



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

May 20 20



Here we are still in the mist of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am amazed how our lives can be changed so much, in such a little time. As we adjust to this new normal of being isolated from each other, we must remember that we are still united in Christ. I have struggled during this time of not being able to socialize with the congregation. At times, it feels as if a part of me is missing. Then, I am reminded that the Holy Spirit is always with me and with you. It's the Holy Spirit that keeps us connected. It is the Holy Spirit that connects the whole "Church." I find that when I turn to the Holy Spirit that my life is renewed. It's very important that we all turn to the Holy Spirit in this time of isolation and uncertainty. We will make it through this time. Before we know it, we will be worshipping together again in our church. This will be a time to celebrate!!!

In the meantime, we can still be the Church working and worshipping outside of the four walls of the building. We are finding new ways of being the Church, this is a good thing. This is something that I have been advocating since becoming a pastor. Now, we are witnessing it. We must not turn back to our old ways, once the pandemic is over. We must continue being the church outside the four walls. This means we continue to reach out to those on the margins, the widows and orphans in our community. We continue to reach out to each other and help each other in our time of need. This is accomplished by letting the Holy Spirit guide us in our walk and journey. May we continue to be led by the Spirit.

Shalom, Pastor Dirk



WORSHIP COMMITTEE



The Worship Team from Selah UMC met on April 16th by Zoom. All members were present except for Helen Charlot, who has asked to be removed from the team for personal reasons. Margaret Antanaitis chaired the meeting. Everyone continues to try to work through the challenges of trying to design worship in these times of coronavirus. Bishop Stanovsky has announced that our building along with every other United Methodist Church in the state of Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska will remain closed with no on-site worship through at least May 30th. Every week things are changing, and we are trying to become more adept at being effective in this new type of worship. Bill is playing some of his own arrangements on the piano for a “prelude” before worship starts. Kevin has led a hymn for the first time since we started worshipping remotely, and Bill is playing an “Offertory” to allow time for reflection during the time when we would usually be offering our gifts. Pastor Dirk is now pre-recording his messages to avoid bizarre computer glitches while he is trying to preach. The Team feels there has been a good response to the Zoom worship services. We believe that there were 43 people who joined our worship service on Easter Sunday, and we have regularly had between thirty and forty with us on other Sundays. One upside of holding off-site worship, is that we have had people who are able to join us from remote locations.

The worship service that came from the Greater Northwest Area was well received, and it was good to hear “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” sung by a group. Pastor Dirk sent a picture of our decorated Easter cross from last year, but there were so many pictures submitted that not all of them made it into the production. Unfortunately, ours was one that “didn’t make the cut.” The team did discuss whether we are going to have a new tradition relating to the cross at Easter. It is getting hard to get someone who can climb a ladder to hang the flowers. Some of the team members have seen other displays, including putting daffodils in a smaller cross, each worshipper bringing a flower forward to help in the decoration. If you have some ideas, or have seen other traditions that impressed you, please share them with someone on the team. The team will not meet until we have received word that the closure orders are going to be lifted. If you haven’t been able to join our Zoom worship, please email Pastor Dirk, and he will see that you are invited.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Dow, Scribe



Selah Food Bank/NW Harvest/Camp Hope



Feeding the Community

Needless to say, the Selah Food Bank is very busy. It is a bright spot in Selah on Monday and Friday mornings for many in the Selah area who have been hit hard by the pandemic. The church continues to be closed and guidelines continue to ask us to stay home. Monetary donations can be sent to the Food Bank via the Civic Center. Keep your thoughts and prayers on the Selah residents who especially depend on the food bank. And continue to remember your neighbors and friends and take care of yourselves.

MAY IS STAY SAFE AND STAY HOME MONTH

Northwest Harvest



The NW Harvest warehouse is probably one of the safest buildings in Yakima County. The coordinators have worked hard to keep the sorting and packing safe and within the state guidelines during the shutdown - only eight workers at a shift with social distancing, gloves and plenty of hand sanitizer. Through two shifts nine SUMC volunteers helped pack weekend meals for the school children who have received take-home meals throughout the school year. Even though the schools have been closed, delivery of these meals were coordinated by the counselors at the participating Yakima area schools. The two shifts packed 776 bags each of which contained food for 3 meals. That's 2,328 meals! Mike at NW Harvest likes to tell us these numbers because he wants us to be proud of the work that we do.

