



The Messenger



Selah United Methodist Church

May 2022

Here we are, just a couple months away from another new beginning. When I started last December, seven months seemed like a long time. Now, five months later, the time seems to have flown by. We started with in-person worship and have moved to Zoom and then back into the sanctuary, and now we are almost back to worshipping the way we were before Covid came to visit. There have been some significant changes.

I have heard, through the grapevine, that some want to keep Selah UMC just the way it is. There is one promise that I can make. Selah UMC is going to change. First and foremost, in just 2 months, Selah will have a new pastor. The last pastoral change was easy, especially since we will never have to move beyond the “honeymoon” stage. I am the same average age as most of the regular congregation and we have all been part of the church for a long time. The new pastor might be a kid right out of seminary, with no background in the church. If that is the case, both the new pastor’s learning curve and the congregation’s learning curve will become steep. My prayer for all of you is that you approach this new transition with grace and forgiveness. There is some hard work that needs to be done.

Another promise about change is that change is one thing that can be guaranteed. For instance: since coming to work here, as a retired interim pastor, two of my closest friends have died. Red Weaver died in January, died in the hospital of Covid-19. Red and I have been friends for about 25 years, working to build a hotrod ’46 Chev pickup that I own. Theologically and socially, Red and I are far apart, but we have been close friends who have had a lot of fun together for years. The other death was a clergy colleague who has been close since we were ordained Elder together way back in 1987. We studied together, critiqued each other’s written work, and have been close friends ever since. Our families know each other, and we have socialized over the years. Both of these deaths have changed my life.

The reason that I mention these changes in my life is that change keeps on happening. We cannot protect ourselves from change. It is going to happen whether we want it to happen or not. There will be more funerals and memorial services and change will continue. What we can do is find ways to grow into the future, bringing new life into our church. We need to remember that bringing new people into the church is not the work of the pastor, though the pastor must participate. The work of bringing new people into the church is the work of the whole congregation. And, if we bring new people into the congregation, the church will change because the new people will not be just like the people who have gone.



My challenge to you is to keep praying, keep worshipping, and keep the faith. We could try to stop change from happening. That will probably lead to death. Or we can get ahead of the change and find ways to make the change something that is good for us.

Yours in Christ's work, Interim Pastor Jim Simpson

Mission Outreach

Really good news for outreach services in the Yakima Valley...

- Rod's House is eagerly finalizing plans for a new residence hall on Chestnut Avenue. The staff is hoping to open and begin new expanded services for homeless teens and young people Summer 2023.

- Camp Hope has been awarded more than \$400,000 for projects that can be used for "homeless and housing services" (as reported in the Yakima Herald on April 20, 2022).

- The Selah Naches Food Bank donations have reached 75% of their goal to build a new food bank. Many of the community churches, businesses and individuals have stepped up to support this new facility that will be built at the corner of East Goodlander Road and North Park Drive. The plan is to have the building's foundation completed this fall with the new food bank in full operation by the spring of 2023. You are guaranteed a big smile from the volunteers if you ask about progress of their new building plans



As they continue their mission of feeding those in need in the Selah and Naches communities, we at SUMC have been keeping the Sanctuary grocery basket generously filled with the food bank's special requests plus other non-perishable food items. The shelves in the civic center look comfortably full. Tammie, lead volunteer, asks for nothing specific this month. Boxed dinners, baking supplies and even health and beauty products are especially appreciated. She says thank you to SUMC for whatever we can give.

MAY IS GIVE WHAT YOU LIKE, GIVE WHAT YOU CAN MONTH

and remember to share with the Little Food Pantry, too



WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Worship team did not meet in April so did not have an article related to upcoming worship services, but wanted to share this:

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY IS MAY 1st

Native American Ministries Sunday reminds United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. We work in partnership with Native American churches and communities to repair past harm and to celebrate current ministries.

The special offering develops and strengthens Native American ministries within each annual conference; provides scholarships for Native American seminarians; and enriches and equips Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities.

The United Methodist Church, the world and our communities are in a time of transition. Together, God's church can be a beacon of healing and hope that can guide us to becoming a new creation in Christ. Through our support, we partner with God and God's people to strengthen Christ's loving presence in a hurting world.

Our Special Sunday offerings invest in servant leadership, community building and ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to step—with faithful determination—into a grace-filled new beginning.

