah
- 16 All Church cleanup day @9:00 a.m.
- 17 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on following page
5th Sunday in Lent
United Women in Faith following Worship @ 12:15 p.m. in Simonson Room
Kid's Fun Day following Worship @ 12:00 to 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
The Chosen viewing and discussion @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 19 SUMaC Hike Yakima Greenway trail at SunTides@10:30 a.m.
First Day of Spring
- 20 Pastor's 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
Church Council @ 6:00 p.m. in Simonson Room
- 21 Brew Theology @ 6:00 p.m. at Daniel's Kitchen, Selah
- 22 **4th Friday Fellowship Night @ 6:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall
- 24 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link on following page
Passion/Palm Sunday
The Chosen viewing and discussion @ 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 25 **Monday of Holy Week**
Newsletter Articles Due



26 **Tuesday of Holy Week**

SUMaC Hike Yakima Greenway trail at SunTides@10:30 a.m.

Book Bunch Meet & Greet the Author @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom;
use meeting link on this page.

Camp Hope Dinner organized and prepared by Wesley UMC and SUMC

27 **Wednesday of Holy Week**

Pastor's Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. in Simonson Room

Pinochle Group @ 1:00 p.m. in Simonson Room

28 **Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary**

29 **Good Friday Service @ 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary**

30 **Holy Saturday; Easter Eve Vigil**

SUMaC Hiking Club @ Snow Mountain Ranch in Cowiche @ 10:30 a.m.

31 **Easter Sunday**

Son Rise Service @ 7:00 a.m. @ the firepit.

Breakfast in Fellowship Hall following Son Rise Service

Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary and via Zoom; use link below

Remember to follow SUMC on Facebook and Instagram...share with friends.

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=NmsxRGsrNktoaUI1NWdKaUxhbnlNQQT09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 848493

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

Selah United Methodist Church

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Growing Into the Image of Christ

Pastor Mark Williams Contact Information:

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Newsletter articles for the April newsletter are due **March 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.”