Camp Hope

The ministry of meals for Camp Hope and Noah's Ark continued in April as it did in March. Following state guidelines, the Wesley cooks prepared and delivered pulled pork, coleslaw, pears and cookies, but did not mingle and serve. The resident staff at each camp prepared tables and served the meal. Some SUMC folks were able to contribute cookies and several gallons of milk. Knowing the Camp Hope family, they were very appreciative of a good warm dinner. I haven't heard the latest figures, but let's pray that Camp Hope remains COVID-Zero, as they like to say. We pray for Noah's Ark, as well. Everyone is anxious to begin serving and eating with these special big-hearted residents of Camp Hope and Noah's Ark.





Bud Hall Scholarship Results

The nine members of the Bud Hall Memorial Scholarship Team have determined that four scholarships will be awarded for the 2020-2021 school year.

The recipients are Maya Voight, Zach Voight, Ryan Mead and Makenna Helseth. Each has been awarded a \$2500.00 scholarship. They are all very qualified students who have “grown up” in our church. The Scholarship Team sends our best wishes to these very capable students.

With social distancing and the church building being closed due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, it became challenging to develop new electronic procedures for prompt evaluation of the applications. In spite of this the work of the Team was thorough, complete and efficient. Thank you for helping to make sweet lemonade out of lemons.

Margaret Antanaitis



Care for the Church Building Continues

Although we haven't been able to gather in our church, it is still being cared for both inside and out. Pat Ridley has finished painting the narthex, hall and Simonsen Room. Susan Eisenhower has cleaned up and is taking care of the flower beds, Bob Ruud has put new LED lights in the upstairs and hallway, new power sockets downstairs, disposed of some broken toys and equipment for Home Zone and has resumed mowing the lawns. Don and Connie Schramm have the irrigation system up and running and Ron Johnson has sprayed for weeks in play area and around the BBQ area. Our building will be ready for us when we are able to return to it.



4-H Horse Show Concession Stand – the organizers of the 4-H horse show scheduled for June 25 to 28 still hope the horse show will happen, so please keep these days open for the concession stand we operate every summer.



United Methodist Women

I know many of the UMW units that have members that sew are already making the masks for health workers and others. UMW units and churches come together in times of needs. I feel in this time of staying home is a reminder of what is important in our lives of reaching out to our family, friends, and community. A connectedness that was slowly being lost due to work consumerism, always needing to go, go, go.

The other side of this COVID-19 is people in other countries, how are they coping. We hear a lot about China, France, and Italy. There are other countries that are dealing with the virus. I was on the National UMW website and found an article about soapmaking in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This a valuable resource in those area. Something we take for granted.

Little did the North Katanga Annual Conference in DRC know how valuable its soap-making enterprise would turn out to be. In 2019, the women's work coordinator of the North Katanga Annual Conference applied for an Economic Development Grant from United Methodist Women. The \$14,000 grant the Conference received was earmarked to train women in 24 Districts of North Katanga Annual Conference in the Democratic Republic of Congo. United Methodist Women Regional Missionary Grace Musuka works with the local United Methodist Women in Central Africa. The soap-making enterprise has come in very useful during this health crisis. The women are using the soap in their homes, giving it away to widows and orphans, as well as selling some of it for income. The trained women also go on to train other women in this skill. In addition, in response to COVID-19, the women are using their phone networks to share messages about staying at home, washing hands with soap, and continuing spiritual practice and prayer. Thanks to your generous Mission Giving , the women of North Katanga are making a difference in their entire community.

I have taken this opportunity during my stay at home time to read some books from the UMW Reading program. I just finished a book called "How the Well Woman at the Well Became the Well Woman", by Donna Rhodes. This a memoir of an extraordinary ordinary Life of Donna Rhodes. Tells of Donna's struggles in foster system, going to live with her mom and step-father, marrying young, and climbing out of a repeated cycle of failed and abusive situations. Finding God and allowing for forgiveness to oneself, redemption and faithfulness.

I have also watched several movies. The one that stood out the most is called "The Hate U Give". It is a well-done movie about the struggles of a young black teenager and her family through the shooting of a black friend and of a policeman and gangs that control her



neighborhood. The movie brings to light fears, anger, cost of telling the truth, racism and true friendship. I have not read the book which the movie was made from, also called *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas.

God's strength and blessings upon all nations during this time.

Tressa Cummings
Selah UMW President

Message From The Bishop

We are now approaching the end of the directives I gave on March 24 and many of you are eager to know whether the restrictions will be lifted or extended. I am closely monitoring the guidance and criteria for loosening restrictions in each of our four Greater Northwest states, as well as the daily reports of new cases, deaths and health system capacity. As you know, the disease has unfolded at different rates across the area. And the cultural and political climates across our region are varied, leading to different assessments of the risks involved. I find myself leading in the midst of continued uncertainty and significant controversy about the best course of action. Three value-based priorities inform my leadership as your bishop.