Here is some more information by the Rev. Angie Gage from the Arkansas Annual Conference:

“Then I heard the sound of countless numbers of spirit-messengers, thousands upon thousands of them, and then thousand times ten thousand. They made a grand circle around the seat of honor, the spirit animals, and the elders.” —Revelation 5:11, First Nations Version (New Testament in Native/Indigenous language)

I come from a long line of proud Cherokee people. Many from my family arrived in Arkansas ahead of the forced evacuation referred to as the Trail of Tears. My ancestors, known as the Old Settlers, were promised fertile land in this area as an act of trade and good faith. The land was not fertile. It became second nature to know who we were but to claim to be something other than Cherokee.



The acts against Native Americans continued into the 20th century. Children were taken away from Native families and forced to be enculturated into a “white way” of life. They were told that their language, worship and traditions were evil.

As one who has had to regain her identity, it is helpful to know that within my faith tradition, we are proud to claim that the 5.2 million Native Americans in the United States are not to be hidden and discarded. I am proud to know that our church recognizes that we are here.

Through generous giving on [Native American Ministries Sunday](#), United Methodists provide scholarships to Native American seminarians and support vital ministries and churches in Native American communities.

Native American Ministries Sunday gives us an opportunity as the children of God to show that reconciliation for past wrongs can happen. Our gifts on this Special Sunday offer hope and a voice to those who have felt voiceless for years.

Adapted from “Native American Ministries Sunday Is an Opportunity to Right Past Wrongs,” Arkansas United Methodist, April 14, 2021, the Rev. Angie Gage, Cherokee, CONAM chair, Arkansas Annual Conference, angie.gage@arumc.org. Used by permission.



Community Service/Fundraiser Coming Up

The 4-H horse show that we have served concessions at in the past is happening again June 23 to 26 at State Fair Park. We have been asked to serve food again this year and we need volunteer to work the concession stand. In the past we have served breakfast burritos, hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, bottled water and the ever popular soft ice cream. Early in June I will be contacting you for volunteers to man the concession stand; we need three or four people each five-hour shift. Please keep those dates open to help. It is usually a fun time and the 4-H families really appreciate our good food. If you have questions, contact Becky. Thanks.



Here piggy, piggy, piggy

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May 22nd is the next "Return to the Barn Day" for the SUMC piggy banks. We hope you have been feeding your piggy and it is nice and fat by now. We have decided that this time the funds will be sent to the Selah Naches Food Bank for their building fund.

Our motto this go round will be "Feed your pig to help feed the people of our community!" We will have the bucket in the

Narthex so we can empty your piggy and you can take it home to begin the next feeding frenzy. We thank all you for joining the outreach to hungry people in our area.

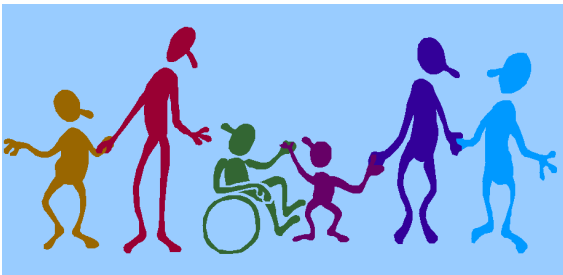
Thank you, Connie, Don, Donna, Bob, Linda, Ron, Rex, Tereica, Debbie and Gail

Trustee Team Help Needed

We are still in need of one more person to serve on the Trustee Team of the Church Council. If this is you, please let Gail Davis or Pastor Jim know. You don't have to do all the work just help coordinate and see that issues are addressed.

Thank you. Gail

TO BE OR NOT TO BE . . . A RECONCILING CHURCH



Several long-time members of the church have said to me "Selah United Methodist Church is the best kept secret in Selah". We had been discussing the church as a welcoming body and I asked them what they meant by that comment. They went on to say that SUMC has had LGBTQ youth in the congregation (albeit quite a while

ago), autistic youth, unmarried couples, and even a gay pastor and his husband, and the congregation embraced them all. And yet, the Selah community doesn't recognize just how welcoming we are. The question then becomes, why are we the best kept secret in Selah, or, for that matter, in the Yakima area? After all, we have a sign above our door that says we "open our hearts in respectful acceptance of all", and we have our Mission Statement. The fact is, the public at large isn't aware of the sign above our door, our Mission Statement, or our history. By becoming a reconciling church and making a public pronouncement to that effect, we'll be telling everyone, who is interested, that SUMC celebrates and embraces all of God's diversity and then, perhaps, we will no longer



be the best kept secret in the Yakima Valley. I have also heard the comment recently “the reconciling church idea is a political issue and we shouldn’t get involved”. My response is, “God is not a republican or a democrat and God’s diversity is certainly nonpolitical”. The reconciling church concept only becomes a political issue when we let someone define it as such and we buy in to it. Again, should we decide to become a reconciling church, the wording which will be included within our Mission Statement is as follows: “We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded 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”.