1. DO NO HARM: Protect Public Health

Following the leadership of four very different governors, our four states are all weathering the pandemic better than expected. I am pre-disposed to trust the governors of each state to listen to their health care advisors, to know their region and its people and to give prudent guidance. While all four governors have laid out their criteria for incremental loosening restrictions within their states, at present none of these governors has taken specific action to lift restrictions that would affect our Churches. When they do, Churches will need to be especially cautious about re-opening and gathering, taking into account that among our members and friends are many participants who are at risk for severe illness from COVID-19, due to age or compromising health conditions.

2. DO GOOD: Share the Burdens of Most Vulnerable Persons

During this season of closed buildings and postponed in-person worship, I hope that every congregation will re-engage its neighbors, by partnering with community organizations that are directly involved with people who are most vulnerable to the economic impacts of the pandemic. How this neighborhood engagement looks will be specific to your congregation, its context, and the partnerships you are able to form to



serve people most at risk during this crisis. I heard the other day of a church in a small town that set up a “tab” with the local grocer so that people who needed food could “shop” for what they needed and charge it to a tab that the Church paid. In this win-win-win arrangement, people get food, the church serves people in need, whom they may not even know, and the grocer’s business is supported in the process. There is no recipe for this kind of innovative response. It’s all based on local relationships that can become networks of care.

3. STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD. Promote the Life-Giving Ministries of the Church.

While I know that the effectiveness of ministry and health of congregational life suffer when people are not able to gather for worship, this hardship does not justify taking the risk of spreading the disease through church gatherings, or exposing older and health-compromised people to infection and possible death by re-opening our church gatherings too soon. I trust and know that the leaders and people in each church are finding creative ways to continue to serve God’s promise of abundant life for all people and the whole of creation despite these extreme circumstances. When the time is right, we will gather again and re-build and renew our ministries.

MAY 31 – PENTECOST

As we enter another month of some level of physical separation, let’s hope that we will be able to gather in our churches on Pentecost, May 31. Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church, when people from many nations gathered in Jerusalem to hear Peter preach. The book of Acts describes how the people understood what he said, even though they spoke many different languages. I hope that we will be able to gather in worship that day – maybe sooner. Let’s hold it as a date to hope for, to pray for, to work for. And if it can’t be May 31 – if it comes sooner, or later – then, we’ll adjust, just as we have been adjusting for these many weeks. I don’t need to remind you that God is with us and at work. I don’t need to remind you that miracles happen every day, even in the midst of disease and death, as people of generous hearts pour their life out in love and service where there is need. We are blessed to be a blessing. Thanks be to God, who opens the way of life before us.

May God bless you and keep you today and through the days ahead.

Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky



May Celebrations

Birthdays

Anniversaries

-
- 2 Mary Goss
 - 4 Gwen Chaplin
Kyan Helseth
 - 6 Beth Barranowski
 - 13 Virginia Mackey
 - 19 Dan Shelton
 - 23 Jessica Johnson
 - 24 Marilee Brother
 - 28 Mary Tayer
Dave Kaumheimer
 - 30 Len Hoselton
Kim Coburn
 - 31 Cheryl Hulse

- 10 Dave & Denise Mettie
- 18 Roger & Kim Coburn





MAY CALENDAR

- 1 Daily check-in via Zoom with Pastor Dirk @ 10:00am
Continuing Monday - Friday, during May unless canceled by Pastor Dirk.
- 3 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
- 7 Pub Theology via Zoom @ 6:00 pm Continuing every Thursday
- 10 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am, Mother's Day
- 16 NW Harvest Volunteer Saturday (tentative), warehouse, @ 9:00am
- 17 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am
- 20 Church Council Meeting via Zoom @6:00 pm
- 24 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am, Memorial Sunday
- 25 Memorial Day
Newsletter articles due
- 26 Camp Hope Dinner
- 31 Sunday Worship via Zoom @ 10:30 am, Pentecost Sunday

Worship and meetings will be via Zoom until Stay Home Stay Healthy Order is lifted.

SUMC Sunday Service

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/692949701?pwd=LzlNSWYyT1BGUzNhVHc0ME9ydnBLQT09>

Meeting ID: 692 949 701 Password: 021416

One tap mobile: +14086380968,,692949701#,,021416# US (San Jose)

ZOOM CHECK-IN WITH PASTOR DIRK

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

<https://zoom.us/j/669186246?pwd=WF1GM2xpbWlYd0dTdTaHBEUG5zLzZlZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 669 186 246 Password: 074986

One Tap Mobile: +13462487799



Selah United Methodist Church

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Growing Into the Image of Christ

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Newsletter articles for the June
newsletter are due May 25

Articles can be emailed to

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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.”