Ron Drew

Selah United Women in Faith



Here is a Mission Moment: New Beginnings is a Navajo United Methodist Center in San Juan County New Mexico. In 2019 Census, San Juan County was made up of 41.6 percent American Indian/Alaska Indian. This institution provides on campus transitional living for survivors of physical, emotional, sexual abuse and stalking. The campus includes 3 multi-family homes and two-single family trailers. It is one of just 4 transitional living programs in New Mexico. This institution is support by United Women of Faith mission giving. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly 20 people per minute in the US are abused by an intimate partner, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men (Heard recently that Yakima County has one of the highest domestic violence records in Washington). In 2020 New Beginnings open up the first trauma-focused Child Care Center in the state of New Mexico. The staff is specially trained in trauma to engage with children with emotional behavioral challenges. The center is available for children 6 weeks - 16 yrs. Opened Monday - Friday, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm. With an afterschool program for the school-age children. In 2020 New Beginnings Provided a total of 4,485 bed nights to 19 women and 3 men and 28 children. Of those men, women and children, 82.7 percent were Native American. In 2021 they served 17 adults - 16 women, 1 man, and 30 children.

Our next meeting will be May 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Tressa Cummings, Selah Women of Faith President



UMC CAMPING MINISTRY

Our [camping ministry](#) in the Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church has been thriving for years. No matter the age or background, people who have experienced camp often find themselves returning year after year. For longtime camp devotees, it can be challenging to describe to someone without any camping background just *what* makes

camp so special. Could it be the magic of campfire? Delicious camp food? The opportunity to meet friends? That doesn't even begin to cover it all.

Camp is a special place where fun, fellowship, and faith come together. You are free to be yourself, grow close to friends, spend time in God's beautiful creation, and try some pretty awesome stuff while you're at it – activities such as challenge course, archery, kayaking, and horseback riding, and a whole lot more. It's well known that much growth tends to occur at camp, personal and spiritual.

Our four camps – [Indianola](#), [Twinlow](#), [Lazy F](#), and [Ocean Park](#) – are gearing up to offer you a wide variety of summer programs for all ages. Some camps have been without traditional overnight programs for the past two years due to previous COVID restrictions and safety concerns surrounding the pandemic. Each camp saw considerable improvements in 2021 with the introduction (and success) of day camps, family camps, and other new programs to accommodate the needs of our communities. This year, while doing what we can to keep everyone safe, we couldn't be more excited to share the news that we are open completely for 2022 – open for you and your campers!

We invite you to get in touch with our four sites to learn what we offer. You can visit each camp's official website to browse program offerings, view key attractions, meet the staff, and register for camp. A week at camp can be life-changing – we know this from decades of experience, and we strongly encourage you to make camp a part of your summer plans.

Henry Wegener serves as the program specialist and media manager at [Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center](#) located in the Manastash Canyon just outside Ellensburg, Washington.



MAY Celebrations

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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



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)



MAY CALENDAR

- 1 UMM Breakfast @ 8:00 am in Fellowship Hall
Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Holy Communion; Third Sunday of Easter
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
Native American Ministries Sunday
- 3 Coffee Hour @ 9:30 am at Sundance Espresso; Continuing every Tuesday
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
Weekly Check-in @ 10:00 am via Zoom; Continuing every Thursday
See link on prior page to join via Zoom
Ladies Afternoon Circle @ 1:00 pm, Simonson Room
Pub Theology @ 6:00 pm at Selah Springs Brewery; Continuing every Thursday
- 8 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Fourth Sunday of Easter - See link on prior page to join via Zoom
Happy Mother's Day
- 15 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Fifth Sunday of Easter - See link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 17 United Women of Faith meeting via Zoom @ 7:00 pm; use check-in link on prior page
- 18 Church Council meeting @ 6:00 pm in Simonson Room
- 22 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Sixth Sunday of Easter – see link on prior page to join via Zoom
Bring your filled piggies home to church
- 24 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom, use check-in link on prior page
Camp Hope Dinner, prepared and delivered by Wesley with help from SUMC
- 25 Newsletter Articles Due
- 29 Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Ascension Sunday – see link on prior page to join via Zoom
- 30 Memorial Day
- 31 Book Bunch @ 7:00 pm via Zoom, use check-in link on prior page

SAVE THE DATE

June 5 – Chicken BBQ lunch after church (THIS IS A DATE CHANGE)

June 23 to 26 – Concession Stand for 4-H Horse Show

Selah United Methodist Church

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Growing Into the Image of Christ

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Email: grampajim2014@gmail.com

Newsletter articles for the June
newsletter are due May 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.”